

Sturton le Steeple Parish Council

REF: **F3F24EF8E**

Speaking on behalf of the PC: Cllr Lynn Clapperton

Written submission for The Environmental Impact Meeting 12 November 2025

Principle of the proposed development

What brownfield sites have been considered?

Relationship with other proposed projects

Both National Grid and UKAEA have made representations to the applicant pointing out where their projects overlap, had already requested additional information and assurances from the applicant and at the time of submitting their RR, disappointingly, had not received a response. In the case of National Grid, the planned construction phases will overlap. Public consultation to date, has been superficial and inadequate as the applicant has provided the local community with little to no detail regarding the inter relationship of these nationally significant projects. Multiple applicants are planning to utilise the same sub-station grid connection and assets. The cumulative modelling is incomplete and has not taken full account of all projects. Robust measures and mitigations would need to be designed in collaboration with National Grid and UKAEA to minimise additional unnecessary adverse impact on our residents.

Landscape & visual

Sturton le Steeple Parish Council strongly disagree with the Applicants Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. Residents have been used to viewing a single detracting feature (West Burton Power Station) in an otherwise open, agricultural landscape. This development, if accepted, will render the entire view industrial in nature, therefore, the scale of change in views experienced by Residents will be overbearing and not low, minor or moderate as suggested by the Applicant. This large-scale infrastructure will fundamentally alter the existing character of our rural community.

Cllr Clapperton will add further comments to this point under the Historic Environment agenda.

Historic environment

Sturton le Steeple Parish Council agree with Nottinghamshire County Council and Historic England that the applicants approach to assessment of buried heritage is profoundly flawed and conclusions and proposed mitigations are based on insufficient data.

Cllr Clapperton will expand on the Historic Environment of Sturton.

Flood risk, groundwater and contaminated land

Sturton le Steeple Parish Council would like to request independent verification of flood risk data and highlight the need for robust construction-phase controls. Parts of the proposed development is within known flood zones. Local experience of our Parish and neighbouring villages have demonstrated repeated field flooding and drainage issues, which, on occasion has resulted in road and school closures. Our farmers are on control traffic farming (all farm machinery is limited to fixed tramlines) as the site includes heavy clay soils that are prone to compaction which in turn increases run off.

The Environment Agency has mentioned within their relevant representation that the conceptual site model is inadequate and that not all sources of contamination have been assessed. We call for an independent site Condition report of the former COMAH site (West Burton Power Station) to assess for contamination and to understand the risks to developing this land. Further assurance is required around water quality to mitigate environmental risk.

Land use and agriculture

The sites includes Grade 2 and 3a farmland, officially "Best and most versatile." National policy (NPPF, EN-3, DEFRA Guidance) says BMV loss should be avoided wherever possible. The applicant states that the effects will be temporary, however, the significant loss of working land will threaten the viability of many farms and is likely to affect 3 generations of farmers. We call for compensation for affected farms and continue to have significant concerns about the negative impact this project will have on national food security. We would also like to request an independent expert opinion on the predicted soil degradation.