

**Submission by Nick Timothy, Member of Parliament for West Suffolk, to the Planning Inspector, Re: Sunnica Energy Farm**

**Representation in response to application to extend scheme boundary for grid connection changes (non-material change to Sunnica Energy Farm Order 2024 (SI 2024/802) as corrected by Sunnica Energy Farm (Correction) Order 2024 (SI 2024/1154)**

I write to object to Sunnica Ltd's application to extend the scheme boundary to amend their grid connection. **This request should be rejected.**

Grid connection is fundamental to any energy scheme. This should have been resolved before the original application – not requested nearly a year and a half after consent. Sunnica's pattern of incremental changes fundamentally undermines the Development Consent Order (DCO) process in an egregious manner and denies proper scrutiny.

Previous amendments already changed substation compounds near Chippenham Park, Elms Road, and Ferry Lane near West Row – adding infrastructure with extra environmental impacts. Connection dates have slipped repeatedly: from 2025 to 2027 to 31 October 2030 – missing the Government's "Clean Power by 2030" target. With NESO's [REDACTED] there is a strong potential for further delays.

Sunnica recently withdrew another request for flexibility to add overlapping infrastructure – possibly data centres – revealing their intentions. Residents have raised concerns that nothing prevents them from acquiring adjacent fields for future 'value-add' schemes.

Piecemeal applications escape the full assessment and scrutiny the DCO process demands. Meanwhile, continual changes may have substantial cumulative impacts. Approving amendments at this stage sets a dangerous precedent. It certainly adds uncertainty for the communities and businesses most affected by Sunnica. I strongly urge you to reject this application.

**Broader concerns**

Sunnica covers over 2,500 acres of prime agricultural land across West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. The Energy Secretary approved it within three days of taking office, overruling examining authorities without properly considering evidence – breaching his quasi-judicial responsibility.

Sunnica has treated residents with contempt and used consultants specialising in questionable farmland assessments. Its proximity to RAF Mildenhall and Lakenheath – hosting US Air Force personnel – raises serious security concerns, particularly given suspected Russian drone activity and MI5 warnings about sabotage.

Approving changes without going back to the drawing board, and assessing these dangers from first principles, is grossly negligent.

This scheme represents ideological irresponsibility: bad energy policy reducing security while increasing costs; bad farming policy removing productive land; and it is a risk to public safety. The DCO process should not be undermined by endless changes that escape proper scrutiny, such as this one.