

# Steeple Renewables Project

## 5.1.1 Consultation Report Appendices Part G

[EN010163/APP/5.1.1]

Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q) Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

May 2025



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## Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1. This document the Consultation Report Appendices contains information relevant to the **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]**. The Consultation Report has been prepared by Steeple Solar Fram Limited (“the Applicant”) to accompany an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) for Steeple Renewables Project (the Proposed Development).
- 1.1.2. The report is submitted in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), which requires that any application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a consultation report.
- 1.1.3. This document contains information which evidences or supports the information provided in the **Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]**.

### 1.1 Structure of this document

- 1.2.1. The Appendices are as far as possible the order that are referenced within the Consultation Report.
- 1.2.2. A list is provided below in Table 1-1 of the documents within Appendix G.

**Table 1-1 List of documents in Appendix G**

Appendix No.	Appendix Title
Appendix G-1	Regard had to Section 51 advice
Appendix G-2.1	Adequacy of consultation milestone report
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## **Appendix G-1 Regard had to Section 51 advice**



# Steeple Renewables Project

Consultation Report

Appendix G-1

Regard to Section 51 Advice



# Regard to Section 51 Advice

The table below outlines the Section 51 Advice provided to the Applicant by the Planning Inspectorate, as published on the project website, and the regard the Applicant has had to this.

Date of meeting/date of advice given	Planning Inspectorate advice	Regard to advice
10 January 2024 Inception Meeting	The Applicant asked whether the Inspectorate had any advice about the approach to design iteration. The Inspectorate advised that it would consider how the Proposed Development is described in the scoping request and comment on this as part of the Scoping Opinion as necessary to inform the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES).	<p>The Applicant submitted its Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on 23 April 2024. The Scoping Opinion, adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS, was published on 3 June 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant has considered the Scoping Opinion in the development of its Preliminary Environmental Information Report and Environmental Statement, as set out in Chapter 2: EIA Methodology and Public Consultation <b>[EN010163/APP/6.2.2]</b>.</p>
	The Inspectorate advised that the Rochdale Envelope provides guidance on flexibility within DCO applications.	The Applicant has considered this within the <b>Environmental Statement [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to EN010163/APP/6.2.19]</b> , <b>Planning Statement [EN010163/APP/7.1]</b> and Design and Access Statement <b>[EN010163/APP/7.3]</b> .
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to factor in the cumulative impacts of other DCO projects and/or proposals in the region.	The Applicant has considered Cumulative impact within all technical chapters as outlined in <b>Chapter 6-17</b> of the Environmental Statement <b>[EN010163/APP/6.2.6 to EN010163/APP/6.2.17]</b> .
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that Advice Note 7 provides further guidance on scoping and sets out the technical specification for the GIS shapefile.	The Applicant has produced a GIS shapefile, and this was provided to the Planning Inspectorate on the 25 April 2025.

	The Inspectorate informed the Applicant of the need to submit the s46 notification before commencing Statutory consultation.	The Applicant notified the Inspectorate on 20 January 2025 of the start of the statutory consultation. A copy of the section 46 letter is appended to this Consultation Report at <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part D - Appendix D-4.2.</b>
15 March 2024 Project Update Meeting	The Inspectorate highlighted the importance of ongoing engagement and consultation with stakeholders, including Natural England and the County Council to refine the proposals.	The Applicant is committed to continued engagement with stakeholders as outlined and evidenced in the Consultation Report.
	The Inspectorate highlighted the need to look for venue availability and capacity at the project location and the need for proactive engagement as early as practicable in the process	<p>The Applicant held three consultation events and one online webinar at statutory consultation. One event was held on a Saturday (10am-3pm) and two in the week (2-7pm). These events were included in the draft SoCC which was shared with Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council for comments on 5 November with a deadline of 3 December.</p> <p>Comments were received on the SoCC from Bassetlaw District Council after the deadline, on 13 January 2025. In relation to the proposed events, this feedback stated that it would be welcomed if an additional event was hosted in the village of Clarborough. Given the timing of receipt of these comments in relation to the consultation launch, the Applicant did not have sufficient time to implement this change. PINS considered this acceptable as the venues proposed for statutory consultation were appropriate because of their proximity to the Site and their capacity to host.</p>
	The Inspectorate highlighted the complexity of managing resources and	The Applicant has provided the Inspectorate with an update on the pre-

	requested the Applicant to provide updates to timescales when available.	application programme at meetings and via the Programme Document.
23 May 2024  Post Scoping advice regarding s42 consultation.	The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 came into force on 30 April 2024 and amend the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure (APFP)) Regulations 2009. The transitional provisions at Regulation 4 of the MP Regulations 2024 confirm that the recently amended APFP Regulations do not apply to any proposed application for an order granting development consent where the applicant has started to consult under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 before 30 April 2024. The Inspectorate is contacting you as it understands that consultation under Section 42 for the Steeple Renewables project has not commenced prior to 30 April 2024.	The Applicant has considered the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 in the development of its section 42 consultee list. <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1]</b> <b>Consultation Report Appendices Part D - Appendix D-1.</b> of the Consultation Report outlines the parties consulted for the statutory consultation.
	The Inspectorate would like to inform you that as the scoping opinion request for Steeple Renewables project was received prior to 30 April 2024, the list of consultation bodies notified and consulted by the Planning Inspectorate before adopting the scoping opinion (as set out in the 'Regulation 11 list' provided to the Applicant as per Regulation 11(1)b of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017), will not reflect the recent amendments to the APFP Regulations. The Applicant is therefore advised to review the transitional provisions in Regulation 4 of the MP Regulations 2024, together with the amendments to the APFP Regulations, and consider whether any new or different consultation bodies should be included in the consultations for the project.	The Applicant has considered the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 in the development of its section 42 consultee list. <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1]</b> <b>Consultation Report Appendices Part D - Appendix D-1</b> of the Consultation Report outlines the parties consulted for the statutory consultation.  All those parties identified in the Regulation 11 list were consulted as part of the statutory consultation.  The Applicant has reviewed the transitional provisions in Regulation 4 of the MP Regulations 2024, together with the amendments to the APFP Regulations. The Applicant has considered whether any additional or different consultation bodies, beyond those identified in the Regulation 11 list provided by the Planning Inspectorate,



		should be included in consultations for the Steeple Renewables project. As a result of this review, no new consultation bodies were identified, and the existing list was deemed sufficient.
	Please be aware that it is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure their consultation fully accords with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulations and guidance. The Regulation 11 list has been compiled by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State in its duty to notify the consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations and, whilst it can inform the Applicant's own consultation, it should not be relied upon for that purpose.	This Consultation Report provides details of how consultation and engagement has been delivered in line with the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulation and guidance.  Outside of the consultees identified within the Regulation 11 list, the Applicant made its own investigations to identify all bodies for consultation.
29 August 2024 Project Update Meeting	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to update the Programme Document as it proceeds through the entire process especially if it were to submit the programme as part of its application documents.	The Applicant provided the Inspectorate with its V1 of the Programme Document on 10 July 2024. This was uploaded to the project website 07 August 2024.
	The Inspectorate asked if the Applicant could keep the Inspectorate updated on when it plans to start the Statutory Consultation. It was reminded of its obligation to notify the Inspectorate of the statutory consultation dates officially with a Section 46.	PINS were kept up to date regarding the timings for statutory consultation during regular update meetings.  The Applicant notified the Inspectorate on 20 January 2025 of the start of the statutory consultation. A copy of the section 46 letter is included in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part D - Appendix D-4.2</b> of the Consultation Report.
	The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant ensure there is no crown land within the 3 parameters of the Proposed Development as this can cause delays in the decision from the Secretary of State (SoS).	No Crown Land is affected. Diligent Enquiry has been carried out and no Crown Land was found to be affected by the Scheme.

	<p>The Inspectorate also asked if there are any consenting agreements that the Applicant is currently seeking with statutory bodies. The Applicant noted that it is in discussions with Network Rail as the railway line is within the red line boundary. It is also in discussion with the EA and the Internal Drainage Boards (IDB). The land is all freehold apart from the area to the North where it will have to seek rights to get into National Grid substation.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to get agreements sorted as soon as possible, to ensure there were limited matters for consideration during the Examination, should the application be accepted.</p>	<p>The Applicant has included details of other <b>Consents and Licences in the application [EN010163/APP/5.9]</b>.</p>
<p>19 November 2024</p> <p>Project Update Meeting</p>	<p>The Applicant supplied the Inspectorate with its initial Programme Document in line with the Expression of Interest process, after the publication of the 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Having reviewed the document, the Inspectorate notes that it follows the expected content structure as set out in the government's pre-application guidance at paragraph 10.</p> <p>However, in updating its Programme Document, the applicant should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set out the main issues for resolution and the progress made against these to date</li> <li>• set out the identified risks to achievement of the preapplication stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed</li> <li>• include whether the local authorities, statutory consultees and others are content with the proposed programme</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant notes this advice and is working to update the Programme Document to address these points. The updated Programme Document will be published prior to Examination.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a more defined timescale for when it will produce and share its Issues Tracker and in so doing, indicate whether local authorities, statutory consultees and others agree with the status of the issues raised and any possible mitigation</li> <li>• include clear dates or defined timescales (month rather than quarters) in its programme timetable for the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (expected to be scheduled three months before the submission of the application), consultation period with local authorities on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), publishing the SoCC, any expected project update meetings with the Planning Inspectorate, and any timescales for obtaining other consents or permissions (if required)</li> <li>• progress with any Planning Performance Agreements with relevant Local Authorities or statutory undertakers. It would also be helpful if the Programme Document explained how the design approach will be managed and communicated during pre-application as well as any relevant information about the development of the draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum. The applicant will need to publish its updated Programme Document on its website as soon as practicable.</li> </ul>	
6 March 2025	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that there are new data sets coming from	The ES and supporting FRA take full account of the latest available flood

Project Update Meeting	the Environment Agency regarding flooding and flood zones in March. The Applicant told the Inspectorate they are aware of this and are on top of any new guidance that comes out prior to submission.	mapping and data including the updated EA Surface Water Flood Risk Mapping (released February 2025) and the updated EA Flood Map for Planning (released March 2025). The Applicant has been in consultation with the EA throughout the pre-submission period to ensure the latest data and mapping is referenced in the submission material.
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include in its application details of any design principles and considerations on how the land is used or could be used in the future, based on feedback received from locals.	The Applicant has taken this advice on board and has included details of design principles and considerations on how land is used or could be used in the future, based on feedback received from locals. This information is included in <b>Appendix 4.5 Outline Design Principles [EN0101163/APP/6.3.4]</b> and <b>Design and Access Statement [EN0101163/APP/7.3]</b> .
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the more discussions it can have around issues at this stage, the smoother the examination stage will be.	The Applicant has taken this advice on board and held ongoing discussions with all interested parties in effort to understand and address issues prior to submission of the application.
	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to review current Development Consent Orders (DCOs) that have been consented recently to build an understanding of what the secretary of state prefer when drafting.	The Applicant has taken this advice on board and has reviewed other recently consented DCOs when preparing for submission.
	The Inspectorate advised that the application fee should be paid around the same time as submission as no work can begin on the submission until the fee is paid.	The Applicant has taken this advice on board and has paid the application fee in advance of submission.
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to submit the electronic application index a week before submission so it can be sense checked by the case administration team.	The Applicant has taken this advice on board and has submitted the electronic application index at least a week prior to submission.

	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to submit the GIS shapefile 10 working days before submission.	The Applicant submitted a GIS shapefile of the Proposed Developed on 25 April 2025.
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the Inspectorate's advice on preparation of application and submission documents was revised last year and contains an annex on documents that are expected as part of the application.	The Applicant has taken this advice on board and has reviewed the revised advice on preparation of application and submission documents in preparing for submission.
17 April 2025 Comments on applicants AOCM	The Inspectorate advised, having reviewed the Applicant's AOCM statement, that it considers that it clearly explains the Applicant's consultation activities undertaken to date and the approaches set out in its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). In respect of the third limb of what an AOCM should contain, the Inspectorate noted that the Applicant has stated that it is still currently analysing the statutory consultation feedback and will summarise the responses received and the way in which they have shaped the application in its Consultation Report.	In preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has completed analysis of all statutory consultation feedback. These responses have been summarised alongside the Applicant's response, including information about how this feedback has been used to shape the application prior to submission. This information can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part H - Appendix H-1.</b>
	The Inspectorate noted that only the host authorities, Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council, were consulted by the Applicant on its AOCM statement, with Nottinghamshire County Council's response (stipulating it was satisfied with the adequacy of consultation to date). The Inspectorate advised that it is important, however, to include the views and any relevant supporting materials about the AOCM from all relevant local authorities, where these are available.	The Applicant has included an analysis of all consultation feedback received from relevant local authorities. This can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part H - Appendix H-2.</b>



## **Appendix G-2 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

### **Appendix G-2.1 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone report**



POWER  
FOR GOOD

# Steeple Renewables Project

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement  
March 2025



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1. This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement ('the Statement') has been prepared by RES ('the Applicant') as part of the development of the application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for Steeple Renewables Project ('the Project').
- 1.1.2. The Project is defined as a NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008<sup>1</sup> ('PA 2008'), as it comprises:
- The construction or extension of an electricity generating station (Section 14(1)(a); and
  - It meets the statutory test under Section 15(2)(c):
    - i. It is in England
    - ii. It does not generate electricity from wind
    - iii. It is not an offshore generating station, and
    - iv. Its capacity is more than 50MW
- 1.1.3. Therefore, an application for a DCO for the Project will be made to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero pursuant to the PA 2008. The DCO will include the necessary rights and powers to ensure construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Project, including compulsory acquisition powers (if required).
- 1.1.4. In April 2023, the Government introduced new guidance:
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects<sup>2</sup> ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024)
  - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus')<sup>3</sup> (published 16 May 2024)
- 1.1.5. Both the Guidance and the Prospectus sets out the requirements and expectations in the preparation of an application for development consent.
- 1.1.6. The Guidance and the Prospectus introduce a new early adequacy of consultation milestone ('AoCM'), aimed at providing the Applicant with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document setting out the consultation undertaken to date, confirming that the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') have been met and providing a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the proposed application. To inform the AoCM a written submission should be prepared by the Applicant to enable the Planning Inspectorate to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date on the Project with the objective of minimising the risk of non-acceptance at application acceptance stage.
- 1.1.7. The Guidance states:

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<sup>1</sup> The Planning Act 2008, available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

<sup>2</sup> Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

<sup>3</sup> Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>

*“This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the preapplication stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.*

*“The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.”*

- 1.1.8. The AoCM is a non-statutory requirement.
- 1.1.9. Under section 55(4)(b) of the PA 2008, at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from local authorities about the adequacy of consultation.
- 1.1.10. The Applicant has taken a proactive approach to pre-application engagement with consultees, those with interests in land and the local communities which has helped the Applicant understand concerns and shape proposals ahead of submission. This Report provides an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how it has met with the requirements of the PA 2008.

## 1.2. Steeple Renewables Project

- 1.2.1. The Project is a solar photovoltaic (PV) array generating facility with battery energy storage ('BESS') located across 930 hectares of land located in Sturton-le-Steeple with a total generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts and export connection to the National Grid associated infrastructure.
- 1.2.2. The Project comprises the following main components:
  - Solar PV modules and associated mounting structures;
  - BESS;
  - 33kv Underground cabling within the areas of the solar PV modules and connecting solar PV module areas to the on-site substation and to the National Grid Substation at West Burton Power Station;
  - Supporting electrical infrastructure including inverters and transformers, and switchgears;
  - Highways access and internal tracks;
  - Areas for ecological mitigation and enhancement to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and nearby communities;
  - Other associated infrastructure for example, fencing, security, cctv, local grid connections;
  - The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights (if required) and the application and/or disapplication of legislation including inter alia legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant matters.
- 1.2.3. The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the Project will constitute development for which an EIA is needed and the application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement.



## 2. Overview of consultation and engagement to date

### 2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1. The Applicant has conducted extensive pre-application consultation in preparing its DCO application. This included early engagement with stakeholders, land interests and the community to introduce the Project, a period of non-statutory consultation and a period of statutory consultation intended to meet the requirements set by the PA 2008 and Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') regulations.
- 2.1.2. The key stages of pre-application consultation undertaken were:
- **October – December 2023:** A six-week non-statutory public consultation took place between Monday 23 October and Wednesday 6 December 2023. The early informal consultation served to introduce RES and our proposals to the community and get stakeholder and community feedback on our early-stage proposals. Throughout the six-week non-statutory consultation period, 118 responses were received.
  - **January-March 2025:** A statutory consultation which ran for 6 weeks from Monday 20 January until Monday 03 March 2025. The consultation presented more detailed proposals for the Project, including changes made since the non-statutory consultation, along with a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') which presented the preliminary findings of the EIA of the Project.
- 2.1.3. Key local stakeholders, including all host parish councils, host and neighbouring MPs and key Bassetlaw District councillors and Nottinghamshire County Councillors, were informed of the proposals ahead of the non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation, with invitations to be briefed/updated on the proposed development. Meetings were conducted from August 2023, through the non-statutory consultation period to November 2023 and then in the run-up and during statutory consultation, as outlined in Table 2.1 below.

**Table 2.1: Meetings with local representatives**

Stakeholder	Date of Meeting
Brendan Clarke Smith, MP for Bassetlaw	Monday 14 August 2023
North and South Wheatley Parish Council	Tuesday 10 October 2023
Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council	Wednesday 11 October 2023
Clarlborough and Welham Parish Council	Monday 27 November 2023
Robert Jenrick, MP for Newark	Friday 01 December 2023
Cllr James Naish Bassetlaw District Council, Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council and North and South Wheatley Parish Council	Friday 17 May 2024
Cllr Darrel Pulk and Cllr Steve Scotthorne, Bassetlaw District Council	21 October 2024
Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council	Tuesday 28 January 2025
Cllr John Ogle, Nottinghamshire County Council	Monday 27 January 2025
North and South Wheatley Parish Council	Monday 03 February 2025
North Leverton with Habbleshorpe Parish Council	Tuesday 11 March 2025

- 2.1.4. All local councillors were sent consultation materials via email and post to ensure they had the relevant information even if they have not had a briefing with the project team.
- 2.1.5. As part of the development of the technical design and environmental assessment work, engagement has taken place with a number of statutory consultees since Summer 2023, including Nottinghamshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council, the Environment Agency and Natural England. This engagement helped shape the PEIR and will inform the Environmental Statement. A summary of engagement undertaken with relevant environmental bodies will be included in the Environmental Statement and Consultation Report.
- 2.1.6. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how the Applicant proposed to consult with people living in the vicinity of the proposals was produced for the statutory consultation in accordance with the PA 2008. The Applicant consulted with the host authorities, Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council about what was to be in the SoCC prior to its publication. Details of how the consultation was delivered in line with the SoCC are shown in Section 3.
- 2.1.7. The Applicant is currently analysing responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application. We have received responses from Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council.
- 2.1.8. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008 and the recently updated Planning Inspectorate guidance ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report’.
- 2.1.9. The Applicant will continue to engage statutory bodies on any outstanding issues.

## 2.2. Non-statutory consultation

- 2.2.1. A six-week early informal consultation took place between Monday 23 October and Wednesday 06 December 2023. Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the project team held two face-to-face public exhibitions and one webinar. The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings, emails and press releases. Dedicated information channels were established for those who had questions about the Project or needed to get in contact with the project team.
- 2.2.2. Over 100 responses were received during the informal consultation in Autumn 2023. All issues raised were considered and responded to as part of our Early Informal Consultation Feedback Report, published in March 2024 on the project website<sup>4</sup>.
- 2.2.3. **Table 2.2** below outlines the key changes to the scheme which were implemented as a result of the feedback received at non-statutory consultation and presented at statutory consultation.

