

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Continued response to Sunnica's planned solar farm
Date: 26 January 2024 09:07:30

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I am a resident of Isleham

I still cannot agree to this project taking place see below

A Lack of consideration of alternative sites. According to Government guidelines, ground-mounted solar farms should be sited on brownfield sites. Sunnica has not detailed any brownfield sites that have been considered for this scheme. The Solar Trade Association states that there are 617,000 acres of south-facing commercial rooftops that are not yet being utilised in the UK for solar power. This could provide 50% of the UK's electricity need. In Germany, over 70% of solar PV installations are on rooftops (commercial and domestic), currently generating 50 GW electricity. These, along with suitable brownfield sites, should be utilised for solar panels BEFORE we further industrialise our countryside on a mass scale. Like my own proposal solar provides a more long term, sustainable solution to the climate crisis. Instead, Sunnica has only considered flat, highly productive arable farmland as an option (land that is predominantly ALC grade 2 or 3 per Natural England's ALC008 map. This is also against Government guidance).

* Further to the above objection, we would lose a considerable expanse of productive, and highly versatile, arable farmland, if this scheme goes ahead. This area already has a large amount of farmland used for solar PV. The additional 2792 acres that Sunnica wishes to develop can provide 41,300t food each year (8,700t potatoes, 7,300t onions, 15,400t carrots, 7,900t parsnips, 12,000t sugar beet (= 1,920t sugar)). The local sugar industry relies on our local crops of sugar beet for it's sugar production and, in terms of carrot production, this amount is enough to feed 3 million people each year (based on average consumption). In addition, this land also produces 900t wheat and 550t spring barley each year. In a world where food shortages are a concern, and people are encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint and buy local produce, etc. we cannot afford to keep removing thousands of acres of highly versatile farmland for industrial solar purposes, when rooftops and brownfield sites can be used instead. This Fenland region, often referred to as the "bread basket of Britain," supplies over 37% of vegetables in the UK, so removal of large amounts of farmland in this particular area will have multiple consequences not only with increased food imports and carbon footprint, but also in terms of long term job losses in the farming sector and related industries, loss of farming know-how and further land clearance/ intensive farming elsewhere to 'plug the gap' left by the agriculture we have lost.

Kind regards
Michael spooner

Sent from my iPad