

**From:** [Linda Homan](#)  
**To:** [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)  
**Subject:** Loss of natural environment and hedge rows due to Sunnica  
**Date:** 09 September 2023 17:54:46

---

Dear planning inspectorate,

I am emailing because the responses request views on natural environment and speaks of compulsory purchase of hedge rows and verges. I am asking you to oppose Sunnica because of many reasons, but in this call for opinions - specifically related to hedge rows and the environment.

**The RSPB** state that hedges may support up to 80 per cent of our woodland birds, 50 per cent of our mammals and 30 per cent of our butterflies. The ditches and banks associated with hedgerows **provide habitat for frogs, toads, newts and reptiles**. In areas with few woods, many species of birds depend on hedgerows for their survival.

**The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)** campaigned and successfully managed to persuade the government to accept the Climate Change Committee's call for a **40% increase in the extent of hedgerows by 2050** to help tackle the climate emergency. **The UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology** report that hedgerows are important for -

**Regulating ecosystems**

'Regulating services' control ecosystem processes like air quality, water purification and pollination. In terms of the air we breathe, hedgerows help produce oxygen and capture harmful particulates – especially important in urban areas that produce more atmospheric pollutants. They also help reduce the urban heat island effect and store carbon. Also that hedgerows hold -

**Cultural values**

'Cultural services' are non-material benefits directly linked to people and values, including recreation, spiritual enrichment and cognitive development. Hedgerows can date back to prehistoric times and can help tell the history of human interactions with the land. Also, and vital for mental health that - Hedges can provide aesthetically pleasing landscape features that can have positive benefits for psychological wellbeing.

**Alternative placements for solar**

We cannot all move away to avoid these negative impacts - but this awful solar project can. Solar is useful on industrial buildings, on waste land, and all sorts of other non environmentally damaging places than the edges of fields which produce our food supply (we could only feed ourselves as a country for 221 days should imports stop for any reason, Defra). The Government Food Strategy (GFS) observed that, "overall, for the foods that we can produce in the UK, we produce around 75% of what we consume (Government's seventh Report on Food Security 2022-2023). And the Food Foundation notes we still grow nowhere near enough fresh fruit and vegetables to feed the nation.

We should not be destroying nature - or the production of food for energy which can more effectively and efficiently be produced by wind power and we should not be destroying hedgerows which support so many creatures vital to our ecosystem.

**(See references below)**

Thank you.

*Best wishes,*

*Linda Homan*

**References:**

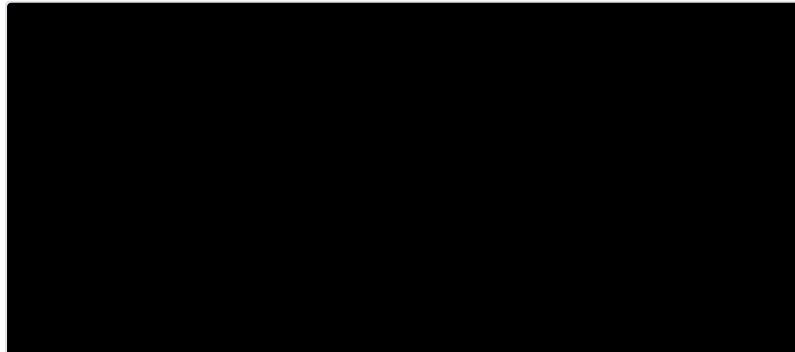
**UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology** <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/hedgerow-management-and-rejuvenation>

**RSPB** <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/advice/conservation-land-management-advice/farm-hedges/the-value-of-hedgerows-for->

[wildlife/](#)

CPRE <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/hedgerows/>

DEFRA/NFU [NFU calls for legislation to ensure UK food self-sufficiency does not fall](#)



### NFU calls for legislation to ensure UK food self-sufficiency does not fall

Global challenges such as a volatile climate and economic instability emphasis the urgent need to boost UK food ...

**Governments Seventh Report on Food Security 2022-2023** <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmenvfru/622/report.html>

**Food Foundation** <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/press-release/not-enough-fruit-and-veg-go-round-britain-shows-new-analysis>