

# Steeple Renewables Project

July 2025 update

We are delighted to announce that the application for Steeple Renewables Project has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate as of 11 June 2025. This means that all the required documents have been submitted to enable the application to proceed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process.

This newsletter provides an overview of the submitted proposals, including the changes made since the close of the statutory consultation held earlier in the year, and explains how you can stay involved.

Steeple Renewables Project is a proposed solar farm and battery storage project, located at Sturton-le-Steeple, Nottinghamshire. The project would allow for the generation and export of up to 600MW of renewable energy, enough to power the equivalent of 180,000 homes\*. If consented, the project could deliver a number of local benefits including £224m of investment during construction, 400 jobs created over the 24-month build programme and a tailored community benefits package which could include RES' Local Electricity Discount Scheme.

During our recent statutory consultation, we presented our proposals for Steeple Renewables Project and sought your feedback. This included requesting input on the site layout and design, details of construction, operation and decommissioning, preliminary environmental information, and plans for the proposed community benefits package. The feedback received, alongside detailed environmental and technical assessments, helped us refine our proposals and informed the final design of the proposed Steeple Renewables Project, which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

We are now entering the pre-examination phase of the planning process and encourage everyone to stay involved and follow the project as it progresses through the DCO process. At this stage stakeholders and members of the public are able to register as interested parties with the Planning Inspectorate and make a Relevant Representation during the Relevant Representation period which opens on 17 July 2025 and closes at 23:59pm on 28 August. More details on this process can be found on the back page.

## Anticipated project timeline

**June 2025**

Application accepted for examination (pre-examination)

**Late Summer 2025**

Examination starts

**Spring 2026**

Examination closes

**Late summer 2026**

Determination of Development Consent Order by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

\* The homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted average annual electricity generation of the site and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024).



# Site layout for submission

Since the close of statutory consultation, we have made several changes to the design of Steeple Renewables Project.

These include the:

- 1

Removal of solar panels and inverters from the central corridor through the eastern half of the site, to accommodate existing and proposed utilities and provide a new permissive path;
- 2

Removal of entrance points from Thornhill Lane to the southeast of the site and off Main Street to the southwest of the site;
- 3

Removal of infrastructure from a 40-55m corridor along the east of the western half of the site to reduce the visual impact of the development upon the edge of Sturton-le-Steeple;
- 4

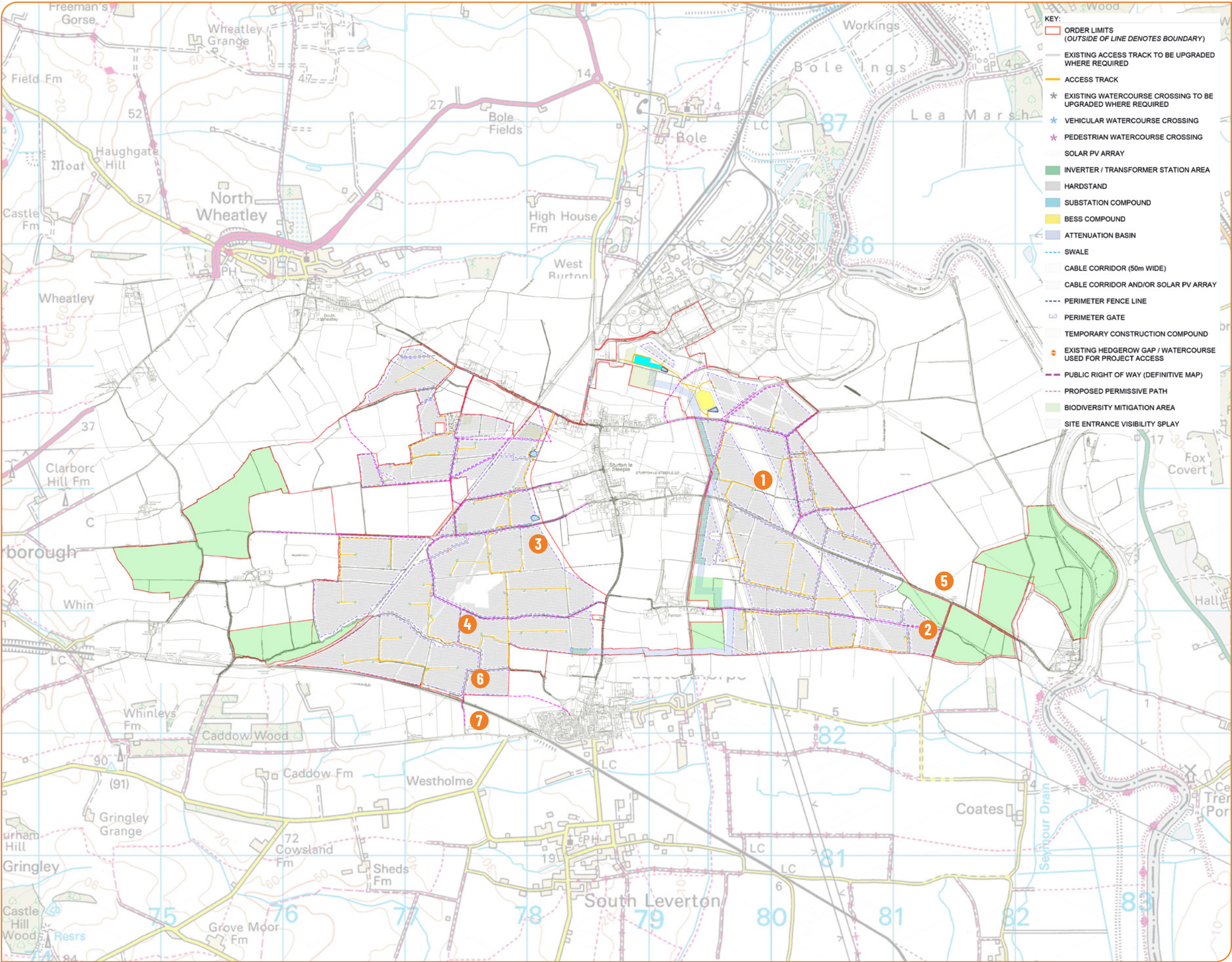
Removal of all infrastructure from an area within the western half of the site and the removal of a smaller area within the eastern half of the site. This has been done to protect potential archaeologically significant assets identified by the geophysical survey;
- 5

