

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Sunnica Energy Farm
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The Secretary of State,

Following your request for information, I find myself once again disappointed by the apparent disinterest of Natural England in their response. Of course Sunnica will paint a glorious picture of their 'landscape-led' design in an attempt to secure financial gain, but the very essence of Natural England is supposed to be to conserve and enhance the natural environment. I fail to see how their (in)action contributes to their own mission of 'Building partnerships for Nature's recovery' and very much doubt those working tirelessly to supporting stone curlew populations feel the least bit supported. Swathing c.2500 acres of rural landscape in metal to create an industrial wasteland simply goes directly against numerous targets in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan, despite it supposedly being a key priority for Natural England.

- Clean air - Certainly not with a rather large battery fire and excess transport through construction and food imports.
- Clean and plentiful water – Run off from a battery fire would contaminate water and industrial landscaping might well exacerbate flooding.
- Thriving plants and wildlife – Alas stone curlew, and in a country that has seen such a significant decline in so many native species, can any recover from developments such as this?
- Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards – Not the best example of working with communities to reduce risk of harm.
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently – Definitely not contributing to ensuring that food is produced sustainably.
- Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment – subjective maybe, but not sure many would consider over a million solar panels and oversized battery energy storage containers an enhancement.
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change – Unfortunate when there are questions whether the project can ever even be carbon neutral.
- Minimising waste – What about 40 years time when the industrial landscape is scrap?
- Managing exposure to chemicals – So long as there isn't a fire!
- Enhancing biosecurity – Unlikely removal of established mixed hedging and mature trees and replacement with new stock will improve disease resistance.

Of course, this isn't even considering the ethics of environmental damage elsewhere in the world in obtaining components for the industrial site. Certainly what should be within the scope of Natural England, however, is providing comprehensive and timely objective expert evidence to support any assertion that the environment and species such as the stone curlew will not be negatively impacted by Sunnica.

The enormous impact this scheme will have on the landscape has been repeatedly raised throughout the Examination. Despite claims of a landscape-led approach, Sunnica refers to the area as not being of 'high landscape value', so it comes as little surprise they have been so unwilling to mitigate impact. Whilst much of the area may not have discrete picturesque

features, it is the overarching impact on the a vast expanse of rural landscape that will have a detrimental effect on many of us. Throughout their response they do little to disguise their disinterest in trying to mitigate with extra planting and screening, repeatedly referring to the resultant reduction in capacity (profit). Industrialisation on this scale simply can't be disguised. Whilst over a decade or so well cared for hedgerows might cover some of the panels, what will hide the battery storage that is purely for profit? Yet on roofs and covering carparks, such construction would blend in and provide energy at the point of use, without need for vast amounts of storage for profit.

Kind regards

Sian Chilcott

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