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16th Sep 2025

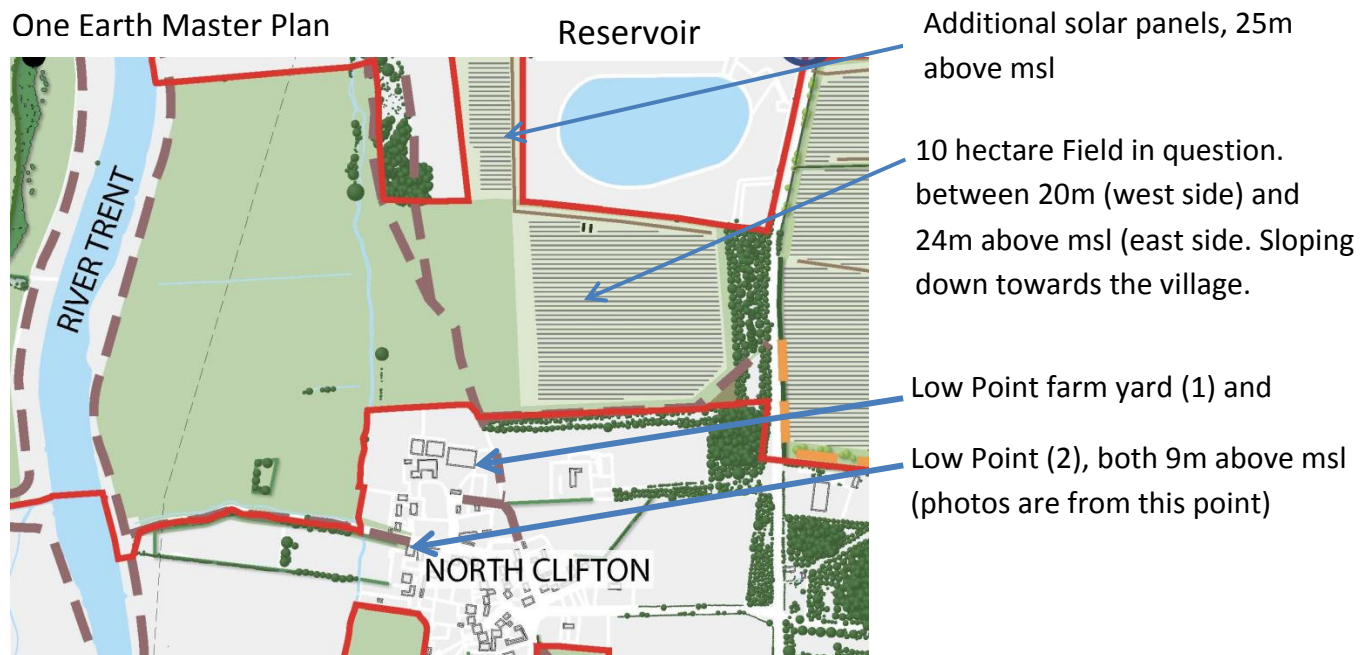
Planning Inspectorate

Re: Objection to Planning Application – ‘One Earth Solar Farm’ Flood Risks

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to follow up on my earlier submission regarding the increased risk of flooding posed by the proposed One Earth Solar development. Having considered both the developer's and the Environment Agency's responses, our community remains unconvinced that these concerns have been given adequate consideration. We believe the risks are being understated and insufficiently addressed. For this reason, I am submitting this further representation, including images from the January 2024 flood event, which severely affected our villages and clearly demonstrates the existing vulnerability of our communities.

As noted previously, one particular concern relates to the plan to install approximately 10 hectares of solar panels on land between North Clifton and the North Clifton reservoir. This area lies at an elevation of 20–24 metres above sea level, while the lowest point of North Clifton village is at 9 metres.



It is well established that solar panels create impervious surfaces, preventing natural ground infiltration. On sloping terrain, this results in concentrated overland flow and accelerated runoff. The gradient therefore creates a clear pathway for any additional runoff to flow into Croft's farmyard and the village itself.

In this case, the development would almost certainly increase flood risk to the community.

Our community does not believe that sufficient consideration has been given to these specific risks, either by the developer or by the Environment Agency. The scale and pace of solar development across the county and nationally should not come at the expense of community safety, particularly where alternative sites are available that would avoid exacerbating local flood hazards.

We therefore respectfully request that the Examining Authority give full weight to these concerns, and use its significant powers to ensure that development does not compromise the safety and resilience of our villages.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Sheila Pumfrey

(Submitted by David White on behalf of)

The following images were taken in January 2024 and may better demonstrate some of the issues our communities currently face.

Start of Last Flooding Event: Jan 5th 2024 (taken at low Point 2 in One Earth Master Plan Image)
We created a sand bank and installed a small pump to try to save this house.



We then had to secure an irrigation pump on hire. Pump being brought in (below)





The pump is placed over a storm drain at the edge of the village where the water is rising into the village, and the exit pipe placed over the flood bank (next image). NB. The above image is not River Trent Water, this is solely run-off from the surrounding landscape. As you can probably see, this community is only just hanging on, we had to run the pump supervised in 2 hour shifts 24/7 for several days. As you might hopefully imagine, just a little more pressure from solar panel run-off could tip our communities over the edge!



The River Trent, massively over running the area. You can see the lid off the Environment Agency gate bottom right of the above image. This sluice gate has to be closed to stop the Trent back-filling the village. There are very serious concerns issues like this are not being given enough consideration by either the developers or the Environment Agency.



This was taken on the 7th of January 2024, as you can see, the run-off water is being held back, but the pipe is still full of water being pumped out 48 hours later. (it took another couple of days before we could eventually switch off the pump). This was paid for through donations from the village, and we supervised the pump in volunteer shifts. We are a very close-knit community and trying to stand on our own two feet, but there are serious concerns the solar farm could push ours and South Clifton over the edge.

More Images of recent flood events in this development area, including North and South Clifton, Dunham Bridge, the Viaduct etc.





