

# THE RT HON MATT HANCOCK MP



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
55 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HP

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Claire

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to express our strong support for the arguments put forward by the Say No To Sunnica (SNTS) Action Group in response to the recent submissions from Sunnica and Natural England concerning the proposed Sunnica project.

As you are aware, the SNTS Action Group has been actively engaged in highlighting various concerns related to the Sunnica proposal. The key areas of dispute, including stone curlew linkage, soil assessments, and landscape impact, continue to raise serious doubts about the Sunnica project and its need to be rejected.

Firstly, we share SNTS's concern about the continued lack of evidence from Natural England (NE) regarding stone curlew linkage, especially given the total impasse for small-scale building works in nearby areas due to Stone Curlews. It is essential that any decision regarding this matter is based on complete evidence. SNTS's ecology expert, as highlighted in their previous submissions, has raised valid points regarding the potential link, emphasising the need for a cautionary approach in the absence of conclusive evidence.

Secondly, as we have mentioned in our previous letters to you, the inconsistencies in Sunnica's soil assessments have raised significant questions about the accuracy of the information presented. We urge a thorough examination of this issue to ensure that the decision-making process is fair.

Lastly, the concerns raised by SNTS regarding the landscape impact of the Sunnica scheme are critical. The sprawling greenfield site design and potential harm to local communities and landscapes must be carefully considered. Additionally, West Site A, adjacent to the famous and historic Limekilns gallops and Chippenham Park could cause harm to the local horse racing industry. Ultimately, the flawed site selection process and inaccuracies in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), as pointed out by SNTS and other experts, demonstrate the need for this proposal to go straight back to the drawing board.

Working for West Suffolk

[www.matt-hancock.com](http://www.matt-hancock.com)

@MattHancock

London: [REDACTED]

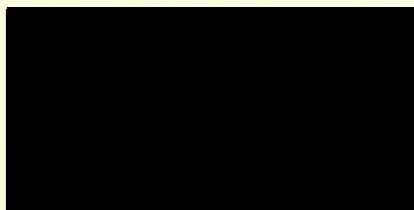
Suffolk: [REDACTED]



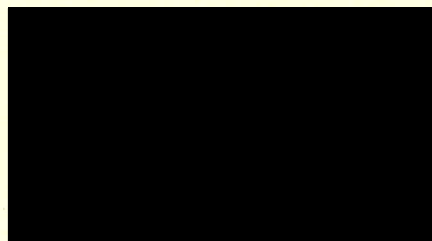
We firmly believe that the Sunnica proposal, as it stands, poses significant risks and challenges that means this proposal must be rejected. We urge you to take into account the arguments presented by SNTS and carefully consider the potential long-term implications of approving a project that lacks local support and has raised significant concerns about its proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours ever



Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP



Rt Hon Lucy Frazer MP