

This scheme absolutely wrecks the farm business and its enterprises. The arable and grassland rotation would be lost and we need that acreage to feed our 200 head of cattle who are all farm assured, with full traceability of feed stuffs given to them. The income from this enterprise would be gone for at least a minimum of 8 years and there is no way you will the land and the enterprise back into production.

The land at Ballam has previously grown potatoes, carrots and cereals, it is good agricultural land. If this government needs food security you need to stop taking the land out of production. The decimation in my lifetime of grade 1 and grade 2 soils is immense due to the construction of houses and electrical infra structures. It has to stop. Why put this cable underground when all the other electric cables are generally transported above?

The land in question on this farm cannot stand the interference of going below the top soil. The sub soil consists of a blue clay like structure and if you bring this to the surface it sets like concrete and so becomes unfarmable. It will take 20 years to get the land in a good state again.

How are you going to stop the cables moving to the surface and in the neighbour hood we have incidents of a gas main moving to within 6 inches of the surface and no one can drive over it. On our land we have an electric communications cable which runs from Peel to Penwortham and this has often reappeared and we have ploughed through it. Moss Stocks(very old trees) that have been buried thousands of years, suddenly surface to the top of the land, many as long as 20-30 feet long. How do you expect and propose the plastic electric cables to stay deep in the ground?

Another aspect is the potential flooding risk and how the Main River Drains i.e. Main Drain, Wrea Brook and Branch Drain will be maintained. The cable route crosses and runs alongside these arteries of the Fylde catchment. I have seen no plans or access plans on the maps for the Riparian Owner or the Environment Agency to maintain the waterways. This access is needed at all times in order to carry out maintenance of mowing and de-weeding or if any other problems arise. We also have a Christmas Tree plantation and there was talk of drilling underneath the trees. Will the electric cable still enable the trees to grow? The trees do not like the overhead cables and make the trees poor quality and the needles are a lighter green. This I believe is due to static electricity. We will potentially loose income from the trees with harvesting and selling them on the door. We will potentially lose a massive income stream which has took 20 years to build supplying the local area with trees.

This brings me to the state of the rural roads which have not been fully maintained and are too narrow for passing wagons. There is a very uneven camber and we only travel along them at 15 miles per hour in places. There are a lot of accidents along Ballam and Peel Roads especially with lorries who come off the road and drop into the field. The road system and with 2 compound designated to our land will make it impossible to farm, also the field being split into 2 with no access to the other side of the cable route equates to me losing more land.

This such a massive problem that will desecrate and disrupt the whole area and at the cost of peoples lives and well being. Its mind blowing when there is potentially other avenues to explore.