



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 2008¹ ('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 Projects² ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024)
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus')³ (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:

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

² 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>

³ 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 website⁴.
- 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.

⁴ 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 website⁵.

⁵ 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
Changes made by the Applicant		
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.
Changes suggested by Nottinghamshire County Council		
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.	
Changes suggested by Bassetlaw District Council		
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	As well as the community consultation in accordance with section 47, this consultation will also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 	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"> • 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. 	<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"> • 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 	<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"> • 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. 	<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 form⁶ 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. 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.</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 https://steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</p>

⁶ Steeple Renewables Project, Statutory Consultation Feedback Form:
<https://steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/media/0tjlwuqj/steeple-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>Inside the consultation zone</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>Consultation newsletter</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 1st 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>Consultation Brochure</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>Navigation Document</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>Feedback Form</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>Exhibition Boards</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>PEIR</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: info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk 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>PEIR Non-Technical Summary</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>Maps and plans of the Project</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>Outside of the consultation zone</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>Consultation events</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>Webinar</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"> Wednesday 12 February 2025: 6:30PM-8:00PM <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: https://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/document-library/</p>
<p>Project contact details</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 (info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk) 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>Deposit Locations</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>Gainsborough Library</p> <p>Monday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM Tuesday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM Wednesday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM Thursday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Friday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM Saturday: 9:00AM - 1:00PM</p> <p>Retford Library</p> <p>Monday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Tuesday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Wednesday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Thursday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Friday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Saturday: 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 https://www.sturtonhall.org.uk/.</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>Project Website and virtual exhibition</p> <p>A dedicated project website (www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk) 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 1st 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>Press releases</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 Appendix E.</p>
	<p>Social Media</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.
	Emails and Letters The Applicant will send both emails and letters about the consultation programme to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs; • elected representatives at Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council; • host and neighbouring parish councils; • host and neighbouring local authorities; and • local interest groups, such as environmental groups. • Parish councils will be sent hard copies of the consultation brochure as part of the mailing to statutory consultees. 	<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>
	Statutory Notices 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>
	Information posters	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"> • Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council • North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe Parish Council • Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council • Knaith Parish Council • Lea Parish Council • North and South Wheatley Parish Council • Stow Parish Council • Beckingham cum Saundby Parish Council • South Leverton Parish Council • Clayworth Parish Council • Hayton Parish Council • Clarbrough and Welham Parish Council • Kexby Parish Council • Willingham Parish Council • Treswell with Cottam Parish Council
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. 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"> • geographically isolated communities • young people • older people • disabled people and those with learning disabilities • people who do not have English as a first language 	<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>Older people</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 1st 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>Disabled people and those with learning disabilities</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>Geographically isolated communities</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>Young people</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>People who do not have English as a first language</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"> • www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk: 24/7 • 0115 718 2070: 9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours) • info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk: 24 hours (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days) • FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project: 24 hours (mailbox will be monitored between 9am-5:30pm on weekdays) 	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 by 11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025. 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"> • Completing the feedback form online which can be accessed via the project website from Monday 20 January 2025: (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 • Writing to us at FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project (no stamp is required) 	<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 11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025 , 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: www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</p>	
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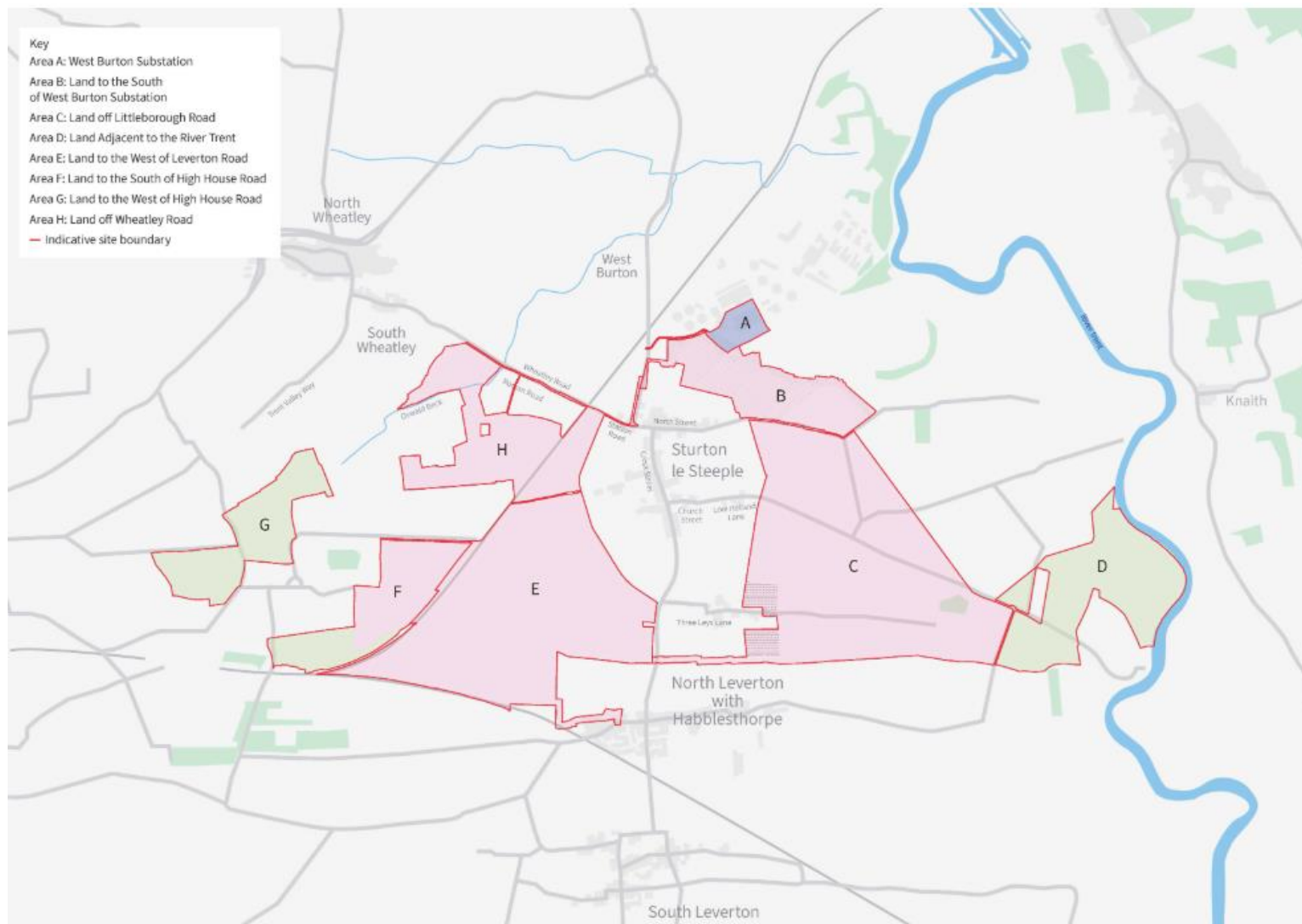
4. Next steps

