

I object to the proposal for the Sunnica Energy Solar Farm for the following reasons:

1. The size and scale of the development: Sunnica proposes to construct the largest solar farm in Europe, on 2,792 acres. A normal solar farm occupies 75 to 100 acres. The company Sunnica plans to employ has a record of constructing solar farms in Spain and South America. The UK's area is half of that of Spain. Sunnica is proposing to build its solar farm in close proximity to several villages with expanding populations, such as Red Lodge, Fordham and Kennett on greenfield agricultural land.
2. The loss of agricultural land. The sites that Sunnica proposes to build on have been used for years for food production. In these unstable political times food security is as important as green energy. The UK needs to increase its home food production rather than depend on imports, which also incur a carbon footprint. In Suffolk, coastal agricultural land is being lost to erosion, so it is important to maintain farmland inland.
3. Safety issues. The lithium-ion batteries used in the three Battery Energy Storage Systems are potentially dangerous, currently banned in Arizona as they are considered unacceptable risks, due to causing two uncontrollable fires. These fires emit toxic fumes which are extremely hazardous to life. One of the BESS systems would be located within 1km of settlements in Red Lodge, where there are two primary schools and three nursery schools. In case of a fire or explosion at the site evacuation could prove difficult, due to the battery units' proximity to the A11, which would be closed in an emergency. The local council and emergency services have no experience in dealing with such situations, nor do they have the facilities to accommodate hundreds of people who would have to leave their homes. If a BESS unit ignited it could cause disruption and closure of two major roads, the A11 and A14, which carry thousands of vehicles daily and possibly closure of the railway link from the port of Felixstowe. Also, livestock and wildlife could be fatally affected by fumes.
3. Environmental impact. The site proposed by Sunnica is rural, predominantly farmland, populated by some small established villages and a larger settlement,