

From: [Mark Fletcher](#)
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#); [Catherine Judkins](#)
Subject: Comments from the Isleham Society
Date: 13 September 2023 18:33:26

Isleham Society Objections to the Sunnica proposal

Many apologies for this late submission. I have been away, and gathering comments from our members, now over a hundred, has taken a while. I do hope this summary of heartfelt opinions from local residents can still be considered?

In addition to the very real concerns about loss of productive farmland, (the area has been drained and farmed since Roman times), our members are still very worried about congestion and potential damage to our narrow country roads, and risks associated with the large battery stores and substations. The feedback from members shows they are particularly worried about the impacts that Sunnica's proposal will have on the heritage of this area as follows:

Landscape Our members object to the Sunnica proposal limiting access to, and marring, cherished historic views. One such is coming out of the village on Beck Rd or Sheldrick's Rd with the Ark in its prominent position and the wonderful view towards Mildenhall, Worlington and Freckenham across those open fields. St Mary's Church (Grade 1 listed) with Water towers marking Mildenhall air base, the prominent Lea Farm, and silos underpinning the agricultural setting, and south-east to Freckenham church tower (grade 2). This view is especially important as we remember those USAF and RAF personnel who lost their lives in the bomber crash (see below).

Fen Edge. The Parish council and the Isleham Society have committed considerable effort to developing, with the Cambridge Archaeological Society, our part of a set of walking routes of the 5m Fen Edge Way ending in Isleham.

Sunnica plan to put a large area of woodland at the corner of Sheldricks Rd and Beck Rd. This woodland would follow the line of the field in the direction of East Fen Rd, where there would be another large block of woodland whole site will be fenced in. This is to be done to try and hide the ugliness of the scheme, but in doing so will sever the far-reaching view. In addition, it would alter the Fen Edge landscape which we value so much, - defined by open fields, with sparse vegetation. If we are to retain our identity as a Fen Edge village, we need to preserve the landscape that defines us as such. Fencing, trees and hedgerows in a place that hasn't had hedgerows etc before changes the characteristic of the area. Instead of Fen Edge, it would become an artificial landscape of no defined character. We are proud to be a part of the Fen Edge trail initiative linking Isleham to other Fenland villages along the 5m contour and retaining this landscape is an important essential.

Bomber crash Part of Sunnica East A is directly where the Boeing Superfortress crashed in flames on October 13th, 1949, during a practice bombing flight. All twelve of the crew members were killed but the courage and skill of the pilot steered the plane away from crashing on the village. It was carrying 16 500 pound bombs and enough fuel for ten hours flight and the destruction and loss of life would have been horrendous without the sacrifice made by those airmen. The Isleham society had a Talk about this event a few years ago researched by local history enthusiasts and with eyewitness recollections and as a result of members' interest a plaque commemorating the event has been placed in the Foyer of the

main Community Centre, the Beeches. The site has remained broadly as it was then and contains buried artefacts and is also likely to contain human remains because of the massive nature of the explosion. Visitors still come from the USA to pay their respects and the Society considers it important not to damage the site but to preserve it out of respect.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Fletcher (Chairman)