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# SCOPING OPINION:

## Proposed Steeple Renewables Project

Case Reference: EN010163

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Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

03 June 2024



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APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 On 19 April 2024, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) Limited (the Applicant) under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the proposed Steeple Renewables Project (the Proposed Development). The Applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under Regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a), the Proposed Development is 'EIA development'.
- 1.0.2 The Applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA Regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:
- <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010163-000015>
- <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010163-000016>
- <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010163-000017>
- <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010163-000018>
- 1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the Proposed Development as currently described by the Applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction **with the Applicant's Scoping Report.**
- 1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has / has not agreed to scope out certain aspects / matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects / matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.
- 1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, **the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies'** listed in Appendix 1 in accordance with EIA Regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in Appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.
- 1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes on the 'Find a National Infrastructure Project' on the gov.uk website, including [Advice Note 7:](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping \(AN7\)](#). AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their ES.

- 1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-infrastructure-planning-advice-notes>

- 1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the Applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (e.g. on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the Applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or Associated Development or development that does not require development consent.

## 2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

### 2.0 Description of the Proposed Development

(Scoping Report Section 2)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.0.1	Paragraph 2.1.14	Substation, battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure	The Scoping Report describes the area proposed for the BESS, substation, and associated infrastructure as being in the northern section of the eastern parcel of land, with the remaining area used for solar photovoltaic (PV). The Environmental Statement (ES) should provide the exact location and extent of these areas in the description, supported by figures.
2.0.2	Paragraph 3.1	Solar panels and set up	<p>The ES should confirm the number, type and structural set up of the panels. This should include a description and reasoning for the spacing between panels to avoid ground shading effects and any buffers employed.</p> <p>The ES should describe and assess a worst-case scenario in the relevant aspect chapters in relation to the type of solar panels constructed with respect to, for example soil compaction, traffic and transport, landscape, and visual impact effects, etc.</p>
2.0.3	Paragraphs 3.3.2 3.9.1	Switchgear	Details on the type of switchgear used for the inverters and at the substation should be included as part of the ES. Should a gas insulated switchgear (GIS) option be chosen for the inverters, the use of sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) should be avoided, if possible, in line with National Policy Statement (NPS) for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5).

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
2.04	Paragraph 3.10.1	Electricity export connection to the National Grid	<p>The Scoping Report states that the electricity generated by the Proposed Development is expected to be exported via a connection from the Proposed Development to an existing substation at West Burton Power Station.</p> <p>The details of the connection to the substation at West Burton Power Station and the National Grid necessary for the Proposed Development should be identified as part of the assessment in the ES.</p>
2.05	Section 3.11	Rochdale Envelope	<p><b>The Inspectorate notes the Applicant's intention to use the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach.</b> Where flexibility is sought, the ES should clearly set out and justify the maximum design parameters that would apply for each option assessed. The ES should explain how these parameters have been used to inform the assessment in the ES, recognising that this may differ depending on the assessment being undertaken, in assessing a reasonable worst-case scenario.</p> <p>The Applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the Proposed Development are yet to be finalised and provide relevant justification.</p> <p>At the point an application is made the Inspectorate expects that the description of the Proposed Development will be sufficiently detailed to include the design, size, capacity, technology, and locations of the different elements of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>This should include the footprint, the heights and depths of the structures relevant to existing ground levels, as well as land-use requirements for all elements and phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The project description should be supported as necessary by figures, cross-sections, and drawings which should be clearly referenced.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
2.0.6	Paragraph 4.1.1	Construction and operation start dates	<p>The Scoping Report states that the construction phase of the Proposed Development is anticipated to last up to two years, dependent on the final design and the findings of the access and traffic assessment.</p> <p>The ES should clearly explain the parameters used in the assessment including the likely construction and connection dates. If any uncertainty remains, the ES should explain how the future baseline has been defined for each aspect and how impacts have been predicted given any uncertainty around timing.</p> <p>A construction programme should be provided to ensure a clear understanding of assumptions made over construction impacts including cumulative impacts to ensure that the worst-case construction scenarios are assessed.</p>
2.0.7	Paragraph 4.3.1	Construction compounds	<p>The Scoping Report states that a main temporary construction compound is likely to be established close to the Proposed Development Site entrance with smaller temporary compounds located across the development as the Site is built out and that the locations of these temporary compounds are likely to move over the course of the construction phase as each section of the Proposed Development is built out.</p> <p>The number, location and maximum parameters of construction compounds should be identified in the ES to ensure where flexibility is sought that a worst-case assessment has been carried out.</p>
2.0.8	Paragraph 4.6.1	Maintenance	<p>Maintenance needs are described as minimal and restricted to vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing. The replacement of any damaged or failing panels should be considered in the assessment.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			The ES should describe the potential scope and duration of maintenance works required during the operation of the Proposed Development, including predicted vehicle movements and staffing numbers.

