

Fordham Parish Council



Chairman: Cllr P Rampley

Clerk & RFO: Mrs C. Standley

28th November 2022

Comments on Written Representations.

Fordham Parish Council has read the Written Representation by SNTS AG Ltd. We support the points raised and particularly:

Section 2:

2.1.1. Because Sunnica is exceptional (if consented, it will be by a considerable margin the largest PV-generating installation in the UK), the impact that it has on the location and communities around it is very significant.

2.1.3. By having such a massive scheme spread over such a considerable area, harms are maximised in a way that will significantly and for many generations damage local communities and the way that they function both social and in their reliance on tourism and investment in racehorse training, economically.

Section 3:

3.1.7. The development does not show good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, landform, and vegetation; the opposite is true. The development fails to accord with NPPF as it fails to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

3.1.8. It would not protect nor enhance the valued landscape, which includes the Limekilns and Chippenham Park in the case of Sunnica West Site A.

3.1.11. Overall, the proposals conflict with the relevant national policy statements and nation and local landscape policies.

Section 4:

4.1.3. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced, and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic, and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting.

4.1.5. The identified cultural heritage impacts affect numerous Scheduled Monuments, a Registered Park and Garden, several listed buildings, surrounding Conservation Areas and the historic Limekilns Gallops.

Section 5:

5.1.5. No evidence has been advanced based on the monitoring of decommissioned or existing solar facilities or similar developments to support the contention that there are no negative impacts arising from the prolonged change in the environment of the land, or if such impacts were likely, how they might be mitigated.

Section 8:

8.1.4. The significance of the nature found in Newmarket and its horseracing industry is rare and it goes without saying that it must be valued and protected.

8.1.5. The key policy, in the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, state unequivocally that development that would threaten the long-term viability of the horseracing industry will not be permitted.

8.1.7. Had the proposed developments impact been assessed by the Applicant it would have been shown to be significant and, at the very least, it would have been shown to threaten the long-term viability of the industry.

Section 9

9.1.3. The development is only temporary in the sense that it is one day planned to be decommissioned; it will be in operation for over a generation, and for anyone over a certain age, then in all probability, they will not see it decommissioned in their lifetime.

9.1.4. The harm to local communities is significant. These factors should weigh heavily against the scheme in the planning balance.

Section 11

11.1.2. The evidence suggest that this will harm the recreational use of the area around the scheme as people feel it is no longer rural. The harm to public rights of way by the scheme is considerable.

11.1.3. The introduction of solar panels will fundamentally change the setting of these rights of way. Glimpsed views and enclosure of public rights of way to hide solar panels will degrade the quality and amenity of the public rights of way.

Section 13

13.1.1. Contrary to the claim of Sunnica, the scheme cannot reach net zero carbon emissions within its lifetime and is in fact a net-emitter of CO₂. This was the assessment of a team at Cranfield University.

13.1.5. A reasonable assessment of the scheme predicts that the scheme will produce more carbon than it saves over its lifetime compared to the grid over the same period (be carbon net positive).

Section 16

16.1.1. SNTS says that more detail on decommissioning is needed in this application for the ExA to be satisfied that the use is truly temporary and that it can and will be fully restored to agriculture.

16.1.5. Taken in the round, it would be an ineffective and inefficient use of land, which minimises its value, to leave the land damaged and unusable for its original purpose following the decommissioning of the scheme.

The damage to our landscape and ecology will be permanent if this scheme goes ahead.

Kind regards

Christine Standley
Clerk & RFO to Fordham Parish Council