

From: [Lynn](#)
To: [Steeple Renewables Project](#)
Subject: Update for deadline 1 Sturton parish council
Date: 14 November 2025 11:27:49

Lynn Clapperton on behalf of Sturton Le Steeple's Parish Council.

Firstly I just want to say we fully support Fields for Farming; our community group; many of our residents are involved and we thank them.

My role today is to bring an overview of Sturton Le Steeple's place in history and it's historic environment.

With Sturton, there is certainly a lot of significant history, it's not only important locally, nationally but in some cases world affecting history that cannot and must not be denied. I'll come onto the detail of that shortly.

As a Parish Council, we have been very active in promoting tourism for this immediate area. A large scale, inappropriately located solar farm will alas become the focal point of the village rather than a welcoming place for visitors and a celebration of our World Changing Heritage.

As the Powerstation comes down and the large chimneys are removed, we are at an important juncture where historic landscapes and vistas will be restored and our nationally important and special medieval church tower will once again be the high point of the village seen from so many viewing points. In particular, as you come down from the main Retford Road, you'll see Leverton Windmill followed by Sturton's St Peter's and St Paul's church as focal features.

We have been partnering with tour guides, historians, hosting history talks, area walks that take in the landscape and historic vistas and we are looking to boost the tourist attractiveness and economy for this area.

We have a lot to offer as a village and play a larger role in this area as part of various Pilgrim Trails including Bassetlaw's District Council's Pilgrim Trail.

The combination of significant figures that emerged from here make Sturton of unparalleled importance.

John Lassells, burnt at the stake with Anne Askew for standing up for his beliefs against Henry 8th emerged as one of the most significant leaders and martyrs of the English Reformation.

John Smyth, the very first English Baptist, was born and educated here. He stood up religious freedom / liberty for all whatever your belief.
He's very important in Baptist circles both here and in America

John Robinson, the spiritual leader of the Mayflower Pilgrims was also born in Sturton. He is very important in American history with memorial plaques in Leiden in the Netherlands.

Catherine White who married John Carver was also born in Sturton and went to New England.

John and Catherine travelled on the Mayflower and he was the first Governor in America and signed the Mayflower compact with the local tribe which is the origin of Thanksgiving and how it started.

Our wonderful commissioned original piece of sculpture in our Community Reflection Garden, paid for through Rural England funding and Pilgrim and Prophets tours reflect the importance placed on our village. Rural England Funding through Bassetlaw District Council gave us their maximum funding allowance of £10,000 which shows their faith in this.

We are a stop off point for modern day visiting Pilgrims.
(I don't know if anyone else has been watching the BBC T.V show Pilgrimage now in its 6th series where celebrities walk various Pilgrim trails). This concept has become very current again.

Americans are particularly interested with the links to signing the Mayflower compact and we do have coach parties and small groups visiting.

A local historian and tour guide told me that Travelling through this district of Bassetlaw, they often comment that they have reached 'the real England' with its pattern of small villages and fields. He commented that this landscape will be destroyed by the proposals and the attraction of the area's heritage much reduced. Views across the fields to the Sturton church tower, familiar to Smyth and Robinson in their day, will be destroyed.

Indeed I have another accompanying email from another area tour guide that wrote to me upon hearing about the solar project which states ——

“Hello

I wanted to tell you that I strongly oppose the proposed solar plan around Sturton le Steeple. Apart from the loss of prime agricultural land this area is of great importance historically both to America, Holland and ourselves as it was the birthplace of John Robinson - the Minister of the Separatists who travelled to Amsterdam and also his congregation, some of whom travelled on the Mayflower to America. It is also the birthplace of John Smyth who founded the Baptist faith. Sturton is also where the Congregational Church began. This area should be protected and should have special historic status

Yours sincerely

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The Burton round and It's lost village which borders the parish has links to Shakespeare; a very big name as we know.

The West Burton Round is a paleochannel of the River Trent that was significant enough to be mentioned by Shakespeare;

The Burton Round was historically a lengthy meander which enforced a detour on all boats using the Trent.

Shakespeare was not particularly happy about the Burton Round and wrote a short piece of verse.

Methinks my moiety, north from Burton here,
In quantity equals not one of yours:
See how this river comes me cranking in,
And cuts me from the best of all my land
A huge half-moon, a monstrous cantle out.
I'll have the current in this place damm'd up;
And here the smug and silver Trent shall run
In a new channel, fair and evenly;
It shall not wind with such a deep indent,
To rob me of so rich a bottom here.

Why am I quoting Shakespeare; because I want to give a sense of place so you can grasp the rich, cultural heritage and the significance of this place.

The former course of the 'Round' can still be traced for its entire length and therefore forms a landscape of unique historical and geographical significance, and a rare example of a truly 'Shakespearean' scene.

There is so much history here that I don't have time to cover it all.

We have so much archeological history including a significant Roman landscape with a major road later used by King Harold and a major Roman site at Littleborough.

So many walkers and ramblers come through our Parish including spurs off from The famous Trent Valley Way. The Trent Valley Way is 154 mile footpath through Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Open views look across to Sturton as well as from the nature reserve at Claborough Tunnel.

Walking in the outdoors, amongst nature, has been proven to boost our mood and improve our mental wellbeing.

Our Walkers use a surviving network of green lanes and public rights of way and as I've looked at the various walks; a quote from one of the walks states;

"As you walk through the fields and along the country lanes, you cannot help but notice the far-reaching views, and on a bright day you can even see Lincoln Cathedral, perched high on the hill "

The open landscape and framed view of the church is unique.

Another quote states

"The word Steeple on Sturton Le Steeple likely derives from the impressive pinnacles on the church tower, which can be seen from miles around."

These open views should certainly never have the security fencing planned around the solar panels that will block these open views often talked about. Unique long distance

views with public rights of way should never ever have fences.

Imagine the change in language for our walkers, ramblers, public rights of way if the solar fields are given the go ahead.

“ You can’t help but notice the far reaching views of solar panels, fences and security cameras”

(The current landscape represents a form that came into being from the 1770’s with the development of the Laneham Drainage Scheme, including the Catchwater Drain and major outfalls at locations such as West Burton to utilise further fields for farming. Prior, this was the River Trent Flood plain).

Speaking as well to other National Infrastructure projects; The STEP project and The National Grid Upgrade, I implore you; consider the visual impact of what you are planning. Make sure they sit carefully within the landscape, consider our vistas, work with our community. We are a unique community with a wonderful heritage. We mustn’t be forgotten and lost in an industrial landscape.