## 2.1 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report Section 6)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.1	Table 1.1	Material assets	<p>The Scoping Report does not consider that there are further material assets to those already addressed within other topics.</p> <p>The ES should clarify what material assets have been included within the scope of the assessment. Without this detail and supporting evidence, the Inspectorate is unable to agree that further material assets can be scoped out of the assessment.</p>
2.1.2	Section 6.2	EIA methodology and evaluation of significance	<p>The methodology for determination of likely significance of effects should be fully explained in the ES and should clearly define what effects are considered significant and explain how those conclusions have been reached.</p> <p>Where professional judgement has been relied on to determine the level of significance of effects and assess significance this should be fully justified within the ES.</p>
2.1.3	Paragraph 6.3.4	Mitigation	Effort should be made to agree any proposed mitigation measures with the relevant consultation bodies, and it should be clear how these are secured through the DCO or other legal mechanism. Where any off-site mitigation is proposed, the additional area should be



ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			included in the red line boundary and assessed in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur.
2.1.4	Paragraphs 6.5.5 - 6.5.9	Cumulative effects – West Burton Site	<p>The ES should consider the decommissioning of West Burton Site A in the cumulative assessment if there is potential for significant effects.</p> <p>The application for a 500MW BESS at West Burton Site B which is approved should also be considered as part of the cumulative assessment as there may be an overlap with the construction phases of the Proposed Development.</p>
2.1.5	Paragraphs 6.6.5 - 6.5.10	List of developments	<p>The Scoping Report states that the list of developments is to be reviewed as the EIA process continues.</p> <p>The ES should explain the methodology for defining the list of developments identified and justify the omission/inclusion of developments for cumulative assessment. This should be informed by appropriate consultation with the relevant bodies.</p>
2.1.6	Paragraph 6.5.10	Study area – cumulative sites	<p>The ES should fully justify the study area for cumulative sites with reference to relevant guidance and the likely extent of impacts. The ES should provide a clear justification for the extent of each Zone of Influence (ZoI) and how it captures the effects from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The ES should include a figure depicting the location and extent of cumulative developments in relation to the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The ZoI should be agreed with the relevant statutory consultation bodies where possible as part of the discussions of the assessment methodologies. Evidence of agreement of these points should be provided in the ES.</p> <p>The Applicant should also consider an iterative cumulative assessment which considers additional schemes as they come</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			<p>forward. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the Inspectorate's 'Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative effects assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects' in this regard.</p>
2.1.7	Paragraphs 6.6.1 – 6.6.5	Assessment of options – development parameters	<p>The Applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the Proposed Development have yet to be finalised and provide the reasons. At the time of application, any Proposed Development parameters should not be so wide ranging as to represent effectively different developments.</p> <p>The development parameters should be clearly defined in the draft DCO and in the accompanying ES.</p> <p>The ES should identify the parameters that have been assumed as the worst-case scenario for each aspect scoped into the assessment and ensure that interactions between aspects have been taken into account where relevant to those scenarios.</p>
2.1.8	Table 19.2	Major accidents and disasters	<p>The Inspectorate considers that, for the avoidance of doubt, the risk of fire associated with battery storage facilities should be assessed in the ES and relevant mitigation, such as fire-fighting and containment measures, should be set out and secured in the Development Control Order (DCO), with reference to a Battery Safety Management Plan for example.</p>
2.1.9	Table 19.2	Soil contamination	<p>The Inspectorate considers that without a Phase 1 Contaminated Land Report / Preliminary Risk assessment it cannot be assumed that there is no soil contamination on the Proposed Development Site. Evidence of the absence of contaminants from a Phase 1 Contaminated Land Report should demonstrate the historical land use with respect to any known sources of contamination and that no further assessment is required before this matter can be scoped out.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.10	Table 19.2	Human health	<p>The possible effect on human health from the Proposed Development will be considered within the ES but not in its own standalone chapter. The Scoping Report states that it would be considered in the noise and air quality assessments.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to direct and indirect impacts on human health receptors. The ES should clearly signpost where impacts relating to human health have been considered in the relevant technical chapters. The ES should ensure sufficient clarification and cross referencing along with consideration of any potential in-combination effects on human health.</p> <p>The assessment should be informed by relevant guidance such as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) 2022 <b>guidance 'Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment'</b>.</p>
2.1.11	n/a	Cumulative effects – interactions and assessment years	<p>The ES should assess interactions with other developments and the potential for intra-cumulative effects that may occur as a result of proposed mitigation for a specific environmental aspect or matter, e.g. landscape and visual mitigation planting on buried archaeological assets.</p> <p>The ES should set out the worst-case assessment years that have been assumed for the assessment.</p> <p>Where there is potential for construction activities to occur across several sites simultaneously this should be considered to ensure a worst-case assessment is provided.</p> <p>Where different aspect assessments use different assessment years, the reasons for the selection of assessment years should be clearly explained in each case, with reference to the relevant guidance.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
2.1.12	n/a	Scoping table	<p>The Inspectorate recommends the use of a table in the ES to set out key changes in parameters / options of the Proposed Development or commitments to mitigation in the Scoping Report to those presented in the ES.</p> <p>It is also recommended that a table is provided demonstrating how the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed in the ES and/or associated documents.</p>
2.1.13	n/a	Transboundary effects	<p>The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the Proposed Development and concludes that the Proposed Development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the <b>Proposed Development's likely impacts</b> including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the impacts.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the Proposed Development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision.</p> <p><b>Note: The SoS' duty</b> under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p> <p><b>The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the</b> relevant considerations specified in the Annex to its Advice Note Twelve, links for which can be found in paragraph 1.0.7 above.</p>

