

## Land use

Highly productive land growing quality vegetables, which can only be produced on light textured, freely draining soil, should never be taken out of production. It is incredibly short sighted to increase our reliance on imported food at a time of concerns over Food Security. Issues resolving the grading of the land by a consultant, paid by the applicant cannot be allowed to remain unresolved. Natural England should insist that clarification of its concerns over the assessment of limitations are addressed, and concerns over land quality generally are spoken to.

The applicant has failed to provide any ALC for a further potential 150ha of land which will be disrupted by the cable route despite requests from Natural England

The Applicant's comments that both Patrick Stephenson and RAC are inexperienced and lack objectivity cannot remain unchallenged.

Both companies are highly respected by their peers and are well known throughout the industry. RAC carries out many hundreds of hectares of ALC assessment each year and has played a key role in the development of the system since the 1980s.

Both are professional people who only consented to look into the application for SNTS on the explicit understanding that they could not jeopardise their professional reputations by giving anything other than a totally unbiased view.

Mr Baird's work has similarly been peer reviewed for the Ripon enquiry which found the following conclusion: *The ALC survey report, dated February 2020, submitted to support the proposed Ripon MSA planning application carries no credibility and should be ignored. The site at Junction 50 is BMV land, as confirmed by three previous surveys, in common with 86% of the alignment of the A1(M) in the Harrogate District.* The proposed development area has been mapped in detail by MAFF and the Soil Survey, which both found the area to be populated with high quality soils that would normally be expected to be assessed as Best and Most Versatile. The Baird survey for Sunnica should be assessed to ensure that a second unreliable land classification is justifiably rejected.