

Fiona Maxwell



Dear Sirs

**Scheme Nos EN01010 Sunnica Energy Farm
Interested Party ref: 20031317**

Please find below my comments on the letter submitted by Pinsent Mason
10th August 2023 in respect of the request for information about the Sunnica Energy
Farm proposal.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

The BESS system proposed by Sunnica has a larger storage capacity than the
current largest in the world (by 50%). Installations this large have all been located in
remote areas. +-

The safety of Li Ion batteries continues to come under scrutiny, as the number of
fires reported increases over time. The Sunnica plan places three large BESS near
settlements which is of great concern to those who live and work in the settlements.
The town of Newmarket is within the radius that would need evacuating in the event
of a BESS incident. This affects not only the human population, but the thousands of
racehorses living and training in the town. There is no evacuation plan that could
work for this critical industry.

It cannot be acceptable to plan these BESS so close to settlements.

Other Matters – Agricultural Land Quality

Sunnica have repeatedly refused to allow an independent assessment of the soil
quality of the land proposed to be used for this scheme.

The residents of our towns and villages are familiar with the variety of crops that this
land produces. We drive past the fields throughout the seasons and see it with our
own eyes.

Sunnica's Soil Report is so at odds with the evidence of the crops grown – 34,000
tonnes of vegetables and cereals per year. If Sunnica are confident of their
assessment, why have they not allowed independent assessment?

This should certainly take place before any permission is granted for Sunnica; the
Prime Minister confirmed as recently as 6th September (during PMQs) that ground
mounted solar should not be on productive arable land.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Maxwell