

My name is Isabel Ross. I live at [REDACTED], near Yatton Keynell. We are fourth generation farmers on the pathway of the cabling route. Indeed, it encircles our farmhouse.

The impact of Lime Down on us, and our lives, will be dramatic. The 50 metre wide trench and roadway will come all the way through our farm, through our species-rich meadows. Our farm enterprises that depend on our grasslands being productive will have to stop, leading to a loss of farm income of at least £30,000 per year. We can't bear to stay to watch the destruction of our much loved fields. This is our home. It won't be bearable to continue living here while our farm is being ripped up.

We farm rare breed sheep. The fields affected are our principal pastures. Aside from the visual, physical and emotional impact on our lives, our ability to keep our flock will be in jeopardy. You can't keep sheep on a construction site – the constant noise and the large machinery will make our land unusable. And we may have to cut our flock by up to 80% with the disruption and loss in grassland.

And digging a roadway through our fields will **forever** impact that land – you can't just recreate an 80 year old species rich meadow – when re-sown, it will forever be full of weeds. We know, because we had a water pipe installed through our field and it has since been a line of poor grass, docks and thistles.

And these aren't any old fields of grass, **but species-rich fields that haven't been ploughed since the Second World War.** These grasslands hold a rich soil ecosystem, **sequestering lots of carbon and holding thousands of litres of water. They are providing ecosystem services to us all, as well as holding the history of our family.**

It just doesn't make sense. The miles of cabling alone will wreak destruction on countless hectares of countryside. It will come straight through our farm we have lived on for generations, ruining our home and the soils, the ecosystem and viability of the farm.