

Submission ID: 10872

Dear Planning Inspectorates

Date: 7.8.2022

Your Ref: EN010106

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In response to what the chairman Mr Graham Keene mentioned at the end of the Bedford Lodge meeting on 26th July 2022 that the panel has not come to a definitive view yet regards whether 'food security and land usage implications' should form part of the examination process and thought he would put it out there, for comments.

I believe these issues should form part of the Pls examination for the below reasons.

The Sunnica scheme would take out 2,600 + Acres of good farm land that could be used to grow food.

At present this area is producing 37% of the U.K. Vegetables and bit by bit it is being eroded by house building and smaller solar farms.

Currently the UK grows 60% of the food it consumes and with the current situation in the world, with Russia and Ukraine, in particular, we are going to need every part of that 60%.

With the increasing pressure for more homes farm land is being used, not only for solar panels, but for housing and extra infrastructure and so gradually the amount of land used for growing food is getting smaller while the quantity of food needed to feed the country is increasing.

The aim is for our carbon footprint to be 0% by 2050. With this in mind how much of a carbon footprint will it be to import the extra food needed to offset what we can no longer grow because of the amount of growing land used not only for this project but for all the smaller solar farms that are being built.

May I also point out that during the 2nd world war the country was brought almost to its knees by the lack of food. To reduce the amount of food we are producing increases the possibility of the country being 'held to ransom' by blockading our food supplies.

Solar panels can be placed on roofs even placed to cover car parks in such a way that they become an asset in that they produce shade for the parked cars, but you cannot grow crops, on roof tops or in car parks.

May I suggest that methods to produce electricity need to be looked in greater depth to ensure that we are not destroying one valuable asset to produce another asset.

I understand that even when the solar farms are dismantled the ground would be so contaminated that it would be of no use to grow food in the future.

I feel this should be of great concern to all of us. Yes electricity has become an important part of our lives but without food we have no life.

Brenda Knowles