

Mrs Sheila and Ms Jane Pumfrey
The Manor, North Clifton,

7th Jan 2026

Planning Inspectorate

IP Ref: [REDACTED] 'One Earth Solar Farm'

Re: Serious Concerns regarding a massive BESS proposed on a drinking water protected area

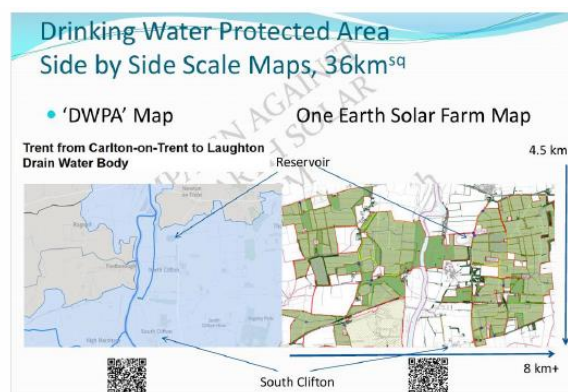
Dear Sirs,

We live just a few hundred metres from the area proposed for one of – if not *the* - largest BESS storage sites in Europe, (north-east of North Clifton), and we are extremely concerned.

We discovered only a few months ago that this area is also a **Drinking Water Protected Area**. This was **never mentioned** in any documentation or consultation and we feel the **Environment Agency** are definitely **not looking to protect** this important area. An area we understand should be protected by law and the **Precautionary Principles** that the EA are supposed to adhere to.

This is a Drinking Water Protected Area (DrWPA)

A substantially large part of the proposed One Earth Solar Farm – particularly east of the River Trent is planned over the top of an important Drinking Water Protected Area (see images below)



Immediately Adjacent to the proposed BESS site is a large **Drinking Water Treatment Plant**, providing up to **2 million litres of drinking water per day** to the city of Lincoln – over **100,000 people**. Very close to this is the **20 acre North Clifton Reservoir** and all ditches and dykes in and around this proposed site lead into the nearby River Trent and consequently also into the reservoir and subsequently it's many downstream users. At a time when clean water is in extremely short supply in this country!

The recent and well publicised MOSS Landing Fire **Serious Pollution Event** (some news articles included in this letter) surely proves the **very serious environmental damage** that can occur simply through airborne particles released during a fire event. **No amount of firefighting could avoid airborne release of smoke and polluting particles!**

Seemingly four Battery units in one?

When looking at the One Earth plans, we understand that the recommendation is that Battery units should be kept at least 3 metres apart. Consultation documents seem to suggest this is what the plans would be. However, when you look more closely to the plans, it looks like the developers could be counting four separate battery units – separated by just 0.9 metres, as a single unit in itself. We feel – if this is true - that this is also a serious area of concern and again – if true – could demonstrate the developers deliberately ‘playing with words’, and the rule book in the planning application. It also means that there would be no real way for fire services to stop a serious fire from spreading to at least 3 additional containers should one of the 4 fail and catch fire!

Battery units seemingly too close aside, building a BESS site, particularly this size cannot be right or should be allowed at this location in any reasonable circumstances, it would **surely be madness to allow this to proceed so close to such critical infrastructure and over a Drinking Water Protected Area!**



Concentrations [of these heavy metals](https://www.kqed.org/news/12065862/research-confirms-heavy-metals-in-elkhorn-slough-after-battery-plant-fire) were between **10 and 1,000 times** greater than they had been before the fire. They also found that the correlation of nickel to cobalt followed a strict 2:1 ratio — the same proportion used in manufacturing the batteries at the Vistra facility.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/12065862/research-confirms-heavy-metals-in-elkhorn-slough-after-battery-plant-fire>

Nearby animals not being considered

One of the other more personal concerns is our 14 acre horse paddock, which is permanent home to at least 6 horses throughout the year. Myself and my family have spent much of our lives around horses and I can definitely say, with the greatest of confidence, if there was a serious BESS fire at the site, there is a very good chance it **could cause pandemonium amongst the horses.**

Horses do not mix with Fire & Smoke

Panic and Alarm: Horses have an acute sense of smell and the odour of smoke, combined with any visual cues triggers immediate fear and the activation of their ancient "**fight or flight**" response.