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

#### 3.1 Landscape and Visual Impact and Residential Amenity

(Scoping Report Section 7)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.2	Paragraphs 3.6.2 8.6.2	Lighting	<p>The ES should explain the construction and operational lighting strategy and how the lighting design has been developed to minimise light spill and the effect of intermittent lighting on human and ecological receptors.</p> <p>The ES should provide an assessment of lighting effects during construction and decommissioning, including a night-time assessment, or the information required to demonstrate the absence of a likely significant effect (LSE).</p>
3.1.3	Paragraph 7.4.12 Table 7.1	Study Area - Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (SZTV)	The Applicant should demonstrate how their approach to using a SZTV complies <b>with the Landscape Institute's guidance on</b> establishing a ZTV for the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA). The <b>Landscape Institute's</b> ZTV approach treats the world as ' <b>bare earth</b> ' and does not take account of potential screening by vegetation or buildings.
3.1.4	Paragraph 7.4.20	Photomontages	The Inspectorate considers that 3D photomontages based on current Landscape Institute best practice guidance should be provided with the ES to demonstrate the potential visual impact of the Proposed

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			<p>Development on receptors from chosen viewpoints, and to show this during in Year 1 and Year 15 as proposed, in winter and summer periods as required, with and without the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Effort should be made to agree the visual receptors, viewpoint locations and viewpoint heights with relevant consultation bodies.</p>
3.1.5	Paragraphs 7.6.2 – 7.6.3	Mitigation planting	<p>The ES should clearly present any assumptions made with regards to the height that the proposed mitigation planting would have reached by the assessment years, with reference to relevant guidance to ensure that these are based on accepted growth rates for the plant species concerned, for the purposes of generating photomontages and reaching the assessment conclusions.</p>
3.1.6	n/a	Impacts – cross reference to other aspects	<p>The LVIA should cross refer to other relevant assessments and sensitive receptors such as cultural heritage.</p>
3.1.7	n/a	Transient receptors	<p>The ES should consider the potential for visual effects on transient receptors such as users of cars, bicycles, buses, or trains.</p>

## 3.2 Ecology & Biodiversity

(Scoping Report Section 8)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.1	Paragraph 8.2.52 Table 19.1	Dormouse survey and assessment	<p>The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development Site has poor habitat connectivity to known dormouse populations.</p> <p>Table 8B.1 of the Habitat Survey (Appendix 8B) indicates that woodlands (priority and non-priority) and 88 km of hedgerows are within and/or adjacent to the Proposed Development Site.</p> <p>The Inspectorate would expect to see this matter considered as part of the assessment or evidence provided to conclude that this species is absent from the Proposed Development Site. This could include information confirming that no suitable habitat is present through relevant habitat surveys or further evidence to support the assertion that there is poor habitat connectivity to existing dormouse populations by identifying the location of the nearest populations and providing confirmation of their absence in local records. Effort should be made to gain agreement on this matter with relevant consultation bodies.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.2	Paragraph 8.2.4 Table 8.1 Table 8.A.1	Study Area – Zone of Influence (ZoI)	<p>The ES should provide information explaining how the relevant ZoI for each receptor has been determined for the assessment.</p> <p><b>The ES should ensure the study area reflects the project's ZoI rather than being based on a fixed distance.</b> Effort should be made to agree the study area(s) with relevant consultation bodies and with reference to relevant guidance.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.3	Paragraph 8.2.4 Table 8.1	Bats – study area	The ES should justify how this search area applies to all potentially affected bat species and make effort to agree the study area and approach to assessment with relevant consultation bodies.
3.2.4	Table 8.1	Bat – activity	<p>The ES should justify why the Applicant concludes that significant effects are unlikely for bats beyond the proposed Order Limits. Agreement on the study area should be sought from NE and relevant consultation bodies.</p> <p>The ES should consider the potential for impacts on international sites designated for bats within a 30km study area or provide evidence to demonstrate the absence of a LSE.</p>
3.2.5	Paragraphs 8.2.16 8.3.34	Great crested newts (GCN)	<p>The ES should include information to demonstrate whether the Proposed Development is located within a risk zone for GCN and whether the Proposed Development is likely to have a significant effect on GCN.</p> <p>If the Applicant intends to obtain a licence through the Natural England (NE) District Level Licensing (DLL) scheme for GCN any licence requirements should be discussed with NE and agreed prior to completion of the ES, if possible.</p>
3.2.6	Paragraph 8.2.53	Wintering bird surveys post March 2024	Dependent on the timescales between scoping and submission of the ES, the Applicant should consider whether surveys are current, and should agree the scope and timing of surveys with relevant consultation bodies.
3.2.7	Paragraph 8.3.6 Appendix 8C	Functionally linked land - European sites /internationally designated sites	The breeding and wintering bird surveys undertaken in 2023/24 have not identified any significant activity at the Proposed Development Site from qualifying bird species of the identified European sites.



ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
	Appendix 8D		<p>The initial assessment is that the Proposed Development Site is not functionally linked to the internationally designated sites and the Applicant considers that it is highly unlikely that any significant adverse effects will occur indirectly to statutory sites at any phase of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The ES should provide evidence to demonstrate that no potential significant effects are likely for any qualifying bird species or key features of internationally designated/European sites through functionally linked land.</p>
3.2.8	Paragraphs 8.3.3 8.3.28	Disturbance to breeding birds during construction	The ES should assess disturbance impacts to bird species breeding in field boundaries during construction and explain how existing hedgerows will be retained. The ES should outline the measures to be taken to mitigate disturbance impacts in any removal of existing field boundary habitats.
3.2.9	Paragraphs 8.3.14 8.3.45 Appendix 8B	Veteran trees	<p>Veteran trees are identified in the Habitat Survey (Table 8B.1, Appendix 8B) <b>under the heading of 'potential irreplaceable habitats'</b>. The ES should identify and assess impacts to veteran trees where significant effects are likely to occur. Where mitigation measures are required, the ES should describe these measures and signpost where they are secured through the DCO.</p>
3.2.10	Paragraphs 8.3.26 8.6.2	Lighting disturbance - mitigation	<p>The ES should assess impacts on ecological receptors from lighting where significant effects are likely to occur, and demonstrate measures taken to avoid disruption of ecological corridors such as hedgerows that provide flight-lines for bats.</p> <p>The ES should clearly explain how the measures will avoid or limit lighting impacts on ecological receptors.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
3.2.11	Section 8.6 Appendix 8D	Potential mitigation and enhancement measures – landscape and ecological management	<p>The ES should be supported by a draft landscape and ecological management and monitoring plan and set out how the Applicant intends to deliver biodiversity enhancements.</p> <p>The ES should distinguish between measures intended to avoid or reduce the potential for LSEs, and those which have been identified for enhancement only. The ES should state how these measures will be secured through the DCO.</p>
3.2.12	Paragraph 8.6.2	Mitigation - vegetation disturbance	<p>The ES should explain how phasing and methods of vegetation clearance will avoid disturbance of protected species. Relevant measures should be secured by a DCO requirement.</p>
3.2.13	Paragraph 8.6.2	Mitigation - invasive non-native species	<p>The Inspectorate notes the potential for impacts resulting from the spread of invasive species during construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Any necessary eradication and/or control measures should be detailed in the ES and any LSEs assessed.</p>
3.2.14	Paragraph 9.6.5	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) – impacts on aquatic species	<p>Trenchless HDD methods are likely to be used for laying any cables beneath existing watercourses. This has potential to cause impacts on aquatic species due to breakout from drilling fluids and vibration within the riverbed. The Inspectorate notes that the Applicant proposes to submit a drilling fluid breakout plan.</p> <p>The ES should include a description of the sensitivity of relevant watercourses and any seasonal constraints on such crossings, assessing LSEs on riverine species where they are likely to occur from such impacts.</p> <p>Potential impacts from noise, vibration, lighting or sediment breakout from the Proposed Development on aquatic species should be assessed.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
3.2.15	Paragraph 9.6.4	New bridges or culverts	<p>The Scoping Report states that any new bridges and culverts will be designed to ensure flow capacity is retained and access to watercourse for maintenance is retained. No information is provided in relation to the scale and dimensions of these structures or detail of the nature of any associated construction works.</p> <p>The ES should describe where bridge/ culvert structures are proposed and demonstrate that there is sufficient detail regarding the design as to inform a meaningful assessment of effects on watercourse hydraulics and ecology.</p>
3.2.16	Paragraph 15.3.4	Dust impacts on receptors	<p>The ES should include an assessment of whether the Proposed Development would result in LSE on ecology as a result of dust emissions to air during construction and decommissioning, or demonstrate agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of LSE.</p>
3.2.17	n/a	Security fencing	<p>Security fencing is proposed around the operational areas of the site. The ES should assess any impacts associated with the security fencing on ecological receptors where significant effects are likely to occur. Any necessary mitigation measures, such as mammal gates, should be described.</p>
3.2.18	n/a	Confidential Annexes	<p>Public bodies have a responsibility to avoid releasing environmental information that could bring about harm to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features.</p> <p>Specific survey and assessment data relating to the presence and locations of species such as badgers, rare birds and plants that could be subject to disturbance, damage, persecution, or commercial exploitation resulting from publication of the information, should be provided in the ES as a confidential annex.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			All other assessment information should be included in an ES chapter, as normal, with a placeholder explaining that a confidential annex has been submitted to the Inspectorate and may be made available subject to request.

