

**From:** [REDACTED] <chair@southclifton-pc.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 June 2026 14:49  
**To:** One Earth Solar  
**Subject:** Response to Secretary of States letter dated 21st May 2026

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Dear Secretary of State

South Clifton Parish Council writes in response to the Secretary of State's letter dated 21 May 2026 inviting Interested Parties to comment on the responses submitted following the Request for Information dated 1 May 2026 in relation to the proposed One Earth Solar Farm development (EN010159).

The Parish Council has reviewed the responses submitted by the Applicant, statutory consultees and other interested parties. The Parish Council wishes to make the following observations in relation to the matters raised by the Secretary of State.

Firstly, the Parish Council notes that a number of statutory consultees, including the Environment Agency and relevant local authorities, have indicated that the proposed amended wording to Requirements 7 and 22 would provide greater clarity and control in relation to flood risk mitigation and battery safety management. The Parish Council welcomes the strengthening of these draft requirements and acknowledges the importance of robust pre-commencement controls should development consent ultimately be granted, especially as flood risk and battery safety are high on the list of items that most worry its' villagers. The fact that this application covers a drinking water protected area continues to be a vital concern.

However, notwithstanding these amendments, the Parish Council remains concerned regarding the extent of detailed technical design, mitigation and operational information that would continue to be resolved post-consent. In particular, the Parish Council notes that both the revised Outline Battery Safety Management Plan and flood risk mitigation framework continue to rely upon subsequent detailed approvals, future design iterations and ongoing consultation processes.

Whilst the Parish Council appreciates that some level of post-consent approval is common within Development Consent Orders, local concern has consistently centred on whether sufficient certainty presently exists regarding the interaction between flood risk, site resilience, emergency access and Battery Energy Storage System safety within an area already recognised locally as sensitive to flooding and drainage issues.

The Parish Council also notes that a number of representations submitted in response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information continue to raise concerns regarding the degree of reliance placed upon future approvals and the fragmented nature of responsibilities between different authorities and technical consultees. The Parish Council respectfully requests that these concerns continue to be given careful consideration as part of the determination process.

In relation to biodiversity and ecology, the Parish Council notes the Applicant's additional explanations regarding skylark mitigation, species-rich grassland management and wider biodiversity enhancement proposals. However, the Parish Council continues to consider it important that significant weight is not placed upon ecological outcomes that rely heavily upon long-term assumptions regarding habitat establishment, management success and species response over the operational lifetime of the development. Given the scale and the length of the proposed land use change, the Parish Council considers that a precautionary approach remains appropriate where uncertainty exists.

The Parish Council further notes that some matters relating to protective provisions, land agreements and compulsory acquisition remain under discussion, although it is acknowledged that progress appears to have been made in a number of areas since the Secretary of State's initial Request for Information.

The Parish Council wishes it to be known that it wholeheartedly agrees with and supports the submission from Newark and Sherwood District Council dated the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026, following a full council motion that was passed on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026. The concerns highlighted in their submission are very much shared by this council and many of the affected residents on the east side of the River Trent.

South Clifton Parish Council appreciates the opportunity to comment further at this stage of the process and respectfully asks that the concerns of local communities regarding flood resilience, infrastructure safety, landscape-scale ecological impacts and long-term certainty remain fully taken into account in the Secretary of State's final determination.

Yours faithfully,

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Chair  
South Clifton Parish Council

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