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<sup>4</sup> Steeple Renewables Project: Early Informal Consultation Feedback Report  
<https://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/media/zmoerwwl/steeple-renewables-project-early-consultation-report.pdf>

**Table 2.2:** Key changes in response to feedback received at non-statutory consultation

Feedback	Response
The Applicant received comments regarding the size of the Project presented during the early informal consultation and concerns regarding visual impact.	Within the proposed site, the Applicant reduced the area proposed for solar panels, and associated infrastructure for statutory consultation. This enabled land to be set aside for habitat creation and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement.
The Applicant received comments regarding the loss of habitats and wildlife as a result of the proposals.	The Applicant has identified areas of the proposed site for ecological mitigation and ecological enhancement, as shown on the site plan presented at statutory consultation. See Appendix A.
The Applicant received comments regarding concerns about local flooding being made worse as a result of the proposals.	<p>As part of the development of the PEIR the Applicant has been conducting detailed surveys and assessments to evaluate the potential flood risk across the site and the potential impact of the project.</p> <p>The proposals presented by the Applicant at statutory consultation adhere to government guidance and the Applicant is committed to ensuring the development does not worsen existing flood conditions.</p> <p>The Applicant is also proposing measures to mitigate the potential impacts of Steeple Renewables Project the Applicant is proposing measures to help reduce flooding overall within Sturton-le-Steeple.</p>
The Applicant received concerns about the use of the land near to the River Trent on the eastern side of the site. Comments stated that this land is a hub for biodiversity and should be protected.	<p>The Applicant carefully considered the feedback received during the informal consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant will ensure the land near the River Trent is prioritised for biodiversity protection and enhancement. Considering this, no solar panels will be installed on this land.</p>

## 2.3. Statutory consultation

- 2.3.1. A six-week statutory public consultation took place between Monday 20 January and Monday 03 March 2025. In accordance with the SoCC, the Applicant held three face-to-face public exhibitions and one webinar. A suite of consultation material was developed including a consultation brochure, navigation document, newsletter, PEIR and non-technical summary of the PEIR. All materials were available on the Applicant's website<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Steeple Renewables Project documents page: <https://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/document-library/>

- 2.3.2. Consultation was undertaken in line with the requirements of the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Notices about the consultation were published in the Retford Times and Nottingham Post and The Guardian and The London Gazette. Section 42 consultees were identified and were sent a consultation pack including a section 42 letter, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, section 47/48 notice, feedback form and return envelope.
- 2.3.3. A Section 46 notice was issued to PINS via email and post in advance of the start of the consultation in line with the requirements of section 46 of the PA 2008.
- 2.3.4. The Consultation Report will outline how the Applicant identified and consulted with the relevant prescribed bodies and local authorities and persons with land interests as required under sections 42, 43 and 44 and how it publicised the application in the prescribed manner in line with the requirements of section 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.
- 2.3.5. A delay in printing of the PEIR meant that the PEIR was not present at deposit locations from the launch date of 20 January 2025. The main PEIR report was delivered to deposit locations on 23 January 2025, with the figures and appendices following on Tuesday 28 January.
- 2.3.6. The below actions were taken to address this:
- A letter was sent to the deposit locations that explained the PEIR was delayed and confirmed the delivery date. The letters included a USB stick that contained the PEIR, a poster that was to be displayed explaining that the PEIR was delayed and a USB stick with the PEIR was available at the deposit location.
  - An email was sent to Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council informing them of the delay and the steps that were taken to rectify this.
- 2.3.7. The full PEIR was present at all deposit locations for at least 28 days as per the requirements set out in the SoCC.

## 2.4. Landowner/Tenant engagement

- 2.4.1. As part of the initial development phase, the Applicant engaged with the landowner and farmers who tenant the land which will host the Project.
- 2.4.2. Ahead of the statutory consultation, the Applicant carried out diligent inquiry in order to identify all persons who fall within the categories set out in section 44 of the PA 2008 for the Proposed Development. Such persons will be listed in the Book of Reference which will be submitted as part of the DCO application.
- 2.4.3. All land interests have been consulted about the proposed scheme in accordance with section 42 of the PA 2008, which will be described in the Consultation Report. No Category 3 interests have been identified and as such they are not considered further in this report.

### 3. Statement of Community Consultation

#### 3.1. Development of the SoCC

- 3.1.1. Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant began the preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC"). A SoCC was prepared, consulted on and published following the process as prescribed in section 47 of the PA 2008, prior to starting statutory consultation for the Project.
- 3.1.2. The draft SoCC provided information about the Project, the developer, details of the Project, the Applicant, non-statutory engagement and outlined the statutory consultation process, including how the public can participate and respond.
- 3.1.3. The purpose of the SoCC was to establish how the Applicant would consult and engage with the local communities likely to be affected by the Project.

#### 3.2. Consultation on the SoCC

- 3.2.1. The Applicant identified Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council as the relevant host local authority under section 43(1) of the PA 2008.
- 3.2.2. An early draft of the SoCC was sent to both authorities on Wednesday 18 March 2024. Any comments were requested by Thursday 04 April. No comments were received from either local planning authority on the early draft.
- 3.2.3. In line with the requirements of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook formal consultation on the SoCC with host local authorities and took regard of comments received. The SoCC was sent to them on 06 November 2024 and the authorities were given a deadline of 04 December 2024. Due to a lack of response from the authority the deadline for Bassetlaw District Council was then extended until 06 December 2024.
- 3.2.4. Comments were received by Nottinghamshire County Council on 06 December 2024 a copy of the comments is available in Appendix B. Comments were received after the deadline from Bassetlaw District Council on 13 January 2025, the Applicant took regard of these comments where possible. A copy of the comments is available in Appendix C.
- 3.2.5. The following table outlines the comments received from Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council and the changes made to the SoCC.

**Table 3.2 Amendments to the draft SoCC**

SoCC Paragraph	Host Authority Comment	Change made to the SoCC
<b>Changes made by the Applicant</b>		
2.1.4.	None	The homes powered figure has been calculated by taking the predicted average annual electricity generation of the site and dividing this by the annual



		average electricity figures from DESNZ (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024).
Table 4: Statutory consultation methods for the Project	None	<p>The Applicant removed the provision that stated where possible consultation materials will be left behind at event venues.</p> <p>Materials were present throughout the consultation at Sturton Hall and Conference Centre alongside the two other deposit locations.</p> <p>Considering this the Applicant no longer deemed it necessary to leave materials at South Leverton Memorial Hall.</p>
Table 6: Methods to promote the consultation	None	Separately to the statutory notices the Applicant published an advert in the Retford Times ahead of the consultation launch. The advert ran for one week to publicise the consultation dates and advertise the consultation events and the deposit locations.
Provision of materials in alternative formats	None	Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements were be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant could establish how best to provide the information required.
<b>Changes suggested by Nottinghamshire County Council</b>		
Table 6: Methods to promote the consultation	The strategy should include social media engagement, both for promoting the consultation and as a channel for community interaction. Consider creating a dedicated account on X or similar platforms to address questions and provide information. Additionally, explore using existing social media pages to publicise the consultation, especially to reach	<p>We have added social media to our methods to promote the consultation.</p> <p>Prior to and throughout the consultation the Applicant used Facebook to promote the consultation.</p> <p>The adverts publicised the consultation and pointed people towards the project website and virtual exhibition, they also advertised the consultation events.</p>

	seldom-heard groups like young people.	
<b>Changes suggested by Bassetlaw District Council</b>		
Table 4: Statutory consultation methods for the Project	We note that one webinar is due to be hosted on Wednesday 12 February, but it may be useful to add another, likely towards the end of consultation	Attendance at the consultation webinar during the early informal consultation was low, with the webinar having only two attendees. Considering this, the Applicant did not deem it necessary to add a second webinar.
	It is noted that there aren't any events proposed towards the end of the consultation period. Our experience is that these can provide a useful means to ask people questions about what they have been reading and also provide a useful reminder to those involved in the later stages of the consultation.	The Applicant held the final consultation event on Wednesday 19 February 2025 less than two weeks before consultation closed. This would have served as a reminder and still left sufficient time between the last event and consultation closing.  The Applicant did not deem it necessary to implement this change.
	Given the proximity of element of the proposal to the village of Clarborough, it would be welcomed if an additional event – potentially as part of the above- was hosted there. This would also help to counter the limited public transport options between Clarborough and the proposed events in Sturton and South Leverton.	Given the timing of receipt of these comments in relation to the consultation launch, the Applicant did not have sufficient time to implement this change.
Table 7	The table makes reference to hosting events in three locations but only currently two are proposed (Sturton and South Leverton), albeit with two events in one of these.	This table was amended to reflect that the events are taking place at two locations within the CZ.
8.How the Applicant will use consultation feedback	Where contact details have been provided and subject to the necessary permissions, it would be good practice to offer participants the opportunity to receive updates as to next steps so as to help them understand how their comments have helped shape the project.	On the project website people are able to register to receive updates on the project. So no change was necessary

- 3.2.6. On 17 January 2025 an updated final version of the SoCC was issued to Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The final SoCC can be found in Appendix D.
- 3.2.7. Copies of the emails and draft SoCC sent to the local authorities will be included in the Consultation Report.

### 3.3. Publicity under Section 48 of the PA 2008

- 3.3.1. In compliance with the publicity requirements for the SoCC within section 47(6) of the PA 2008:
1. Adverts publicising the locations where hard copies of the SoCC could be viewed were published in: The London Gazette, The Guardian, The Retford Times and Nottingham Post
  2. As publicised, the hard copies of the SoCC were made available at the deposit locations from 20 January 2025
  3. Hard copies of the SoCC were also provided at each of the consultation events
  4. A soft copy of the SoCC was available on the Applicant's website for the duration of the consultation period (20 January 2025 to 3 March 2025).

### 3.4. Adherence with the SoCC

- 3.4.1. The following table shows how the 2025 statutory consultation was undertaken in compliance with the published SoCC, as per the requirements of section 47(7) of the PA 2008.
- 3.4.2. The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will include all evidence of compliance.

**Table 3.2 SoCC Commitments and evidence of compliance**

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
6.1.1	The Applicant will undertake statutory consultation in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act for six weeks starting on Monday 20 January 2025. The deadline for consultation responses is 11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025.	The Applicant ran the Statutory Consultation (in compliance with Section 47) between Monday 20 January and Monday 03 March 2025.
6.1.3	<p>As well as the community consultation in accordance with section 47, this consultation will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under section 42 of the 2008 Act);</li> <li>consultation with host and neighbouring local planning authorities (under section 42 of the 2008 Act);</li> <li>consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Project (under section 42 of the 2008 Act); and</li> <li>publication of the consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act).</li> </ul>	All statutory consultees were notified of the consultation. Details of this will be included in the Consultation Report.

<p>6.2.2, 6.2.3 and 6.2.4</p>	<p>The Applicant has identified a consultation zone (CZ) (shown in Figure 3) for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act. This is the same CZ that was initially defined for the Applicant's informal consultation and based on a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed site boundary within which the solar PV panels, energy storage system and on-site substation and supporting infrastructure would be located.</p> <p>The CZ encompasses the entire village of Sturton-le-Steeple, the village in which the Project is proposed. To the south, the CZ extends to include the villages of North Leverton, South Leverton, and Treswell. Westward, it reaches Claborough and Welham, while to the north, it includes Beckingham and Saundby. Extending northwest, the CZ covers North and South Wheatley. To the east, across the River Trent, the CZ also incorporates the villages of Gate Burton, Knaith, Lea, and Marton.</p> <p>The CZ has been amended beyond these criteria, in certain areas, to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• existing physical features, such as main roads;</li> <li>• capturing entire communities rather than excluding small numbers of properties; and</li> <li>• where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications.</li> </ul>	<p>The CZ included over 3,000 addresses and covered all main settlements around the panel areas and cable route. The CZ was developed using all the principles bulleted in the SoCC.</p>
<p>6.2.5 and 6.2.6</p>	<p>Within the CZ, the Applicant will be consulting any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the Project by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parish councils representing parishes within the CZ, Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the CZ;</li> <li>• elected representatives in local authorities within the CZ; and</li> <li>• relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups;</li> <li>• and the Applicant is also committed to making sure that individuals and organisations outside of the CZ are given the opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation</li> </ul>	<p>A stakeholder list was created by identifying the groups and individuals likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the project. This included host and neighbouring parish councils, host and neighbouring district and county councillors. Other groups such as local environmental groups and those groups which fall under the seldom heard category.</p> <p>Once identified those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p> <p>Parish Councils, MPs and Ward and Division Members were contacted ahead of launch of consultation to inform them of the imminent launch of consultation and offer briefings on the revised plans. Details of stakeholder meetings will be included in the Consultation Report.</p>

		The Applicant accepted all responses to the consultation, including any late submissions, and also promoted the consultation outside the CZ.
6.3.2 and 6.3.3	<p>The Applicant will be seeking feedback on the ongoing evolution of the proposals for the Project and:</p> <p>The overall proposals for the Project; The updated site plan for the proposed site; Measures proposed to avoid or minimise impacts identified in the Applicant's preliminary environmental assessment; and (whilst outside of the considerations for the DCO application) the Applicant's proposals for community benefits and Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS).</p> <p>The Project will be explained in the following materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEIR – the PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA;</li> <li>• PEIR Non-Technical Summary – the Non-Technical Summary provides a non-technical summary of the PEIR and the conclusions within the PEIR. This summary is written in plain language without technical jargon, making it accessible to the general public;</li> <li>• Consultation brochure – this brochure will provide an overview of the proposals including site layouts and connection infrastructure; and</li> <li>• Maps – the maps will set out the site areas in which the Project will be located.</li> </ul>	<p>The PEIR, Non-Technical Summary, Navigation Document and Statutory Consultation Brochure were all available at deposit locations, consultation events and on the project website throughout the consultation.</p> <p>Maps and plans of the Project were available at consultation events and on the project website throughout the consultation.</p> <p>The statutory consultation feedback form<sup>6</sup> asked specific questions on each of these points:</p> <p>Q4a. Based on the updated information we have presented as part of our statutory consultation how supportive are you of our emerging renewable energy project?</p> <p>Q5. Do you have any comments on the specific Land Areas? (please tick which Land Area you would like to comment on)</p> <p>Q7. We have presented to you the findings of our environmental and technical work and assessments, including our proposed measures for mitigation and enhancement. Do you have any comments on the information that we have presented? Please make your comments in relation to each of the topics below where applicable. <b>This question also had boxes titled with topic areas to allow people to comment on specific topics, there was also a box titled 'other' that allowed people to comment on any topic.</b></p> <p>Q8-9 asked respondents for feedback on the Applicant's proposals for community benefits and Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS).</p>
6.4.1	During the statutory consultation, the Applicant will use a range of methods to ensure an inclusive, meaningful, and open consultation. The Applicant will use a range of digital and non-digital methods of communication to ensure that the consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.	<p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods throughout the consultation through events, feedback mechanisms, and mailings.</p> <p>All information was available on the project website <a href="https://steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">https://steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a></p>

<sup>6</sup> Steeple Renewables Project, Statutory Consultation Feedback Form:  
<https://steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk/media/0tjlwuqj/steeples-renewables-project-feedback-form.pdf>



		<p>Hard copies of materials could be requested and were also available to take away in hard copy from the in-person consultation events and deposit points.</p> <p>Respondents could submit feedback through both online and hard-copy feedback questionnaires, as well as writing or emailing a written response directly to the Applicant. People could also provide comments by phone.</p> <p>Three in-person consultation events were held and one webinar.</p>
6.4.3	<p><b>Inside the consultation zone</b></p> <p>All homes and businesses within the CZ will be sent a consultation newsletter with high-level details about the Project and consultation programme, as well as contact details for the project team;</p> <p>Consultation events will be held at locations within the CZ; Relevant groups and organisations such as parish councils and local interest groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities; and</p> <p>The Applicant has also identified a list of local community spaces within the CZ that will be directly mailed a poster to put up, advertising how people can get involved in the consultation.</p>	<p>The 8-page consultation newsletter was sent to all those within the PCZ by first class post on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>Three consultation events were held during the statutory consultation.</p> <p>A stakeholder list was created, and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter on 20 January 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant offered meetings to parish councils impacted by the Project. In total the Applicant delivered 3 presentations to parish councils.</p> <p>The Applicant sent posters to local Parish Councils, requesting for them to display them. Parish Councils were sent a poster advertising the consultation by first class post on 20 January 2025.</p>

Table 2	<p><b>Consultation newsletter</b></p> <p>A newsletter publicising the consultation and outlining a high-level overview of the Project, details of the consultation programme, including the location, dates and times of the public consultation events. The newsletter will also include a QR code that links to the project website. This newsletter will be distributed to 3000+ addresses within the CZ.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be issued to wider consultees via email and distributed to local interest groups and sent to statutory bodies in the post.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be available to view and download on the project website.</p>	<p>The consultation newsletter was developed in line with the information in the SoCC. The 8-page consultation newsletter was sent to all those within the CZ by 1<sup>st</sup> class post on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>A copy of the newsletter was included in the pack of materials sent to local stakeholders, including elected members, hard to reach groups, local schools and other key organisations on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>The newsletter was made available to view on the website from 20 January 2025.</p> <p>Copies of the newsletter were made available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>
	<p><b>Consultation Brochure</b></p> <p>A consultation brochure will be published on the project website at the start of the statutory consultation period, and will be available for download.</p> <p>The brochure provides a summary of the proposals the Applicant is consulting on, an outline of the environmental assessment work, details of how people can take part, and how feedback will be used to influence and shape the proposals.</p> <p>Printed copies of this brochure will be available to take away at all consultation events, at deposit locations and on request by contacting the project team.</p>	<p>The consultation brochure was developed in line with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>A copy of the brochure was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard to reach groups, local schools and other key organisations on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>The brochure was made available to view on the website from 20 January 2025.</p> <p>Copies of the brochure were made available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>
	<p><b>Navigation Document</b></p> <p>At the start of the statutory consultation period, a comprehensive Project Navigation Document will be published on the project website, and made available in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points.</p> <p>This document will offer a clear overview of all consultation materials available for review, along with a user-friendly guide to help navigate them. Designed to simplify the consultation process, it will direct readers to specific sections of interest, ensuring they can easily locate relevant information and engage meaningfully with the materials provided.</p>	<p>The navigation document was developed in line with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>A copy of the navigation document was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard to reach groups, local schools and other key organisations on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>The navigation document was made available to view on the website from 20 January 2025.</p> <p>Copies of the navigation document were made available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>

<p><b>Feedback Form</b></p> <p>A feedback form will be prepared to gather feedback on all aspects of the Project.</p> <p>The feedback form will be available for completion online via the project website and will be accessible throughout the six-week consultation period.</p> <p>Printed feedback forms will be available (free of charge) on request by contacting the project team, in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points, along with freepost envelopes.</p> <p>The feedback form will also be available to download from the website, complete in pen and return to FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project.</p>	<p>The feedback form was available to complete on the website from 20 January 2025.</p> <p>It was also available to be downloaded from the website.</p> <p>A copy of the feedback form was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard to reach groups, local schools and other key organisations on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>Copies of the feedback form were made available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>
<p><b>Exhibition Boards</b></p> <p>Exhibition boards will be created to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Project.</p> <p>The boards will be designed to assist the understanding of the Project at the consultation events.</p> <p>Members of the public will also be available to view the boards in the virtual exhibition on the project website, which will go live on the day of the first event.</p>	<p>13 exhibition boards were produced for the consultation events.</p> <p>The boards were made into a virtual exhibition that was available to view on the project website from the date of the first event (01 February 2025).</p>
<p><b>PEIR</b></p> <p>The PEIR will contain a description of the Project, and a preliminary assessment of the environmental effects of the Project, based on the assessments carried out to date.</p> <p>It will also set out how the Applicant proposes to mitigate the impacts of and maximise the benefits of the Project.</p> <p>The PEIR will be available for download free of charge from the project website. A printed copy of the full PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and deposit locations.</p> <p>Copies of the PEIR contained on a USB stick can be provided on request free of charge.</p> <p>A hard copy can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs. Requests for hard copies can be made by email: <a href="mailto:info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a> or by calling 0115 718 2070.</p>	<p>The PEIR was developed in line with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>The PEIR was available to view on the website from Monday 20 January 2025.</p> <p>A hard copy of the PEIR were available to view at deposit locations and at all consultation events.</p> <p>One request was received for a hard copy of the PEIR from a member of the community, they were provided with a USB stick that contained a copy of the PEIR which satisfied their request.</p>
<p><b>PEIR Non-Technical Summary</b></p> <p>The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provides a non-technical summary of the preliminary environmental information and the conclusions within the PEIR. This summary will be</p>	<p>The non-technical summary of the PEIR was available to view on the website from 20 January 2025.</p>

