

The Planning Inspectorate

c/o Quadient

69 Buckingham Avenue

Slough, SL1 4PN

24 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

### **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 5 (24 March 2026).

### **Documentation Submitted at Deadline 5**

Please find enclosed the following documents which have been requested from the Applicant at Deadline 5:

#### **“Rule 8” Submissions**

1. Applicant Response to ExA Second Written Questions (ExA Q2) [EN010163/EX/8.47]

The Applicant has set out its responses to ExQ2s in the above document.

2. Comments on the RIES

As there was no issue of the RIES by the ExA, the Applicant has not provided a comment.

3. Comments on Deadline 4 Submissions [EN010163/EX/8.46]

In response to the Deadline 4 submissions received, the Applicant has provided a response in a single document entitled **Applicant Comments on Deadline 4 submissions** [EN010163/EX/8.46] The ExA will note that the Applicant has not

responded to every document received at Deadline 4. Where the Applicant has not responded, this is due to the Applicant considering that its submissions on the matter have been clear to date and no further clarification or information is required in relation to that submission. An omission to respond should not be taken as tacit agreement to the point being raised by the other party.

## “Annex E” Documents

### 4. Guide to the Application

A revised **Application Guide** [EN010163/EX/8.1.4] has been submitted at Deadline 5.

### 5. Development Consent Order [EN010163/EX/3.1] and Explanatory Memorandum [EN010163/EX/3.2]

The Applicant has revised the **dDCO** and **Explanatory Memorandum**. The Applicant has provided a tracked copy against the version of the DCO submitted at Deadline 3. A **Schedule of Changes** [EN010163/EX/8.20] has been prepared to support the amendments, which set out the justification for these changes.

The Applicant has also provided a tracked version of the Explanatory Memorandum against the version of the EM submitted at Deadline 2.

### 6. Land Rights Tracker

The Applicant has provided an updated **Land Rights Tracker** [EN010163/EX/8.6]

### 7. Documents not submitted

The Applicant is aware that other Annex E documents include the Book of Reference, Statement of Reasons, Land Plans, Consents and Agreements Position Statements and Report on Interrelationships with other National Infrastructure Projects.

With respect to the Book of Reference, Statement of Reasons and Land Plans, the Applicant has programmed a refresh of these documents to be completed for Deadline 6 and therefore has no updates to provide to these documents at this Deadline.

With respect to the Consents and Agreements Position Statements the only update that the Applicant is able to provide is that a **Letter of No Impediment (LoNI)** [EN010163/EX/8.55] has been issued by Natural England on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. Due to proximity of the issuance of this Letter, the Applicant has been unable to update this statement but has provided the letter into examination for review. The Applicant will update the Consents and Agreements Position Statements at Deadline 6 accordingly.

With respect to the Report on Interrelationships with other National Infrastructure Projects, the Applicant has no further updates to make.

### “Non-Rule 8” Submissions

#### 8. Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) between Applicant and certain IPs [EN010163/EX/8.27; 8.34; 8.45;8.49; 8.51]

The Applicant has submitted SoCGs for the following parties:

- a. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- b. Historic England \*unsigned\*
- c. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- d. National Highways
- e. Environment Agency

Where the Applicant has been unable to provide a signed SoCG by Deadline 4, the Applicant has updated its record of engagement in the updated **Statement of Commonality** [EN010163/EX/8.5] to demonstrate the efforts currently being made to provide the ExA with signed copies.

The Applicant has provided an unsigned version of the Historic England SoCG, this is due to the fact that whilst the Applicant has been able to have substantive engagement, historically, with Historic England it has been unable to obtain engagement more recently to complete the SoCG.

The Applicant has not provided a signed SoCG with Anglian Water due to a copy being currently in circulation between the parties for signature. Therefore, the Applicant will provide this at Deadline 6.

The Applicant has not provided an SoCG with Network Rail due to the document not being sufficiently progressed to provide a useful narrative. The Applicant considers its Section 127 Report to be a full account between the parties.

The Applicant has not submitted an SoCG with Natural England as the recent issuance of an LoNI meant that substantive parts of the SoCG would be inaccurate and out of date, the Applicant is preparing a new SoCG to account for this change and therefore, the Applicant will provide this at Deadline 6.

## 9. Updated Outline Management Plans and Environmental Documentation

The Applicant has updated a number of documents as a result of engagement with other parties. These are:

- a. Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [[EN010163/APP/6.3.13](#)]
- b. Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [[EN010163/APP/6.3.4](#)]
- c. Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [[EN010163/APP/6.3.4](#)]
- d. Outline Decommissioning Plan [[EN010163/APP/6.3.4](#)]
- e. Outline Fire Risk Management Plan [[EN010163/APP/6.3.4](#)]
- f. Outline Fire Risk Management Layout plan [[EN010163/EX.2.25](#)]
- g. Information to Inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment [[EN010163/EX/5.5](#)]
- h. Viewpoint Assessment [[EN010163/APP/6.3.6](#)]
- i. Surface Water Drainage Strategy [[EN010163/APP/6.](#)]
- j. Flood Risk Assessment [[EN010163/EX/6.3.8](#)]
- k. Assessments of Public Rights of Way [[EN010163/APP/6.3.6](#)]
- l. Chapter 15: Land Use and Agriculture [[EN010163/APP/6.2.15](#)]
- m. Chapter 18: Summary [[EN010163/APP/6.2.18](#)]
- n. Environmental Statement: Non Technical Summary [[EN010163/APP/6.1](#)]
- o. Magnitude Surveys Geophysical Survey Report [[EN010163/APP/6.3.9](#)]

## 10. Transport Note [[EN010163/8.52](#)]

The Applicant has provided a transport note, which sets out a number of technical points which National Highways wanted clarifying. This has resolved matters with National Highways, and the Applicant has provided a signed SoCG to that effect.

## 11. Archaeology and Solar Farm: Good Practice Guide – Consultation Draft [[EN010163/EX/8.53](#)]

This is a document that is being prepared by Solar Energy UK. The Applicant has provided it into examination at the request of the ExA.

12. Section 127 / 138 Report [EN010163/EX/8.54]

The Applicant has provided a section 127 / 138 report to set out its justification for any element of agreement and disagreement between it and various statutory undertakers.

13. Letter of No Impediment [EN010163/EX/8.55]

The Applicant has provided a letter of no impediment issued by Natural England in relation to its draft application for a European protected species license.

Yours sincerely



DCO Lead Developer