### 3.3 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage

(Scoping Report Section 9)

ID	Ref	<b>Applicant's proposed</b> matters to scope out	<b>Inspectorate's</b> comments
3.3.1	Paragraphs 9.3.7 9.3.22	Impacts on surface water resources due to abstraction during construction and decommissioning	No significant surface water use demand is anticipated during the construction and decommissioning phases by the Applicant.  The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out subject to confirmation on the need for and scale of any abstraction within the project description of the ES.
3.3.2	Paragraphs 9.3.8 9.3.22	Hydrology impacts during construction and decommissioning on Clarborough Tunnel Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out provided that sufficient baseline evidence can show that there will be no potential hydrological impact on the SSSI.
3.3.3	Paragraphs 9.3.9 9.3.22	Impact of pollutant release to groundwater during construction and decommissioning	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out subject to further information provided with the ES to demonstrate that there is an absence of contaminated land within the Proposed Development Site (such as a Phase 1 Contaminated Land Report) and there is no likelihood of any potential impact pathway being created through construction or decommissioning works.
3.3.4	Paragraphs 9.3.10 9.3.22	Impacts on groundwater resources due to abstraction during construction and decommissioning	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out from the assessment subject to information being provided with the ES to demonstrate that abstraction during construction and decommissioning is not likely to give rise to LSEs on groundwater resources.

ID	Ref	<b>Applicant's proposed</b> matters to scope out	<b>Inspectorate's</b> comments
3.3.5	Paragraphs 9.3.11 9.3.22	Impact of construction works on groundwater flow	<p>Given the nature of the underlying geology (low permeability mudstone), significant disruption to subsurface water flow routes during excavation works are considered unlikely.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out subject to further information being provided in the ES to confirm that any construction works will not give rise to any LSEs.</p>
3.3.6	Paragraph 9.3.14	Impact of the development on surface water resources during the operational phase	<p>The Applicant considers that the Proposed Development will require minimal water resource during the operational phase.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that, based on the operational characteristics of the Proposed Development, any potential significant effects are unlikely with respect to use of surface water resources and agrees that this matter can be scoped out.</p>
3.3.7	Paragraph 9.3.15	Impact on groundwater quality during the operational phase	<p>The Scoping Report states that there is the potential for accidental releases of chemicals to adversely impact any underlying groundwater bodies primarily from the use of cooling chemicals and the potential for release of firefighting runoff in the BESS area.</p> <p>The Scoping Report notes that this area is located above the Mercia Mudstone (Secondary B aquifer) which limits the sensitivity of the receptor, and the Proposed Development would have a leak detection system and alarm fitted to the cooling system and the drainage strategy for the BESS area will include provision for the retention of any contaminated fire-fighting runoff.</p> <p>Based on the above information the Inspectorate is of the opinion that this matter can be scoped out of the assessment.</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.8	Paragraph 9.3.16	Impact of the development on groundwater resources during the operational phase	The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development will require minimal water resource during the operational phase. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out on this basis.
3.3.9	Paragraph 9.3.17	Impact of subsurface structures on groundwater flow	<p>Given the nature of the underlying geology (low permeability mudstone), significant long-term disruption to subsurface water flow routes associated with foundations, piles or underground pipes is considered unlikely by the Applicant.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out, subject to information being provided with the ES that demonstrates that the foundations, piles or underground pipes will not impact on groundwater flow.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.10	Paragraphs 2.3.3 4.3.1	Construction compounds	The Applicant should ensure that an assessment of the potential impacts from construction compounds on the water environment receptors is included in the ES. The ES should also explain how the location of construction compounds, including access, has been considered to reduce potential effects on the water environment and how any mitigation is secured through the DCO.
3.3.11	Section 3.1 Paragraph 3.2.1 Section 4.1 Paragraphs 9.2.10 –	Effect of PV frames and panels/modules	The Scoping Report states that the solar PV panels will be mounted on a rack supported by galvanised steel poles driven into the ground. The Scoping Report does not indicate the number of modules, however given the indicative size of the area of solar panels and associated development in Figure 1.2, it is likely that a large number of steel poles will be required. This aspect chapter should consider how the steel poles driven into the ground across the developable