	<p>written in plain language without technical jargon, making it accessible to the general public.</p> <p>The NTS will be available to view on the Applicant's project website, at deposit locations, at or consultation events and posted out on request free of charge.</p>	<p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>
	<p><b>Maps and plans of the Project</b></p> <p>Additional maps and plans for the Project will also be available on the project website and at the consultation events and deposit locations.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies of the maps will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £350 for one full suite of documents - to be paid for by the recipient).</p>	<p>Maps and plans of the land areas were available to view on the website from 20 January 2025.</p> <p>In addition, the project website also featured an interactive project map the map showed the proposed site boundary and had various layers that could be toggled on or off to allow people to focus on specific boundaries and see how they correspond to the area plans featured in our consultation materials.</p> <p>Technical plans and maps were also available at all consultation events. There were no requests for printed copies of the maps.</p>
6.4.4	<p><b>Outside of the consultation zone</b></p> <p>The Applicant will raise awareness of the consultation using a number of methods, including via local news media, social media, project website and direct communication with organisations such as regional, environmental, religious or health organisations located outside of the CZ.</p>	<p>A press release was sent about the consultation on 20 January 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant used social media advertising to promote the consultation, the reach of the paid posts was set to approximately 16km from the Project to help capture those outside the consultation zone.</p> <p>A stakeholder list was created, and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p>
Table 4	<p><b>Consultation events</b></p> <p>The Applicant will be holding three in-person events at locations spread across the CZ. These events will be publicised in the consultation newsletter, the consultation brochure, on posters, in local news media and in a public notice and on the project website.</p> <p>These events will run for periods of five hours on a mixture of weekdays and weekends to accommodate different availability.</p>	<p>The Applicant held three in-person events at the following locations:</p> <p>Sturton Hall and Conference Centre: 01 February 2025 South Leverton Memorial Hall: 05 February 2025 Sturton Hall and Conference Centre: 19 February 2025</p> <p>The events were advertised through the statutory notices, stakeholder letters, an email publicising the launch of consultation, the consultation newsletter, press release, social media and posters.</p> <p>The events took place for periods of 5 hours between 10am and 7pm and included a Saturday event.</p>

<p><b>Webinar</b></p> <p>One webinar will be held for members of the public to join to provide an alternative option for those who may not be able to attend the in-person events. This will be held in the evening outside of normal working hours to make the session as accessible as possible.</p> <p>Individuals can register to join the webinar via the website. The webinar will be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday 12 February 2025: 6:30PM-8:00PM</li> </ul> <p>A recording of the webinar will be made available online for those unavailable to attend.</p>	<p>The Applicant held one webinar over the consultation period on Wednesday 12 February 18:30-20:00. Those interested could register for the webinar through a link on the project website.</p> <p>In total six people registered for the webinar and three attended.</p> <p>The recording of the webinar was uploaded to the project website:  <a href="https://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/document-library/">https://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/document-library/</a></p>
<p><b>Project contact details</b></p> <p>Members of the public will be able to call and speak to a member of the project team on the project information line (0115 718 2070), email (<a href="mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>) or write in (FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project)</p>	<p>The contact channels were managed throughout the consultation period. The Applicant aimed to respond to all enquiries within 5 working days.</p>
<p><b>Deposit Locations</b></p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation materials including this SoCC, the consultation brochure and the PEIR will be available to view at the following deposit locations and times:</p> <p><b>Gainsborough Library</b></p> <p><b>Monday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM  <b>Tuesday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM  <b>Wednesday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM  <b>Thursday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM  <b>Friday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM  <b>Saturday:</b> 9:00AM - 1:00PM</p> <p><b>Retford Library</b></p> <p><b>Monday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM  <b>Tuesday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM  <b>Wednesday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM  <b>Thursday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM  <b>Friday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM  <b>Saturday:</b> 9:00AM - 3:30PM</p> <p>Documents are also available to be viewed and collected at Sturton-le-Steeple Village Hall, The Sturton Hall and Conference Centre, Brickings Way, Sturton Le Steeple, DN22 9HY. Please note this venue does not have regular opening hours but materials are available to be collected when the village hall is open. The village hall opening times can be seen on their website at <a href="https://www.sturtonhall.org.uk/">https://www.sturtonhall.org.uk/</a>.</p> <p>Only hard copies of the consultation newsletter, consultation brochure, navigation document, NTS and</p>	<p>Consultation material was made available from the start of consultation at Gainsborough Library, Retford Library and Sturton Hall and Conference Centre. The Applicant regularly contacted the libraries to ensure the deposit points had enough materials available.</p> <p>A delay in printing of the PEIR meant that the PEIR was not present at deposit locations from the launch date of 20 January 2025. The main PEIR report was delivered to deposit locations on 23 January 2025, with the figures and appendices following on Tuesday 28 January. The full PEIR was present at all deposit locations for at least 28 days as per the requirements set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>Late comments on the SoCC from Bassetlaw District Council requested two additional deposit locations. These were Bassetlaw District Council Offices and Retford Town Hall. All consultation materials apart from the PEIR were present at the additional deposit locations.</p> <p>Due to late receipt of comments from Bassetlaw the Applicant was not able print additional copies of the PEIR for placement at these additional deposit locations.</p>

	<p>feedback form will be available for people to take away with them.</p> <p>The Applicant will check on a weekly basis that sufficient volumes of consultation documentation remain at the information points throughout the consultation period.</p>	
	<p><b>Project Website and virtual exhibition</b></p> <p>A dedicated project website (<a href="http://www.steepelerenewablesproject.co.uk">www.steepelerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>) will be updated for people to find out more information about the proposals and to provide feedback.</p> <p>All consultation documents will be presented on the Project website and available for download, free of charge, from the document library. The website will also feature a virtual exhibition. Information will be consistent with materials available at the deposit locations and consultation events.</p>	<p>The project website was updated with consultation material and also a link to the online survey. All consultation material was made available on the project website from the start of consultation on Monday 20 January 2025.</p> <p>As set out in the SoCC from the date of the first event (01 February 2025) a virtual exhibition was made live on the project website. The virtual exhibition featured information will be consistent with materials available at the deposit locations and consultation events.</p> <p>The project website also featured a virtual project map showing the proposed site boundary and had various layers that could be selected on or off to allow people to focus on specific boundaries and see how they correspond to the area plans featured in our consultation materials.</p>
Table 6	<p>Consultation newsletters will be posted to all homes and businesses in the CZ ahead of the statutory consultation period. The newsletter will also be issued to statutory consultees in the mail, and to wider consultees via email, including local interest groups.</p>	<p>The consultation newsletter was developed in line with the information in the SoCC. The 8-page consultation newsletter was sent to all those within the CZ by 1<sup>st</sup> class post on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>A copy of the newsletter was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard to reach groups, local schools and other key organisations on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>The newsletter was made available to view on the website from 20 January 2025.</p>
	<p><b>Press releases</b></p> <p>To raise awareness of the Project and the consultation programme, both within and beyond the CZ, the Applicant will share a press release with local media outlets at the start of consultation.</p>	<p>A press release was sent to regional news and trade publications on 20 January 2025.</p> <p>The full list of publications that the press release was sent to can be seen at <b>Appendix E</b>.</p>
	<p><b>Social Media</b></p> <p>The Applicant will run social media adverts prior to and throughout the consultation. These adverts will be targeted to reach people within the CZ and the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Facebook was used to promote the consultation. Paid for advertising was used to boost key posts.</p> <p>In total there were 6 boosted posts.</p>



		The adverts publicised the consultation and pointed people towards the project website and virtual exhibition, they also advertised the consultation events. The adverts were targeted to a 16km radius from the centre of Sturton-le-Steeple to ensure those within and outside the CZ were captured.
	<b>Emails and Letters</b>  The Applicant will send both emails and letters about the consultation programme to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs;</li> <li>• elected representatives at Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council;</li> <li>• host and neighbouring parish councils;</li> <li>• host and neighbouring local authorities; and</li> <li>• local interest groups, such as environmental groups.</li> <li>• Parish councils will be sent hard copies of the consultation brochure as part of the mailing to statutory consultees.</li> </ul>	<p>A stakeholder list was developed by identifying groups and individuals likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the project. This included host and neighbouring parish councils, district and county councillors, and Members of Parliament for the host and neighbouring constituencies. Additionally, local authorities, environmental groups, and seldom-heard groups were identified.</p> <p>Those individuals and organisations were then informed by letter (16 January 2025) and/or by email (20 January 2025). These recipients received a consultation pack including a letter, consultation newsletter, navigation document, consultation brochure, feedback form and freepost envelope.</p> <p>On 20 January 2025 the Applicant sent an email about the start of consultation to all those who had previously taken part in the non-statutory consultation and those who had registered for email updates on the website.</p>
	<b>Statutory Notices</b>  Statutory notices to publicise the consultation, in accordance with section 48 of the 2008 Act, will be published once in a national newspaper (The Guardian) and The London Gazette and twice (across two successive weeks) in local circulating papers, The Retford Times and the Nottingham Post.  Statutory notices publicising the SoCC, in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act, will be published once (for one week) in local circulating papers: The Retford Times and the Nottingham Post.	<p>Statutory notices were placed in the following newspapers</p> <p>The Retford Times on 09 January, 16 January and 23 January</p> <p>The Nottingham Post on 16 January and 23 January</p> <p>The Guardian on 09 January</p> <p>The London Gazette on 09 January</p> <p>Due to an error in the notices, an incorrect version of the Section 47 and Section 48 notices were published for a week in the Retford Times. The notice omitted the project phone number; however, a corrected notice, including the project phone number, was subsequently published for two weeks in the Retford Times in accordance with Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations.</p>
	<b>Information posters</b>	A3 Posters were produced for the statutory consultation including details of the consultation

	<p>Posters including details of the consultation, how to access information about the Project and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations within and outside of the CZ, including libraries, shops and civic buildings. These will be hosted in agreement with relevant organisations and venues.</p> <p>Information posters will be sent to all host and neighbouring parish councils, to be used on local noticeboards, and to help raise awareness of the consultation.</p>	<p>dates, events and how people can provide feedback.</p> <p>The poster was sent on the 20 January 2025 to the following Parish Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council</li> <li>• North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe Parish Council</li> <li>• Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council</li> <li>• Knaith Parish Council</li> <li>• Lea Parish Council</li> <li>• North and South Wheatley Parish Council</li> <li>• Stow Parish Council</li> <li>• Beckingham cum Saundby Parish Council</li> <li>• South Leverton Parish Council</li> <li>• Clayworth Parish Council</li> <li>• Hayton Parish Council</li> <li>• Clarbrough and Welham Parish Council</li> <li>• Kexby Parish Council</li> <li>• Willingham Parish Council</li> <li>• Treswell with Cottam Parish Council</li> </ul>
6.6.2	<p>Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond the Applicant's control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the Project. Any activity changes will also be published on the project website.</p>	<p>There were no activities in the SoCC that needed to be substituted.</p>
6.7.1 and 6.7.2	<p>The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the consultation is accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including 'under-represented' or 'seldom heard' groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.</p> <p>These groups and individuals that may find it harder to be involved in the consultation, and/or need additional support to access materials, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• geographically isolated communities</li> <li>• young people</li> <li>• older people</li> <li>• disabled people and those with learning disabilities</li> <li>• people who do not have English as a first language</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant included seldom heard groups within their consultee outreach. A list of seldom-heard organisations was created, including religious organisations and disability groups.</p> <p>These organisations were sent consultation packs including a letter, consultation newsletter, project navigation document, consultation brochure, feedback form and freepost envelope. Letters were sent on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>They were also emailed about the consultation on 20 January 2025.</p>
Table 8	<p><b>Older people</b></p> <p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the CZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications</p>	<p>The consultation leaflet was posted to the CZ by 1<sup>st</sup> class post on 16 January 2025 which included how to contact the project team through a number of channels.</p> <p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods throughout the consultation. A freepost address was available for those who</p>

	<p>channels, including by freepost and the information phoneline.</p> <p>Requests for consultation information in additional formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via a freepost address so feedback can be easily provided by post.</p> <p>Consultation events at two locations within the CZ, with members of the team available to answer questions to help inform feedback responses.</p>	<p>wanted to write and a phoneline was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>No requests were made for alternative accessible formats. Three in-person events were held.</p>
	<p><b>Disabled people and those with learning disabilities</b></p> <p>Providing information in both digital and non-digital formats.</p> <p>Requests for consultation information in additional formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phoneline.</p> <p>Consultation events at two locations within the CZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p> <p>One online webinar, so anyone who may not be able to attend an in-person event can have the opportunity to ask questions of the project team.</p> <p>Ensure all event spaces have disabled access and facilities, and the layout of the consultation room provide space for those with, wheelchairs and other mobility aids to move around.</p>	<p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods throughout the consultation.</p> <p>A freepost address was available for those who wanted to write and a phoneline was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>No requests were made for alternative accessible formats.</p> <p>Three in-person events were held and one webinar.</p> <p>A review of the event spaces ahead of booking was made to ensure they were accessible. The exhibitions were set up to allow those with limited mobility or in wheelchairs to move around. All events had the option for people to sit and talk to a project member if they preferred or needed to.</p>
	<p><b>Geographically isolated communities</b></p> <p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the CZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via an online form and via the freepost address so feedback can be easily provided from all locations.</p> <p>One webinar for people to join and find out about the Project.</p>	<p>The consultation leaflet was posted to the CZ on 16 January 2025, which included how to contact the project team through a number of channels.</p> <p>A freepost address was available for those who wanted to write and a phoneline was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>One webinar was held for those who were unable to attend other events.</p> <p>Social media advertising included an area 16km around the Project to help capture to more isolated communities.</p>

	Advertising the availability of the Project phoneline for stakeholders with further questions to speak with the project team, regardless of location.	
	<p><b>Young people</b></p> <p>Online engagement methods, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant will run social media adverts throughout the consultation. These adverts will be targeted so will reach people within the CZ and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>The adverts will publicise the consultation and point people towards the project website and virtual exhibition, they will also advertise the consultation events.</p>	The Applicant used a range of digital methods throughout the consultation, including social media.
	<p><b>People who do not have English as a first language</b></p> <p>Requests for consultation information in additional languages will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>If required, the team could appoint appropriate translation services who can read materials such as the PEIR out over the phone. Stakeholders can request this service by contacting the project team through the below communication channels.</p>	The Applicant received no requests for materials in additional languages.
6.8.1	<p>The following channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information, or request copies of the consultation materials and documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>: 24/7</li> <li>• 0115 718 2070: 9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours)</li> <li>• <a href="mailto:info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>: 24 hours (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days)</li> <li>• FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project: 24 hours (mailbox will be monitored between 9am-5:30pm on weekdays)</li> </ul>	The community relations team were available by email and phone from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail was in place to capture details and the team would call back

6.8.2	Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required. This will include materials such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation.	The Applicant received no requests for materials in additional languages or alternative formats.
7.1.1 and 7.1.2	<p>Feedback to the consultation must be submitted <b>by 11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025</b>. Responses received after this date may not be considered.</p> <p>Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completing the feedback form online which can be accessed via the project website from Monday 20 January 2025: (<a href="http://www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>)</li> <li>Attending a consultation event and completing a printed feedback form which can be handed into the project team in-person or taken away and sent to us via a freepost (using FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project). Feedback forms can also be collected from the community deposit locations, downloaded from the website, and completed in pen or requested from the project team, using the contact details in <b>Table 8</b>.</li> <li>Emailing into <a href="mailto:info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a></li> <li>Writing to us at FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project (no stamp is required)</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant accepted any feedback submitted Online and by email up until 11:59pm on 3 March 2025</p> <p>Paper forms sent via the freepost address were accepted up until 10 March 2025 to accommodate potential delays with postage.</p>
7.2.1 and 7.2.2	<p>If, following the statutory consultation, the Applicant considers it is necessary to undertake further geographically targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate. Wider consultation could also be carried out if considered appropriate.</p> <p>Any additional consultation will be carried out on a proportionate basis in line with the principles set out in this SoCC and communicated to the host local authorities in advance.</p>	The Applicant did not consider it necessary to undertake further consultation.
8.1.1 to 8.1.4	When the Applicant's statutory consultation closes at <b>11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025</b> , the Applicant will have regard to all comments received. All feedback, including ongoing engagement with communities and	A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to this will be included in the Consultation Report.

	<p>stakeholders, is important to us and will help to influence the Applicant's design for the Project.</p> <p>Once the Applicant has reviewed and finalised the application, the Applicant will produce a Consultation Report, which will set out how the feedback from the pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced the Applicant's proposed application.</p> <p>The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the DCO application.</p> <p>Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: <a href="http://www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a></p>	
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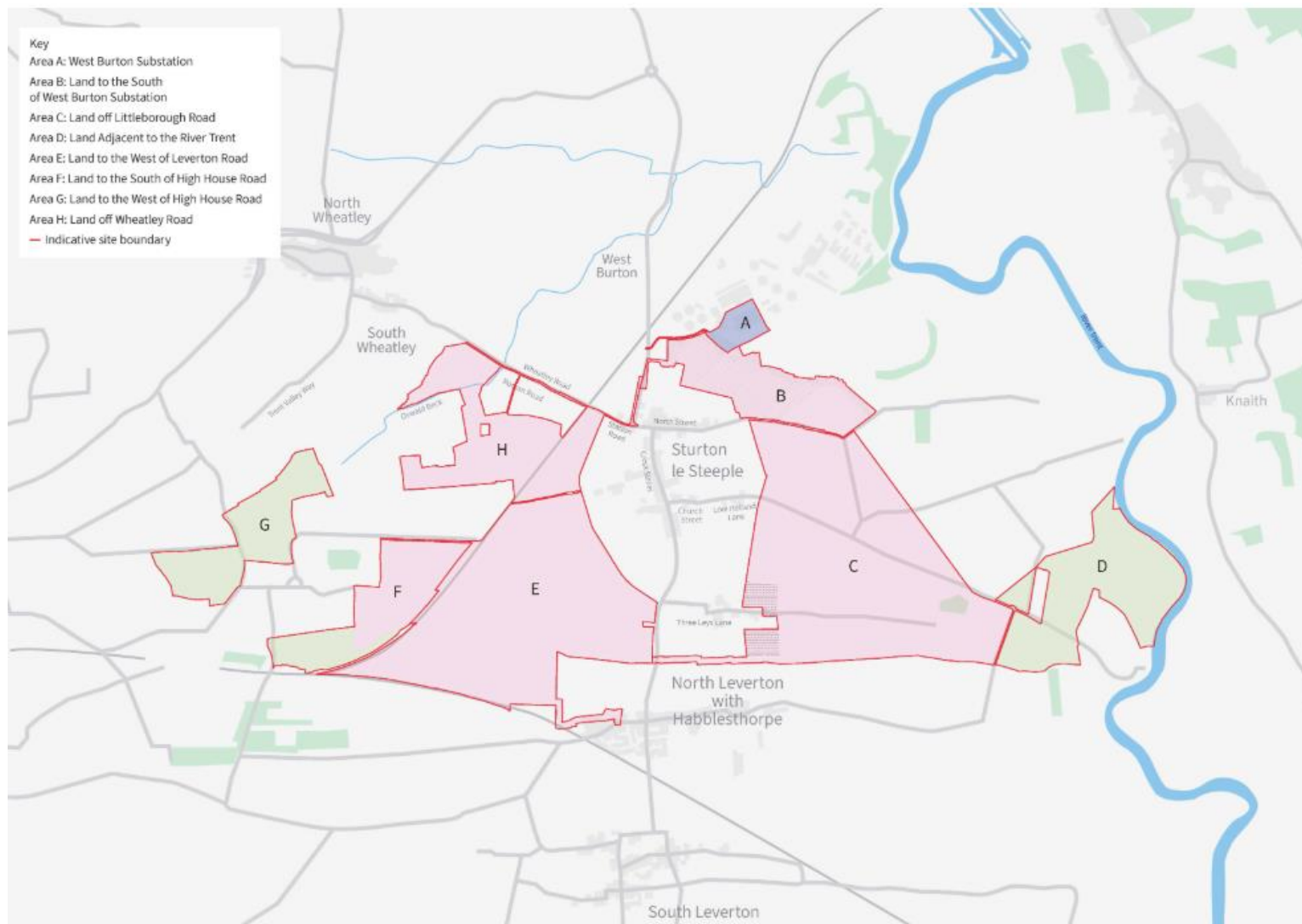
## 4. Next steps

### 4.1. Updating stakeholders

- 4.1.1. The Applicant is continuing to engage with statutory bodies on any outstanding issues ahead of the DCO application.
- 4.1.2. The Applicant is currently considering the responses from local councils as part of the ongoing design process and taking onboard suggestions where possible and appropriate.
- 4.1.3. The Applicant emailed the host authorities on 03 March 2025 about the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone and requesting their views.
- 4.1.4. The Applicant received responses from Nottinghamshire County Council on 17 March 2025 and they were satisfied that the Applicant has adequately met the requirements for early consideration of the adequacy of consultation. The Applicant did not receive any comments from Bassetlaw District Council about the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. The response from the Nottinghamshire County Council can be viewed at Appendix F.
- 4.1.5. The Applicant is currently analysing responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application.
- 4.1.6. The Consultation Report will evidence that consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 4.1.7. A full list of design changes as a result of the consultation will be included in the Consultation Report.

