David Hume
On behalf of the Skidby, Little Weighton, Bentley and Walkington Action Group
[redacted]

4 June 2026

To The King’s Most Excellent Majesty,
Buckingham Palace,
London,
SW1A 1AA.

Your Majesty,

I am writing to you on behalf of an Action Group which is challenging a proposal to place another 2500+ acre solar farm just outside Beverley, East Yorkshire. The proposal is called the Clean Air Solar Farm, and we are the Skidby, Little Weighton, Bentley and Walkington Action Group.

The purpose of my writing directly to Your Majesty is to both alert you to the potential loss of the highest quality farming land in England, but also to seek your assistance in clarifying exactly how the Secretary of State and the Planning Directorate will assess and determine the outcome of the Consultation process.

The background to this proposal will be helpful. The National Grid has significantly expanded the Creyke Beck Substation near Cottingham/Beverley over recent years to support the world's largest offshore wind farms at Dogger Bank and Hornsea. These already power millions of homes in England, and further expansion is currently planned. On the back of these offshore windfarms, solar farm developers wish to take advantage of the increased capacity at the Creyke Beck energy centre and place as much solar farm capacity as close to this as they can. This is because it is cheaper to construct in terms of cabling costs and less energy is lost in transmission, making it far more profitable.

There are several solar farm proposals around Beverley, some of which have been approved and some of which are in the Consultation Phase. With regard to the Clean Air Solar Farm proposal, we have submitted a series of questions to both the Developers and East Riding Council and have yet to receive a response. Public Information Meetings are planned for 22–24 June, and we hope we will receive far more detail then.

However, what we do know is that the proposal is to remove over 2500 acres of the highest quality Grade 2 Agricultural land, which has been farmed by many generations of the same families, and industrialise this land for solar farms, probably on a permanent basis. We believe that this will quickly be followed by other developers who will be equally attracted to the benefits and increased profitability of proximity to Creyke Beck, and the beautiful, historic town of Beverley will be surrounded by solar farms.

The specific issue that we would greatly appreciate your assistance with is as follows. This proposal is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will presumably now be considered a proposal of Critical Importance under the Government's new directive.

I have read and fully understand the process by which the Planning Directorate and the Secretary of State will consider local issues and concerns, and great weight is given to this process. All of the key headings are clearly laid out: loss of Grade 2 Agricultural land, Biodiversity, loss of amenities and public access, cumulative impact, etc. What I fail to see is any evidence of how the Planning Directorate and the Secretary of State will evaluate all of the evidence presented, and what quantitative and qualitative analysis will be used in order to reach a conclusion on the merits of the proposal. There are no weightings, thresholds, or objective analytical tools given to any of these measures.

We will present a powerful case that will clearly show:

- **Food Security:** That the loss of this Grade 2 Best and Most Versatile farming land will weaken the UK's Food Security Strategy.
- **Alternative Sites:** That there are many other brownfield sites in the local area that could cumulatively provide the same power output of the Clean Air proposal.
- **Cumulative Impact:** That the cumulative impact of this proposal in conjunction with many other projects within a 10-mile radius of Beverley will make life intolerable for local residents over the next 5 to 10 years.
- **Heritage & Landscape:** That the landscape and heritage of this beautiful countryside will be permanently lost for us and future generations.
- **Environmental Risk:** That the placement of a major Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on top of the East Yorkshire Chalk Aquifer is highly irresponsible given the risk of fire, explosion, and toxic contamination.

However, we fear that as a result of there being no quantitative or qualitative assessment criteria used, all of this will be overpowered in the cause of "The National Interest," and the drive for Energy Security will top everything else. Indeed, it is easy to become very cynical about the whole Consultation process given the fact that a new substation at Creyke Beck is being approved right now which is explicitly designed to support the Clean Air Solar Farm Proposal.

In conclusion, I would seek your support in asking the Secretary of State for clarification on how the assessment of this NSIP proposal will be made. We are just about to enter the formal Consultation period for this proposal and, as a small group of village communities faced with this enormous challenge, we would like clarity on how the evaluation is made, not just the process steps involved. Indeed, we would welcome the opportunity for the Secretary of State or a representative to come and meet with us face-to-face in order to discuss and clarify this.

Our campaign slogan will be "Enough is Enough," as East Yorkshire is already contributing far more than its fair share of Wind and Solar Farm energy. We believe that if a line cannot be drawn under this proposal, there will be no reason to stop future developers surrounding the Beverley countryside with one more solar farm after another.

We are also mindful of the previous Covid experience whereby normal Governmental procedures, checks, and balances were put aside in favour of extraordinary measures. This was followed by Public Enquiries and statements that "This cannot be allowed to happen again." Yet here we are faced with exactly the same scenario.

There is a beautiful video of the land under threat on our new website—cleanairactiongroupsouth.org—which succinctly captures why all of the local communities are so concerned and angry about this proposal.

I apologise for taking up your time but, considering the strength of local feeling, we would welcome your help in presenting this to the relevant authorities.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your Majesty’s humble and obedient servant,

David Hume
Chairman, Skidby, Little Weighton, Bentley and Walkington Action Group