

The Planning Inspectorate

c/o Quadrant

69 Buckingham Avenue

Slough, SL1 4PN

22 January 2026

Dear Mr Wiltshire

Application by Steeple Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Steeple Renewables Project

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 8 and 9

Further to the Examining Authority's Rule 8 letter dated 20 November 2025, I write in respect of the information requested from the Applicant at Deadline 3 (22 January 2026).

Documentation Submitted at Deadline 3

Please find enclosed the following documents which have been requested from the Applicant at Deadline 3:

“Rule 8” Submissions

1. Comments on Deadline 2 Submissions

In response to the Deadline 2 submissions received, the Applicant has provided a response in a single document **Applicant Comments on Deadline 2 Submissions [EN010163/EX/8.24]**. The ExA will note that the Applicant has not responded to every document received at Deadline 2. In respect of Historic England, Natural England, Network Rail, North Leverton Windmill Trust, West Burton Solar Project Limited the Applicant has either addressed the points raised previously or has updated the SoCG with the respective party to account for the new comments. The Applicant has also not sought to repeat the whole of a submission where it is responding only to particular paragraphs. Therefore, in respect of some of the responses, the ExA will see only a partial copy of the interested party's deadline 2 submission.

2. Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) between Applicant and certain IPs [EN010163/EX/8.21; 8.25-8.34]

The Applicant notes that the ExA has requested SoCG's from the parties listed in Annex G of the Rule 6 letter dated 10 October as well as the parties noted in Annex B of the Rule 8 letter. The Applicant has submitted SoCGs for the following parties:

- a. Bassetlaw District Council
- b. Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council
- c. North Leverton and Hablesthorpe Parish Council
- d. Hayton Parish Council
- e. North and South Wheatley Parish Council
- f. Lincolnshire County Council
- g. Environment Agency
- h. Natural England
- i. The Canal and River Trust

Where the Applicant has been unable to provide a signed SoCG by Deadline 3, the Applicant has updated its record of engagement in the Statement of Commonality to demonstrate the efforts currently being made to provide the ExA with signed copies.

“Annex E” Submissions

3. Statements of Common Ground and Statement of Commonality of SoCG

Progress on the SoCGs is, summarised in the **Statement of Commonality of SoCGs [EN010163/EX/8.7]** included in the Applicant's Deadline 3 submission.

4. Guide to the Application

A revised **Application Guide [EN010163/EX/1.4]** has been submitted at Deadline 3.

5. Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)

The Applicant notes the request to include the latest, fully up-to-date versions of the dDCO and Explanatory Memorandum with each deadline. The Applicant has provided an updated dDCO **[EN010163/EX/3.1]** compared to the version submitted at Deadline 2. The Applicant has included a Schedule of Changes **[EN010163/EX/8.20]** which sets out the changes made, as well as a justification for these changes. The Explanatory Memorandum was not required to be updated.

6. Land Rights Tracker

The Applicant has provided an updated **Land Rights Tracker [EN010163/EX/8.6]** at Deadline 3, in the format provided at Figure 1, Rule 6 letter.

7. Updates to the Statement of Reasons and Land Plans

The Applicant has provided a revised **Statement of Reasons [EN010163/APP/4.1]** and **Land Plans [EN010163/EX/2.1]**. The changes relate to consistency amendments with the Book of Reference where some plots were being noted as the wrong category

of interest compared to the Book of Reference. In no case has the Applicant revised its approach to land acquisition, and has not sought any additional rights or interests as a result of these changes.

8. Schedule of progress in securing other consents

This has not been provided as there have been no meaningful updates.

9. Report on the Interrelationship with other National Infrastructure projects

The Applicant has provided an updated Report on the Interrelationship with other National Infrastructure Projects **[EN0101/EX/8.7]** to provide additional commentary on the STEP fusion project.

“Non-Rule 8” Submissions

10. Revised Environmental Statement Chapter 7 **[EN010163/APP/6.2.7]**

This has been amended to provide further clarification regarding the Applicant's approach to badger setts.

11. Revised Outline Soil Management Plan and BMV Technical Note **[EN010163/APP/6.3.15; EN010163/EX/8.35]**

This has been provided in response to ExQ12.0.3, and in response to requests by Natural England.

12. Revised Outline CEMP, Outline OEMP, Outline DP **[EN010163/APP/6.3.4]**

These documents have been updated to account for commitments made to interested parties in the course of the examination.

13. Mineral Safeguarding Assessment, and Local & Regional Landfill Capacity Assessment **[EN010163/EX/8.22;8.23]**

These assessments have been provided as a result of comments made by Nottinghamshire County Council as county mineral authority, and in response to ExQs.

14. Revised Surface Water Drainage Strategy and appendices G,H, L, M **[EN010163/EX/6.3.8]**

These documents have been revised as a result of ongoing engagement with interested parties, including the Environment Agency.

15. Revised and additional material to support LVIA **[EN010163/APP/6.3.6]**

The Applicant has provided:

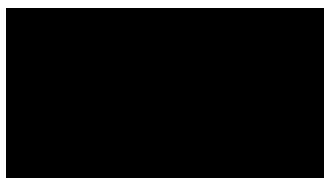
- a. Additional photomontages – winter **[EN010163/EX/8.36]**
- b. Appendix 6.1 – Photo Record with cumulative annotations
- c. Appendix 6.2 – Photomontages – Part 1 Summer with cumulative annotations
- d. Appendix 6.2 – Photomontages – Part 2 Winter with cumulative annotations.

In respect to Appendix 6.1 and 6.2, the Applicant has added a yellow bracket on the images to reflect the North Humber to High Marnham Scheme.

16. Rule 13 Hearing Notice **[EN010163/EX/8.37]**

For completeness, the Applicant provides a copy of the Rule 13 Hearing Notice published for the purpose of the hearings in week commencing 9th February in accordance with rule 13(6) and 13(7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Yours sincerely



Will Bridges

DCO Lead Developer