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Site plan presented at statutory consultation



## Appendix B: Comments received from Nottinghamshire County Council on the draft SoCC

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RE: Steeple Renewables Project SECTION 47(2) OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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From [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon 2024-12-02 15:21  
To: info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk <info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk>; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for the reminder.

We have reviewed the draft SoCC and are satisfied with the approach set out, which seems clear and comprehensive.

We would, however, query the absence of social media within the strategy. We feel that the SoCC should reference social media engagement and how this will be handled, both as a mechanism for promoting the consultation and as a means through which the community can get in touch with the project team. For example, there could be a dedicated account on X or similar to respond to questions or requests for further information from respondents and further consideration should be given to whether there are any existing pages or accounts on social media platforms through which the consultation could be publicised, akin to an advert in a local newspaper. This could be a route through which to engage with seldom heard groups, namely young people.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Planning and Infrastructure Manager | Planning Policy  
Place Department | Nottinghamshire County Council  
County Hall | Loughborough Road | West Bridgford | NG2 7QP  
[REDACTED]

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From: info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk <info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk>

## Appendix C: Comments received from Bassetlaw District Council on the draft SoCC

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 13 January 2025 09:31  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

**ATTENTION:** This originated outside of RES. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this to be a malicious email, please report it using the **Phish Alert Button**.

Good morning

I'm catching up on emails [REDACTED] and I note that we didn't respond to the SoCC. However I have the following comments to make:

**Overall:**

The consultation zone appears appropriate in scale and extent, and it is pleasing to see that whole communities are being consulted, rather than being bisected arbitrarily.

**Table 4:**

We note that one webinar is due to be hosted on Wednesday 12 February, but it may be useful to add another, likely towards the end of the consultation window.

**Table 5:**

As above, it is noted that there aren't any events proposed towards the end of the consultation period. Our experience is that these can provide a useful means for people to ask questions about what they have been reading, and also provide a useful reminder to those involved in the later stages of the consultation.

Given the proximity of elements of the proposal to the village of Claborough, it would be welcomed if an additional event – potentially as part of the above – was hosted there. This would also help to counter the limited public transport options between Claborough and the proposed events in Sturton and South Leverton.

**Table 7:**

The table makes reference to hosting events in three locations, but currently only two are proposed (Sturton and South Leverton), albeit with two events in one of these.

**Section 8:**

Where contact details have been provided, and subject to necessary permissions, it would be good practice to offer participants the opportunity to receive updates as to next steps so as to help them understand how their comments have helped shape the project.

Happy to discuss further.

## Appendix D: Final SoCC



POWER  
FOR GOOD

# Steeple Renewables Project

Statement of Community Consultation  
January 2025





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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1. RES ( “the Applicant”) is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation ( “SoCC”) in connection with its proposals for a new solar energy and battery storage scheme known as Steeple Renewables Project ( “the Project”).
- 1.1.2. Anticipated to generate up to 400MW of solar energy, the Project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ( “NSIP”), as defined by the Planning Act 2008 ( “the 2008 Act”), with up to 200MW of battery storage associated development and requires development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, via a Development Consent Order ( “DCO”).
- 1.1.3. The purpose of this SoCC is to set out how the Applicant intends to consult people living in the vicinity of the Project about the proposal before submission of the DCO application. It includes:
  - a description of the consenting process the Applicant must follow;
  - what the Applicant will be consulting on;
  - who the Applicant will consult;
  - how the Applicant will consult;
  - how people can respond to the consultation; and
  - how the Applicant will use the consultation feedback responses.
- 1.1.4. This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with section 47(1) of the 2008 Act, which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with the local community regarding their proposals, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this SoCC.
- 1.1.5. Understanding the views of the local community, local authorities and other stakeholders helps ensure the Applicant identifies valuable information and the feedback received will help shape the Project.
- 1.1.6. As the Project is an ‘EIA Development’ (meaning that it is subject to an environmental impact assessment or “EIA”), this SoCC also sets out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ( “the EIA Regulations”).
- 1.1.7. In addition to the Applicant’s obligations under section 47, section 42 of the 2008 Act sets out how applicants must consult with prescribed consultees, local authorities and persons with an interest in land ( “section 42 consultees”). All section 42 consultees known at the present time will be consulted in accordance with this SoCC and are invited to participate in consultation activities.

## 2. Steeple Renewables Project

### 2.1. The Project

- 2.1.1. The Project is located on land at Sturton-le-Steeple, Nottinghamshire, within the administrative boundaries of Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The Project will connect into the national grid at the recently decommissioned West Burton Power Station.
- 2.1.2. You can view the land under consideration on the Project website here:  
<https://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/media/o5npccme/steeple-renewables-land-under-consideration-v2.jpg>
- 2.1.3. The Project comprises an area of approximately 2,300 acres and is made up of land parcels in the vicinity of West Burton Power Station where solar panels and battery storage energy systems are proposed. The Project will also include\*:
- solar PV modules and associated mounting structures;
  - underground cabling within the areas of the solar PV modules and connecting solar PV module areas to the on-site substation;
  - on-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgears;
  - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
  - highways access and internal tracks; and
  - areas for ecological mitigation and enhancement.

*\*Please note that these details are subject to confirmation and may be subject to adjustments as the project progresses.*

- 2.1.4. The Project would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments generating up to 400MW of renewable energy, for approximately 180,000 homes every year, around 50% of all homes in Nottinghamshire<sup>1</sup>.

### 2.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 2.2.1. The Project constitutes an 'EIA Development' as defined by the EIA Regulations.
- 2.2.2. An EIA is therefore being prepared to ensure the potential environmental effects of the Project are properly understood and whether appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any significant adverse environmental effects. The DCO application will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement containing the findings of the EIA.

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<sup>1</sup>The homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted average annual electricity generation of the site and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024).

- 2.2.3. An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 03 June 2024. Together with the Applicant's Scoping Report, this identifies the environmental issues relevant to the Project and suggests any potential mitigation measures. The Scoping Opinion is available to view on the Planning Inspectorate website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010163/EN010163-000013-Steeple%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion%202017%20EIA%20Regs.pdf>
- 2.2.4. In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which sets out initial information on the potential environmental effects of the Project and any proposed mitigation, will be prepared and published that will help consultees to take an informed view on these matters.
- 2.2.5. The Applicant will invite feedback on the information presented in the PEIR as part of the statutory consultation. Feedback received will be considered before the DCO application and EIA are finalised for submission.

## 3. About RES

### 3.1. The Applicant - RES

- 3.1.1. RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.
- 3.1.2. At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.
- 3.1.3. Drawing on its decades of experience in the renewable energy and construction industries, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality, which contribute to a low carbon future by providing a secure supply of sustainable, low cost, clean green energy. RES is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and businesses, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process. RES is also committed to developing long term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments.
- 3.1.4. You can visit the Applicant's website at: <https://www.res-group.com/>

## 4. Consenting process

- 4.1.1. As the Project will have a generating capacity of more than 50MW, the Project is classified as a NSIP and under the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to submit an application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 4.1.2. If the application for the DCO is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the application that will then submit a report on the application to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “Secretary of State”) recommending whether consent should be granted or refused. The Secretary of State will make the final decision on the DCO application.
- 4.1.3. Interested parties are entitled to participate throughout the duration of the process, including after submission and during examination.
- 4.1.4. Before submitting a DCO application, the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and prescribed stakeholders.
- 4.1.5. An overview of the DCO process is shown in **Figure 1**.

**Figure 1: The DCO Process**



- 4.1.6. The 2008 Act requires the Applicant to consult with persons with an interest in the proposed land and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the 2008 Act. They include bodies such as Bassetlaw District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency.
- 4.1.7. The 2008 Act requires the Applicant to consult with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act (the subject of this SoCC); and to publicise the proposals, locally and nationally. The local community is defined in the 2008 Act as people living within the vicinity of the land.
- 4.1.8. Further information on the DCO application process can be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate which has published a range of advice notes which intend to inform applicants, consultees, the public and others about a range of matters in relation to the 2008 Act process. This includes Advice Note Eight, which provides more detail on the NSIP planning process. All advice notes can be found on the Planning Inspectorate’s website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-infrastructure-planning-advice-notes>

- 4.1.9. In line with the requirements of the 2008 Act, the Applicant provided Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council with an opportunity to comment on a draft version of this SoCC. Regard has been had to their responses in producing this final version.

## 5. Engagement to date

- 5.1.1. The Applicant undertook early informal consultation on the Project between Monday 23 October and Monday 04 December 2023<sup>2</sup>.
- 5.1.2. The non-statutory consultation had the following aims:
- to introduce the Project to the public, providing an overview of the Project and the national need for solar;
  - present the early plans;
  - to give stakeholders and the community the opportunity to provide feedback on the early proposals; and
  - to outline the next steps for the Project.
- 5.1.3. Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant held two face-to-face consultation events and one webinar. The consultation was publicised through a mixture of direct mailings, newspaper adverts and posters sent to local parishes. Dedicated project information channels were established for those who had questions about the Project or needed to get in contact with the project team. This engagement is summarised in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Summary of activities to date**

Activity	Total
Community newsletters issued	3,334
In-person consultation events	2
Stakeholder briefings	6
Webinars	1

- 5.1.4. There were a number of ways for members of the public and those interested in the consultation to provide feedback. These included:
- completing an online feedback form on the project website ([www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](http://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk));
  - completing a paper feedback form or sending written comments by post (FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project);
  - emailing feedback to the project email address ([info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk)); and

<sup>2</sup> Whilst the consultation material states a consultation close date of 4 December 2023, due to IT issues that rendered the feedback form inactive for two days, the consultation was therefore extended to account for this, and the consultation closed at 11:59pm on Wednesday 6 December 2023.



- calling the project information line (0115 718 2070).

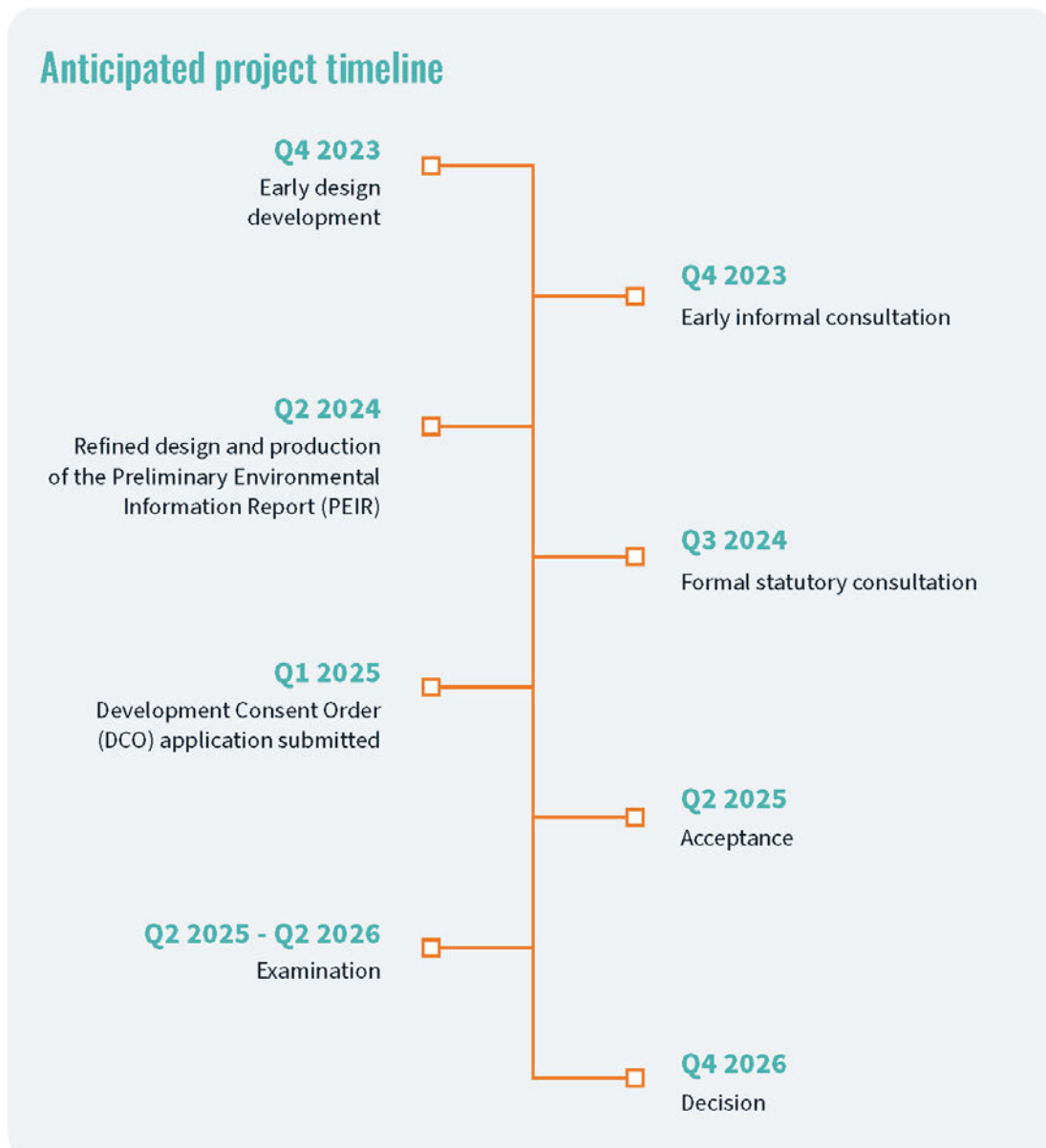
5.1.5. In total, throughout the six-week early informal consultation period, 118 responses were received.

5.1.6. More information about the non-statutory consultation can be found in the Early Consultation Report which is part of the documents that are currently available on the Project website. Archive documents from the non-statutory consultation will remain available on the Project website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge.

## 5.2. Timeline for the Project

5.2.1. **Figure 2** sets out an indicative timeline for each stage of the Project from consultation through to the Secretary of State's decision.

**Figure 2: Indicative project timeline**



## 6. Statutory consultation under section 47 of the 2008 Act

### 6.1. How the Applicant will consult on the proposed application

- 6.1.1. The Applicant will undertake statutory consultation in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act for six weeks starting on Monday 20 January 2025. The deadline for consultation responses is 11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025. All responses to the consultation must be received by the closing date.
- 6.1.2. This consultation will provide an opportunity for people in the local community and interested parties to have their say about the Applicant's proposals for the Project.
- 6.1.3. As well as the community consultation in accordance with section 47, this consultation will also include:
- consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under section 42 of the 2008 Act);
  - consultation with host and neighbouring local planning authorities (under section 42 of the 2008 Act);
  - consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Project (under section 42 of the 2008 Act); and
  - publication of the consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act).

### 6.2. Who is The Applicant consulting?

- 6.2.1. The Applicant will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC. The Applicant's consultation process is open to anyone with an interest in the Applicant's proposals for the Project.
- 6.2.2. The Applicant has identified a consultation zone (CZ) (shown in **Figure 3**) for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act. This is the same CZ that was initially defined for the Applicant's early informal consultation and based on a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed site boundary within which the solar PV panels, energy storage system and on-site substation and supporting infrastructure would be located.
- 6.2.3. The CZ encompasses the entire village of Sturton-le-Steeple, the village in which the Project is proposed. To the south, the CZ extends to include the villages of North Leverton, South Leverton, and Treswell. Westward, it reaches Clarborough and Welham, while to the north, it includes Beckingham and Saundby. Extending northwest, the CZ covers North and South Wheatley. To the east, across the River Trent, the CZ also incorporates the villages of Gate Burton, Knaith, Lea, and Marton.
- 6.2.4. The CZ has been amended beyond these criteria, in certain areas, to consider:
- existing physical features, such as main roads;
  - capturing entire communities rather than excluding small numbers of properties; and

- where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications.

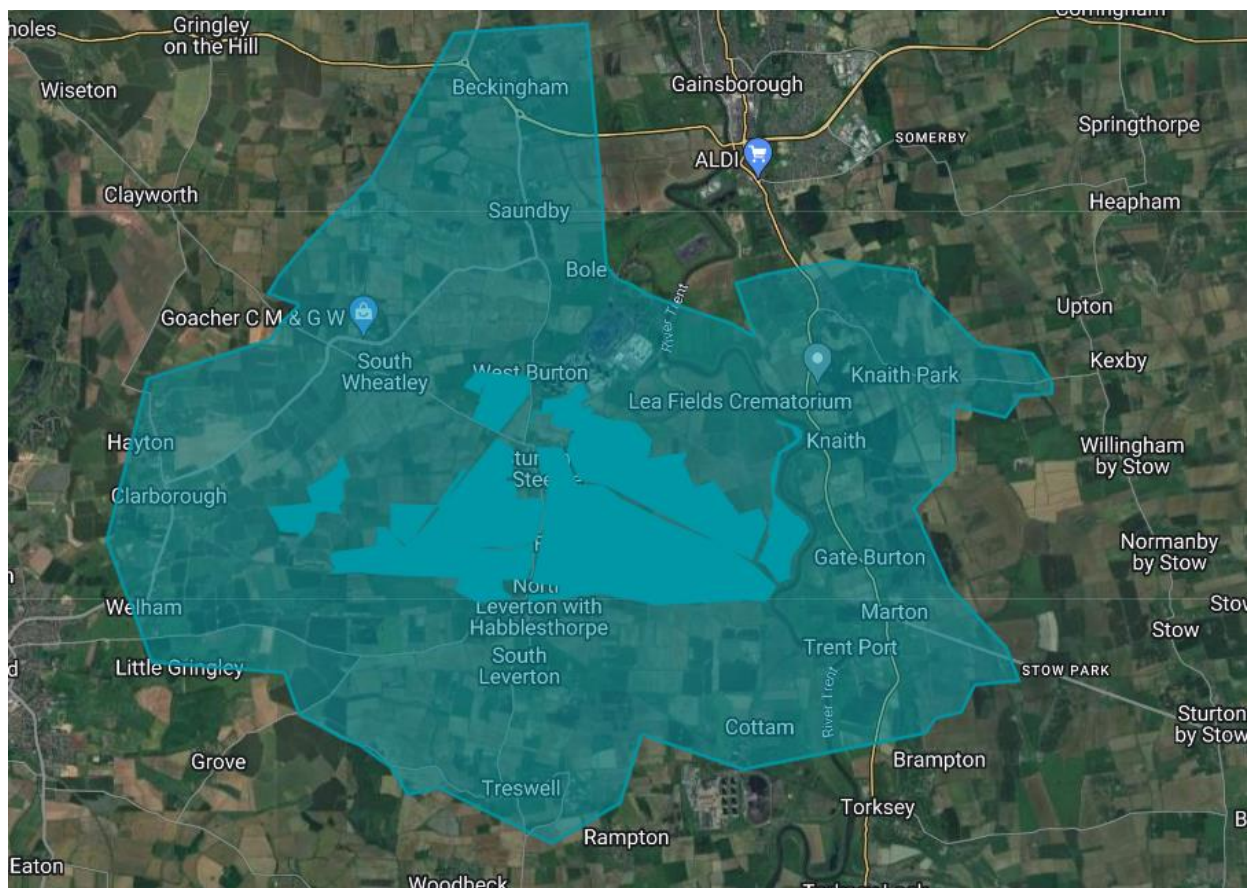
6.2.5. Within the CZ, the Applicant will be consulting any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the Project by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.