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

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

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

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 as I have been off sick since 20th November 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 Nottinghamshire¹.

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.

¹The 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 2023².
- 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);
 - 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); and

² 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).

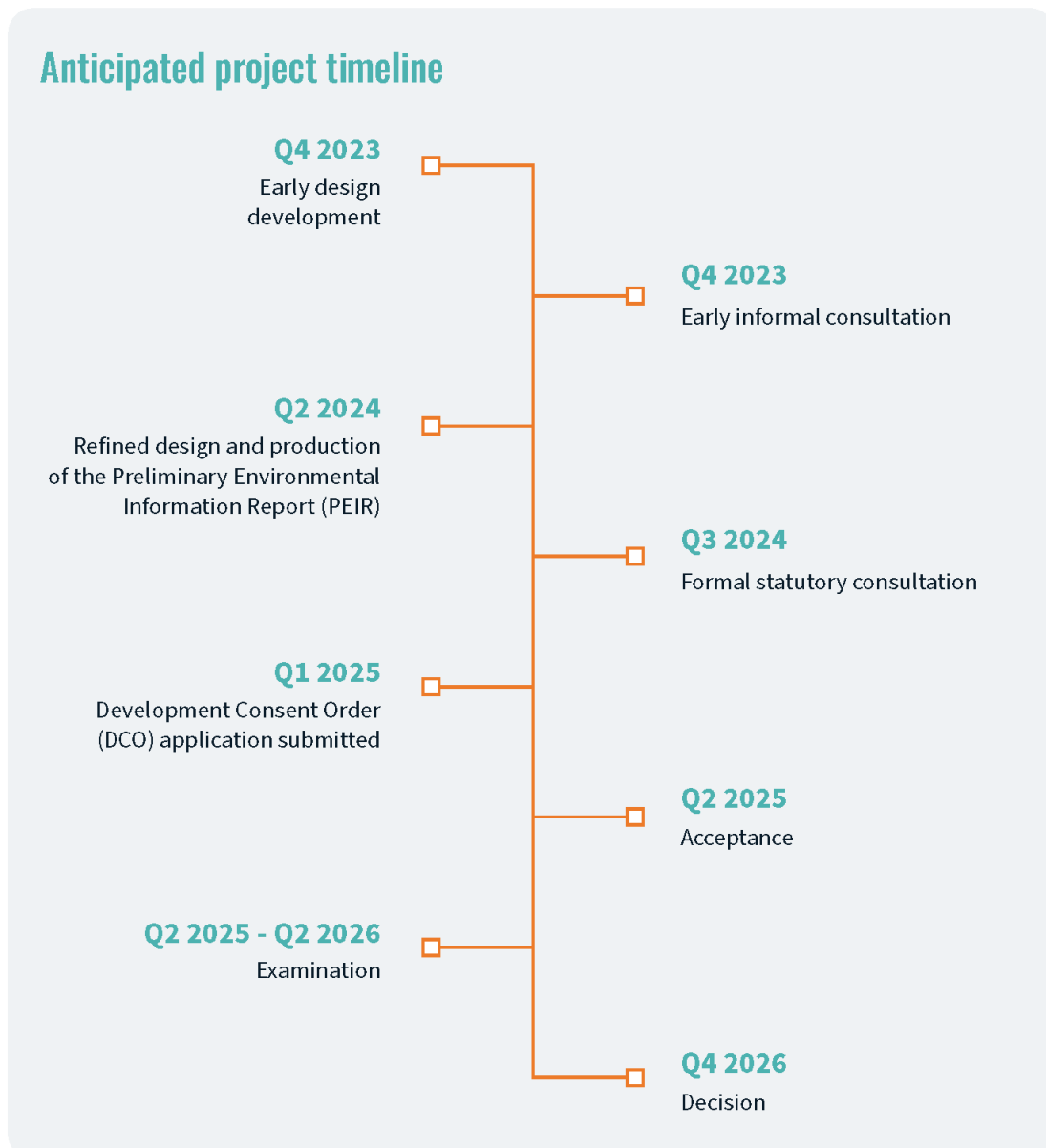
5.1.5. In total, throughout the six-week early informal consultation period, 118 responses were received.

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.

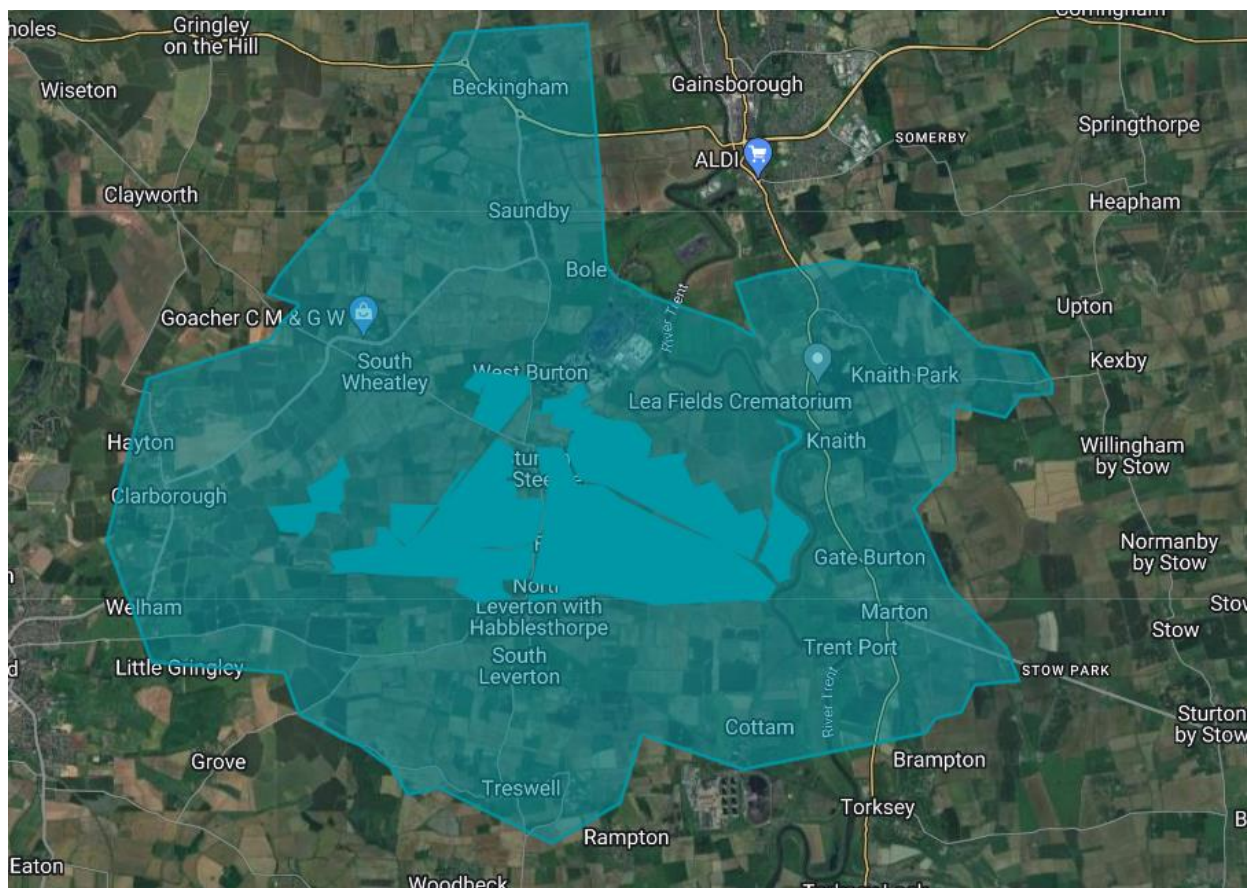
6.2.5. Within the CZ, the Applicant will be consulting any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the Project by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.