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
	9.2.12		area for the panels may impact the drainage patterns within the site, in addition to any changes in surface water run off from the panels.
3.3.12	Paragraphs 9.2.10 9.4.3 9.6.8	Baseline data – Flood zones	The ES should differentiate between Flood Zones 3a and 3b where appropriate within the study area to determine which parts of the <b>Proposed Development's</b> Site are located within areas considered as 'high probability of flooding' and 'functional floodplain'.
3.3.13	Paragraphs 9.2.15 9.3.2	Waterbodies	Watercourses classified under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), (e.g., the Catchwater Drain, the River Trent and the Wheatley Beck), are within and/or adjacent to the Proposed Development Site boundary. These are considered by the Applicant to be particularly sensitive to any water quality impacts. The Proposed Development <b>Site's location within a Drinking Water Protected Area</b> also means that it is sensitive to water pollution.  A proposed WFD Screening assessment is intended to support the assessment of water quality impacts on surface watercourses.  The Inspectorate advises that the ES should include an assessment of the potential impact of the Proposed Development on WFD waterbodies from construction and decommissioning.
3.3.14	Paragraph 9.4.2	Zone of influence (Zol) – surface water and groundwater impacts	The Inspectorate considers that the ES should clearly define the study area based on the Zol, the hydrology of the site and potential for significant effects, following consultation with relevant consultation bodies.
3.3.15	Paragraph 9.4.6	Mitigation - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)	The Inspectorate notes the proposed use of SuDs. The design of such mitigation measures should be informed by relevant and up to date climate change allowances for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.



ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
3.3.16	Paragraph 9.6.5	Mitigation and enhancement measures - HDD	The ES should assess impacts from any use of trenchless HDD on receptors which are likely to result in significant effects. Should drilling fluid be used in construction, a breakout plan should be submitted and secured in the DCO application.
3.3.17	Paragraphs 9.6.8 9.6.11	Mitigation – floodplain compensation	<p>The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development will be designed to remain operational during a fluvial / tidal flood event.</p> <p>Where development is to be located within Flood Zone 3, then an assessment of the floodplain loss should be made and floodplain compensation should be provided. This should include consideration of the cumulative losses from solar panel mountings.</p> <p>If any essential infrastructure is to be located within Flood Zone 3a this should be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe in times of flood and throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development taking account of climate change.</p>
3.3.18	Paragraph 9.6.9	Mitigation – run off	A drainage strategy will be implemented, promoting infiltration where possible and using SuDS to provide attenuation of runoff. The possibility for enhancement by designing SuDS features with additional capacity to provide a reduction in flood risk downstream, with consideration given to the area of existing flood risk in the village of Sturton le Steeple is noted and should be consulted on with relevant consultation bodies.
3.3.19	n/a	Mitigation – routine emissions of chemicals and sediment	The ES should explain why the operation of the Proposed Development would not give rise to routine emissions of chemicals (ie that panels are effectively inert) or sediment, and how emergency releases would be managed within an Operation Environment Management Plan (OEMP) and/ or Soil Management Plan and Battery Safety Management Plan.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.20	Paragraphs 8.3.12 8.3.43 8.3.50 16.3.1	Agricultural land – changes in land management and water pollution	It is considered in the Scoping Report that changes in operational land management and reduction of agricultural chemical use and run-off into watercourses and waterbodies will be of benefit to the non-statutory designated sites hydrologically connected to the Site and species such as aquatic invertebrates, fish, otters, and water voles.  Mitigation measures relating to land management should be contained in the OEMP or equivalent plan, and the drainage strategy.
3.3.21	n/a	Mitigation - decommissioning	The Scoping Report states that effects from decommissioning on water environment receptors, excluding water quality effects from increased siltation and pollution events, are assumed to be no worse than effects during construction. The Inspectorate advises that a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) is produced and implemented to manage decommissioning activities and relevant measures are agreed with the Local Planning Authorities.
3.3.22	n/a	Mitigation – flood risk	Design and mitigation measures for flood risk should be agreed with the EA, Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and relevant Internal Drainage Board (IDB). Cross-reference should be made to relevant information contained within the FRA, as appropriate.