6.2.6. This will include:

- parish councils representing parishes within the CZ, Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the CZ;
- elected representatives in local authorities within the CZ; and
- relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups;
- and the Applicant is also committed to making sure that individuals and organisations outside of the CZ are given the opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation.

### Figure 3: Consultation zone (CZ) for the Project

The dark teal area is the proposed site, with the village of Sturton-le-Steeple in the centre, and the lighter shaded area shows the same CZ that was initially defined for the informal consultation on the Applicant's early proposals, based on a minimum 2km distance from the proposed site boundary.



### 6.3. What is the Applicant consulting on?

- 6.3.1. The Applicant will present proposals for the Project including how they have been informed by the Applicant's environmental assessments and consultation to date.
- 6.3.2. The Applicant will be seeking feedback on the ongoing evolution of the proposals for the Project and:
- The overall proposals for the Project;
  - The updated site plan for the proposed site;
  - Measures proposed to avoid or minimise impacts identified in the Applicant's preliminary environmental assessment; and
  - (whilst outside of the considerations for the DCO application) the Applicant's proposals for community benefits and Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS).
- 6.3.3. The Project will be explained in the following materials:
- PEIR – the PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA;
  - PEIR Non-Technical Summary – the Non-Technical Summary provides a non-technical summary of the PEIR and the conclusions within the PEIR. This summary is written in plain language without technical jargon, making it accessible to the general public;
  - Consultation brochure – this brochure will provide an overview of the proposals including site layouts and connection infrastructure; and
  - Maps – the maps will set out the site areas in which the Project will be located.

**Table 2: Statutory consultation materials for the Project**

Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
<b>Consultation newsletter</b>	<p>A newsletter publicising the consultation and outlining a high-level overview of the Project, details of the consultation programme, including the location, dates and times of the public consultation events. The newsletter will also include a QR code that links to the project website. This newsletter will be distributed to 3000+ addresses within the CZ.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be issued to wider consultees via email and distributed to local interest groups and sent to statutory bodies in the post.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be available to view and download on the project website.</p>
<b>Consultation brochure</b>	<p>A consultation brochure will be published on the project website at the start of the statutory consultation period, and will be available for download. The brochure provides a summary of the proposals the Applicant is consulting on, an outline of the environmental assessment work, details of how people can take part, and how feedback will be used to influence and shape the proposals.</p> <p>Printed copies of this brochure will be available to take away at all consultation events, at deposit locations (listed in <b>Table 4</b>), and on request by contacting the project team.</p>



Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
<b>Navigation document</b>	<p>At the start of the statutory consultation period, a comprehensive Project Navigation Document will be published on the project website, and made available in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points (listed in <b>Table 4</b>).</p> <p>This document will offer a clear overview of all consultation materials available for review, along with a user-friendly guide to help navigate them. Designed to simplify the consultation process, it will direct readers to specific sections of interest, ensuring they can easily locate relevant information and engage meaningfully with the materials provided.</p>
<b>Feedback form</b>	<p>A feedback form will be prepared to gather feedback on all aspects of the Project.</p> <p>The feedback form will be available for completion online via the project website and will be accessible throughout the six-week consultation period.</p> <p>Printed feedback forms will be available (free of charge) on request by contacting the project team, in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points (listed in <b>Table 4</b>), along with freepost envelopes.</p> <p>The feedback form will also be available to download from the website, complete in pen and return to FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project.</p>
<b>Exhibition boards</b>	<p>Exhibition boards will be created to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Project.</p> <p>The boards will be designed to assist the understanding of the Project at the consultation events.</p> <p>Members of the public will also be available to view the boards in the virtual exhibition on the project website, which will go live on the day of the first event.</p>
<b>PEIR</b>	<p>The PEIR will contain a description of the Project, and a preliminary assessment of the environmental effects of the Project, based on the assessments carried out to date.</p> <p>It will also set out how the Applicant proposes to mitigate the impacts of and maximise the benefits of the Project.</p> <p>The PEIR will be available for download free of charge from the project website. A printed copy of the full PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and deposit locations.</p> <p>Copies of the PEIR contained on a USB stick can be provided on request free of charge.</p> <p>A hard copy can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs. Requests for hard copies can be made by email: <a href="mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a> or by calling 0115 718 2070.</p>
<b>PEIR Non-Technical Summary</b>	<p>The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provides a non-technical summary of the preliminary environmental information and the</p>

Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
	<p>conclusions within the PEIR. This summary will be written in plain language without technical jargon, making it accessible to the general public.</p> <p>The NTS will be available to view on the Applicant's project website, at deposit locations, at or consultation events and posted out on request free of charge.</p>
<b>Maps and plans of the Project</b>	<p>Additional maps and plans for the Project will also be available on the project website and at the consultation events and deposit locations.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies of the maps will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £350 for one full suite of documents - to be paid for by the recipient).</p>
<b>Materials in alternative formats</b>	<p>Requests for consultation information in additional formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>All requests should be made to the project team by email: <a href="mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a> or by calling 0115 718 2070.</p>

Table 3: The project website

Features	Rationale
<b>Online downloadable copies of all the statutory consultation material, including: The PEIR, consultation brochure and feedback form</b>	To ensure the exhibition material is accessible to those who may not be able to get to an in-person event or a deposit location. This will ensure that the consultation is accessible to everyone who wants to participate.
<b>Virtual exhibition</b>	<p>To ensure that people who cannot attend the events are able to access the same materials that are present at the in-person events.</p> <p>This will allow people to virtually walk around the consultation room simulating how the exhibition boards would be viewed at a public consultation event. The consultation feedback mechanism will also be able to be accessed via the virtual exhibition.</p>
<b>Web page content</b>	<p>The Project website will provide up to date information about the Project and have downloadable versions of all the documents that have been prepared for statutory consultation.</p> <p>The website will feature several pages that will provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an overview of the Project, the energy it will generate, information on the opportunity the Project presents and the potential benefits it could bring</li> <li>• an up to date version of the site plan, rationale for site selection and zoomed in plans of each land area</li> <li>• a brief overview of the DCO process and an indicative project timeline</li> </ul>



Features	Rationale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>benefits to the local economy and community that could be delivered as part of the proposals</li> <li>information about RES and its history as a renewable energy developer and its global portfolio of projects</li> </ul>
<b>Online feedback form</b>	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity. This will be available from the consultation launch until close.
<b>Register for updates function</b>	This will enable the public to register to be updated about the Project, once they have signed up they will receive updates at key project milestones.
<b>Webinar registration form</b>	To enable members of the public to register to join the webinar.
<b>Contact details</b>	To provide details of how to contact the project team for any further questions.

## 6.4. Approach to community consultation

- 6.4.1. During the statutory consultation, the Applicant will use a range of methods to ensure an inclusive, meaningful, and open consultation. The Applicant will use a range of digital and non-digital methods of communication to ensure that the consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.
- 6.4.2. The Applicant will be focusing the consultation on communities within the primary consultation zone (CZ); however, the Applicant will ensure communities outside of the CZ are made aware of the consultation.
- 6.4.3. Inside the CZ:
- All homes and businesses within the CZ will be sent a consultation newsletter with high-level details about the Project and consultation programme, as well as contact details for the project team;
  - Consultation events will be held at locations within the CZ;
  - Relevant groups and organisations such as parish councils and local interest groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities; and
  - The Applicant has also identified a list of local community spaces within the CZ that will be directly mailed a poster to put up, advertising how people can get involved in the consultation.
- 6.4.4. Outside of the CZ:
- The Applicant will raise awareness of the consultation using a number of methods, including via local news media, social media, project website and direct communication with organisations such as regional, environmental, religious or health organisations located outside of the CZ.
- 6.4.5. **Table 4** below sets out the approaches that will be used to consult on the proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information.

**Table 4: Statutory consultation methods for the Project**

<b>Consultation methods</b>	
<b>Method</b>	<b>Detail</b>
<b>Consultation events</b>	<p>The Applicant will be holding three in-person events at locations spread across the CZ. These events will be publicised in the consultation newsletter, the consultation brochure, on posters, in local news media and in a public notice and on the project website.</p> <p>These events will run for periods of five hours on a mixture of weekdays and weekends to accommodate different availability.</p> <p>Details of the events are available in <b>Table 5</b>.</p>
<b>Stakeholder briefing meetings</b>	<p>The Applicant will seeks to brief key political stakeholders, representing wards, constituencies and parishes within the consultation zone.</p> <p>The Applicant will consider invitations to, or requests for, meetings with affected stakeholders, other local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<b>Webinar</b>	<p>One webinar will be held for members of the public to join to provide an alternative option for those who may not be able to attend the in-person events. This will be held in the evening outside of normal working hours to make the session as accessible as possible.</p> <p>Individuals can register to join the webinar via the website. The webinar will be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 12 February 2025: 6:30PM-8:00PM</li> </ul> <p>A recording of the webinar will be made available online for those unavailable to attend.</p>
<b>Project contact details</b>	<p>Members of the public will be able to call and speak to a member of the project team on the project information line (0115 718 2070), email (<a href="mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>) or write in (FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project)</p>
<b>Deposit and information points</b>	<p>Hard copies of the consultation materials including this SoCC, the consultation brochure and the PEIR will be available to view at the following deposit locations and times:</p> <p><b>Gainsborough Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Tuesday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Wednesday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Thursday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Friday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Saturday:</b> 9:00AM - 1:00PM</li> </ul> <p><b>Retford Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Tuesday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Wednesday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Thursday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> </ul>

Consultation methods	
Method	Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Friday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Saturday:</b> 9:00AM – 3:30PM</li> </ul> <p>Documents are also available to be viewed and collected at Sturton-le-Steeple Village Hall, The Sturton Hall and Conference Centre, Brickings Way, Sturton Le Steeple, DN22 9HY. Please note this venue does not have regular opening hours but materials are available to be collected when the village hall is open. The village hall opening times can be seen on their website at <a href="https://www.sturtonhall.org.uk/">https://www.sturtonhall.org.uk/</a>.</p> <p>Only hard copies of the consultation newsletter, consultation brochure, navigation document, NTS and feedback form will be available for people to take away with them.</p> <p>The Applicant will check on a weekly basis that sufficient volumes of consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period.</p>
<b>Project website and virtual exhibition</b>	<p>A dedicated project website (<a href="http://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk">www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>) will be updated for people to find out more information about the proposals and to provide feedback.</p> <p>All consultation documents will be presented on the Project website and available for download, free of charge, from the document library. The website will also feature a virtual exhibition. Information will be consistent with materials available at the deposit locations and consultation events.</p>

## 6.5. Consultation events

- 6.5.1. Three in-person public consultation events will be held for communities to find out information about the Project and speak to members of the project team. The consultation events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues located within the CZ.
- 6.5.2. Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each consultation event. There will be a series of exhibition boards to present the proposals for the Project, including maps.
- 6.5.3. Those attending will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.
- 6.5.4. **Table 5** outlines the dates, times, and locations of each of the consultation events.

**Table 5: Details of the consultation events**

Date	Time	Location
Saturday 01 February 2025	10:00AM- 3:00PM	Sturton Hall and Conference Centre Brickings Way, Sturton-le-Steeple, Retford, DN22 9HY
Wednesday 05 February 2025	2:00PM-7:00PM	South Leverton Memorial Institute Town St, South Leverton, Retford, DN22 0BT
Wednesday 12 February 2025	6:30PM-8:00PM	Online Webinar
Wednesday 19 February 2025	2:00PM-7:00PM	Sturton Hall and Conference Centre Brickings Way, Sturton-le-Steeple, Retford, DN22 9HY

## 6.6. Promoting the consultation

6.6.1. The Applicant will use a variety of methods to make people aware of the Project and publicise the statutory consultation. These methods are outlined in **Table 6** below.

**Table 6: Methods for promoting the statutory consultation for the Project**

Methods to promote the consultation	
Method	Detail
<b>Consultation newsletter</b>	Consultation newsletters will be posted to all homes and businesses in the CZ ahead of the statutory consultation period. The newsletter will also be issued to statutory consultees in the mail, and to wider consultees via email, including local interest groups.
<b>Press releases</b>	To raise awareness of the Project and the consultation programme, both within and beyond the CZ, the Applicant will share a press release with local media outlets at the start of consultation.
<b>Social media</b>	<p>The Applicant will run social media adverts prior to and throughout the consultation. These adverts will be targeted to reach people within the CZ and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>The adverts will publicise the consultation and point people towards the project website and virtual exhibition, they will also advertise the consultation events.</p>
<b>Emails and letters</b>	<p>The Applicant will send both emails and letters about the consultation programme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs;</li> <li>• elected representatives at Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council;</li> <li>• host and neighbouring parish councils;</li> <li>• host and neighbouring local authorities; and</li> <li>• local interest groups, such as environmental groups.</li> </ul> <p>Parish councils will be sent hard copies of the consultation brochure as part of the mailing to statutory consultees.</p>

Methods to promote the consultation	
Method	Detail
<b>Statutory notices</b>	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the consultation, in accordance with section 48 of the 2008 Act, will be published once in a national newspaper (The Guardian) and The London Gazette and twice (across two successive weeks) in local circulating papers, The Retford Times and the Nottingham Post.</p> <p>Statutory notices publicising the SoCC, in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act, will be published once (for one week) in local circulating papers: The Retford Times and the Nottingham Post.</p>
<b>Newspaper advertising</b>	An advert publicising the consultation – separate to the statutory notices – will be published in the Retford Times ahead of the consultation launch. The advert will run for one week, publicising the consultation dates and advertise the consultation events and the deposit locations.
<b>Information posters</b>	<p>Posters including details of the consultation, how to access information about the Project and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations within and outside of the CZ, including libraries, shops and civic buildings. These will be hosted in agreement with relevant organisations and venues.</p> <p>Information posters will be sent to all host and neighbouring parish councils, to be used on local noticeboards, and to help raise awareness of the consultation.</p>

- 6.6.2. Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond the Applicant's control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the Project. Any activity changes will also be published on the project website.

## 6.7. Engagement with seldom heard groups

- 6.7.1. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the consultation is accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including 'under-represented' or 'seldom heard' groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.
- 6.7.2. These groups and individuals that may find it harder to be involved in the consultation, and/or need additional support to access materials, include:
- geographically isolated communities
  - young people
  - older people
  - disabled people and those with learning disabilities
  - people who do not have English as a first language



**Table 7: Consultation with seldom-heard groups for the Project**

Seldom-heard groups	Consultation approach
<b>Older people</b>	<p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the CZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phoneline.</p> <p>Requests for consultation information in additional formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via a freepost address so feedback can be easily provided by post.</p> <p>Consultation events at two locations within the CZ, with members of the team available to answer questions to help inform feedback responses.</p>
<b>Disabled people and those with learning disabilities</b>	<p>Providing information in both digital and non-digital formats.</p> <p>Requests for consultation information in additional formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phoneline.</p> <p>Consultation events at two locations within the CZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p> <p>One online webinar, so anyone who may not be able to attend an in-person event can have the opportunity to ask questions of the project team.</p> <p>Ensure all event spaces have disabled access and facilities, and the layout of the consultation room provide space for those with, wheelchairs and other mobility aids to move around.</p>
<b>Geographically isolated communities</b>	<p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the CZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via an online form and via the freepost address so feedback can be easily provided from all locations.</p> <p>One webinar for people to join and find out about the Project.</p> <p>Advertising the availability of the Project phoneline for stakeholders with further questions to speak with the project team, regardless of location.</p>
<b>Young people</b>	<p>Online engagement methods, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant will run social media adverts throughout the consultation. These adverts will be targeted so will reach people within the CZ and the surrounding areas.</p>



Seldom-heard groups	Consultation approach
	The adverts will publicise the consultation and point people towards the project website and virtual exhibition, they will also advertise the consultation events.
<b>People who do not have English as a first language</b>	Requests for consultation information in additional languages will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.  If required, the team could appoint appropriate translation services who can read materials such as the PEIR out over the phone. Stakeholders can request this service by contacting the project team through the below communication channels.

## 6.8. Information channels

- 6.8.1. The following channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information, or request copies of the consultation materials and documents. These channels are provided in **Table 8** below:

**Table 8: Information channels for the Project**

Channel	Contact details	Hours of operation
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>	24/7
<b>Telephone</b>	0115 718 2070	9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours)
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>	24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days)
<b>Post</b>	FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project	24 hour (mailbox will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm on weekdays)

- 6.8.2. Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required. This will include materials such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation.

## 7. Responding to the consultation

### 7.1. How to respond to the consultation

- 7.1.1. Feedback to the consultation must be submitted **by 11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025**. Responses received after this date may not be considered.
- 7.1.2. Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:

- Completing the feedback form online which can be accessed via the project website from Monday 20 January 2025: ([www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](http://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk))
- Attending a consultation event and completing a printed feedback form which can be handed into the project team in-person or taken away and sent to us via a freepost (using FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project). Feedback forms can also be collected from the community deposit locations, downloaded from the website, and completed in pen or requested from the project team, using the contact details in **Table 8**.
- Emailing into [info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk)
- Writing to us at FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project (no stamp is required)

## 7.2. Further consultation

- 7.2.1. If, following the statutory consultation, the Applicant considers it is necessary to undertake further geographically targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate. Wider consultation could also be carried out if considered appropriate.
- 7.2.2. Any additional consultation will be carried out on a proportionate basis in line with the principles set out in this SoCC and communicated to the host local authorities in advance.

## 8. How the Applicant will use consultation feedback

- 8.1.1. When the Applicant's statutory consultation closes at **11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025**, the Applicant will have regard to all comments received. All feedback, including ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders, is important to us and will help to influence the Applicant's design for the Project.
- 8.1.2. Once the Applicant has reviewed and finalised the application, the Applicant will produce a Consultation Report, which will set out how the feedback from the pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced the Applicant's proposed application.
- 8.1.3. The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the DCO application.
- 8.1.4. Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: [www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](http://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk).

## 9. Contact details

- 9.1.1. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more information about the Project and the Applicant's consultation programme. The project team can be contacted using any of the communications lines listed below.

- 9.1.2. Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille then please contact us using the details provided. Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print.
- 9.1.3. The Applicant's communications channels are:
- Email: [info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk)
  - Call: 0115 718 2070
  - Write to: FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project (you do not need a stamp)

## Appendix E: List of media outlets the press release was distributed to

Publication
Lincolnshire Live
BBC East Midlands
Look North
The Worksop Guardian
ITV Calendar
Nottinghamshire Live
AZoCleantech (global)
Air Quality News (UK)
Business Green (UK)
Business Live
Cable Technology News (UK) / Energy Projects & Technology
Cleantech Business News (UK)
Clean Energy Pipeline
Climate Home News (global)
Cornwall Insight (UK)
DeSmog UK
Edie.net (UK)
Engerati (UK)
Energy Compass (global)
Energy Digital (UK)
Energy Engineering
Energy Focus (UK)
EnergyFlux
Energy Global
Energy Intelligence (global)
Energy Live News (UK)
Energy Voice (UK)
Envirotec (UK)
Environment Analyst (UK)
Environment Times (UK)
Fleet News
Future Net Zero
GreenBiz
New Power (UK)
Renewable Energy Focus (UK)
Renewable Energy Magazine
RenewablesNow
reNews
S&P Global Market Intelligence
S&P Global Sustainable
Sustainable Business Magazine (UK)
Transition Economist
The Carbon Brief (UK)
The Environmental Magazine

The ENDS Report (UK)
The Energyst (UK)
The Energy Industry Times (UK)
Utility Week (UK)
Science Daily (US)
Bioenergy Insight
Carbon Commentary
Climate Home News
Current News
Earthbound Report
EIC Energy Focus
Electrical Review
ENDS Waste and Bioenergy
Energy CIO Insights
Energy Engineering
Energy Monitor
Energy Saving Trust Blog
Environmental Finance
Fully Charged show
Future Power Technology
Good Energy blog
GREEN ENERGY NEWS (UK)
IET Renewable Power Generation
Inspiratia
Installer (Online)
Kallanish Energy
Net Zero Investor
NS Energy
PES (Power and Energy Solutions)
Power Technology
Powergrid International
Products of Change
REA News
Recharge News
Renewable Energy Installer
Renewable Energy Installer & Specifier
Renewable Energy World
Renewables Investor
Rethink Energy
The IET (E&T Magazine)
UK Power Networks
PV Magazine
PHOTON International
Photovoltaics International
Progress in Photovoltaics
Solar Power Portal/Solar Media (UK)

Solar Media
Solar and Power Management
Smart Solar (UK&I)
Solar Industry
PV Tech
Solar Energy UK
Solar Power Portal
Energy Storage News
Batteries International
Energy Storage Journal
World Battery News
Current+



## Appendix F: Comments on AoCM from Nottinghamshire County Council

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RE: Steeple Renewables Project - Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

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From [REDACTED]

Date Mon 2025-03-17 10:51

To info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk <info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk>

[REDACTED]

Thank you for consulting Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) on the Steeple Renewable Project.

