

## 6 Historic Environment – submission summary

### Introduction

This is a summary of the key issues around Agenda Item 6 submitted on behalf of Fields for Farming (FFF). It seeks to oppose the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) by Steeple Renewables Limited (the “Applicant”) for the Steeple Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the “Proposed Development”).

The area around the affected villages of Sturton-le-Steeple, North Leverton, South Wheatley, Fenton & Littleborough is steeped in history.

### 6.1 Archaeology

The County Archaeologist and Inspector of Ancient Monuments were both sceptical of the approach taken by the Applicant and by the relative paucity of their results. Given the size and significance of the Roman settlements, its ribbon developments and the route of the Lindum-Danum road, we also believe the Applicant is understating the importance of the Archaeological remains, not only around Littleborough but Burton Round, Sturton and the surrounding ridge and furrow fields.

We believe that a much more detailed and thorough investigative project should be undertaken prior to any granting of a DCO.

### 6.2 Listed Heritage

The presence of 33 listed buildings locally, many of them directly adjacent to the proposed development, shows the important historical and cultural heritage.

The Applicant’s approach to this issue is to parcel up each “asset” without considering setting or context, and to seek to limit the negative impact to “minor” by ignoring the ability of the human eye to take in the broader landscape and the impact on it created by mitigation measures largely comprising high hedges designed to block the open views, as these would be compromised by the intrusion of rows of solar panels.

### 6.3 Conclusion

Any proposed development must take into account the potential and irreversible damage to the character setting of a number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments of national importance, as outlined by the Local Development Plan and endorsed by a number of historical and other bodies. The Applicant’s current environmental report has singularly failed to address these issues, instead concluding that “anything can be mitigated” and that “there would be no significant environmental impact”: both claims absurdly wide of the mark.