

From: [jennyhall194](#)
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Sunnica Energy Plant proposal
Date: 11 September 2023 22:01:30

I wish to comment on the response by Sunnica that the agricultural land which they propose to develop is of poor value. As a local resident in the area for 48 years I have seen good harvests of crops. In July 2023 a Parliamentary Petition was presented to discuss the need for protection of agricultural land from large-scale solar installations. With the current war in Ukraine it is important that the UK becomes more self-sufficient in food production and food security is as important as energy production. I consider that wherever possible other locations should be used for solar installations, such as rooftops on industrial and domestic buildings and brownfield site. Sunnica plans to develop its plant over 2000 acres of productive land. It claims the land will be returned to agriculture after the lifespan of the energy plant, 40 years, but there is no guarantee that the land will be fit for food production after this time.

Sunnica's response to the issue of glint and glare is that it will only be visible for a short period each day and its impact will be reduced by planting hedges and trees. As a resident of Red Lodge I have seen several examples of tree planting on newly developed sites and noted that the initial planting consists of small "whips" about 45 cm in height which take a decade or more to reach a height of 4 metres. The solar panels and battery storage compounds will not be screened for almost the half the duration of the plant, so residents and wildlife will be affected by glint and glare for many years.

I have read the comments by Sunnica regarding the questions about hazardous substances in the BESS units. Local residents are concerned about the dangers caused by these units and the hazardous fumes that would be produced if they were to ignite. The proximity of the sites to the settlements of Red Lodge, Freckenham, Isleham and Chippenham is a cause of concern, as is Sunnica's reluctance to give exact details as to how these hazards can be managed. Sunnica states that it will only provide a detailed account of its plans to minimise potential hazards from the BESS plants once consent for the application has been granted, which gives little reassurance to local residents.

I would like to reiterate my previous objections to the Sunnica Energy plant application on the grounds that it is too large, too damaging to the environment and inappropriate for its location.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer Hall

