

Nick Wright

Appendix 1.

Sent: 09 December 2022 08:38  
To: Nick Wright  
Subject: FW:

Copy of speech made at Open floor hearing  
6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, by Nick Wright-Sunn-AFP 191.  
Thank you for listening to me this morning

My name is Nick Wright and I have lived and farmed at Badlingham for 20 years. Our farm is less than 300 meters from the southern boundary of Sunnica East B. I was approached by Sunnica when they started this scheme to put part of our farm in – but we declined.

From a personal point of view, I just wanted to say it has been utterly miserable dealing with Sunnica over the last 5 years.

On our 600 acre farm we grow winter wheat, maize, sugar beet, and because the soil is so responsive to irrigation, we built a winter fill reservoir in 2011 at the cost of £485,000 for which we received a 50% grant. We then introduced potatoes and onions into the rotation. The soils are excellent for growing potatoes and in 2022 we were awarded a National potato growing prize based on the quality and yields of the crops we produce.

Ours and three neighbouring farmers yields for the last 4 growing seasons have predominantly been above national averages. So with or without water this is highly productive arable land.



A 981ha farm in this area would produce more than 32,000 tonnes of produce per annum. Make no mistake this productive arable land

Farmers love to look at their neighbours' farms. I know the land around us, and what it grows. I was therefore mystified by Daniel Baird Soil Consultancy Ltd's ALC soil report on the 981ha Sunnica site.

It is simply not possible for Mr Baird to have only found 3.8% BMV on the 981ha site. This amounts to only 37ha. We know that this is wrong.

To confirm this, two soil experts dug a soil pit 5 meters from the western boundary of Sunnica East Site A, we sent the samples away for laboratory analysis and had the results peer reviewed by a third soil expert. All three experts said the land was BMV. 5 meters the other side of the boundary on the Sunnica site Mr Baird has graded the land as grade 4. It is highly irregular to be two grades apart within 10 metres. Something is very wrong here.

Knowing the area, looking at the crops, soil sampling and pit digging on the boundaries, and studying the predictive maps I know that Sunnica East A is predominantly BMV and that other parts of the two remaining sites will also contain BMV. Sunnica East A was not part of the original scheme. It was only included when a landowner around Freckenham pulled out due to the



unpopularity of Sunnica. Sunnica East A was therefore needed to maintain the size of the scheme.

To try and resolve this disagreement, we have asked the landowners in the scheme on three occasions for access to take our own soil samples and have been refused each time.

To quote Sunnica Mr Baird is an experienced soil scientist who is a member of the British Society of Soil Science. Their code of conduct requires that all members discharge their professional responsibilities with integrity and due scientific and technical competence.

Our experts say that Mr Baird's report fails on three points of process required by the Society he is a member of and therefore under their guidelines should be referred to a specialist. We strongly suggest this happens.

However, If this code of conduct has been complied with Sunnica and the landowners should be throwing the gates open allowing us access to take soil samples all over the land in the scheme secure in the knowledge that however hard we tried we would only find 3.8% BMV. But they are not doing this - they are doing the opposite – so what is wrong?

We will be contacting Mr Baird today to ask to arrange for a joint inspection of the site and I would encourage Sunnica to advise the

landowners to give us access so this matter can be moved forward.

Sunnica with its sprawling layout arranged purely where willing landowners could be found quarrels with the countryside. This scheme is not about solar power. The panels are a means to justify and create one of the largest BESS scheme's in the world. If you want to create the BESS – fine, but don't put it close to people and don't include 950has of solar with them.

Leave this countryside to be farmed to grow the food we all need.