NCC are satisfied that the applicant has adequately met the requirements for early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant at pre-application stage by the Planning Inspectorate.

As such, NCC have no comments to make at this stage of the process.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Principal Planner (Policy)

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## Appendix G-2.2 Email sent to Bassetlaw District Council asking for feedback on AOCM

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## Steeple Renewables Project - Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

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**From** info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk <info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk>

**Date** Mon 2025-03-03 15:54

**To**

**Bcc**

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you regarding the close of statutory consultation for Steeple Renewables Project. As you'll be aware, today (3 March 2025) marks the last day of our six-week statutory consultation which commenced on 20 January 2025. This consultation has been carried out in line with the SoCC that you'll recall we shared with you for feedback in advance of launching consultation.

You may be aware of a new requirement for DCO applications. The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Pre-Application Prospectus 2024 introduced the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant at pre-application stage by the Planning Inspectorate. The written submission produced by the developer and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ahead of the DCO application submission may include the views of local authorities.

**It is for this reason that we would like to invite you to provide comments on the pre-application consultation and engagement process including the SoCC and our statutory consultation.**

In addition to this opportunity to provide comments, when an application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, local authorities affected by a proposed NSIP are invited by the Planning Inspectorate under [section 55\(4\)\(b\) of the Planning Act](#) to confirm whether the consultation has been adequate in meeting the expectations set out in the SoCC.

If you would like to provide comments at this stage for us to include in our Adequacy of Consultation report which will be submitted as part of the application we would request that you do so by reply to this email no later than COP Monday 17 March.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,  
Indya Waite

## Appendix G-2.3 Email sent to Nottinghamshire County Council asking for feedback on AOCM

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## Steeple Renewables Project - Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

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**From** info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk <info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk>

**Date** Mon 2025-03-03 15:54

**To**

**Cc**

**Bcc**

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you regarding the close of statutory consultation for Steeple Renewables Project. As you'll be aware, today (3 March 2025) marks the last day of our six-week statutory consultation which commenced on 20 January 2025. This consultation has been carried out in line with the SoCC that you'll recall we shared with you for feedback in advance of launching consultation.

You may be aware of a new requirement for DCO applications. The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Pre-Application Prospectus 2024 introduced the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant at pre-application stage by the Planning Inspectorate. The written submission produced by the developer and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ahead of the DCO application submission may include the views of local authorities.

**It is for this reason that we would like to invite you to provide comments on the pre-application consultation and engagement process including the SoCC and our statutory consultation.**

In addition to this opportunity to provide comments, when an application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, local authorities affected by a proposed NSIP are invited by the Planning Inspectorate under [section 55\(4\)\(b\) of the Planning Act](#) to confirm whether the consultation has been adequate in meeting the expectations set out in the SoCC.

If you would like to provide comments at this stage for us to include in our Adequacy of Consultation report which will be submitted as part of the application we would request that you do so by reply to this email no later than COP Monday 17 March.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,  
Indya Waite

## Appendix G-2.4 NCC AOCM response





Outlook

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**RE: Steeple Renewables Project - Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

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From [REDACTED]

Date Mon 2025-03-17 10:51

To info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk <info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk>

Indya,

Thank you for consulting Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) on the Steeple Renewable Project.

NCC are satisfied that the applicant has adequately met the requirements for early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant at pre-application stage by the Planning Inspectorate.

As such, NCC have no comments to make at this stage of the process.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Principal Planner (Policy)

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## **Appendix G-3 Email sent at close of consultation**

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**Thank you for engaging with our plans for Steeple Renewables Project**

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**From** info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk <info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk>

**Date** Tue 2025-03-04 14:31

**To** [REDACTED]

Good afternoon/,

We are emailing to confirm that the statutory consultation for Steeple Renewables Project has now closed. We would like to thank the community for taking part and providing feedback on our revised proposals.

More than 250 local people attended the three in-person events that were held during the consultation with attendees providing the team with valuable insight and feedback that will help to shape the final proposals.

We will now be carefully reviewing and considering all feedback received and using it to help finalise our proposals prior to submitting a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate this spring.

A summary of the responses we received, as well as our responses to issues raised, will be included in the Statutory Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the DCO application and then made publicly available.

RES remains committed to community engagement and will continue to keep the community informed about the progress of Steeple Renewables Project.

Detailed Information about the proposals can be found at the project website, which we will continue to keep up to date throughout the planning process: [www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](http://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk).

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact the communications team by responding to this email or by calling our communications team on 0115 718 2070.

Many thanks,

**Steeple Renewables Project Communications Team**

## **Appendix G-4 Regard had to pre-application advice**



POWER  
FOR GOOD

# Steeple Renewables Project

Regard to Pre-Application Guidance



## Regard to Pre-Application Guidance

The table below provides an overview of how the Applicant has had regard to guidance as outlined in Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.<sup>1</sup>

Guidance Reference	Guidance	Applicant's regard to guidance
Paragraph 004 Reference ID 02-004-20240430	The NSIP consenting process is intended to be front-loaded. The pre-application stage is therefore critical and should be used to ensure project proposals are prepared in line with applicable National Policy Statements (NPS) designated under <a href="#">Part 2 of the Planning Act</a> . Relevant legislation and policies should also be taken into consideration where applicable to the proposed project. The pre-application stage should allow the likely effects of a project to be fully consulted upon, with the design of the project evolving up to the point of application submission.	The development of the DCO application documents has considered relevant legislation and policies which are explained within the documents. It has also been prepared in line with the relevant National Policy Statements.  The Applicant has consulted on the Proposed Development and both the <b>Environmental Statement [EN010163/APP/6]</b> and <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> have shown how the design has progressed including feedback from stakeholders.
Paragraph 004 Reference ID 02-004-20240430	The overriding objective of this guidance is to encourage a pre-application process which is effective and proportionate to the nature of the proposed project. This must ensure that the legal requirements of the <a href="#">Planning Act</a> and the <a href="#">EIA Regulations 2017</a> are met, particularly involving consultation stages and the early consideration of alternatives.	The <b>Environmental Statement [EN010163/APP/6]</b> and <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> outline how legal requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and EIA Regulations 2017 have been met.
Paragraph 004 Reference ID 02-004-20240430	<a href="#">Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the Planning Act</a> sets out statutory requirements for applicants to engage in pre-application consultation with local communities, local authorities, statutory consultees and those who would be directly affected by the project. This includes the Marine Management	As outlined in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> the Applicant has undertaken a proactive and thorough approach to engagement and consultation including a non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation, alongside ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>



	<p>Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in <a href="#">section 42(2) of the Planning Act</a>.</p> <p>The front-loaded emphasis on consultation in the NSIP consenting process is designed to ensure a good standard of preparation of applications enabling efficient acceptance and post-acceptance stages.</p>	landowner and tenants and statutory bodies.
<p>Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430</p>	<p>During the pre-application stage an applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>notify the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State of the proposed application on or before commencing statutorily required consultation under <a href="#">section 46 of the Planning Act</a>, principally with statutory bodies, local authorities and persons with interests in the land;</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State on 20 January 2025, as outlined in <b>Section 5.8</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>
<p>Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>notify the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State that they intend to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of the proposed development, or that they will be asking the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application (<a href="#">Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a>); this should be informed by early engagement with interested parties before formal consultation under <a href="#">section 42 of the Planning Act</a>;</li> </ul>	<p>A covering letter was sent to the Planning Inspectorate on 19th April 2024 to provide notification of the Applicant's intention to submit an Environmental Statement in respect of the Proposed Development. Details of the notification can be found in <b>Section 3.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>

<p>Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prepare a statement in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, commonly termed the Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”), which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that statement, as required by <a href="#">section 47 of the Planning Act</a> and <a href="#">Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a>;</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant developed and consulted the relevant local authorities on the SoCC as outlined in <b>Section 4</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p> <p>Details on how the consultation was delivered in line with the SoCC are included in <b>Section 5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>
<p>Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>make the SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, publishing the statement and a newspaper notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, as required by <a href="#">section 47 of the Planning Act</a>;</li> </ul>	<p>The final SoCC was published on the Applicant’s project website, as shown in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part C - Appendix C-5.3.</b></p> <p>The SoCC was made available to view at Gainsborough and Retford libraries which were considered the most reasonable locations for local communities. In addition, documents are also available to be viewed and collected at Sturton-le-Steeple Village Hall, which has irregular opening hours.</p> <p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Retford Times on 9 January 2025, 16 January 2025 and 23 January 2025</li> <li>The Nottingham Post on 16 January and 23 January 2025</li> <li>The Guardian on 9 January 2025</li> <li>The London Gazette on 9 January 2025</li> </ul>

		Clippings of the published notices are provided in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part C - Appendix C-6.2 – C6.5.</b>
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify and consult statutory consultees, local authorities and all persons with land interests as required by <a href="#">section 42 of the Planning Act</a> and <a href="#">Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009</a> (as amended) (“the APFP Regulations 2009”);</li> </ul>	<p>Persons prescribed under section 42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of the Schedule to the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 (“Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024”). The Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024 came into force on 30th April 2024 replacing the table in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“2009 Regulations”), with an updated table of prescribed consultees. The statutory consultation took place after 30 April 2024, therefore the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024 was used as the prescribed persons list.</p> <p><b>Section 5.4 of the Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> outlines the approach to identifying consultees under s42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 and when they were consulted.</p> <p>The Applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 and the dates they were notified in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part D - Appendix D-1.</b></p>
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set a deadline for consultation responses required by <a href="#">section 42 of the Planning Act</a> of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents as required by <a href="#">section 45 of the Planning Act</a>;</li> </ul>	Statutory parties were sent a letter on 17 January 2025 informing them the statutory consultation would run from 20 January to 3 March 2025, therefore providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.

Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>publicise the proposed application in accordance with <a href="#">section 48 of the Planning Act, Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a> and <a href="#">Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009</a>;</li> </ul>	<p>The section 48 notice was published in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Retford Times on 9 January 2025, 16 January 2025 and 23 January 2025</li> <li>The Nottingham Post on 16 January and 23 January 2025</li> <li>The Guardian on 9 January 2025</li> <li>The London Gazette on 9 January 2025</li> </ul> <p>Clippings of the published notices are provided in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part C - Appendix C-6.2 – C6.5.</b></p>
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation required by <a href="#">section 49 of the Planning Act</a>;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chapter 6 of the Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.] and Consultation Report Appendix H</b> set out how the Applicant had regard to the consultation responses received as part of the statutory consultation, including where a response has led to a change in the Proposed Development.</p>
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prepare a consultation report showing how the applicant has met the consultation requirements of <a href="#">sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act</a> and how the proposed application has been amended to take account of the relevant responses;</li> </ul>	<p>The <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> outlines how legal requirements of the Planning Act 2008 have been met.</p>
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meet the requirements of <a href="#">section 37 of the Planning Act</a> by submitting this consultation report to the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State with the application for development consent for consideration in the</li> </ul>	<p>The Application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 14 May 2025, which will include the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>

	decision whether the application is accepted for examination; and	
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have regard to this guidance as required by <a href="#">section 50 of the Planning Act</a></li> </ul>	This document outlines how the Applicant has had regard to the Pre-application Guidance.
Paragraph 008 Reference ID 02-008-20240430	The purpose of the Inception Meeting is for the applicant to discuss with the Planning Inspectorate their Programme Document, which sets out the intended programme for the pre-application stage and what work and studies are required for the preparation of an application. This Inception Meeting should include discussion of any anticipated requests for screening or scoping to help inform decisions on the right level of pre-application service to be provided by the Planning Inspectorate.	<p>An Inception Meeting was held on 10 January 2024. This was before the requirement for a Programme Document, although at this meeting, and in subsequent meetings with the Planning Inspectorate the Applicant provided an update on the programme for the project.</p> <p>In this meeting the Applicant explained it a scoping request was expected to be submitted by spring 2024.</p> <p>Following the requirements for a Programme Document, the Applicant submitted a Programme Document for the Proposed Development to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024.</p>
Paragraph 008 Reference ID 02-008-20240430	<p>In most cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others early in the preparation of applications.</p> <p>Separate <a href="#">guidance on cost recovery</a> explains where and how the Planning Inspectorate and some statutory consultees may recover costs for the services they provide in relation to NSIP applications / proposed applications.</p>	<p>The Applicant has engaged with statutory consultees throughout the preparation of the application.</p> <p>Details of engagement that has been undertaken with technical stakeholders and the associated outcomes are provided in <b>ES Chapter 2 - EIA Methodology &amp; Public Consultation</b> <b>[EN010163/APP/6.2.2]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 008 Reference ID 02-008-20240430	Before commencing statutory consultation under <a href="#">section 42 of the Planning Act</a> , <a href="#">section 46 of the Planning Act</a> requires an applicant to notify the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State of their intention to make an application for	<p>The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State 20 January 2025, as outlined in <b>Section 5.8</b> of the <b>Consultation Report</b> <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>

	development consent, and it must supply information in relation to the proposed application. This will be recorded and published by the Planning Inspectorate on the appropriate project page of the <a href="#">National Infrastructure Planning website</a> .	
Paragraph 009 Reference ID 02-009-20240430	<p>The pre-application process is applicant-led. To deliver a good pre-application process, including effective engagement and a well-prepared application, applicants should put together a Programme Document at the outset of the pre-application stage for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and agreement at the Inception Meeting. The Programme Document is an essential element of the quality standard for applications seeking a <a href="#">fast-track route to consent</a>.</p> <p>The Programme Document will enable all those engaged in the pre-application process, particularly statutory consultees, to understand the timescales and ensure their contribution is programmed into the pre-application stage at the most effective point. It will also assist the applicant in managing the preparation and subsequent submission of the application documents for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate at the acceptance stage.</p> <p>Following the Inception Meeting, it is expected that the applicant will host and maintain the agreed Programme Document on its website, and update it as necessary during the pre-application period to publicise completion of significant stages and demonstrate progress in preparation of the application.</p>	<p>The Pre-application Guidance and requirement for a Programme Document came into force on 30 April 2024. A Programme Document was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024.</p> <p>The document was uploaded to the project website on 7 August 2024. An updated version of the Programme Document will be prepared ahead of Examination.</p>
Paragraph 010 Reference ID 02-010-20240430	It should set out the timetable and activities necessary for an effective pre-application process including the level of pre-	The Programme Document for the Proposed Development was submitted to



	<p>application services from the Planning Inspectorate, and consultation with various parties required under the Planning Act.</p> <p>The Programme Document should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the date the applicant intends to submit their application;</li> <li>• a comprehensive timetable of the applicant's pre-application process, the main events with dates and milestones demonstrating how the pre-application process will be completed (using the maximum target of 2 years as a benchmark);</li> <li>• the applicant's view on the main issues for resolution and activities they will undertake to address those;</li> <li>• the applicant's proposals for engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities during the pre-application period and any intended financial support agreements, such as Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs);</li> <li>• the applicant's identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed; and</li> <li>• cross references to the SoCC required by <a href="#">section 47 of the Planning Act</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024.</p> <p>This document was drafted in accordance with this paragraph of the Pre-application guidance.</p>
Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430	<p>Although it is not mandatory, an applicant can request the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to provide an opinion on the scope of the Environmental Statement (the 'scoping opinion') i.e. what the assessment does, and does not, need to consider. Such a request</p>	<p>The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report <b>[EN10163/APP/6.3.1]</b> to the Planning Inspectorate on 23 April 2024, supporting their request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations. Under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations, a cover letter was also submitted as a</p>

	<p>must be accompanied by the information provided by the applicant required by <a href="#">Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a> in order that the Planning Inspectorate can make a fully informed view and respond within 42 days.</p> <p>The scoping opinion will take into account advice received from statutory consultees and other relevant organisations following the required consultation over a 28-day period within the 42 days. Any potential for transboundary effects must also be considered. The scoping opinion will confirm the programme of data collection and studies to be undertaken by the applicant, and contain recommendations where there is no need to explore certain topics (based on the information submitted at that time).</p>	<p>notification, to accompany the Scoping Report, which highlighted that the Applicant proposes to provide an Environmental Statement with an application for an order granting development consent. An EIA Scoping Opinion, <b>[EN10163/APP/6.3.1]</b> was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 3 June 2024.</p>
<p>Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430</p>	<p>Applicants should adopt a proportionate approach in the type and volume of information they request from statutory bodies during the preparation of their Environmental Statements to meet the requirements of <a href="#">Regulations 5, 14</a> and <a href="#">Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a></p> <p>At the same time, applicants also have to consider the level of detailed information which is actually available to enable the environmental effects to be assessed and included in the Environmental Statement. Applicants often naturally seek flexibility and may choose to describe the proposal in terms of the maximum parameters of the proposal and the establishment of a worst-case scenario for environmental assessment. The 'Rochdale Envelope' is now a well-established part of the approach to striking this balance.</p>	<p>The Applicant has adopted a proportionate approach in the type and volume of information requested from statutory bodies during the preparation of the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The Applicant has used the Rochdale Envelope approach within the Application, adopting a worst-case scenario in the Environmental Impact Assessment in order to retain a degree of flexibility within the design. This has enabled a robust assessment while maintaining a degree of flexibility in the design.</p>

	Applicants should always provide sufficiently robust and detailed data of the effects of the proposed development on the environment, so that these can be considered throughout the NSIP consenting process. Taking the Rochdale Envelope approach increases the spatial extent of the project, and will therefore increase the amount of evidence required to be submitted in support of the application. It is not an excuse to submit applications with insufficient supporting survey material. This can lead to an inadequate Environmental Statement and risk non acceptance of the application for examination.	
Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430	<a href="#">Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a> requires that an Environmental Statement includes a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, including a comparison of the effects of the development on the environment ( <a href="#">Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a> ). Inadequate consideration of alternatives has been used as a vehicle for legal challenge. Alternatives can range from matters such as micro-siting (where the development is located within the site) and alternative access points, to the size and scale of development, technological and design options. Applicants are advised to fully document all optioneering exercises and decision-making on alternatives from the inception of their projects in their application, and reference this appropriately in their Environmental Statement.	The Applicant has provided a description of the reasonable alternatives considered and their comparable effects on the environment, as well as the reasons behind the chosen option. This is presented in the <b>Environmental Statement Chapter 3 [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]</b> .
Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430	Regulations 11 to 13 of the <a href="#">EIA Regulations 2017</a> set out the pre-application publicity and consultation requirements for the EIA process pursuant to <a href="#">sections 47 and 48 of the Planning Act</a> .	A combined section 47 and section 48 notice was created in accordance with Regulations 11 to 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017. The notice was published on the Applicant's website and in:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Retford Times on 9 January 2025, 16 January 2025 and 23 January 2025</li> <li>• The Nottingham Post on 16 January and 23 January 2025</li> <li>• The Guardian on 9 January 2025</li> <li>• The London Gazette on 9 January 2025</li> </ul> <p>A copy of the combined section 47 and section 48 notice can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part C - Appendix C-6.1</b>. Detail of activity undertaken pursuant to section 47 and section 48 is included in <b>Section 4.5</b> and <b>Section 5.10</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430	Applicants need to give consultation bodies sufficient information about the characteristics of the proposed NSIP in order to enable them to respond in an effective and timely way about the likely environmental effects and avoid unnecessary delay. Applicants should discuss providing digital material where possible with relevant statutory consultees.	<p>A Preliminary Environmental Information Report was produced for the Statutory Consultation and a non-technical summary.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary were made available on the consultation website from 20 January 2025 as part of the statutory consultation. Screenshots of the consultation website from statutory consultation can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part F - Appendix F-13</b>.</p>
Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430	<a href="#">Part 6 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023</a> contains provisions to replace the current Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and EIA requirements with a new regime of Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR). Until the EOR regulations are in place to commence this new regime, the existing arrangements for environmental	The Applicant notes this and has followed the EIA requirements.

