

Linked NSIP (LINCS Reservoir, planned water supply for approx. 500,000 people) Not Being Considered in ES, EIA, cumulative and in-combination effects.

Verbal submission made and further supporting information

Dear Sirs,

My names is David White and as well as planning officer for the North Clifton, I'm representing over 98% of the villages of North and South Clifton through our action group.

While carrying out our own background research, our local action group recently and quite accidentally came across information linking the One Earth Solar Farm site with the proposed Anglian Water LINCS Reservoir. We were surprised — and frankly concerned — to find this out ourselves, as it appears this connection has not been clearly highlighted during the examination process.

The One Earth Solar Farm application sits across a designated **Drinking Water Protected Area**, which feeds directly into the **River Trent**. Just 2.5 miles downstream, water from that same stretch of the Trent is planned to be transferred via the **Fossdyke and the River Witham** to supply the new **LINCS Reservoir**, located south-east of Sleaford.

We would also like to note that a review of the publicly available One Earth Solar Farm application documents shows **no explicit reference** to the LINCS Reservoir or its abstraction of water via the Foss Dyke / River Witham. In particular:

- **Chapter 7: Hydrology & Hydrogeology** assesses local rivers and watercourses but limits its study area to a 1 km buffer around the site and does not consider downstream abstraction infrastructure.
- **Appendix 7.4: Water Framework Directive Screening Assessment** concludes no impact to waterbodies but makes no mention of the LINCS Reservoir or linked abstraction points.
- **Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects** and **Appendix 18.2: Long List of Other Developments** list many local and regional projects, but there is no entry for the proposed LINCS Reservoir or comparable downstream water supply infrastructure.

This absence suggests that the potential cumulative and hydrological link between OESF and the LINCS Reservoir has not been explicitly assessed or disclosed in the ES.

This is particularly concerning because **Anglian Water** are directly involved in both developments — as a consultee and infrastructure partner for One Earth Solar, and as the promoter of the LINCS Reservoir scheme. Given that both projects interact with the same water system, and that one is situated in a **Drinking Water Protected Area** while the other depends on that same source, it is surprising that this relationship has not been transparently addressed from the outset.

There is also the very real issue of potential pollution — whether from the **construction and operation** of the One Earth Solar Farm itself, or, more seriously, in the event of a **large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) fire**, which could release toxic substances into the soil and

watercourses feeding the Trent. Such contamination could then travel downstream into the Fosdyke and Witham, ultimately impacting the proposed LINC'S Reservoir's future water supply.

Tillbridge Solar Project is a good precedent for arguing that: (a) you must screen whole WFD waterbodies (and named downstream reaches, e.g. Trent reach) and (b) downstream cumulative assessment is acceptable to scope using the waterbody/catchment logic and a tiered cumulative approach rather than a fixed metre distance.

Further supporting examples;

Cory / London Waste to Energy (EN010128) — Appendix 11-1: Water Framework Directive Assessment

States the receiving transitional Thames waterbody and notes the *Thames Lower Transitional waterbody lies approximately 26 km downstream of the Proposed Scheme*. (links available)

Sunnica Energy Farm (EN010106) — Appendix 9B: WFD Assessment

Lists specific monitoring locations and records distances such as *~6.73–6.82 km downstream of specific crossing points and other distances for WFD screening*.

Therefore, in our view, this closely linked infrastructure clearly meets the threshold for consideration of **cumulative and in-combination effects** under the **Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations**, as well as under the **Environment Agency's** own guidance for **Drinking Water Protected Areas and Safeguard Zones**.

We therefore respectfully ask that the **Examining Authority** seek clarification from both the **Environment Agency** and **Anglian Water** on this issue, and consider whether it would be appropriate to involve **Defra** and the **Drinking Water Inspectorate** — given their statutory responsibilities for drinking water safety and water resources.

And finally, this situation serves as one more clear example of **why large-scale industrial development should not be permitted within an important Drinking Water Protected Area** — an area that provides essential drinking water to many local communities and downstream users. The risks, both immediate and cumulative, are simply too significant to overlook.

In addition, our action group intends to write to our own MP, **Robert Jenrick**, as well as **Sir Edward Leigh MP** and **Dr Caroline Johnson MP**, whose constituencies include the planned LINC'S Reservoir site, to raise our concerns about the lack of assessment of this downstream infrastructure and its potential risk from the One Earth Solar Farm development. We believe that their awareness of this issue is important given the implications for public water supply and local communities.

Thank you.
David White

LINCS Reservoir plans

AboutBackgroundDocument LibraryProposalsStay informedFAQs

Home - About - About the project

About the project

Anglian Water is proposing a new reservoir in Lincolnshire to help meet the growing demands on water supply in the East of England.

The new reservoir is at the heart of a whole new water supply project. Together with the associated water infrastructure we need to transfer water to the reservoir, treat the water and supply it to homes and businesses, it will secure reliable water supply for generations to come.

When there is available water in rivers that would otherwise drain to the sea, we would draw the water and transfer it to the reservoir using new and existing infrastructure and waterways. The reservoir will store the water for when it's needed.

Having this new water resource will reduce demands on sensitive sources such as chalk streams, helping us to protect and restore the environment. It will make us more resilient to a changing climate, reducing the impact of droughts while helping to manage river levels in wetter periods.

The proposed reservoir is located south-east of Sleaford, about halfway between Grantham and Boston. Before our phase one consultation, we completed a thorough site selection process for the reservoir and are continuing to work hard to develop our plans for the chosen site.

Why a reservoir

Reservoirs are sustainable ways of producing resilient, safe drinking water supplies because they take from river catchments which have surplus water. They mean we can make the most of wet weather for public water supply, capturing river water that would otherwise drain to the sea and storing it so it's on tap when needed.

This illustrative map shows where water is being transferred from sources to the reservoir, and then where the treated water is being sent into supply.



The One Earth Solar Farm Application Site, and extraction point just 2.5kms downstream