

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

**Agenda for compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) 1 dealing with matters relating to compulsory acquisition (CA) and temporary possession (TP):**

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
<b>Compulsory acquisition hearing 1 on the applicant's overall case for compulsory acquisition and temporary possession and site/plot specific issues</b>	<b>Wednesday 11 February 2026</b> <b>Hearing starts at 09.30am</b> Registration and seating available at venue from 09.00am and virtual Registration Process from 09.00am	West Retford Hotel, 24 North Road, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 7XG and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

**Agenda items**

**1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing**

**2. Purpose of CAH1**

A CAH is being held to:

- ensure adequate examination of the provisions within the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) seeking to authorise the CA of land and/ or rights over land
- assess whether the conditions relating to the land and/ or rights being required for the proposed development or required to facilitate or be incidental to that development are met
- assess whether there is a compelling case in the public interest for the land to be acquired compulsory
- To discharge the ExA's duty to hear persons affected by CA and TP proposals (affected persons (APs)) who request to be heard

### **3. The applicant's case for CA and TP**

The ExA will ask the applicant to present and justify its case for CA and TP including addressing the following matters:

- How the relevant statutory and policy tests under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) (including s.122, s123, s127, s132 and s138) and Department for Communities and Local Government guidance related to CA would be met.
- Identification of the powers sought and their purpose.
- The applicant's strategy and criteria for determining whether to seek powers for CA of land, CA of rights or TP of land.
- Consideration of alternatives to CA and /or TP of land.
- Human rights considerations.

The ExA will invite submissions from APs who wish to raise general matters in relation to the applicant's case for CA and TP.

### **4. Site specific issues for the applicant**

The ExA will ask the applicant to provide a brief update on the progress of negotiations with APs and the timetable for their conclusion.

The ExA may ask questions of the applicant about matters arising from written and oral submissions and may require further site-specific information in order to justify proposed CA as a last resort.

### **5. Site specific representations by APs**

The ExA will ask APs to briefly set out, if any, outstanding concerns in relation to CA and/ or TP for the land which they own and/ or occupy that have not been addressed by the Applicant.

The ExA will ask questions to the applicant in relation to engagement and any outstanding concerns in relation to CA and/ or TP of land.

### **6. Site Specific issues for statutory undertakers – Sections 127 and 138 of the Planning Act 2008**

The ExA will ask the applicant to provide an update on negotiations with statutory undertakers and the progress of agreeing protective provisions set out in schedule 10 of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)

The ExA will ask statutory undertakers to set out any outstanding concerns that have not been addressed by the applicant, and the timescales for providing any alternative wording to Schedule 10 of the dDCO if not already provided.

The ExA may ask questions of statutory undertakers about matters arising from written and oral submissions.

The applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

## **7. Review of issues and actions arising**

## **8. Any other business**

## **9. Closure of the Hearing**

### **Attendees**

All APs are invited to attend CAH1. However, the ExA would particularly find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing.

- Applicant
- Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council
- Any statutory undertaker who has outstanding matters in respect of land rights, protective provisions, or a case that should be heard in respect of s127 or s138 of the PA2008
- Any other public authority, body or organisation who would be affected by and has submitted comments

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All interested parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the case team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

### **Timing**

The ExA will keep to the agenda as much as possible. The hearing is not expected to go beyond 12.30pm.

Anyone who is not able to provide all their oral submissions by the close of the hearing should follow it up in writing.

## **Registration process**

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the hearing to start on time at **09.30am** those attending virtually should join promptly at **09.00am** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

## **Procedure at CAH**

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.