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To:  
Steeple Solar Farm Limited  
Historic England

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010163

Date: 02 April 2026

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Dear Sir/Madam,

## **The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 17**

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

#### **Request for further information**

The Examining Authority (ExA) is writing to request further information under rule 17 of the above rules, following its observations and considerations of submissions made during the examination. The ExA requests the following further information and clarifications from the following parties highlighted in **bold**.

#### **Biodiversity and Ecology - Skylark**

**Applicant:** During issue specific hearing 2 agenda item 6, and as summarised in Written Summaries of Oral Submissions [REP4-031], it was stated that there is no policy requirement to provide like-for-like or 100% replacement for skylarks or other Section 41 species. Explain whether the proposed mitigation and compensation measures has fully applied the mitigation hierarchy in respect of avoiding, mitigating and compensating significant harm to skylark. If not, explain why not.

In addition, the Planning Statement [REP2-040] (Appendix C page 117) states that there would be "no residual significant adverse effects on any species and habitats as a result of the Proposed Development". Yet chapter 7 of the Environmental Statement (ES) [REP3-009] concludes there would be residual significant effects (including cumulative) on skylark. Clarify whether there is a discrepancy between the documents. The applicant is also requested to review the accuracy of the figures in paragraph 6.5.29 and 6.5.30 of the Planning Statement which appear to differ from those quoted in the ES.

#### **Habitats Regulation Assessment**

**Applicant:** In response to the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) Q5.0.2, an updated version of the Information to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment was submitted [[REP5-011](#)]. However, figures 1 and 2 are missing. Please resubmit with the figures included.

### **Historic Environment**

**Historic England:** The ExA did not receive a response to ExQ2 Q11.0.7, which sought comments on the relationship between Grade II\* listed Church of St Peter and St Paul and the scheduled monument comprising the medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm.

Provide a response to the question or explain whether you are satisfied with the applicant's responses provided in examination library reference [[REP4-031](#)] (pages 24 and 25). Noting the time remaining in the examination, please also provide any comments to the applicant at the earliest opportunity to allow them the chance of reply. The ExA also requests that the final statement of common ground with the applicant clearly sets out Historic England's final position.

### **Protective Provisions**

**Applicant:** In response to ExQ2 Q9.4.1, it is stated that Section 127/138 Report [[REP5-053](#)] sets out the status of and outstanding points of disagreement within each of the protective provisions. Whilst the ExA notes the content of this document, to aid the ExA's consideration of any outstanding areas of disagreement, ExQ2 Q9.4.1 specifically requested a table setting out the specific wording for each party that is subject to disagreement, the wording that the objecting party is seeking and each party's position for the wording requested. It does not appear this has been provided.

Provide this table at **deadline 6**.

Responses should be submitted by **deadline 6, Wednesday 8 April 2026**.

Yours sincerely

*M Wiltshire*

### **Lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors**

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