

From: [Marie Shortland](#)
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Submission AGAINST Sunnica
Date: 09 September 2023 06:00:10

To whom it may concern, although I doubt you'll even read this,

I live in [REDACTED] and travel daily through beautiful, currently unspoilt countryside comprised of arable farmland in constant use, which the proposed Sunnica development will irreparably and completely destroy. Not only will it be an eyesore for generations to come leaving our children and grandchildren to deal with the impacts of rapidly diminishing natural landscapes on an industrial scale, devastation of rare and irreplaceable wildlife, a constant significant fire hazard from the largest battery installation in the UK, noise and light pollution and consequently will directly cause mental health issues which are already rising nationally thus this will also contribute to overburdening the NHS. There are NO positive benefits for any member of the public from this Sunnica development, only negatives.

The following points are adapted from:

OUR GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND IS NO PLACE FOR SOLAR by Peter Dobson, Emeritus Professor of engineering science, University of Oxford which was published on Wednesday August 02 2023, 9.00pm in The Times.

As Britain focuses on the need to generate clean energy in the race to net zero, more and more fields are being covered with solar panels. Good agricultural land is lost in the process, and countryside views and habitat are destroyed. In most cases there is strong local opposition to this trend, and tenant farmers in particular are being adversely affected.

Many of the sites, including Sunnica, are also having to incorporate large battery energy storage systems (BESS) and little attention has been given to public safety in the siting of these, with their attendant fire risk. There are also security problems, with theft and vandalism reported in some rural areas.

Given that there are so many issues for rural areas, it is surprising more consideration has not been given to exploiting largely unused rooftop spaces across the country. It would also be possible to cover car parks with solar panels connected to local battery storage to provide for the charging of electric vehicles, such as Metrocentre.

The upsides for everyone are considerable: this suggestion would not use valuable agricultural land or despoil the countryside. Land is going to assume increasing importance to reduce the amount of imported food, particularly as the climate crisis escalates and more countries lose their capacity to grow food. The installation of solar panels in fields is not going to enhance biodiversity and will lead to long-lasting agricultural and ecological damage.

Furthermore, little consideration has been given to the microclimate changes some of these schemes will cause. Some of the larger projects of greater than 50-megawatt capacity, i.e. Sunnica, introduce local air heating effects above the panels. This leads to "heat islands" and counters the very climate benefits that renewable energy is supposed to bring about. If the installations were placed in areas where there were already large roofs and car parks, there would be far less perturbation of the local climatic conditions. There is also the huge benefit of fewer changes to the power distribution infrastructure that would be required, because cabling and connectivity already exist. The need for large BESS facilities would be reduced and that too saves cost and improves the safety of the system.

So, what is there not to like? Developers and the public would be much more supportive of such rooftop schemes and this would eliminate the considerable time wasted on public inquiries for the ruinous despoiling of our rural environment. These advantages need to be drawn to the attention of the government's Solar Taskforce. We should have a moratorium on all solar farm installations until it has deliberated.

(Peter Dobson is emeritus professor of engineering science, University of Oxford)

It has to be remembered there's nothing green about battery vehicles, photovoltaic panels and the stand alone batteries. Billions of tonnes of fossil fuels have already been squandered on the mad net zero drive and their use has nearly doubled since the beginning of forcing battery vehicles and solar panels onto the market. The measures alone are the biggest driver of the cost of living and energy crises.

The UK is only self sufficient in food for 221 days per year as DEFRA have stated. We would run out of food on 9th August if the country had to live off what we grow. The Sunnica site is 981 hectares and land of this quality would be capable of producing over 34,000 tonnes of produce every year. How can we allow such productive land to be used for solar?

[REDACTED]

Cranfield University studied Sunnica Ltd's Carbon Lifecycle Assessments and identified a number of flaws. Instead of being carbon neutral in the claimed 2-3 years of operation, the Sunnica scheme could more likely contribute more carbon than it can save over its 40 year lifespan. A "green" scheme?

Consider my points raised above and STOP this madness called Sunnica!

Yours faithfully,

Marie Shortland
Local Resident

[REDACTED] (First hand experience of the growing mental health crisis exacerbated by children seeing their natural landscapes and therefore futures disappearing. I have to mitigate the effects of what this is doing to them daily.)