	assessment remain in place and this guidance should be followed accordingly.	
Paragraph 012 Reference ID 02-012-20240430	<p>Where an NSIP is determined to be EIA development in line with <a href="#">Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a> the applicant is required by <a href="#">Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a> to publish sufficient Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development. The information required will be different for different types and sizes of projects and it may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation.</p> <p>Applicants are advised to consult any relevant existing environmental assessments or survey information, in the first instance to get an idea of what environmental effects could arise. The key issue is that the information presented must be clear to all consultees, even if it is of specialised technical nature. As required by <a href="#">Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a> any difficulties or areas of uncertainty such as in data collection, forecasting methods or scientific knowledge must be identified and acknowledged.</p> <p>There is no prescribed format for PEI. However, depending on the availability of material, applicants are encouraged to prepare this as an early draft of the Environmental Statement and include it as such as part of the statutory consultation under <a href="#">sections 42, 47 and 48</a> of the Planning Act. If applicants decide to take a different approach, they should be clear with consultees about the status of the PEI.</p>	<p>A Preliminary Environmental Information Report was produced for the Statutory Consultation together with a non-technical summary. The document was available on the Applicant's project website, at deposit points and consultation events during the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary were both made available on the consultation website from 20 January as part of the statutory consultation. Screenshots of the consultation website can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part F - Appendix F-13.</b></p> <p>A hard copy of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report was made available for viewing at the deposit points at Sturton Village Hall, Gainsborough Library and Retford Library, as well as at in-person consultation events. The non-technical summary was available to view and take away from the deposit points at Sturton Village Hall, Gainsborough Library and Retford Library, as well as at the in-person consultation events during the statutory consultation. Late comments on the SoCC from Bassetlaw District Council requested two additional deposit locations. These were Bassetlaw District Council Offices and Retford Town Hall. All consultation materials apart from the Preliminary Environmental Information Report were presented at additional deposit locations from 20 January 2025. The non-technical summary was also available digitally, to download, or view on the consultation</p>

		<p>website. Hard copies were available to request for free via the Applicant's community contact channels, including email and phone.</p> <p>Detailed information about the availability of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary is included in <b>Section 5.12</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 012 Reference ID 02-012-20240430	<p>Applicants will need to maintain close dialogue with statutory consultees throughout the pre-application period. The provision of PEI can help statutory consultees to understand the environmental effects of the development and may assist in the identification and addressing of potential issues at an early stage in the pre-application process.</p>	<p><b>Section 5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> outlines how statutory consultees have been engaged.</p> <p>In addition, within the <b>ES [EN010163/APP/6]</b> each chapter provides a summary of any stakeholder engagement activities undertaken by the Applicant in relation to the respective environmental factors separately from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping, non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation processes, including details of the matters raised, how such matters have been addressed, and where they have been addressed within the DCO Application documentation.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report was developed to provide detailed preliminary environmental information regarding the Proposed Development, while a non-technical summary was developed to provide an accessible version of this information for consultation. Detailed information about the availability of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary is included in <b>Section 5.12</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>



Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430	The Habitats Regulations provide for the designation of sites for the protection of certain species and habitats. When considering whether a proposed NSIP has the potential to significantly affect the integrity of such sites, the applicant must provide a report as required by <a href="#">Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations 2009</a> . This must include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the relevant Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required under the Habitats Regulations, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment. Further relevant information can be found in the <a href="#">Planning Inspectorate's advice</a> and the <a href="#">Department for Environment, Food &amp; Rural Affairs guidance on Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)</a> .	The Applicant has provided an Information to Inform a <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment report [EN010163/APP/5.5]</b> . The report considers whether the Proposed Development is likely to have a significant effect on any relevant designated sites of nature conservation interest, either when considered alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. The report identifies no significant effects are likely, and therefore it is concluded that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required.
Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430	As NPSs reiterate, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide all the material and evidence as part of the application to enable the Secretary of State to carry out their statutory obligations. Where the applicant is of the view that there are no likely significant effects, this is best presented in the form of a report which contains all the material necessary to justify the conclusions reached, and evidence of the extent of agreement with statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs). One way of doing this is for an applicant to agree an evidence plan with the SNCBs to support a HRA where there are extensive or complex issues.	The Applicant has provided an Information to Inform a <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment report [EN010163/APP/5.5]</b> . The report includes all the material and evidence as part of the application to enable the Secretary of State to carry out their statutory obligations. The report identifies no significant effects are likely, and therefore it is concluded that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required. Evidence is included in the report of the extent of agreement with Natural England.
Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430	The Planning Inspectorate can also comment on the applicant's draft HRA report if agreed as part of the pre-application service in advance of formal submission of the application. Applicants	The Applicant has not sought comment on the draft version of the Information to Inform a <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment report [EN010163/APP/5.5]</b> through the pre-application service.

	must therefore build in sufficient time during the pre-application stage to consult with the SNCBs and, if they consider it appropriate, with any relevant non-statutory nature conservation bodies, in order to gather the necessary evidence and material.	However, the Applicant has consulted with Natural England during the pre-application stage and evidence is included in the report of the extent of agreement with Natural England.
Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430	<p>Where any potential for likely significant effects cannot be ruled out and the applicant needs to move to the subsequent stages of the HRA process, it is for the applicant to include as part of the HRA documentation included with the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a shadow appropriate assessment;</li> <li>• where necessary a draft of the applicant's case for derogations involving imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures, together with evidence of landowner agreements where necessary.</li> </ul> <p>Full HRA material must be provided as part of the application. This guidance requires the Planning Inspectorate not to accept applications for examination which are incomplete or not comprehensive in this regard. It is also expected that additional material should not be submitted by the applicant for validation during the examination stage. If such additional material is needed it will be requested by the Examining Authority or raised by SNCBs in their representations.</p>	The Applicant has identified in the Information to Inform a <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment report [EN010163/APP/5.5]</b> that no significant effects are likely, and therefore it is concluded that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required, with reference to a complete evidence base.
Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430	By placing the responsibility of compiling all the necessary HRA material on the applicant, coupled with agreed SoCG with SNCBs submitted with the application wherever possible, the expectation is that	The Applicant has consulted with Natural England during the pre-application stage and evidence is included in the Information to Inform a <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment</b>

	the range of disputed factual material should be reduced. In turn, the need for the Planning Inspectorate to produce its own document, the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES), for the Examining Authority to take into account during the examination and as part of the recommendation should also be decreased. This will contribute to improving the efficiency of the examination and reducing the burden placed on the Secretary of State as competent authority during the decision stage of the NSIP consenting process.	<b>[EN010163/APP/5.5]</b> of the extent of agreement with Natural England. A Statement of Common Ground has not been agreed as of yet, but the Applicant will progress this during the course of Examination.
Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430	<a href="#">Regulation 26 of the EIA Regulations 2017</a> requires that where an EIA and HRA are required, the processes should be co-ordinated. The HRA process should form part of, and reference, the work carried out for the broader EIA process, particularly with respect to consideration of alternatives, cumulative effects and mitigation options. However, care should be taken to ensure that the information relevant to the HRA and its conclusions are clearly discernible.	The Applicant confirms the production of the Information to Inform a <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment report [EN010163/APP/5.5] and Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010163/APP/6.2.7] of the ES [EN010163/APP/6]</b> and the associated ecological technical appendices, are coordinated and produced in tandem by the same technical experts.
Paragraph 014 Reference ID 02- 014-20240430	Applicants should involve a diverse range of people including where appropriate, planners, environmental specialists, landscape architects, architects, engineers and community groups in informing the project vision, narrative, design principles, and project design process to support delivery of the outcomes of the project.  Applicants should explain how the design responds to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) design principles for national infrastructure: climate, people, places and value.	The wider Project team, including planners, environmental specialists and engineers have been involved in the project design process. The <b>ES Volume 2, Appendix 4.5, Outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]</b> sets out the design principles of the project.

Paragraph 015 Reference ID 02-015-20240430	Applicants do now routinely set out in brief the main alternatives to their preferred scheme which were considered early during the pre-application stage and the consultees' responses to them. Applicants are encouraged to do so as this can demonstrate how project designs have been refined to take into account environmental, socio-economic and community effects. Any such consideration of alternatives should be submitted as part of the application, perhaps as part of the Planning Statement. All this will help to reinforce the applicant's case for promoting the NSIP in the particular form of the submitted application.	The Applicant has provided a description of the reasonable alternatives considered and the reasons behind the chosen option in the <b>ES [EN010163/APP/6]</b> .
Paragraph 015 Reference ID 02-015-20240430	Very exceptionally, there may be some real alternatives to elements of a proposed NSIP which the applicant chooses to put forward for examination on the basis that the Examining Authority could be able to recommend a preference to the Secretary of State. There may also be circumstances where an element of a proposed NSIP is so exceptional it is in the applicant's interest to provide a more particular consideration of alternatives to help demonstrate their eventual preference in the light of the policy requirements of the relevant NPS. In such cases, the applicant will need to ensure that sufficient technical material is included as part of the application to enable it to be properly investigated during the examination without leading to substantial delays.	Not relevant for the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 016 Reference ID 02-016-20240430	Applicants will often need to compile detailed records of land interests as part of the preparation of an NSIP application. These will be principally for the assembly of the Book of Reference required by <a href="#">Regulations 5</a> and <a href="#">7</a> of the APFP Regulations 2009 where applicable, including where compulsory acquisition of	<b>A Book of Reference [EN010163/APP/4.3]</b> has been submitted as part of the DCO application.

	land is proposed, or where applicants require rights to use land (for example, to undertake surveys) or carry out protective works to buildings.	
Paragraph 016 Reference ID 02-016-20240430	The strong expectation is that applicants of proposed NSIPs will act reasonably in engaging with landowners, and likewise landowners will cooperate with applicants to provide them with the information that they need and facilitate access to their land as required, even if they object to the principle of the development. Such cooperation does not preclude, remove or reduce any of the landowner's rights to participate in the consultation on an application or make representations about it during the examination.	The Applicant has been proactive in engaging with the key land area landowners through meetings and emails. More detail on engagement with landowners can be found in <b>Section 7.9</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> .
Paragraph 016 Reference ID 02-016-20240430	<p>These <a href="#">Planning Act</a> provisions help to minimise delays resulting from a lack of co-operation from people with interests in land. They are a back stop however, and the procedures involved are detailed and relatively time consuming. If an applicant does find themselves in this position, it is important to recognise this early in the process to lose as little time as possible during the pre-application period.</p> <p>Equally, there is an expectation that the Planning Inspectorate has procedures in place to handle requests from applicants in as efficient and timely a manner as possible. The Planning Act does not specify statutory timeframes for determining requests from applicants for authorisation. The complexity of circumstances varies of course, but the expectation is that the Planning Inspectorate should be able to process a straightforward request under either <a href="#">section 52</a> or <a href="#">section 53</a> of the Planning Act in no more than 3 months.</p>	The Applicant does not consider that there is an issue of lack of co-operation with those with land interests.

<p>Paragraph 017 Reference ID 02-017-20240430</p>	<p>One of the main advantages of the Planning Act is the ability to embrace several non-planning consents within the Development Consent Order (DCO). This enables a decision to be implemented as quickly as possible avoiding the need for a substantial volume of post-DCO consents, permits and licences to be obtained.</p> <p>However, a consent or authorisation listed under <a href="#">section 150 of the Planning Act</a> can only be included in a DCO if the relevant body responsible for granting it has agreed, and such consent or authorisation is prescribed in the <a href="#">Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015</a> (as amended) (“the IPMPP Regulations 2015”).</p> <p>The experience from those DCOs granted to date suggests that rather less use has been made of the provision in <a href="#">section 150 of the Planning Act</a> than had been expected, with several statutory bodies preferring to continue to retain these decisions to themselves subsequent to the making of the DCO. Whilst this can be complex to organise, the example of the Marine Management Organisation in handling deemed marine licences under <a href="#">section 149A of the Planning Act</a> within the body of DCOs shows that this should not be an impediment.</p> <p>The presumption should be therefore that where an applicant proposes a provision within their DCO to remove a requirement for a prescribed non-planning consent to be granted by the relevant body, the body that would normally be responsible for granting this consent is expected to make every effort to agree to the proposal. Such a body should only object to the inclusion of such provision with good reason, and after careful consideration of reasonable alternatives. It is therefore essential that such bodies are</p>	<p><b>Details of Other Consents and Licenses</b></p> <p><b>[EN010163/APP/5.9]</b> has been prepared to provide information on the additional consents and licences that are or may be required to construct and operate the Proposed Development. Table 1 paragraph 5.2 of the <b>Details of Other Consents and Licenses [EN010163/APP/5.9]</b> lists the type of consent or licence required, the relevant consenting body, any agreement that has been reached with that body, actions to be undertaken and the status of the relevant application (e.g. whether the consent or licence has been granted or the anticipated application submission date). This includes Environment Agency permits for water abstraction and water discharge.</p>
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	consulted at an early stage, and that applicants give thorough and early consideration to this aspect of pre-application preparation.	
Paragraph 017 Reference ID 02-017-20240430	Some permits regularly required to implement DCOs lie outside the provisions of <a href="#">section 150 of the Planning Act</a> , for example an environmental permit to operate a particular development issued by the Environment Agency. In this case, an applicant should confirm if an environmental permit is required for the proposed project at an early stage in the preparation of an application. Further guidance is provided by the Environment Agency ( <a href="#">Check if you need an environmental permit</a> and <a href="#">guidelines for development requiring planning permission and environmental permits</a> ).	<b>Details of Other Consents and Licenses [EN010163/APP/5.9]</b> has been prepared to provide information on the additional consents and licences that are or may be required to construct and operate the Proposed Development. Table 1 paragraph 5.2 of the <b>Details of Other Consents and Licenses [EN010163/APP/5.9]</b> lists the type of consent or licence required, the relevant consenting body, any agreement that has been reached with that body, actions to be undertaken and the status of the relevant application (e.g. whether the consent or licence has been granted or the anticipated application submission date). This includes Environment Agency permits for water abstraction and water discharge.
Paragraph 018 Reference ID 02-018-20240430	<a href="#">Section 149A of the Planning Act</a> provides that a DCO may include a marine licence deemed to have been issued under <a href="#">Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</a> . Such marine licences are issued by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and where an applicant intends to seek such a licence as part of the DCO it is essential that the MMO is consulted at the earliest opportunity to agree the content of the deemed marine licence (DML) and the range of conditions which will be applied. The MMO is responsible for enforcing these conditions, post-consent monitoring, and varying, suspending, or revoking any DML(s) included as part of a made DCO.	Not relevant for the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 020 Reference ID 02-020-20240430	The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and	The Applicant planned for a two-stage consultation. Non-statutory consultation introduced the plans to the community and stakeholders, whilst the statutory consultation provided more detailed

	uncontroversial application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections <a href="#">42</a> , <a href="#">47</a> and <a href="#">48</a> of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages. For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage statutory consultation process.	information on the design and environmental assessments.  More detail on the stages of consultation can be found in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> .
Paragraph 020 Reference ID 02-020-20240430	What consultation is planned and when will form a key part of the applicant's overall programme for completing the pre-application stage. It will need to be included in the Programme Document supplied by the applicant to the Planning Inspectorate for the Inception Meeting. Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to warrant going beyond the statutory 28-day minimum timescales for consultation laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response.	The latest Pre-application Guidance, including the need for a Programme Document, was published after the Inception Meeting. In the Inception Meeting and subsequent meetings with the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant has provided an update on the approach and timeline for engagement and consultation.  A Programme Document was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024. The document was uploaded to the project website on 7 August 2024.  The Applicant ran a 6-week non-statutory consultation and a 6-week statutory consultation. More detail on the stages of consultation can be found in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1.]</b> .
Paragraph 020 Reference ID 02-020-20240430	The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the effects. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. Equally, it is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in good time to	The Applicant ran a 6-week non-statutory consultation and a 6-week statutory consultation. More detail on the stages of consultation can be found in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1.]</b> .

	applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.	
Paragraph 020 Reference ID 02-020-20240430	<p>Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.</p> <p>Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.</p> <p>In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;</li> <li>• the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and</li> <li>• the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.</li> </ul> <p>For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a</p>	No targeted consultation has been required by the Applicant ahead of the DCO application submission.

	<p>whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.</p> <p>Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under <a href="#">section 42 of the Planning Act</a> have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 021 Reference ID 02-021-20240430</p>	<p><a href="#">Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act</a>, <a href="#">Regulation 3</a> and <a href="#">Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009</a> set out details of who must be consulted, including statutory bodies, the Marine Management Organisation <a href="#">where appropriate</a>, local authorities, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. <a href="#">Section 47 of the Planning Act</a> sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants will want to consider the issues that may need to be addressed ahead of submission and may also wish to seek the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.</p>	<p>Details of who was consulted as part of the statutory consultation are included in <b>Chapter 5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p> <p><b>Chapter 6</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> and <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part H</b> explains how regard has been had to the issues raised in the statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 021 Reference ID 02-021-20240430</p>	<p><a href="#">The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024</a> amended the <a href="#">APFP Regulations 2009</a> by substituting a new table of persons prescribed for the purpose of <a href="#">section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act</a> (duty to consult) and also <a href="#">section 56(2) of</a></p>	<p>Persons prescribed under section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 are listed in column 1 of the Schedule to the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024. These Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024 came into force on 30th</p>

	<p><a href="#">the Planning Act</a> (notifying persons of an accepted applications) which is covered in the <a href="#">acceptance guidance</a>. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all relevant prescribed consultees are consulted about a proposed application.</p>	<p>April 2024 replacing the table in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ("2009 Regulations"), with an updated table of prescribed consultees. The statutory consultation took place after 30 April 2024, therefore the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024 was used as the prescribed persons list.</p> <p><b>Section 5.4 of the Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> outlines the approach to identifying consultees under s42(a) of the Planning Act 2008 and when they were consulted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 021 Reference ID 02-021-20240430</p>	<p>While the list of prescribed bodies who must be consulted was updated in April 2024, from time to time a body may cease to exist but may still be listed as a statutory consultee in the Regulations pending their updating. In such situations applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Planning Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted all prescribed bodies. <b>Section 5.4 of the Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> outlines the approach to identifying s42(a) consultees and when they were consulted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 022 Reference ID 02-022-20240430</p>	<p>It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early engagement. This can help inform the Programme Document that they later take to the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Early engagement with local</p>	<p>The Applicant has taken a proactive approach to engagement with the local authority and parish councils. Briefings to key councils and parish councils offered before and during the non-statutory and statutory consultations. All details are</p>

	authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the best approach to engage the relevant communities in the most effective and proportionate way.	included in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> .
Paragraph 022 Reference ID 02-022-20240430	Under <a href="#">section 47 of the Planning Act</a> , applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern.	<p>The Applicant developed and consulted the relevant local authorities on the SoCC as outlined in <b>Section 4</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p> <p>The SoCC includes a range of ways to promote the consultation, including via social media. The Applicant also held online and in person events to aid accessibility to the consultation for a range of people.</p> <p>Details on how the consultation was delivered in line with the SoCC are included in <b>Section 5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 022 Reference ID 02-022-20240430	Local communities may need support to help them to input to the NSIP consenting process. Independent community liaison chairs or forums can be used to provide support to local communities and non-statutory consultees to enable them to provide an effective input to the pre-application process. Applicants will want to consider whether these should be used, not least to assist an applicant's own assessment of potential examination issues in preparing their Programme Document and SoCC.	The Applicant has not established a community forum. Instead, parish councils have been offered in person briefings where the project team has provided information on the Proposed Development, consultations and DCO process.
Paragraph 023 Reference ID 02-023-20240430	<p>Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consult the prescribed bodies as appropriate under <a href="#">Regulation 3</a> and <a href="#">Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009</a>, as well as the</li> </ul>	The Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and the APFP Regulations 2009 as outlined in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> .

