



Planning Inspectorate

[via PINS portal]

Our ref: XA/2026/100525

Your ref: EN010163

Date: 22 January 2026

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DEADLINE 3: STEEPLE RENEWABLES.

RESPONSE TO DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED AT DEADLINE 2.

This response constitutes the Environment Agency's Deadline 3 submission.

We have reviewed the Deadline 2 submissions, and our comments are set out below. A summary of our position is provided in Appendix 1: Work Package Tracker.

[REP2-008] 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order (Tracked) (Revision A)

The Environment Agency requests inclusion as a named consultee on:

- Requirement 9 Operational environmental management plan
- Requirement 10 Fire risk management plan
- Requirement 16 Surface and foul water drainage
- Requirement 21 Decommissioning and restoration

[REP2-012] Flood Risk Assessment

We are generally satisfied that the amendments address our concerns.

Para. 8.1.4 Regarding the impact of development on flood risk, we accept the general conclusion that any displacement of floodwater will be negligible. However we still feel that further quantification should be provided to support the assertion that floodplain impact will be negligible. This does not need to be modelled, but can take the form of a basic volumetric calculation to support the conclusion.

[Rep2-013, REP2-014 & REP2-015] Hydraulic Modelling

Regarding sensitivity testing for the Catchwater Drain, the updates to the hydraulic modelling report dated January 2026 are welcomed and the results appear reasonable. It is noted that structures have now been included within the respective 1d model networks as requested and sensitivity testing has been undertaken. It would be useful if the applicant could provide a copy of the updated 1d models described in the model report so we can validate the associated flood risk impacts which are described.

[REP2-019] Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage (Tracked) (Revision 2)

[REP2-022] Phase 1 Geoenvironmental Desk Study (Tracked) (Revision 2)

[REP2-024-028] Phase 1 Geoenvironmental Desk Study Appendix (B) Historical Maps

[REP2-037] Water Framework Directive Assessment (Tracked) (Revision 2)

We have been unable to review these documents in time for this deadline and will provide comments at Deadline 4.

[REP2-030] Outline Fire Risk Management Plan (Tracked) (Revision 2)

We are generally satisfied that the amendments address our concerns regarding the use and management of fire water.

[REP2-034] Surface Water Drainage Strategy (Tracked) (Revision 2)

We are satisfied that the amendments made address our concerns regarding the management of potentially contaminated firewater, and the associated maintenance activities of the associated infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,

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Appendix 1: Work Package Tracker

Subject	Work package	Scope	Method	Results	Mitigation	Requirement	Tier1 (matter for refusal)/ Tier2 (can be resolved in inquiry)	Notes
Flood risk	Flood Risk Assessment						T2	Working on resolutions.
Flood Risk	Flood Risk Modelling						T2	Model for Catchwater Drain has been updated and results appear reasonable. EA requests sight of the updated 1d models for validation of the associated flood risk impacts
Ecology and Fisheries	Decommissioning Plan						T2	Resolved.
Ground water & contaminated land	Conceptual Site Model						T2	Working on a solution. Updated CSM still to be reviewed.
	oCEMP						T2	Issues regarding groundwater testing have been resolved. Mitigation for unexpected contamination, and instruction for dewatering, should both be included in Outline CEMP, OEMP & DP.
	Surface Water Drainage Strategy						T2	Resolved
	Outline Fire Risk Management Plan						T2	Resolved
Water Quality	oCEMP						T2	Expand wording of the oCEMP to ensure adequate scope of the detailed management plans : Temporary Construction Drainage Strategy, Water Management Plan, Foul Water Management, Pollution Incident and Emergency Response Plan