

Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves Interested party number 30030651

Response to Pinsent Mason letter of 10th August.

Dear Madam

At a time when 50% of our food is imported we strongly feel that solar farms should not be placed on some of the most productive land in the country. The area potentially taken by the Sunnica scheme is capable of producing 90t/ha sugar beet, 60t/ha potatoes and along with other crops can produce over 30,000t of food on an annual basis. This contrasts with land which can only grow cereals oilseed rape and beans which would produce at best 10,000t.

Not all land can grow the vegetable crops widely grown in this area. To take it out of production increases the likelihood of greater food imports and our reliance on other countries, often with lower standards than the UK.

We are also highly concerned that Natural England has produced no evidence to show that the Stone Curlews are not linked to the Breckland Group- it seems highly likely that two groups in such close proximity would be linked.

The mitigation provided lies mainly in the area of highest archaeological value where potatoes were grown 2 years ago. This land has high phosphate levels which make it unsuitable for the establishment of native grasses. If the soil level needs running down it will require crops to be grown every year for a number of years- in no way does this create suitable habitat for the curlews which Sunnica promised would be in place prior to construction.

We ask that you refuse this ill-considered application

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