

From: [Jjfreck19](#)
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Sunnica deadline of 11th September 2023
Date: 11 September 2023 17:30:09

By email: Sunnica@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your Ref: EN010106

Dear Mr Wheadon (reference letter dated 27th July 2023)

NSIP Reference John Leitch Unique Reference: 20030552

Stone Curlews

Are nesting in and around the proposed energy farm EN010106 these very sensitive birds are susceptible to noise and disruption which will impact upon their immediate nesting capacity and habitats.

The nesting cycle is approximately 60 days (20 days incubation, 40 days fledging) making their vulnerability acute to disturbance, especially at the fledging cycle.

Another key factor is prior to their migration, they congregate in migration “hot spots”. This congregation is vital and any disturbance at this stage could have a profound influence upon the bird’s return to breed the following year.

Natural England can confirm that Cavenham Heath, Tuddenham is a migrating hot spot which I have witnessed for many years. (Sadly, this year something has spooked the stone curlews, believed to be a walker with a dog off leash in the restricted area and a visit on Sunday 3rd September confirmed no sighting of stone curlews).

Soil testing to establish Best Most Versatile (BMV) land.

Reference “additional changes to the Sunnica Energy Farm DCO Application (December 2022)”.

The additional changes were a direct result of the Applicants failure to secure grid connection with the National Grid at Burwell. The granted amendment changed the dynamics of the original DCO regarding Cabling, Transmission and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

In view of the grant to make additional changes, it is not an unreasonable request to allow for one independent report to be commissioned to resolve this contentious issue especially considering the amount of agricultural land involved. The whole consultation has revolved around how much agricultural land will be lost for over 40 years. The climate of East Anglia is generally dry and mild. The region is the driest in the United Kingdom. Prior to Sunnica (the Applicant) arriving the land has always been irrigated depending upon crop rotation. I live in the area and have been here for over 40 years, I have never seen a crop ploughed under due to failure. This land is productive land.

East Anglia has always been regarded as Britain's Bread Basket, its climate, landscape and soil are ideally suited for growing wheat, barley, other combinable crops, plus potatoes, sugar beet and onions, to mention just a few, all of which flourish.

Isleham Bomber Plane Crash

When Sunnica delivered their consultation, they must have been fully aware of the historical significance of this site. Yet the Applicant still continues to want this field as part of their solar energy farm. This site is important to the residents of Isleham and should remain untouched to preserve the crew who gave their lives to save the residents of Isleham.

We start to lose our identity when we put financial gain ahead of lives lost especially when the situation is still avoidable.

Glint and Glare

Reading the Pager Power Report my concerns centre around mitigation measures "bolstered by proposed vegetation". When we attended the Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) we were given photomontages of areas that came under mitigation measures. It was made clear that these were 15-year montages not a short-term solution to those areas affected.

The Pager Power Report is misleading as it implies that the planning regime will solve the problem, perhaps it will long term but not in the short term.

Another area I am not clear about is how the irrigation and maintenance of the mitigated areas will be maintained and replanted in the event of failure because every failure costs another year or more of growth.

Covid 19

Allowed Sunnica to continue to progress its proposal to site the largest industrial scale solar power plant in the UK. The consultation continued via zoom meetings which failed to accommodate for question-and-answer sessions. Everything had to be typed which was slow unless you were a typist. The older generation were excluded due to their inability to access and understand the technical aspect of a zoom meeting.

The consultation process should have been put on hold as was the whole country with the lockdown.

Thermal Runaway

The risk of Thermal Runaway within the panels is a real concern. Should the Runaway affect the field rotation of wheat and barley then there is little or no protection offered to those properties that border these fields.

The hot summer of 2022 showed the devastation of fire to those properties that bordered fields which came up to their boundaries.

In Conclusion

Sunnica's consultation has been poorly presented. Literature and updates arrived late and in some cases failed to arrive. Poor visual presentation with maps having village and town names removed.

This is a bad renewable energy scheme with a cumulative effects that have far reaching consequences for all the communities affected.