

Submission ID: 12991

We attach a letter from Patrick Stephenson (Agricultural Expert engaged by SNTS) concerning the Agricultural Land Classification of the Sunnica site.

Dear Sirs

I find it difficult to understand the emphasis on the land being only capable of growing good crops with irrigation and would like to question the grading on a yield factor.

2018 was the driest summer for 100 years in East Anglia and 2022 the driest for 50 years (Met Office data). Droughtiness is described in the 1988 ALC publication as having significant limitations. I would take this to mean at Grade 4 catastrophic yield impacts in 18, and 22 and significant on 3b. All our data would not support that level of impact.'

Cereals, sugar beet and maize are all grown without irrigation, and despite one of the driest summers, all yielded well in the area around the DCO proposal.

On behalf of SNTS I augered over 80ha in the vicinity of the Sunnica site, and pits were dug. These show that 78% of the land in the area can be classified as BMV. I would welcome the opportunity to survey Sunnica East A with a soil expert representative from Sunnica to try to resolve this issue of soil classification.

Regards

Patrick Stephenson