

Steeple's Renewables Project EN010163

Written Submission following ISH2 11th & 12th February 2026

Mr & Mrs Barlow

General Comments

We are coming to the end of the examination process, and it is noted that many of the assessments result in low impact or minor significance. We still do not agree with these findings. Landscape and views will be totally lost, heritage setting changed, total loss of public amenity in the area

Throughout this process we have noted that the applicant and their advisors rely heavily on subjective professional judgement rather than empirical, site-specific data. By deferring detailed infrastructure design until after the DCO is granted, the developer has introduced a series of "unknown unknowns" that downplay the potential for contamination and environmental harm. Furthermore, the flood risk assessments appear fundamentally skewed; by failing to model the reality of pump failure and the cumulative impact on local watercourses, the applicant has prioritised the protection of their own assets over the safety of the community. This pattern of optimistic assumptions fails to satisfy the precautionary principle and results in a significant underestimation of the project's true environmental and hydrological impact.

The applicant should be made to demonstrate safety. By deferring the detailed design of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and solar plant infrastructure until after the Development Consent Order (DCO) is granted, the applicant has failed to do this and creates a gap in the Environmental Impact Assessment and should not be used as a reason to ignore the risk as required – use of the Rochdale Envelope is wide in this application.

The Secretary of State has a legal duty to apply a precautionary principle, not least of all that BESS sites are not currently covered under Schedule 1 Environmental Permitting activities and poses unacceptable risk to the River Trent and the surrounding valley's ecosystem.

Specific

We are concerned about potential impacts on our farm which is neighbours this proposed project

Flood

We do not believe that the flood risk from Oswald Beck has been adequately assessed given potential for run-off into this Dyke. NCC as the local flood authority have noted that there is significant water run-off in this area and there does not

appear to be any managed mitigation or SuDs planned for this area of the proposed development and our concerns have not been addressed.

Badgers

The project has a two-year construction phase, during this time a number of badgers setts are planned to be closed (permanently or temporarily), during this period there is risk to our Original Population of Lincoln Red Cows which has not been adequately assessed. These badgers could move to the land that our herd grazes significantly increasing the risk of TB spread. The movement of even a small number of badgers from a larger sett has risks that could lead to members of the same sett following onto our land. The mitigation proposed is movement rather than total avoidance which move the risk to us where currently we are TB clear.