

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Steeple Renewables Project](#)
Cc: [Midlands.splan@nra.gov.uk](#)
Subject: Historic England response to Rule 17 letter dated 02/04/2026
Date: 08 April 2026 16:59:24
Attachments: [image255549.jpg](#)

Dear Sirs,

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

Your ref: EN010163

Thank you for your question regarding the Historic Environment, received in the Rule 17 letter dated 02nd April 2026.

Within your correspondence we note the following question:

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.

Our advice is outlined below.

Both the G2* Church of St Peter and Paul at Sturton le Steeple and the scheduled monument of West Burton Deserted Medieval Village at Low Farm (NHLE ref. 1017741) are upper tier designated heritage assets. The two medieval settlements, their agrarian communities and churches sit in a shared historic landscape setting. This landscape of close-set village communities in the Trent Valley is the context in which these nationally important heritage assets are experienced and understood. Past and present communities and visitors experience the landscape relationship between West Burton and Sturton le Steeple kinetically as they move between settlements, past and present.

The experience of views to the tower of St Peter and St Paul provides both orientation and a point of contrast and reflection between the abandoned and living settlements. It is regrettable that the applicant did not explore these issues with us earlier in the pre-application process, and that at this late stage an opportunity to address avoidable harm to designated heritage assets of national importance remains unaddressed in scheme design. This position is reiterated in the final signed statement of common ground. Our position remains that harm in respect to the designated heritage assets could be addressed through relocation of BESS capacity and elements of solar array.

Alternative layout drawings and supporting [REDACTED] ons would provide the decision maker with the opportunity to consider an alternation to address the above issue.

Thank you again for consulting Historic England on the above matter,

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Inspector of Ancient Monuments
The Foundry
82 Granville Street
Birmingham
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