

Steeple Renewables Project

Hearing Notice

January 2026

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The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Rule 8(1)(b)



Hearing Notice

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STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT

SECTIONS 91 AND 92 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

RULE 13 (6) OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

NOTICE OF HEARINGS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, at the date, time and place set out below, a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and Issue Specific Hearings 2 and 3 (together the Hearings) will be held by the Examining Authority (appointed by the Secretary of State) for the examination of the application made by Steeple Solar Farm Limited (registered company number: 13889253) of Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Station Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LR ("the Applicant") for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under sections 14, 15 and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Application").

The Application was submitted by the Applicant to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate of Wednesday 14 May 2025 and was accepted for examination on 11 June 2025. The Application has been given the Planning Inspectorate reference number EN010163.

Summary of the Proposed Development

Steeple Renewables Project consists of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure, which would allow for the generation and export of 600 megawatts of electricity located on land adjacent to West Burton Power Station in the administrative boundary of Bassetlaw District Council (the "Proposed Development").

The Proposed Development comprises nine connected land areas adjacent to West Burton Power Station. The Proposed Development will connect to the grid via the National Grid Substation at West Burton Power Station, which will transfer electricity into the national electricity network.

The main elements of the Proposed Development include:

- Solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure (e.g. PV module mounting infrastructure, inverters, transformers and switchgear);
- Cable infrastructure (including high, medium, and low voltage power, earthing, communication, and control);
- Substation compound housing an onsite substation and control buildings;
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound house Battery Storage Enclosures (BSE) and associated infrastructure;
- Fencing and security measures;
- Internal access tracks and crane hard standings;
- Site entrances onto the highway;
- Temporary construction areas, worker facilities, compounds, and infrastructure;
- Landscaping including creation of new habitat areas;
- Permissive paths; and
- Biodiversity mitigation.

The Proposed Development is a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) because it would be able to generate over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity. This is an application made to the Planning Inspectorate and decided by the Secretary of State in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.

A map showing the location of the Proposed Development can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website at the following address: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010163-000143-6.4.6%20Figure%206.1%20Site%20Location%20Plan.pdf>

If the DCO is made by the Secretary of State, it would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development. The DCO would also authorise the construction of temporary and permanent accesses to the Proposed Development, the temporary stopping up or diversion of

public rights of way, street works and highway works, and the application and disapplication of certain legislation.

Hearings

The Examining Authority's letter dated 19 January 2026 contains details of the Hearings taking place in February 2026 and these will be held at the dates, times and locations set out in the table below:

Hearing dates and locations

Date	Hearing	Start time	Place
Wednesday 11 February 2026	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)	Registration and seating available from: 09.00am Virtual registration process from: 09.00am Event start: 09.30am	West Retford Hotel, 24 North Road, Retford, DN22 7XG and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Wednesday 11 February 2026 And Thursday 12 February 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on Environmental Matters, likely to include but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use and agriculture Flood risk, groundwater and contaminated land Biodiversity and ecology Historic environment Landscape and visual Other matters to include: fire risk; transport, noise and dust 	11 February 2026 Registration and seating available from: 13.30pm Virtual registration process from: 13.30pm Event start: 14.00pm 12 February 2026 Registration and seating available from: 09.00am Virtual registration process from: 09.00am Event start: 09.30am	West Retford Hotel, 24 North Road, Retford, DN22 7XG and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Friday 13 February 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) on the draft Development Consent Order	Registration and seating available from: 08.30am Virtual registration process from: 08.30am Hearing starts: 09.00am	West Retford Hotel, 24 North Road, Retford, DN22 7XG and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

If you wish to attend and/or participate in any or all of the above Hearings you must register by completing the Planning Inspectorate's event participation form by 2 February 2026. If you only wish to observe the Hearings virtually, registration is not required. A livestream of each Hearing will be made available shortly before it begins, via a link on the Planning Inspectorate's project webpage for the Proposed Development. The Examining Authority's letter dated 19 January 2026 at page 3 contains a link to the Planning Inspectorate's event participation form, along with further details about how to register. The letter can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's project webpage and is available using the following link: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010163-000437-Steeple%20-%20Rule%2013%20Hearing%20notification%20-%2019%20Jan%202026.pdf>

Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided by the Planning Inspectorate in advance to those have pre-registered.

Virtual Attendance – Registration Process

All virtual participants are required to complete a registration process 30 minutes prior to each Hearing. This process, led by the Planning Inspectorate, will take place before the scheduled start time to allow adequate time for all attendees to be admitted.

Cancellation of Hearings

In the event that a Hearing is no longer required, reasonable notice of the cancellation will be provided. This will be communicated by means of a banner displayed on the Planning Inspectorate's project webpage for the Proposed Development. In the event that a Hearing is no longer required, reasonable notice of the cancellation will be provided. This will be communicated by means of a banner displayed on the Planning Inspectorate's project webpage for the Proposed Development.

Notification of Additional Hearings

For more information on the Hearings, the examination of the Application and full timetable (and any amendments to it), including how and when to register to speak at the Hearings and how and when to make written submissions, please contact the Planning Inspectorate using the details at the bottom of this notice, or visit its website where procedural decisions and notice of hearings are available to download: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163>

Copies of the Application and Accompanying Documents

Copies of the Application documents, including the draft Development Consent Order, the compulsory acquisition information (including the Land Plans, Book of Reference, Funding Statement and Statement of Reasons) and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded online at the Planning Inspectorate's project website under the Documents tab: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163>

All further documents submitted in the course of the examination of the Application will also be published in the Examination Library which can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's project website for the Proposed Development under the Documents tab. The Examination Library is regularly updated throughout the examination.

On request, an electronic copy of the Application Documents can also be provided free of charge on a USB memory stick, which will be limited to one USB per household or business. To request a USB, please contact the Applicant using the contact details provided at the end of this notice.

The Application Documents are available to view electronically free of charge at the locations and times set out below:

Location	Address	Opening times
Retford Library	17 Churchgate, Retford, DN22 6PE	Monday-Friday 9am-6pm and Saturday 9am-3:30pm
Gainsborough Library	Cobden St, Gainsborough DN21 2NG	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 9am-1pm

The Application Documents can be supplied in hard copy format on request to the Applicant at a cost of £0.35 per page (up to a maximum of £4,200 for the full suite of documents).

Further Information

Further information about the Application, the Hearings, how to take part in the examination and any other matters covered in this notice may be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate or the Applicant using the following contact details:

The Planning Inspectorate	The Applicant
<p>The Planning Inspectorate should be contacted in written form via the following email address:</p> <p>SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk</p> <p>Telephone: 0303 444 5000</p> <p>Website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163</p> <p>Post: Planning Inspectorate, c/o QUADIENT, 69 Buckingham Avenue, Slough, SL1 4PN.</p> <p>Please quote the Application reference number EN010163 in any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate about this DCO.</p> <p>Correspondence about this DCO should be marked: FAO Steeple Renewables Project</p>	<p>The Applicant would request that written correspondence should be directed to the following email address: info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</p> <p>Telephone: 0115 718 2070</p> <p>Post: FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project</p> <p>Any details you provide to the Applicant via telephone, email or post will be subject to its privacy policy and will be treated confidentially and processed and handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. The information may be disclosed to or shared with the Applicant's connected companies, agents, contractors and advisors who provide services to the Applicant in connection with the Application.</p>