

From: [Denis Field](#)
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Sunnica. Interested party comment.
Date: 08 September 2023 09:55:05

Dear Sirs,

The responses from both Sunnica and Natural England are very disappointing as they once again fail to resolve the issue of the debate over the land classification.

I attended all the public examinations and was very distressed to listen to Sunnica arrogantly dismissing the challenges opposing their land classification claims. There is a very clear issue that needs to be resolved by independent specialists. If Sunnica truly believed their claim is correct they would welcome independent soil testing. Opposition groups have tried on numerous occasions to gain access to the land to carry out testing but have been refused access. One should ask the question, what are Sunnica trying to hide? Natural England are also dismissing data within their own registers and maps.

I totally disagree with Sunnica's claim that most of the land is poor quality soil. It is highly productive, well irrigated land, producing crops for both food production and generating energy (gas) via an Anaerobic Digestate Plant. The plant is located adjacent to Sunnica Site B and crops grown on land proposed for solar panels supply the AD plant.

Farmland is for producing food to feed our ever-growing population. Solar panels should be put on rooftops and/or brownfield sites, as our Prime Minister stated this week in the Energy Bill debate.

The protected species Stone Curlew can be found across the proposed site, however, there does not appear to be a clear plan as to how this species will be adequately protected. Sunnica stated at the examination that they would provide 'some areas' away from the panels where the Curlews could move to!

Sunnica has still not been clear about the significant fire risks from all the BESS units. These lithium-ion battery storage compounds, with associated transformers, and switchgear etc. are of an unprecedented scale.

BESS installations are well-known for their fire and expulsion risk. These kinds of fires are very difficult to extinguish and often burn for days, consuming thousands of gallons of water to cool them, which is subsequently contaminated and leaches into the aquifer.

As Sunnica's proposed three BESS sites are in very close proximity to villages, it is essential that there be a full investigation and assessment of the risks involved. I do not feel this was addressed at the Examination due to the reluctance of the H&SE to either participate or make any decision.

The vast scale of this proposed sprawling solar and three BESS sites makes this scheme a POWER STATION on an epic scale that engulfs many villages and will change this rural landscape for eternity. Its risks to health and loss of productive

farmland are only two of the many reasons this NSIP Application should be refused.

Subsequent clear Government guidelines need to be produced to prevent similar schemes being railroaded through, countrywide.

Regards,

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