

From: clerk@chippenhamcambis.info
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; "[Nick Bennett](#)"
Subject: Sunnica NSIP - feedback from Chippenham Parish Council
Date: 11 September 2023 22:07:24

Unique Interested Party reference number: **20031117**

Chippenham Parish Council strongly objects to the Sunnica NSIP and has grave concerns about the lack of detailed information for the BESS battery system which is an integral part of the Sunnica NSIP. Chippenham is a lively, rural village and if this plan goes ahead there will be BESS battery sites located on two sides of the village; one at Sunnica East B and the other at Sunnica West A. The council and its residents are extremely worried about the risk to life if there were to be a fire/incident at one of these sites.

It is crucial that detailed plans are available and scrutinised as part of the NSIP process and that these plans include robust safety measures and plans for a worst-case scenario. It is noted that at the moment a credible worst-case scenario has not been provided for the BESS. The council agrees with the submissions of Dr Edmund Fordham, SNTS and the local authorities that Hazardous Substances Consent is needed. This matter cannot be resolved at a later date - if the HSC cannot be granted during the application process, the application should be refused. The BESS that Sunnica intend to install are huge and will rank amongst the world's largest and they are close to residents. The people of Chippenham have repeatedly expressed their concern about the safety of these. Last week Andrew Bowie MP, Minister for Nuclear and Networks, stated that the Government recognised concerns about battery safety and their environmental impacts and that they would ensure that a robust and future proofed regulatory framework that protects people and the environment is in place. It is essential that large scale BESS have the necessary consents before permission is granted and that they are suitably located.

The BESS site at Chippenham is in a highly sensitive location - sandwiched between the beautiful Chippenham Park and Gardens, close to Newmarket's renowned Limekilns gallops, and just a field away from homes and one of the most popular shops and eateries in the area (the La Hogue Farm Shop and Cafe). We discussed the La Hogue Shop and Cafe in our D7 submission as we highlighted the discrepancies with Sunnica's road surveys and the fear that local people have expressed of using La Hogue Rd if this became an access route for HGVs. Our community would likely cease to use this facility as a result, and also because it would be so close to the hazardous BESS site opposite. To place such a huge, industrial battery store just a field away and upwind from one of the most popular and well-used amenities in our village, so that any toxic emissions that would arise from a thermal runaway event would head straight towards it, is unthinkable.

Yours



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