### 3.4 Cultural Heritage

(Scoping Report Section 10)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.1	Table 19.1	An assessment of designated heritage assets (comprising scheduled monuments, listed	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out as there is unlikely to be LSEs on designated heritage assets beyond 3km from the Proposed Development Site, provided that evidence that this

ID	Ref	<b>Applicant's proposed</b> matters to scope out	<b>Inspectorate's</b> comments
		buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields and World Heritage Sites) beyond 3km from the Site	matter has been consulted on with relevant consultation bodies is shown in the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's</b> comments
3.4.2	Paragraph 10.2.1	Study Area	<p>The Scoping Report states that a programme of geophysical survey, with further work to follow as required will be undertaken to support the Cultural Heritage Assessment. The Applicant should provide evidence of any agreement from the relevant consultation bodies regarding the extent, nature and timing of field investigations.</p> <p>It should be clear how the approach taken ensures that any heritage assets and their associated settings with long views towards or out from the Proposed Development Site have been identified and considered. Effort should be made to agree the approach and sensitive receptors with relevant consultation bodies.</p> <p>The study areas and locations of the heritage assets should be depicted on supporting plan/s.</p>
3.4.3	Paragraph 10.4.11	Likely significant effects – decommissioning	<p>As there is potential for ground disturbance during decommissioning and effects are likely to be similar to those experienced during construction, the Inspectorate is of the opinion that an assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on known and unknown archaeological remains during decommissioning should be included in the ES.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
3.4.4	Paragraphs 10.4.4 10.5.12 – 10.5.15	Methodology - archaeology	<p>The ES should clarify the methodology for determining potentially unknown buried archaeological remains within the Proposed Development Site.</p> <p>The ES should consider the need for intrusive evaluation to provide information required to assess the LSEs and make effort to agree the need for intrusive investigations with relevant consultation bodies.</p> <p>Where required, to fully understand the likely effects of the Proposed Development on any archaeology and identify any mitigation necessary to address any LSEs, intrusive investigations should be completed prior to submission of the DCO application where possible.</p> <p><b>The Applicant's attention is directed to</b> the consultation responses from Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils, Bassetlaw District Council, and Historic England in Appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion on this matter.</p>
3.4.5	Section 10.7	Potential mitigation	<p>The ES should provide details of the surveys used to inform the assessment including any intrusive site surveys undertaken. The ES should explain how such surveys inform the proposed mitigation strategy.</p> <p>The Applicant's <b>attention</b> is directed to the consultation responses on this matter from Bassetlaw District Council and Historic England with respect to the scheduled monument (Segulocum Roman town), and from Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils in Appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion.</p>

### 3.5 Socio-Economics

(Scoping Report Section 11)

ID	Ref	<b>Applicant's proposed</b> matters to scope out	<b>Inspectorate's</b> comments
3.5.1	7.2.2	Recreational routes / Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)	An assessment of the impact on tourism and the use of recreational routes including PRoWs should be considered as part of the wider socio-economic aspect in the ES.
3.5.2	Paragraph 11.4.8 Table 19.1	Consideration of potential effects on housing supply	<p>The Applicant intends to accommodate any construction or decommissioning workers who reside from outside of the local area in Serviced and/or Non-Services Accommodation as opposed to residential dwellings (rental or otherwise).</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out from the assessment provided that the availability of local accommodation and services will not be impacted, and there is evidence that this approach has been agreed with the relevant consultation bodies.</p> <p>The estimated number of potential workers for the construction and decommissioning phases should be provided in the ES.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's</b> comments
3.5.3	Section 11.3	Employment – all phases	The Inspectorate advises that estimates should be provided in the ES of the number and types of jobs created and they should be considered in the context of the available workforce in the area during each phase of the Proposed Development.

### 3.6 Noise and Vibration

(Scoping Report Section 12)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment

ID	Ref		Inspectorate's comments
3.6.2	Section 12.2	Receptors – cross referencing	The Inspectorate considers that noise and vibration may also have potential to lead to adverse effects on landscape and visual receptors, in terms of tranquillity for example, and on cultural heritage assets. Potential adverse effects on landscape and cultural heritage should be cross referenced in the relevant aspect chapters in the ES. The ES should also consider whether any ecological receptors require consideration in respect of noise and vibration related impacts. The Applicant should seek agreement from the relevant consultation bodies on any ecological receptors and cross refer to relevant chapters within the ES.
3.6.3	Section 12.2	Study Area	The ES should explain how the study area and sensitive receptors have been selected with reference to the extent of likely impacts. The ES should provide a plan showing the location of all sensitive receptors identified for assessment. Effort should be made to agree the study area and approach to the assessment with relevant consultation bodies.
3.6.4	Paragraph 12.3.3	Traffic noise and vibration	Traffic noise and vibration should be considered alone and cumulatively with other noise emissions from the Proposed Development during all phases of the Proposed Development but

