

Written summary of Oral submissions given at the Open Floor Hearing 1 held on the 8th July 2025.

My name is Rebecca Walker, and I live with my family in North Clifton. For the past [REDACTED] years, we've enjoyed uninterrupted views of open countryside from every window of our home. It's a peaceful place, ideal for raising children and enjoying the beauty of rural life. That's why the proposed One Earth solar development is so devastating to me and my family. If it goes ahead, our view will be replaced by industrial fencing, solar panels 3.8m high (which is nearly as high as our house), and the constant hum of inverters. We'll lose the countryside walks and bike rides we cherish, and there will be nowhere in our home or nearby where we can escape the visual and emotional impact of this project.

Even though One Earth has proposed limited mitigation measures, solar panels will still be just 40 metres from our boundary. One Earth have seen for themselves that every room in our home will overlook the site. The emotional toll of losing our landscape is something I don't believe can be fully measured, but it will be profound and permanent, not just for me, but for my children, [REDACTED]. This change will affect them for most of their lives.

Concerns About Agricultural Land and Cumulative impact

Another major concern I have is the loss of high-quality farmland. According to the applicants own data, more than half the land they intend to use is classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV), and the rest is grade 3b, which from conversations with farmers, is still very productive. Despite this, their marketing materials APP-158 Appendix G-2.4 – Statutory Consultation booklet, page 25, that was published for the Statutory consultation states “less than half” is BMV, which feels misleading to those who haven't sifted through the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment.

Whilst those with a financial interest in this project going ahead will tell you the land is no good for growing anything other than animal feeds, biomass, sugar beet and turf. Many of the fields being targeted have successfully grown root vegetables and cereals for years. They also benefit from an existing irrigation system, which will become even more valuable in the face of climate change. With warmer temperatures and reduced rainfall, productive land with access to water is essential for national food security. The idea of covering it in panels feels incredibly short-sighted.

There's also the cumulative impact to consider. Across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, there are already multiple Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and smaller solar developments under 50MW. Our local MPs have highlighted that 6–9% of farmland in their constituencies could soon be lost to solar. That's in stark

contrast to the Secretary of State's national figure of just 0.1% of land in 2022, increasing to potentially 0.83% of farmland in 2030. Lincolnshire alone grows 30% of the UK's vegetables, yet we're not protecting this land. If we're not careful, there will soon be more solar panels than fields in this region. Is it fair that our communities are bearing the brunt of the UK's net-zero push?

Health Impact

Since the announcement of the One Earth project, my health has suffered. The stress and anxiety have been so intense [REDACTED]. That's why I found it deeply upsetting when One Earth's Environmental Impact Assessment claimed the project would have a "likely significant positive effect" on human health. It feels like a slap in the face to those of us living within the planned scheme, who are already suffering just from the proposal, let alone its construction and long-term presence.

I spoke with the Project Manager about the impact the project was having on my health and asked for early access to the final site plans so I wouldn't have to endure months of uncertainty. They said they could do that but never followed through. I ended up hearing about the final plans through a friend who doesn't even live in one of the affected villages, which added to my frustration and sense of being ignored.

One Earth claims that keeping communities informed will help ease and mitigate health concerns. But in my case, they have done the opposite. The stress is ongoing, and I can't begin to imagine what it would feel like to live in a landscape of solar panels for the rest of my life.

Long-Term Impacts on Our Home and Community

I know some people might label me a "NIMBY," but I believe anyone in my situation would feel the same. This is my family home, the place we chose to raise our children and where we planned to spend our retirement. Like most people, buying our home was the biggest investment we ever made. Now that investment and our future is under threat.

If this project is approved, we could see:

- Significant changes to the local landscape and wildlife,
- An increased risk of fire from the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS),
- Potential contamination of drinking water,
- Increased Flooding risks in an area that already regularly floods,

- And plummeting house prices, potentially pushing us into negative equity.

This isn't just about losing a view, it's about the fundamental security and wellbeing of our family. I support the principle of net zero, and I'm not against green energy or solar power. But it must be done sensibly. According to EN-3, solar projects should be sited appropriately and not clustered in a few counties simply because they're near grid connections. Nor should these projects come at the cost of people's health, financial stability, and entire way of life.

Final Thoughts

All we did was choose to live in the countryside to raise a family and live peacefully. But now we're being punished for that choice simply because our home happens to be near a convenient grid connection. We didn't sign up for any of this.

This project, if approved, will affect us for generations. My children will grow up surrounded by solar panels instead of fields. The health effects, financial risks, and loss of our home's value are real, not hypothetical. And the burden placed on this region is disproportionate and unfair.

I believe in renewable energy. But I also believe in protecting communities, safeguarding farmland, and ensuring public voices are heard and respected. What I've experienced over the past year has been emotionally exhausting and disheartening. I hope those making the final decision truly consider the human cost not just the national targets.