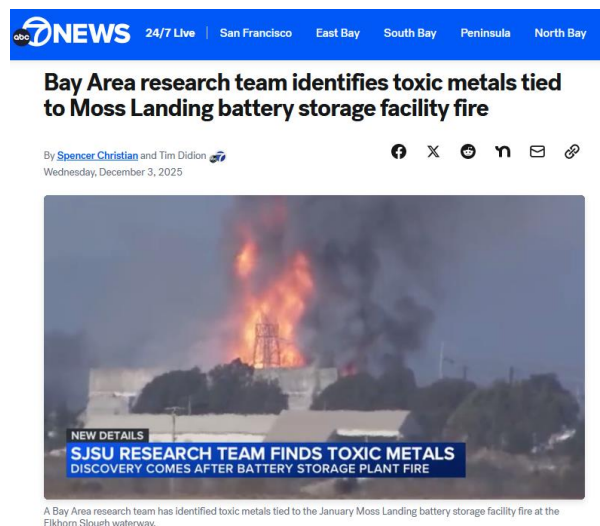
Fleeing Behaviour: Their strongest instinct is to run away from danger. In a paddock setting, this means they will likely bolt to the farthest point from the source of the smell or pace the fence lines desperately looking for a way out.

Injury and Self-Harm: In their panic, horses may crash into fences, attempt to jump over obstacles they cannot clear, or run blindly into objects, resulting in severe injuries to themselves, other horses, or anyone nearby.

Long Term viability of Grazing

Should a serious BESS fire occur, this 14 acre field – just a few hundred metres away, could also be affected by polluting metals carried by the resultant airborne release – as is now found and measured all around the site of the **Moss Landing BESS Fire** in the USA. Particles carried across with the smoke are proven dangerous pollutant heavy metals, including nickel, cobalt, and manganese.

This would almost certainly render the land unsuitable for grazing, leading to the need to move horses – or indeed any animal - off the land (leading to costs) and also consequently the loss of any possible earning potential.



<https://abc7news.com/post/moss-landing-battery-storage-facility-fire-bay-area-research-team-identifies-toxic-metals-tied-explosion-elkhorn-slough/18242248/>

In summary

We have lived as a family close to this village for many many years and observed with interest many new developments, including a nearby wind-turbine, the 20 acre reservoir, a large and expanding drinking water treatment plant and several nearby large poultry farms. Some development of the land is expected and often necessary, but we feel very strongly indeed that this is **one development too far**.

The solar farm itself should not be being built over almost 4000 acres of good agricultural land, but to allow development of this nature and what would be a massive BESS site not only over farmland but important and historically **recognised drinking water catchment and protected area and such important critical drinking water infrastructure seems madness personified**.

There are many other sites in this country that might be deemed infinitely more suitable than this proposed location. We dearly hope you will consider all these important facts when coming to your decision and very much hope you will recommend refusal to the Secretary of State for Energy.

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely,

Sheila and Jane Pumfrey.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A fire at the world's [largest battery storage plant](#) in Northern California smoldered Friday after sending plumes of toxic smoke into the atmosphere, leading to the evacuation of up to 1,500 people. The blaze also shook up the young battery storage industry.



1 of 8 | A major fire at one of the world's largest battery storage plants in Northern California sent up flames of toxic smoke. The fire that started Thursday and was largely put out by Friday led to the evacuation of 1,700 people.

“This is more than a fire, this a wake-up call for the industry. If we’re going to be moving ahead with sustainable energy, we need to have a safe battery system in place,” Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church said at a Friday morning briefing.

“There’s no way to sugar coat it. This is a disaster,” Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church told [KSBW-TV](#)

Hydrogen Fluoride

Kelsey Scanlon, director of Monterey County’s Department of Emergency Management, told reporters that the release of hydrogen fluoride into the atmosphere from the blaze is a cause for concern.

https://apnews.com/article/battery-storage-plant-fire-california-moss-landing-7c561fed096f410ddecfb04722a8b1f8?utm_source=chatgpt.com

directions.



Moss Landing Power Plant fire

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At the press conference, [Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church](#) called the incident a ["Three-Mile Island event" for the industry](#), referencing the 1979 partial meltdown at a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant, the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history.

https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/environmental-concerns-northern-california-lithium-battery-facility-fire/?utm_source=chatgpt.com