## R. TURNER & SON

BASSINGBOURN FARM, FORDHAM, ELY, CAMBS, CB7 5NJ Telephone: 01638 720911

The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure

Temple Quay House

2 The Square

Bristol

BS1 6PN

31st August 2023

Application by Sunnica Ltd for an order granting development consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm Project. Your ref EN010106.

#### Unique reference - SUNN-AFP153

Dear Sirs,

We have submitted previous representation expressing our concerns regarding the Sunnica Energy Farm.

As a brief background R F Turner & Son farms 750 acres cropping Winter Wheat, Winter Barley, Maize, Sugar Beet and Potatoes on a rotational basis. Large scale investment in our agricultural operations include a new farm centre, storage facilities for crops and fertilisers, purpose-built buildings for beef production and an equine facility for diversification purposes to help secure long-term sustainability.

Our soil structure is a sandy silt loam over a chalk base; the soil is well bodied to a minimum depth of 250mm. Soil structure is improved year on year by best practice cultivations and organic manure produced by our beef production operation.

Precision farming methods based on expert agronomy advice using soil sample results enable us to improve productivity and at the same time reduce environmental impact.

Our sustainable operations produces soil fertility beyond written expectation.

We have attached our 2022/2023 Omnia cropping report; it clearly details the good condition of the soil, despite being unable to irrigate our yields are above the national average.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Wheat	9.80	9.90	9.80	8.20
Barley	7.36	8.27	7.56	7.40
Sugar Beet	103	76	95	88
Potatoes		65	62	68

Figures represent tons per hectare.

We are bemused that the soil report submitted by the Sunnica consultants Daniel Baird Soil Consultants Ltd deliberately downgrades the soil within the Sunnica site. Our cropping and yields could not be sustained on the soil types described by Daniel Baird Soil Consultancy Ltd.

The report and opinions of 3 independent soil experts employed by the 'Say No to Sunnica' action group concluded a minimum of 50% of the proposed Sunnica site is best and most versatile soil (BMV), this is echoed by Natural England's predictive soil map; we are at a loss as to why Natural England have not challenged the report produced by Daniel Baird Soil Consultancy Ltd.

We are confident from our own farming experience, our agronomy, our detailed soil reports and the report produced by 3 independent experts the soil has been incorrectly described by Sunnica.

We are concerned a decision will be taken based upon incorrect information.

We are at a loss and cannot understand why Natural England have failed to challenge the Sunnica soil report.

The evidence we have produced, Natural England's predictive soil map, our above average yields prove the qualities of the soil and simply dismiss without question the flawed soil report submitted by Sunnica to support their application.

R F Turner & Son



# Cropping year **2022/2023**



Client R. F. Turner & Son

Advisor Rob Jack

**Bassingbourn Farm** 

FACTS number **FE606** 

**Fordham** 

Address **Ely** 

Cambridgeshire

**CB7 5NL** 

## Chippenham Arable Land

This report includes the following documents:

Cropping map

Soil analysis

Soil analysis map

Nutrient requirements

### Cropping map – Chippenham North





Winter Barley Sugar Beet

(19.8 ha, 24%)

(21.3 ha, 26%)

Potatoes

(16.3 ha, 20%)

Winter Wheat

(25.8 ha, 31%)

#### Soil analysis Cropping year 2022 / 2023



Field	Analysis number	Analysis date	$P_2O_5$	K <sub>2</sub> O	MgO	рН
			index	index	index	
Chippenham 1 (8.07 ha)	9/26/2019_4	01/08/2019	2.8	2.9	2.6	8
Chippenham 12 (16.28 ha)	9/8/2020_3	01/08/2020	2.7	3.2	2.4	8.4
Chippenham 13 (11 ha)	9/30/2021_1	01/08/2021	3.4	2.5	2.2	8.1
Chippenham 2 (18.11 ha)	9/30/2021_1	01/08/2021	3	3.2	1.8	7.8
Chippenham 3 (8.8 ha)	9/30/2021_2	01/08/2021	3.6	2.6	2.1	7.8
Chippenham 4 (13.23 ha)	9/26/2019_5	01/08/2019	3	2.9	2.3	8
Chippenham 5 (7.72 ha)	9/30/2021_2	01/08/2021	3.5	3.3	2.5	7.6

