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**To:** [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Secretary of State - Ref 20031108  
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To The Secretary of State

Having been invited to comment on Sunnica's responses I would like to make the following observations.

### **Battery Energy Storage System Design, (BESS) & risk**

There has been no indication of the type of battery technology to be used in the proposed application, though there can be little doubt that one sort of lithium battery or another will be involved – surely this information should have been provided at the initial stages of the application. It does not seem good enough that the type of battery to be installed has not been disclosed and will only be revealed once planning consent is granted and Sunnica will have, almost certainly, 'sold out' to another company.

Large scale BESS are new technology and not enough is known about them. Seemingly the BESS insurance market believe these systems to represent a 'significant' emerging risk. There were 23 BESS fires in South Korea between 2017 and 2019. Lithium-ion batteries used in energy storage systems are currently banned in Arizona due to causing uncontrollable fires with explosive energy equivalent to a small nuclear bomb. Toxic fumes such as hydrogen fluoride emitted during these fires are extremely hazardous to human life. The BESS in this scheme will be positioned very close to schools and residential areas - is it acceptable to live with this risk - would you?

### **Soil Assessments – lack of transparency**

There is such an unbelievable discrepancy between the SNTS (Say No to Sunnica) and the DBSC (Daniel Baird Soil Consultancy Ltd – on behalf of Sunnica) soil analysis. Sunnica report that over 96% of the fields being considered for solar panels consist of poor quality soil. I understood it to be 'best and most versatile' (BMV) land, it's use being flexible, efficient and most capable as demonstrated by the superb variety of crops seen in the fields. If the DBSC / Sunnica soil analysis is to be believed, a very convenient and dangerous precedent would be set for our food producing fields to be covered in solar panels by any solar developer getting the '*right*' soil analysis. It is most unlikely that once solar farm land is decommissioned it will ever be economically recoverable for food production again. In Wales BMV land is protected from solar farming.

### **Communication & Consultation**

Due to the extreme lack of communication during Sunnica's consultation process there are many people in the numerous villages affected that still have no idea of the magnitude of this huge development threatening to industrialise a vast area of the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire countryside. From the start of the consultation process letters and emails to Sunnica raising concerns about this landscape-changing solar farm and battery storage plant were not answered or even acknowledged. Sunnica hid behind the excuse of Covid-

19 to avoid meeting residents, business owners and councillors to answer questions in person – not even considering delaying their application until after the pandemic to give us a fair hearing. The only point of contact being via webinars discriminated against those that did not have a computer or had poor internet connection. Sunnica have shown complete disregard and displayed total arrogance throughout the consultation process.

I hope that you will be persuaded to reject this application.

Marianne Corbin