Removal of the secondary access from Area E;
- 6

Removal of the secondary access from Area E;
- 7

Addition of a new permissive path connecting the existing Public Right of way (PRoW) off Mill Lane south of the western parcel, to the PRoW on Dog Holes Lane across the centre of the western half of the site.

Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures were developed in more detail following the above design changes and are reflected in the landscape design proposed under the DCO application.





# What happens next?

## Examination period

On 11 June 2025 the DCO application was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate for examination. The examination of applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 is undertaken by an Examining Authority appointed by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. The overriding aim of an examination is to ensure that the proposals and issues are proportionately and reasonably considered. Following the closure of the examination, the Examining Authority must submit a report and recommendation to the Secretary of State to enable them to reach and publish a decision on whether to grant consent for the project.

## How to stay involved

Members of the public now have the opportunity to register with the Planning Inspectorate as an **Interested Party** by submitting a Relevant Representation. A **Relevant Representation** is a written summary of your views on the application that are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

The **Relevant Representations period opens on 17 July 2025 and closes at 23:59 on 28 August**. Your comments must be received by the Planning Inspectorate within this timeframe.

Registering as an Interested Party ensures you will:

- have the right to send further comments and provide evidence during the examination of the application
- have the right to request to speak at hearings
- hear about events and decisions made during the process and
- hear about the progress of the application.

A Relevant Representation should include full details of any issues that you want to be considered as part of the examination.

To register, you will need to complete a registration form and include your Relevant Representation. This form will be available on the Planning Inspectorate's project page:

[national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163](https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163)

Please note that any representations submitted will be published by the Planning Inspectorate.

We encourage all individuals and organisations with an interest in Steeple Renewables Project to take part in this important stage of the process.

## View the submitted application

The Application Documents can be viewed:

- Online, or downloaded free of charge, from the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website: [national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163](https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163)
- Online, or downloaded free of charge on our project website: [steeplesolarfarm.consultationonline.co.uk/documents/](https://steeplesolarfarm.consultationonline.co.uk/documents/)
- On USB Sticks, available to collect free of charge during the Relevant Representation period, at the location and times set out below:

| Location   | Opening times   |
|--|---|
| Retford Library<br>17 Churchgate,<br>Retford, DN22 6P          | Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri:<br>9AM – 6PM<br>Sat: 9AM – 3:30PM<br>Sun: Closed |
| Gainsborough Library<br>Cobden St,<br>Gainsborough<br>DN21 2NG | Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri:<br>9AM – 6PM<br>Sat: 9AM – 1:00PM<br>Sun: Closed |



Our team will remain available to provide information and answer questions throughout the planning process. You can also contact the project team if you would like to receive a USB containing electronic copies of the Application Documents.

 [info@steeplesolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@steeplesolarfarm.co.uk)  0115 7182070  FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project receive

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