## Soil analysis – P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (index) – Chippenham North





### Soil analysis – K<sub>2</sub>O (index) – Chippenham North





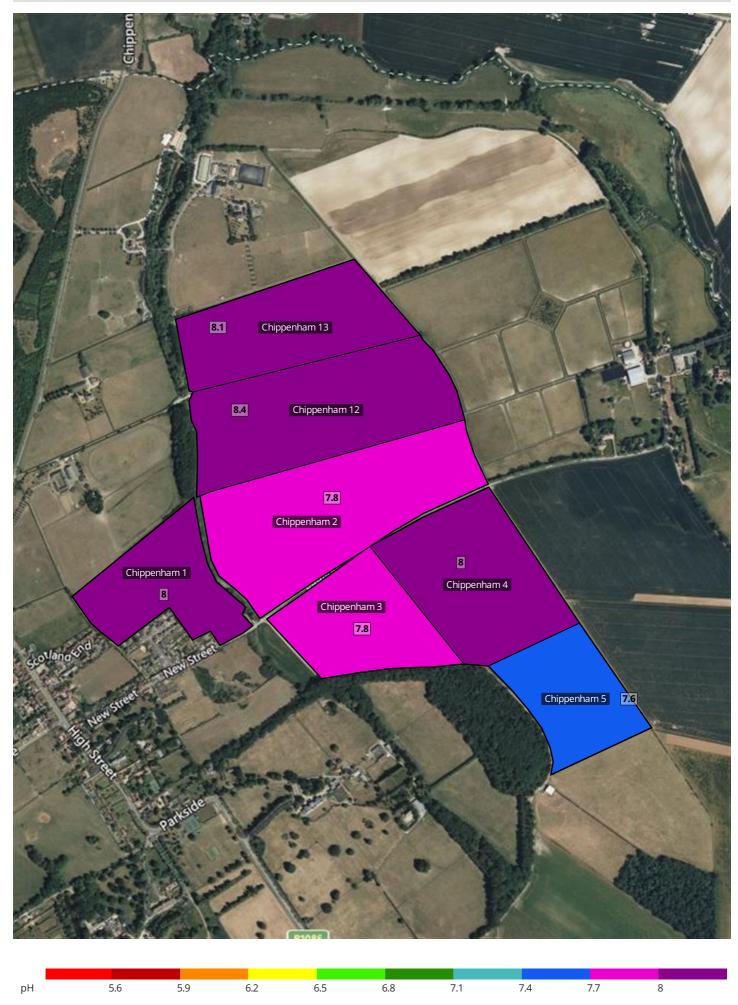
## Soil analysis – MgO (index) – Chippenham North





## Soil analysis – pH – Chippenham North





## Nutrient requirements Cropping year 2022 / 2023



#### Potatoes / UNSPEC. GP 3

	SNS	N	SO <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	MgO
Chippenham 12 (16.28 ha)	2	100	25	150	0	0

#### Sugar Beet / UNSPEC.

	SNS	N	SO <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	MgO
Chippenham 13 (11 ha)	2	120	30	20	120	30
SODIUM - Consider 200 kg Na <sub>2</sub> O/ha when K Index is 0 & 1 (0-120 ppm) and 100 kg Na <sub>2</sub> O/ha when K Index is 2 (121-240 ppm)						
Chippenham 3 (8.8 ha)	2	120	30	20	120	40

SODIUM - Consider 200 kg Na<sub>2</sub>O/ha when K Index is 0 & 1 (0-120 ppm) and 100 kg Na<sub>2</sub>O/ha when K Index is 2 (121-240 ppm)

#### Winter Barley / KWS TARDIS

	SNS	N	SO <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	MgO
Chippenham 1 (8.07 ha)	2	171	60	-70	-330	-140
Chippenham 4 (13.23 ha)	2	171	60	-80	-330	-120

#### Winter Wheat / KWS CRANIUM

	SNS	N	SO <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	MgO
Chippenham 2 (18.11 ha)	2	214	60	-50	-370	-30
Chippenham 5 (7.72 ha)	3	204	60	-60	0	0