

From: [Jack Smith](#)
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Sunnica Energy Scheme - Agricultural Land Classification
Date: 09 September 2023 21:03:58

Dear Sir,

Sunnica – EN1010106

Unique Ref No – 20030721

I wish to make the below comment regarding Point 7 'Other Matters' in the letter from Pinsent Masons on 10th August:

I must strongly disagree with the Sunnica soil report that states that only 1% of the land is considered best and most versatile 'BMV', the land upon which the scheme is proposed is some of the most high performing and versatile land in the country allowing for wide and productive crop production rotations.

I am a Farms Director for a neighbouring Agricultural business and have been in the industry for 13 years having gained a first class honours from Newcastle University in Agriculture and Agronomy. I have worked across the UK in various farm businesses, producing a variety of crops and working with a wide range of soils.

In my current role, which I have been in for 5 years, we grow high value crops on neighbouring land to the proposed scheme and I can assure you it is certainly some of the 'best and most versatile' land that the UK has. On this land we grow pre pack potatoes, milling wheat, sugar beet, onions, and forage maize, alongside us we have neighbours also growing carrots, parsnips, malting barley, rye and many other high quality crops. We have recently completed our 2023 cereal harvest with milling wheat yields of 9.5t/ha. We have also commenced our potato harvest with early Maris Piper potatoes yielding 73t/ha.

This is productive land that should be used to grow quality UK food. We have invested in it because we know its potential, 10 years ago the business built a 150,000m3 reservoir with a 40% government grant, we would not have done so and the grant would not have been issued if the land and its produce was not considered worthwhile.

The Sunnica soil report is wrong, I urge you to listen to those who know the land the best, the people who farm the very same land and the independent experts of which I understand there are three separate individuals that have stated the report is wrong.

If you need any more information or evidence of the potential that this land has to offer then please do not hesitate to contact me, I would be only too happy to discuss and even show you the potential of this land for food production which makes it easily land of BMV standard.

Kind regards

Jack Smith

Farms Director

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