

Ref: EN010163 - Response from NCC

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nottsc.gov.uk>

Steeple Renewables Project

Dear Sir/Madam,

With regard to the recent request for comments relating to additional information dated the 25th August 2026, NCC have the following comments to make.

The additional native hedgerow proposed to the western side of the BESS is welcomed and is considered to provide an appropriate additional layer of landscape mitigation. Its location close to the BESS compound should assist in filtering and softening views of the perimeter infrastructure in combination with existing and previously proposed vegetation.

It is agreed that the additional planting is unlikely to result in a change to the significance conclusions reported within the ES. However, it would be more accurate to recognise that the planting is expected to provide a slight further reduction in the degree of visual effect as it establishes, notwithstanding that this would ultimately not alter the reported significance judgement.

The final LEMP should clearly identify the additional hedgerow and provide an appropriate planting specification including species composition, planting density, establishment and management proposals and intended management height and width. I note that existing and enhanced hedgerows are proposed to be maintained at approximately 2.5m in height and 1.5m in width. It should be confirmed whether these dimensions would also apply to newly created hedgerows once established.

The final arrangement should allow sufficient separation between the proposed hedgerow, Security fencing and BESS infrastructure to allow the planting to establish and be maintained effectively. NFCC guidance states that combustible vegetation should be at least 3m from BESS infrastructure; however, engagement with the local fire safety officer should be consulted to confirm that the proposed arrangement and offsets are acceptable from a fire safety perspective.

From a landscape perspective, sufficient space should also be provided for long term maintenance access, with a minimum 2m maintenance strip recommended. The mature extent of the hedgerow should also be maintained at least 3m from the security fencing to reduce the potential for established vegetation to provide a climbing aid and compromise site security. The Applicant could also consider incorporating suitable thorny native species within the final hedgerow mix to provide an additional degree of natural deterrence.

Subject to the above, the additional mitigation is considered proportionate and appropriate in landscape and visual terms.

Regards

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Principal Planner (Policy)