



Planning Inspectorate

[via PINS portal]

Our ref: XA/2026/100541/2

Your ref: EN010163

Date: 23 March 2026

Dear Sir

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DEADLINE 4: STEEPLE RENEWABLES.

RESPONSE TO DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED AT DEADLINE 4 and RESPONSE TO ExQ2

We have reviewed the following documents submitted at Deadline 4.

- [REP4-023] Flood Risk Assessment and 6.3.8 ES Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Tracked) (Revision 3)
- [REP4-030] Applicant comments on Deadline 3 submission (Revision 1)
- [REP4-025] Statement of Commonality (Tracked) (Revision 4)

Our comments are set out below.

[REP4-023] Flood Risk Assessment and 6.3.8 ES Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Tracked) (Revision 3)

Comments regarding this FRA Rev 3 have now been superseded by FRA Rev 4 which was discussed at a meeting between the applicant and the Environment Agency on 12th March 2026. At that meeting we requested amendments to FRA Rev 4. All requested amendments were subsequently incorporated into FRA Rev.5 which has since been reviewed by the Environment Agency. Subject to the submission of the agreed FRA Rev5 at Deadline 5, then all flood risk matters have been agreed to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency.

[REP4-030] Applicant comments on Deadline 3 submission (Revision 1)

Table 1.1 – We are satisfied with the applicant’s comments.

[REP4-025] Statement of Commonality (Tracked) (Revision 4)

Section 4.4 - The position as described here was correct at the time this document was submitted at Deadline 4. This position has now been superseded and a final SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 5.

Response to ExQ2

Q9.4.1 Protective Provisions – Schedule 10 of the dDCO [REP3-006] does not include any for the Environment Agency. We are satisfied that there has been no request made to the Environment Agency regarding the use of protective provisions.

Q10.0.5 Flood risk assessment – decommissioning phase. The Environment Agency have reviewed an updated FRA Rev 5, to be submitted at Deadline 5. We are satisfied with the assessment of decommissioning phase flood risk impacts. The FRA has assessed floodplain volume loss due to infrastructure within the 100year plus 39% climate change extent and we accept the conclusion that there would be negligible loss of floodplain storage.

Q 10.0.6 Hydraulic assessment. The Environment Agency reviewed the hydraulic model and the outputs from it. We are satisfied that our comments have been addressed in Revision 5 of the Flood Risk Assessment, to be submitted at Deadline 5.

Yours sincerely,

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