

## James Ledsham

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**From:** [REDACTED] <chair@southclifton-pc.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 11 May 2026 14:37  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** clerk@southclifton-pc.gov.uk; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** One Earth Solar Farm - SoS' request for information

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Hello [REDACTED]

South Clifton Parish Council notes the Secretary of State's Request for Information dated 1st May 2026 in respect of the proposed One Earth Solar Farm development (EN010159). Whilst the Parish Council is not a named respondent to the request, we wished to ensure that our local observations and concerns are clearly understood by the District and County Councils as part of their consideration and any response they may provide.

The Parish Council notes in particular the Secretary of State's further questions relating to biodiversity and ecology, flood risk mitigation and the ongoing position regarding land rights and protective provisions.

With regard to biodiversity and ecology, the Parish Council notes the Secretary of State's apparent concern regarding the robustness of the Applicant's assumptions surrounding skylark mitigation and wider claimed biodiversity benefits. From a local perspective, members remain concerned that the ecological benefits presented by the Applicant may rely heavily upon assumed habitat performance and management outcomes over a very large operational area and over a prolonged period of time. The Parish Council considers it important that any claimed "significant beneficial effects" are supported by realistic and evidence-based assumptions, particularly in relation to farmland bird species and wintering bird populations that are characteristic of the local landscape.

The Parish Council also notes the Secretary of State's questions regarding whether additional onsite or offsite compensation habitat may be required. Given the scale of the proposed development and the extent of land use change involved, the Parish Council considers it reasonable that these matters are examined carefully before any final decision is reached.

In relation to flood risk and battery safety, the Parish Council welcomes the Secretary of State's proposed strengthening of draft requirements concerning flood mitigation and access during flood events. Flooding and drainage remain matters of longstanding concern locally and the Parish Council considers it important that any final design fully demonstrates resilience during design flood events and does not create additional pressure on surrounding land, infrastructure or local communities. The Parish Council would particularly support a precautionary approach where uncertainty remains.

The Parish Council further notes that a number of matters relating to protective provisions, statutory undertakers and land agreements appear to remain unresolved at this stage. Whilst the Parish Council recognises that such matters are often subject to ongoing negotiation, their continued inclusion within the Secretary of State's request suggests that they remain material considerations relevant to deliverability and risk.

South Clifton Parish Council appreciates the opportunity to make its position clear through correspondence with the relevant authorities and respectfully asks that these local concerns are taken into account in any response submitted and in the continued consideration of the application.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Chair  
South Clifton Parish Council

