

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on recent submission by Natural England and Sunnica to questions by inspectorate on behalf of SoS  
**Date:** 26 January 2024 22:11:17

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Dear Inspectorate,

I write in response to the recent answers by natural England and Sunnica in relation to the inspectorate's enquiry into the proposal for Sunnica's Solar plant. My wife and I are residents in the proposed scheme adjacent to Sunnica East site B. We feel let down by Natural England's (NE) failure to execute their duties in respect of the Stone Curlew population on the site.

On being asked by the inspectorate on behalf of the secretary of state to provide evidence for or against the connection of habitat or to provide a time frame as to when it would be available; they imply that this should not make a difference to the plan's progress.

This appears to be a complete derogation of their duty to act a "Regulator for protected species." Experts have cast doubt on NE's position, cautioning that it could lead to a decline in this rare, protected species. Several ecologists have also cast doubt on Sunnica's farmland bird surveys, including stone curlews, as being inadequate.

We are regularly privileged to hear these rare birds in the land behind our property, a site which would be completely disrupted by the scheme in both the preparation and running of the plant.

Furthermore, Sunnica's claim that the scheme is landscape is at best misleading. They have admitted in recorded public consultation that mitigating planting, for screening purposes, will be immature and would take 15-20years to be an effective screen. This is approximately half the lifespan of the scheme. This would allow the scheme to be a blight on the landscape for at least half of its lifespan. They have noted that several parcels of land cannot be effectively screened as they are overlooked by areas of higher land, such as the Limekiln Gallops in Newmarket.

Parcel E05 as well as being Stone curlew habitat, is also known to be some of the best food growing soil. In a time of ever-increasing population, reduced cooperation with our European neighbours, lack of favourable trade deals and global warming, we should preserve as much growing farmland as possible. The evidence is in the produce of the land.

Some of the mitigation measures proposed by Sunnica would significantly alter the existing landscape. These and the previously noted objections to the scheme should lead the Secretary of State to reject this scheme which is motivated by commercial gain rather than preservation of the environment and a greater benefit to the population both locally and nationally.

Yours Faithfully

Dr J A and Mrs S M Bruton