

One Earth Solar Farm

I wish to register my objections to One Earths proposal for a massive solar plant in and around South and North Clifton. I set out my reasons below.

Lack of Transparency and Information Sharing. I have real concerns regarding the above because I believe that previous comments submitted by myself and others in the community have not been passed on by One Earth to the Inspectorate. They seem to be trying to manipulate the process to their advantage by not disclosing information they have about the widespread and strong objections raised by the communities affected by this project. I have personally experienced this deceitful denial. When I attended an open presentation by One Earth at South Clifton Village Hall I asked what account was being taken of the almost universal objections of the community to this project. I was told by One Earths representative that there was infact strong support for the project in the community, which was a bare faced lie. Surely this behaviour of One Earth must be some sort of abuse of process. I think it demonstrates that they cannot be taken at their word or trusted.

Water Safety. The planned solar site is on a water catchment area as well as a drinking water protected area. Anything that risks contamination of the water supply in this area is of grave concern

Impact on Villagers Health and Wellbeing. In an extensive village survey 99% of those who took part objected to the project. There were over 400 responses to the survey, that's 90% of the population. The worry and uncertainty surrounding the proposal is causing anxiety, stress, sleep problems and low mood. The only support I'm aware of is from the farmers who stand to gain financially. I cannot understand why any Planner or Politician would want to support a project like this when it is so clearly against the wishes of the communities it impacts the most. That is particularly so when there are alternatives that are far more acceptable. This vast project covering many 1000s of acres of good farm land will on a good day only produce as much power as 12 wind turbines in the North Sea which have a comparatively minor environmental impact.

Impact on Property Prices. It seems obvious that local property prices will fall if this project goes ahead. No one will want to live in the middle of the vast wilderness of a solar power plant. Whilst the farmers selling their land will receive huge profits the rest of the community (the vast majority of us) will suffer financial loss. The proposals do not address this problem. There should be a mechanism within the proposals for One Earth or the Government to fairly compensate villagers for their financial losses if the project goes ahead.

Loss of High Quality Farmland. The majority of the land earmarked for this proposal is Classified Best and Most Versatile. It is some of the best farmland in the country and is currently used to grow food. That use will be lost if it is covered in solar panels. In these uncertain times food security is of national importance and this is a major area of concern. If solar panels really are the best green alternative then there are clearly better places to put them for instance on roof tops, brownfield sites and marginal land of little agricultural value.

Damage to Wildlife and Nature. The fields and hedgerows around the local villages are home to a large variety of flora and fauna. Amongst others hedgehogs , deer, rabbits, hares, foxes, badgers, grass snakes and adders are regularly seen. In my own garden a wide variety of birds visit including Tawny Owls and the rare Little Owl. This rich wildlife depends upon the area surrounding our villages and that habitat will be lost if the fields and hedgerows are replaced by Solar Panels.

Far too Many Large Scale Projects in One Area. This project is just one of many large scale energy projects planned in Notts and Lincs. There is the STEP project already underway a few miles up river at West Burton and many more vast solar projects. There is also a Hydrogen plant with expansion planned at the old High Marnham power station site. When all are considered together, the pressure on our land, our communities, wildlife and infrastructure becomes overwhelming and planners should take account of this.

Flood Risk. Large parts of the proposed site sit on a flood plain. The Environment Agency has raised concerns. The developers answer is to raise the height of the Panels. That just makes them even more of an eyesore, and highlights how naturally unsuitable the area is in the first place.

No Benefit for the Local Communities. The power generated will go into the national grid. No meaningful local investment is proposed. Local communities would be left living in the middle of a vast wilderness of solar panels, with depleted wildlife, reduced property prices and a significantly reduced quality of life. As an example from my home i can walk for miles along footpaths through beautiful countryside. It's something I do most days. If this project goes ahead those walks will be between 3.8m high rows of solar panels stretching as far as the eye can see. Our local communities are being asked to suffer all the considerable negative impacts of the proposals with nothing being offered in return.

Negative Impact on Tourism and Local Business. Our local villages attract visitors. South Clifton is a Conservation Village being one of the few remaining unspoiled Trentside communities. People visit to enjoy the countryside and river walks. No one's going to come to walk amongst Solar Panels. Local providers of accommodation and the business that rely on visitors will be adversely impacted.

Safety Concerns and noise from Infrastructure. The plans include large battery storage systems which are a known fire risk requiring robust safety measures and emergency response planning none of which have been clearly laid out. In other areas BESS site have led to fires and toxic fumes. Additionally the constant noise generated by substations and inverters can travel far and disrupt daily life causing noise pollution and damaging our rural peace and quiet.

Disruption. If the project goes ahead our local communities will suffer huge disruption and noise caused by the work of construction over many months.