

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Response to Secretary of State, Sunnica deadline 26th January 2024. ID:11564
Date: 26 January 2024 02:26:12

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Comment from Interested Party ID:11564 Isabel Cross

I wish to reiterate and highlight key points from mine and others previous submissions, urging the SOS to truly examine this flawed application and reject it outright.

1) Ref: Natural England

This reply to the SoS's question remains a dereliction of duty. That no evidence is yet available after a planning process lasting four years and numerous Examiners requests is wholly unacceptable and should result in rejection of the scheme.

Wildlife experts have provided supporting evidence for their position that the stone curlew (a rare and protected species) that nest within the scheme area are not linked to other stone curlew populations nearby.

2) Ref Sunnica's response on Landscape:

Far from being landscape-led as the applicant now presents in their response; this scheme has been worked up by a few benefitting landowners - most likely Chippenham park where the family has a profit-making company that promotes developing grid/landowner/scheme connections (<https://www.oneplanet.ltd/> Has this conflict of interest been disclosed- I believe the scheme may benefit from Government public funding).

The design overall is piecemeal, sprawling and has maximum cumulative impact on communities. It is contrived as numerous points of evidence presented by County and local authorities and landscape planning consultants throughout the examination highlight this.

If approved, this would be one of Europe's biggest solar battery plants, with an estimated 1.1 million solar panels and hundreds of battery energy storage

containers. Not easily hidden.

In addition, Sunnica barely addressed 35 miles of deer fencing that will effectively close off landscape - moreover crime trends mean police forces are increasingly recommending higher security on such schemes; lights and cctv. At this scale it will place communities in a 'Colditz' like environment.

Have Cambs and Suffolk police forces updated their position at this scale?

3. Area: Sunnica also refer in their reply to some of the parcels of the scheme discussed for removal during the Examination.

- West Site A visible from the historic and famous Limekilns elevated gallops in Newmarket cannot be hidden through planting, which Sunnica have acknowledged

-E05 typical open expanse with far reaching views all round. Also home to the locally

and historically significant WW2 plane crash site and a habitat for rare species including stone curlew. Sunnica's mitigation of woodland and hedgerows here would create a dramatically different landscape.

- E12 and E13 important wildlife habitats, known for ecological importance (plants, protected trees, species, etc) we should be seeking preservation over mitigation.

Lastly, should this potential reduction in the scheme be possible, then BESS storage should be proportionately reduced too.

Safety regulation for BESS storage has not materialised since Alok Sharma (then SoS) admitted lack of, and need for regulation in 2020.

Storage proposed is well in excess of the solar production, purely to profit from grid trading.

Reduction in scheme footprint must be opportunity to decrease the safety risk to people, wildlife, biodiversity, our highly productive food production and valuable local industry.

Isabel Cross

Sent from my iPhone