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
Consultation newsletter	<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>
Consultation brochure	<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 Table 4), and on request by contacting the project team.</p>

Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
Navigation document	<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 Table 4).</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>
Feedback form	<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 Table 4), 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>
Exhibition boards	<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>
PEIR	<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: info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk or by calling 0115 718 2070.</p>
PEIR Non-Technical Summary	<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>
Maps and plans of the Project	<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>
Materials in alternative formats	<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: info@steplerenewablesproject.co.uk or by calling 0115 718 2070.</p>

Table 3: The project website

Features	Rationale
Online downloadable copies of all the statutory consultation material, including: The PEIR, consultation brochure and feedback form	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.
Virtual exhibition	<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>
Web page content	<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"> • an overview of the Project, the energy it will generate, information on the opportunity the Project presents and the potential benefits it could bring • an up to date version of the site plan, rationale for site selection and zoomed in plans of each land area • a brief overview of the DCO process and an indicative project timeline

Features	Rationale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> benefits to the local economy and community that could be delivered as part of the proposals information about RES and its history as a renewable energy developer and its global portfolio of projects
Online feedback form	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.
Register for updates function	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.
Webinar registration form	To enable members of the public to register to join the webinar.
Contact details	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

Consultation methods	
Method	Detail
Consultation events	<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 Table 5.</p>
Stakeholder briefing meetings	<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>
Webinar	<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"> Wednesday 12 February 2025: 6:30PM-8:00PM <p>A recording of the webinar will be made available online for those unavailable to attend.</p>
Project contact details	<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 (info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk) or write in (FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project)</p>
Deposit and information points	<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>Gainsborough Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM Tuesday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM Wednesday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM Thursday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Friday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM Saturday: 9:00AM - 1:00PM <p>Retford Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Tuesday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Wednesday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM Thursday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM

Consultation methods	
Method	Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM • Saturday: 9:00AM – 3:30PM <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 https://www.sturtonhall.org.uk/.</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>
Project website and virtual exhibition	<p>A dedicated project website (www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk) 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
Consultation newsletter	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.
Press releases	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.
Social media	<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>
Emails and letters	<p>The Applicant will send both emails and letters about the consultation programme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs; • elected representatives at Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council; • host and neighbouring parish councils; • host and neighbouring local authorities; and • local interest groups, such as environmental groups. <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
Statutory notices	<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>
Newspaper advertising	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.
Information posters	<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
Older people	<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>
Disabled people and those with learning disabilities	<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>
Geographically isolated communities	<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>
Young people	<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.
People who do not have English as a first language	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
Website	www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk	24/7
Telephone	0115 718 2070	9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours)
Email	info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk	24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days)
Post	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)
- 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
- 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.

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
 - 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

RE: Steeple Renewables Project - Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

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)
