
Steeple Renewables Project

Project Programme

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Version – working draft

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 RES Ltd (“the Applicant”) is intending to develop an electricity generation station with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW), comprising the installation of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation facility with an approximate capacity of 400 MW of energy generation and associated development comprising 200 MW of energy storage, grid connection infrastructure and all other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development including access. It is proposed that the lifetime of the Proposed Development will be 40 years, at which the Proposed Development will be decommissioned.
- 1.1.2 This document is the 1st edition of the Pre-Application Project Programme (July 2024) and sets out the ongoing main steps that the Applicant anticipates taking during the preparation of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Applicant will keep the Project Programme under review and a public version of the document will be hosted on the project website (<https://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/>).
- 1.1.3 The Programme Document is not a statutory requirement and is not for consultation.
- 1.1.4 This document has been prepared with recognition to Government guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects¹ which sets out how the Programme Document should contain: -
- (i) the date the Applicant intends to submit their application;
 - (ii) a comprehensive timetable of the applicant’s pre-application process, the main events with dates and milestones demonstrating how the pre-application process will be completed (using the maximum target of 2 years as a benchmark);
 - (iii) the Applicant’s view on the main issues for resolution and activities they will undertake to address those;

¹ [Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects) (www.gov.uk)

- (iv) the Applicant's proposals for engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities during the pre-application period and any intended financial support agreements;
- (v) the Applicant's identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed; and
- (vi) cross references to the SoCC required by [Section 47 of The Planning Act 2008](#).

1.1.5 As the project timeline progresses and milestones achieved, the document will be updated and revised to reflect all matters set out above.

2. Programme Timetable

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 This section of the Programme Document presents the main project milestones programme events for the Proposed Development. The programme is presented in tabular format. Table 1 details the main programme events/milestones undertaken to date. Table 2 presents the programmed events leading to and including the submission of the application.

Table 1 Key Milestone Events Undertaken to Date:

Activity	Date
Project Launch	September 2023
Non-Statutory engagement and consultation - Informal consultation stage with public and statutory consultees of early informal consultation through public exhibitions, online webinar, website, newspaper publications, and leaflet drop to introduce the project to the local community.	October – December 2023
Inception Meeting with PINS	10th January 2024
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion - Scoping Opinion issued by Planning Inspectorate on behalf of Secretary of State.	3rd June 2024
Meetings with Parish Councils and MPs	July 2023 – to date

Table 2 programmed milestone events

Activity	Date
Inception meeting with LPAs	15 th July 2024
Create the PEIR for statutory consultation	3 rd July 2024 – 6 th September 2024
Issues Tracker Circulated to Planning Inspectorate., local planning authorities and relevant statutory consultees.	Q3 2024
Adoption of SoCC	Adoption in Q3 2024
Statutory Consultation	Q4 2024

Activity	Date
Post-section 42 consultation/ post-Preliminary Environmental Information Report meeting	Q1 2025
Application Submission	Q2/3 2025

2.2 Limitations

2.2.1 The Applicant’s adherence to the project programme is dependent on multitude of factors, some of which are beyond the control of the Applicant. The Applicant will keep the project programme under review and will inform the Planning Inspectorate of extensions to the project timelines beyond what is forecasted above.

2.3 Potential Main Issues for the Examination

2.3.1 The Applicant is maintaining an Issues Tracker which will cumulate in a list of potential main issues for the Examination that would be entered into the Examination as an application document. It is expected that the Issues Tracker will be made available for review by the Planning Inspectorate, the local authorities and relevant statutory bodies during Q3 2024, and thus in advance of the statutory consultation.