	<p>Marine Management Organisation in certain circumstances, under <a href="#">section 42 of the Planning Act</a>, giving the consultees at least 28 days to respond;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>publicise their proposed application under <a href="#">section 48 of the Planning Act</a>, and <a href="#">Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009</a> sets out the detail of what this publicity must entail; and</li> <li>by <a href="#">section 49 of the Planning Act</a> have regard to any relevant consultation responses from either statutory consultees under <a href="#">section 42 of the Planning Act</a>, local communities under <a href="#">section 47 of the Planning Act</a>, or wider publicity under <a href="#">section 48 of the Planning Act</a>.</li> </ul>	
<p>Paragraph 023 Reference ID 02-023-20240430</p>	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from statutory consultees as expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the impacts of projects, and other important matters. In many cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others before the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Some statutory consultees have <a href="#">cost recovery arrangements in place for the advice they provide</a>. The ability for statutory consultees to respond effectively to pre-application requests for advice means they have the information they need from applicants to do so. It is essential therefore that applicants arrange early engagement with statutory consultees to avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the consenting process.</p>	<p>The Applicant has proactively engaged with statutory bodies, especially as part of the EIA process, as outlined in <b>Section 3</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b>.</p>



	It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. This requires statutory consultees to allocate the necessary resource and work with applicants to support them in developing their application, taking account of the issues they raise.	
Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	<p>Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under <a href="#">section 42</a> of the Planning Act they must identify and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question.</p> <p>It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of <a href="#">Regulations 5</a> and <a href="#">7 of the APFP Regulations 2009</a>.</p>	<p><b>Section 5.7 of the Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> outlines the method by which the Applicant made diligent inquiry to identify and consult persons with an interest in lands impacted by the Proposed Development and when they were consulted.</p> <p>A list of those persons consulted under s42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 is provided in <b>the Book of Reference [EN010163/APP/4.3]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	Where appropriate, the Book of Reference should be supplemented by a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker, submitted by the applicant and updated during the examination, setting out the status of negotiations with landowners, Crown bodies and statutory undertakers affected by proposals for compulsory acquisition of land or rights and temporary possession.	<p><b>The Statement of Reasons [EN010163/APP/4.1]</b> contains information on the progress of voluntary agreements with interested parties and Statutory Undertakers.</p>

Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	<p>It should be noted that for an accepted application, the situation concerning compilation of land interests can continue to evolve during the examination as new information becomes available, and it is not uncommon for the Book of Reference to be revised and resubmitted more than once. This is usually a substantial undertaking and applicants should dedicate sufficient time and resource, particularly as in many cases there may be parcels of land where there is little information available. With this in mind, applicants are advised to make maximum use of electronic data bases when compiling the Book of Reference to enable such changes to be made easily.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this advice and has employed a specialist Land Referencing company to undertake this work who utilise a database to produce the <b>Book of Reference [EN010163/APP/4.3]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	<p>In addition, land interests can change over time and new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process, it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination.</p>	<p>The Applicant has carried out diligent enquiry across all land included within the red line boundary. Immediately prior to Statutory Consultation a refresh of the land information was carried out to ensure that all identified land interests at that time. A further refresh has been carried out prior to submission to capture any changes to land interests and their holdings. No new land interests were identified.</p> <p>The Applicant intends to carry out additional refreshes of the land interest information ahead of each notice event. Any additional land interests identified will be consulted as soon as reasonably practicable.</p>
Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	<p>Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory</p>	<p><b>Section 7.9 of the Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> outlines how the Applicant has continued to undertake diligent enquiries to identify any new land</p>

	consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.	<p>interests after conclusion of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>A Land Registry refresh will be undertaken on project acceptance and prior to section 56 notices going out and again before the close of examination, to identify new interests.</p> <p>The <b>Book of Reference [EN010163/APP/4.3]</b> identifies all persons with an interest in land impacted by the Proposed Development.</p>
Paragraph 025 Reference ID 02-025-20240430	The Programme Document will enable the Planning Inspectorate to determine at the Inception Meeting that the proposed consultation arrangements are adequate for the level of complexity of the proposed project. The Programme Document should also identify an appropriate milestone during the pre-application stage to enable the Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.	The Applicant submitted a Programme Document on 10 July 2024.
Paragraph 025 Reference ID 02-025-20240430	This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.	The Applicant submitted the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement to the Planning Inspectorate on 19 March 2025. A copy can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part G - Appendix G-2.1.</b>
Paragraph 025 Reference ID 02-025-20240430	The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.	The Applicant submitted the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement to the Planning Inspectorate on 19 March 2025. A copy can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part G - Appendix G-2.1.</b>

<p>Paragraph</p> <p>025 Reference ID</p> <p>02-025-20240430</p>	<p>The adequacy of consultation milestone is an informal but nonetheless important opportunity to check that the pre-application programme is on track, and if it is seriously adrift the Planning Inspectorate will advise the applicant about the steps necessary to enable the application to be submitted having fulfilled the statutory requirements. Inevitably this could mean a renegotiation of the expected date of submission, with the objective of avoiding the prospect of an application not being accepted for examination.</p>	<p>The Applicant received comments from the Inspectorate on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement on 17 April 2025. The Inspectorate advised, having reviewed the Applicant's AOCM statement, that it considers that it clearly explains the Applicant's consultation activities undertaken to date and the approaches set out in its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). In respect of the third limb of what an AOCM should contain, the Inspectorate noted that the Applicant has stated that it is still currently analysing the statutory consultation feedback and will summarise the responses received and the way in which they have shaped the application in its Consultation Report.</p> <p>In preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has completed analysis of all statutory consultation feedback. These responses have been summarised alongside the Applicant's response, including information about how this feedback has been used to shape the application prior to submission. This information can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part H - Appendix H-1.</b></p> <p>The Inspectorate noted that only the host authorities, Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council, were consulted by the Applicant on its AOCM statement, with Nottinghamshire County Council's response stipulating it was satisfied with the adequacy of consultation to date. The Inspectorate advised that it is important, however, to include the views and any relevant supporting materials about the AOCM from</p>
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		<p>all relevant local authorities, where these are available.</p> <p>The Applicant has included an analysis of all consultation feedback received from relevant local authorities. This can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part H - Appendix H-2.</b></p>
<p>Paragraph 026 Reference ID 02-026-20240430</p>	<p>This report should not include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially, how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline;</li> <li>• set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under <a href="#">section 51 of the Planning Act</a>, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance;</li> <li>• set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC;</li> <li>• set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);</li> <li>• provide a description of how the proposed application for submission has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result;</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant submitted the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement to the Planning Inspectorate on 19 March 2025. A copy can be found in <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part G - Appendix G-2.1.</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and</li> <li>be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to.</li> </ul>	
Paragraph 026 Reference ID 02-026-20240430	It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.	As outlined in <b>Section 7.8</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1]</b> the Applicant has committed to developing a post-acceptance community update. This will include a link to the full consultation report. On acceptance of the application, the Applicant intends to release this onto the project website. The Applicant will contact members of the community that had responded to the statutory consultation and provided contact details, as well as those who had registered for updates on the consultation website and key stakeholders such as MPs and local councillors, to inform them of the document and where to access it.
Paragraph 026 Reference ID 02-026-20240430	A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant effects, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate.	All feedback from non-statutory and statutory, along with the Applicant's responses to the same, is provided in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> and <b>[EN010163/APP/5.1.1] Consultation Report Appendices Part H - Appendix H.</b>
Paragraph 027 Reference ID 02-027-20240430	Applicants should discuss with the Planning Inspectorate which support package is most suitable for their project, in advance of the	The Applicant had held its inception meeting before this guidance was published. The Applicant submitted an

	<p>Inception Meeting if necessary. The Planning Inspectorate will assess as early as possible what is likely to be expected of them and will offer the applicant the most appropriate level of service, which will be expected to run for a fixed period of time in order to help the applicant and the Planning Inspectorate manage their resources efficiently.</p> <p>Applicants who wish to switch between the levels of service should discuss this with the Planning Inspectorate, which will advise on the consequences of any change.</p>	<p>Expression of Interest form on 10 July 2024 setting out the service tier it considered most appropriate for the Proposed Development. This was the Standard service tier.</p>
<p>Paragraph 030 Reference ID 02-030-20240430</p>	<p>The programme-led approach, driven by the applicant through their Programme Document, is intended to support preparation of the application and address the issues it gives rise to in such a way as those which remain outstanding at examination are minimised. Applicants, working with those engaged in the pre-application process, have an important role to play to ensure that an examination focuses on the main differences between the parties.</p> <p>Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) can support this by providing a written statement (prepared by the applicant and another party or parties), setting out matters on which they agree or disagree. Applicants are encouraged to submit SoCGs as part of the application documents, even if they are of a provisional or draft nature to be developed during the examination. It is therefore important that these are prepared during the pre-application period wherever possible, particularly with statutory consultees and affected local authorities.</p> <p>Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS) record the key areas of disagreement together with a statement as to what precise change to the draft DCO is sought by the relevant interested party to</p>	<p>The latest Pre-application Guidance, including the need for a Programme Document, was published between the Applicant's non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation. A Programme Document was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024. The document was uploaded to the project website on 7 August 2024.</p>



	resolve the issues. Submission of PADSS are suitable for all types of application but are an essential element of a potential <a href="#">fast-track application</a> .	
Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430	<p>An application for an Order granting development consent must be made in the form and include such matters prescribed by <a href="#">section 37 of the Planning Act</a> and Regulations <a href="#">5, 6</a> and <a href="#">7 of the APFP Regulations 2009</a>. These cover a wide range of plans and documents which must be submitted and compliance with the requirements of these regulations is one of the main tests the Planning Inspectorate applies in reaching a decision about whether or not to accept the application for examination.</p> <p>The content of a proposed application set out in the regulations consists of 3 types of matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• those elements which must be included in any application such as the draft DCO, Explanatory Memorandum and works plans;</li> <li>• those elements which must be included but only where applicable, such as an Environmental Statement, Book of Reference and certain land plans (where altered means of access, and particular documents required by specific types of projects; and</li> <li>• any other documents or plans considered necessary to support the application.</li> </ul>	The Applicant has had regard to the matters prescribed by section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulations 5, 6 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009 when producing the DCO Application.
Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430	In practice therefore, each application will differ in content contingent on the nature of the proposed NSIP and the impact on local	The Applicant has had regard to the nature of its Proposed Development when

	features such as heritage assets and important habitats. There is flexibility offered by <a href="#">Regulation 5(2)(q) of the APFP Regulations 2009</a> , and in the light of experience of many proposals there are documents which most applicants now routinely submit such as a Design and Access Statement and a Code of Construction Practice, sometimes as part of the Environmental Statement.	deciding documents to submit as part of its DCO Application.
Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430	<p>The expectation now in this guidance is that there are standard documents which the Examining Authority will normally require as part of an application to support an informed decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a Planning Statement which provides a description of the proposed development and a summary of the main impacts, the policy context for the proposed development and how the project relates to the requirements of a designated NPS;</li> <li>• where the application involves a request for compulsory acquisition powers a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker which identifies each plot of land and enables the progress of negotiations relating to each one during the examination to be easily monitored; and</li> <li>• for proposed fast-track applications (and good practice for all applications) a document which sets out the applicant's view of the principal issues identified through pre-application process and the applicant's view on the extent to which they can be settled during the examination (this is explained</li> </ul>	<p>A <b>Planning Statement</b> [EN010163/APP/7.1] has been prepared and submitted in support of the proposed DCO Application.</p> <p>The DCO Application is not a fast-track application.</p> <p>The Applicant has included a Summary of Engagement with Affected Persons at Appendix 1 of the <b>Statement of Reasons</b> [EN010163/APP/4.1]. During the course of Examination, this, together with Appendix 2, which sets out the engagement to date with Statutory Undertakers, will be updated to monitor the negotiations as they relate to compulsory acquisition powers and agreements.</p>

	more fully in <a href="#">guidance covering fast-track</a> ).	
Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430	<p>A further consideration is the desire for flexibility sought by many applicants particularly in the draft DCO, so that refinements to the approved development can be accommodated as detailed design and implementation takes place. This is supported by specific references in some NPSs, but at the same time the DCO as a statutory instrument needs to be legally certain.</p> <p>A common way of balancing these requirements is to express the approved development by way of maximum parameters such as dimensions of buildings, reflecting the cautious worst-case approach also for the purposes of environmental assessment. This ‘Rochdale Envelope’ approach can be acceptable in formulating an NSIP application, but subject to the following considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the application documents such as the Planning Statement should explain and justify the need for, and the timescales associated with, the flexibility sought and this should be established within clearly defined parameters;</li> <li>the parameters established for the proposed development must be sufficiently detailed to enable a proper assessment of the likely significant environmental effects and to allow for the identification of necessary mitigation;</li> <li>the assessments in the Environmental Statement must be consistent with the parameters to ensure a robust worst-case</li> </ul>	<p>The spatial extent of the Proposed Development is referred to as the “Order limits” as shown on the <b>Order limits [EN010163/APP/2.4]</b> accompanying the DCO application. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) presented in the <b>Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010163/APP/6.2.0 to 6.2.19]</b> is based on the maximum extents of each of the Work numbers described in Schedule 1 to the Draft DCO as shown on the Works Plans. This approach, known as use of a ‘Rochdale Envelope’, arises from case law and is described in footnote 106 to paragraph 4.3.12 of NPS EN-1:</p> <p><i>“while it is not necessary or possible in every case to specify the precise details of development, the information contained in the ES should be sufficient to fully assess the project’s impact on the environment and establish clearly defined worst case parameters for the assessment. This is sometimes known as ‘the Rochdale Envelope’”.</i></p> <p>Technology within the solar photovoltaics and energy storage system sectors is rapidly evolving. To account for this in-built flexibility allows the most up-to-date technology to be utilised for the Proposed Development with detailed design to be managed post-consent through Requirements set out in Schedule 2 of the <b>Draft DCO [EN010163/APP/2.3]</b>.</p> <p>The <b>Design and Access Statement [EN010163/APP/7.3]</b> provides an overview of design objectives and design evolution of the DCO Application. It should be read in conjunction with accompanying</p>

	<p>assessment of the likely significant effects has been undertaken; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there must be sufficient information to enable all consultees to appreciate the impacts and effects of the proposed development and to meet the statutory consultation requirements; flexibility is not a reason for falling short in this regard.</li> </ul>	<p>documents submitted in support of the DCO application. The <b>Planning Statement [EN010163/APP/7.1]</b> includes further details regarding the need for the Proposed Development and the planning policy context in which the application is made. The site selection process details are provided in <b>ES Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [EN010163/APP/6.2.3]</b>.</p> <p>The final design of the Proposed Development will be within parameters of <b>ES Appendix 4.5 outline Design Principles [EN010163/APP/6.3.4]</b>.</p>
<p>Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430</p>	<p>Unless specifically requested by the Planning Inspectorate, there is no requirement to submit the application documents in hard copy form, and the expectation is that all material will be submitted electronically and published in due course on the Planning Inspectorate's <a href="#">National Infrastructure Planning website</a>. Documents should also be made available on the applicant's website. In due course the provisions of sections <a href="#">84</a> and <a href="#">85</a> of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 will be implemented to apply to the NSIP consenting process by requiring the submission of planning data as will be specified in regulations. This will further enhance the ability of applicants to submit applications in up-to-date digital formats.</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate has confirmed that the Applicant does not need to submit the application documents in hard copy form.</p>
<p>Paragraph 032 Reference ID 02-032-20240430</p>	<p>Applicants are required to consult the local authority in whose area a proposed NSIP project lies (the 'host' local authority). They are also required to identify and consult the neighbouring local authorities under the requirements of <a href="#">section 43(2) and (2A) of the Planning Act</a>. This explains how lower tier or unitary authorities adjacent to the host authority, and upper tier authorities</p>	<p><b>Section 5.5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> lists the relevant local authorities that were identified under section 43 of the Planning Act 2007 and consulted on 20 January 2025, in accordance with section 42(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008.</p>

	adjacent to the upper tier authority within which the proposal is located, should be consulted. Determining which neighbouring authorities should be involved can only be done on a case-by-case basis. If the boundaries of the proposed applications change, applicants will need to consider whether there are any changes to the local authorities they need to consult.	
Paragraph 032 Reference ID 02-032-20240430	Applicants need to appreciate the range of local government structures in England particularly, and the meaning of ‘local authority’ in <a href="#">section 43(3) of the Planning Act</a> for the purposes of consultation under the <a href="#">section 42 of the Planning Act</a> . Where a combined authority or combined county authority is in place, applicants are recommended to review whether the relevant legislation which established those authorities brings them within scope of the consultation requirements under the Planning Act. Unless functions of county, district or unitary authorities have been specifically transferred by legislation, then these type of government bodies would not be a ‘local authority’ under these sections of the Planning Act. However, it is good practice for applicants to work with the constituent local authorities to consider how a combined authority could best support development of the application.	<b>Section 5.5 of the Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> lists the relevant local authorities that were identified under section 43 of the Planning Act 2007 and consulted on 20 January 2025, in accordance with section 42(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008.
Paragraph 032 Reference ID 02-032-20240430	Depending on the nature and scale of the NSIP, and the extent to which a particular authority is affected, Planning Performance Agreements or mechanisms that provide <a href="#">cost recovery</a> may be appropriate. This should be set out in the applicant’s Programme Document for discussion and agreement with the Planning Inspectorate at the Inception Meeting.	The Applicant has engaged with both Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council to arrange for a Planning Performance Agreement to be in place to cover Officer time attending meetings that were held roughly every 4 weeks since July 2024 to March 2025 keeping both Local Authorities up to speed with the progress of the Steeple DCO Application. The Applicant intends on attending future meetings with both LPAs

		should this be necessary after formal submission of the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.
Paragraph 035 Reference ID 02-035-20240430	<p>When an application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, local authorities affected by a proposed NSIP are invited by the Planning Inspectorate under <a href="#">section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act</a> to confirm whether the consultation has been adequate in meeting the expectations set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>It is therefore vital that local authorities have been fully engaged during the consultation process undertaken by the applicant during the pre-application stage so that they are fully informed and able to respond authoritatively within tight deadlines in order that a decision on whether the application to proceed to examination can be made within 28 days. Accordingly, local authorities are advised to prepare their adequacy of consultation responses in advance of the acceptance stage, and to raise any concerns with applicants ahead of submission, and as part of the early adequacy of consultation milestone.</p>	The <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> includes details on how the local authorities have been engaged through the pre-application process.
Paragraph 036 Reference ID 02-036-20240430	Where a local authority raises an issue or concern about the draft SoCC which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to work with the authority to find an appropriate way forward. Where this is not possible, they should explain the reasons for this and rationale for their course of action in the consultation report submitted as part of their application.	No issues were raised about the SoCC from the local authorities.
Paragraph 036 Reference ID 02-036-20240430	Applicants have a statutory duty to consult any local authority in whose land a project is sited. So, where an offshore project also	The <b>Consultation Report [EN010163/APP/5.1.]</b> includes details on how the local authorities have been

	<p>features land-based development such as an onshore cable route and substation, the applicant should treat the local authority where the land-based development is located as the main consultee for the SoCC. The applicant is also advised to consider seeking views on the SoCC from local authorities whose communities may be affected by the project, for example visually or through construction traffic, even if the project is in fact some distance from the area in question. In addition, applicants may find it beneficial to discuss their SoCC with any local authorities in the vicinity where there could be an effect on harbour facilities.</p>	<p>identified and engaged through the pre-application process.</p>
<p>Paragraph 037 Reference ID 02-037-20240430</p>	<p>From the applicant's perspective, it is important that local authorities respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are expected to work with local authorities in preparing their Programme Document, including about how they support authorities to be effectively resourced to engage in a way that supports this Programme Document. Further consideration to these matters is provided in guidance dealing with fees, <a href="#">cost recovery</a> and Planning Performance Agreements.</p>	<p>The Applicant has engaged with both Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council to arrange for a Planning Performance Agreement to be in place to cover Officer time attending meetings that were held roughly every 4 weeks since July 2024 to March 2025 keeping both Local Authorities up to speed with the progress of the Steeple DCO Application. The Applicant intends on attending future meetings with both LPA's should this be necessary after formal submission of the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.</p>