

**From:** [Coral Fuller](#)  
**To:** [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)  
**Subject:** Sunnica Energy Farm - Interested party response following Secretary of State's request  
**Date:** 10 September 2023 13:30:53

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To Whom it may concern,

I'm sorry I could not keep this email brief due to my many concerns over the Sunnica solar park proposal.

I beg of you not to allow this scheme to go ahead, or at least a very scaled back option if absolutely necessary. Please consider alternatives with the option to retain our farmland, protect wildlife and allow nature's own resources to grow and develop for future generations.

The scale of this scheme (2,792 acres) is unprecedented in Europe. Our communities are small and will be swallowed up. We value our green space for obvious health and wildlife reasons and have done so for decades. Our roads are already congested, and this scheme will require 2 years of continual HGV traffic (180) carrying abnormal loads, thus creating road blockages and diversions. Baring in mind that these roads are rural and not designed for use of sustained HGV traffic. That in addition to 685 smaller vehicles and over 1,000 staff/workers that will be commuting daily, further impacting our village services and further impacting already congested A roads such as the A14 and A11.

I understand that lithium-ion batteries 6m high will be installed approximately 1 mile from schools nearby. These batteries are a fire risk and there is no reassurance regarding the safety aspect of these.

I am also concerned about the destruction of wildlife habitat which seems counter productive.

Sunnica has stated in their proposal that some protected wildlife may need to be moved. I do not want to see anymore habitat destroyed. As we know, the impact of such devastation also has a profound effect on the environment.

Another important issue surrounds mental health. Currently we have views of farmland and animals across our county and for these to disappear will have an impact on increasing mental health issues, especially as we will have returned to some form of normality following the pandemic. As we know, an appreciation of the countryside can have a positive effect.

I would like to add that I feel that Sunnica wants to use our area as a 'host' for their experiment which has no guarantees of a positive outcome and no direct benefits to the local community, in fact the complete opposite.

There are so many alternatives to the Sunnica Solar Farm, such as covering the unused roofs of commercial property with solar panels. Did you know that a recent study suggested that covering 61 per cent of the UK's south-facing commercial roofs with solar PV could provide all the energy needed for UK businesses, while saving medium-sized and larger enterprises at least £30,000 a year on their energy bills? It would also reduce the need to cover our green fields with solar farms.

West Suffolk Council's innovative Solar for Business Scheme roof panels not only provided clean energy for the hosting company saving them on average around £20,000 a year, but it also provided the council with an income.

Unisurge International in Newmarket, which manufactures and supplies the NHS with medical procedure packs and theatre products, had over 1,600 solar panels installed on the warehouse roof.

West Suffolk Councils now support 31 organisations through its solar for business scheme, and this currently generates £125,000 per year to support council services, and provides financial and environmental benefits to all involved. Indeed schemes like this, plus the Toggam Solar Farm 2 miles away from Lakenheath, have made sure that the council has a carbon neutral status. But Sunnica will provide only disbenefits to local people!

The Sunnica proposal is completely inappropriately sited, does not give proper weight to environmental considerations such as landscape and visual impact, heritage and local amenity, and little opportunity has been given for local communities to influence decisions that affect us. It contravenes the government's own principles set out in its PV strategy and must not go ahead.

These types of schemes are enormous, over and above the 'regular' size (ca. 250 acre) schemes that are being approved locally. Currently, this is all unregulated and unmonitored. There are no end of life recycling plans and our field would become a solar panel grave yard for generations to come.

Thankyou for taking the time to read my email.

Yours faithfully

Coral Fuller

Lifetime resident of the area concerned

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