

From: [Chris Corbin](#)
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Interested Party - Unique Reference: 20030071
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Response to the Secretary of State's invitation to comment on the information provided in response to his information request of 27 July 2023

I respectfully request that Sunnica's application for a Development Consent Order be refused for the following reasons:

1. Battery Dangers: While Sunnica insist that the technology deployed in the battery energy storage systems (BESS) will not be decided until detailed design is undertaken following the granting of development consent, it is clear that the available alternatives all involve lithium and the attendant risk of thermal runaway, fire and toxic emissions. There have been numerous incidents of this nature already and they have proved very hazardous and difficult to control. It must therefore be prudent to site such large scale BESS in appropriately remote and controlled sites where the hazard to health is minimised. Surely the proposed locations would needlessly expose local communities to unacceptable levels of risk.

2. Health and Safety Legislation, Fire Services Legislation: The emerging threats and risks associated with large scale BESS have only recently begun to be recognised in attempts to make appropriate health and safety and fire services legislation. For example, the Lithium-Ion Battery Storage (Fire Safety and Environmental Permits) Bill 1st reading was on 7 September 2022 and the 2nd reading is timetabled for 24 November 2023. The level of risk experienced with lithium batteries gave rise to stringent national and international regulations restricting their transport. Despite the risks associated with large scale BESS being many orders of magnitude greater and the numbers of accidents growing, this has not yet been reflected in UK legislation.

3. Food Security; Agricultural Land Classification: It remains self-evident to a lay person living in this area, near Isleham, that the variety of crops grown and the yields described are the very definition of best and most versatile (BMV) land. It is equally clear that the applicant is seeking to conceal the truth behind a pseudo-scientific smokescreen. The reliability of DBSC's evidence is clearly questionable and Natural England's collusion misguided. The importance of food security has been emphasised by recent events in Ukraine. Can we really afford to take so much highly productive farmland out of production, probably permanently?

4. Environmental and Amenity Impact: The scale of the proposed area of solar panels and embedded ten metre tall battery buildings, enveloping as it does numerous communities and visible from so many significant viewpoints, is truly a dystopian nightmare. This would have a crushing impact on the future lives and the mental health of a great many people.

5. Nationally Significant Infrastructure?: I believe that if the National Grid does indeed need such systems, particularly of battery storage, centrally-lead planning would specify very different sites and designs, for very good reasons. Solar farms would be sited more discreetly. The development proposed by Sunnica's application appears to me to represent the very worst of developer-lead design and layout, driven only by the interests of the landowners involved and displaying remarkable contempt for the welfare of the local community, their present neighbours.

In summary, I believe that the hazards to health, loss of valuable farmland and destruction of the landscape involved in the proposed development are unjustifiable. Your sympathetic consideration would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

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