ID	Ref		<b>Inspectorate's</b> comments
			<p>particularly during the construction and decommissioning phases as part of the assessment.</p> <p>The ES should provide information on trip generation, traffic routing, noise emissions and distances from receptors including any measures that are to be secured through the DCO to avoid or reduce LSEs for all phases.</p>
36.5	Paragraph 12.3.3	Noise and vibration impacts	<p>The impact of noise and vibration during construction and decommissioning on human and ecological receptors should be considered particularly during the formation of the access tracks, piling works, construction of hard-standings, cable trenching and landscaping works.</p> <p>During operation, the ES should describe the potential sources of vibration arising from the operation of substation and battery storage infrastructure for example, and any measures to control emissions.</p>

### 3.7 Climate Change

(Scoping Report Section 13)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	Paragraph 13.4.11 Table 19.1	Alterations in air quality conditions as a consequence of climate change	The Scoping Report states that an increase in winter rainfall and/or in heavy rain days could lead to a possible decrease in relevant pollutant concentrations, with a decrease in summer rainfall leading to a possible increase in concentrations, and that it is not anticipated that air quality conditions at the Proposed Development Site will fail to meet relevant air quality objectives as a consequence of projected climate change.  The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the assessment on this basis.
3.7.2	Paragraph 13.4.11 Table 19.1	Increases in noise from cooling equipment due to higher temperatures	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the climate change impact assessment on the basis that this will be addressed within the Noise and Vibration chapter of the ES.
3.7.3	Paragraph 13.4.11 Table 19.1	Increases in rainfall which could lead to flooding episodes on the development site which in turn could affect delivery options	The Inspectorate agrees that an additional assessment of this matter is not required in the Climate Change chapter as it will also be considered in the assessment of flood risk in the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage section of the ES.
3.7.4	Paragraph 13.4.11	Transport and access - disruption	The Scoping Report states that increased rainfall/ storms have the potential to lead to traffic disruption during flooding episodes, and that increased summer temperatures may cause some disruption and discomfort. The Applicant considers that this topic can be scoped out of the in-combination climate change impact assessment and that it will not require further consideration as it is unlikely to be a



ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>significant concern, particularly for the operational phase of the development.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the assessment on this basis.</p>
3.7.5	Paragraph 13.4.11	Ground conditions – airborne particulates from soil increasing through changes in climate factors	Due to the historical uses of the Proposed Development Site the Applicant does not consider it to contain contaminated land. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of the assessment, provided that information demonstrating that the Proposed Development Site is not contaminated land is included with the ES.
3.7.6	Paragraph 13.4.11	Socio economics and human health – flood events.	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the assessment as climate change and flood risk are not likely to result in a significant effect on human health or socio economics as a result of the Proposed Development.
3.7.7	Table 19.1	Effects of higher temperatures in summer months on construction teams and the need for climate change adaption.	The Inspectorate agrees that it is unlikely that significant climate change effects on temperature and construction workers would arise as a result of the Proposed Development and that this matter can be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.8	Section 13.4	Methodology	The ES should ensure that where guidance is used to inform the assessment methodology that it is clear how it has been applied and where differences occur in the approach, that reasons are given for any changes.

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			The ES should seek to agree the approach to the climate change assessment with the relevant consultation bodies with evidence of any agreement provided in the ES.
3.7.9	Paragraph 13.4.13	Resilience	Where relevant the Climate Change chapter of the ES should describe and assess the adaptive capacity that has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development. This may include, for example alternative measures, such as changes in the use of materials or construction and design techniques that will be more resilient to risks from climate. This should include a description of any measures embedded into the design to enable climate resilience during construction, operation and decommissioning.

### 3.8 Transport and Access

(Scoping Report Section 14)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.1	Paragraphs 14.4.1 and 14.4.2	Detailed assessment of traffic where the relevant thresholds are not exceeded – all phases	<p>The Scoping Report states that where the predicted increase in traffic and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) flows are lower than the 30% threshold and 10% threshold (where links are in proximity to sensitive receptors) for detailed assessment set out in the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidance '<b>Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement</b>' (2023), the significance of the effects would be low and not significant, and a detailed assessment would not be required.</p> <p>The Inspectorate is content to scope out detailed assessments where the relevant thresholds have not been exceeded, subject to the ES confirming the numbers and types of vehicles for all phases (with reference to thresholds within guidance), as well as proposed access/transport routes to justify this position.</p>
3.8.2	Paragraph 14.2.6 Table 19.1	Potential impacts on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) – all phases	<p>The Scoping Report states that it is anticipated that the development impact, comparing to the existing flows on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) will be negligible, and therefore it is anticipated these links will be scoped out of any further assessment.</p> <p>Subject to confirmation on traffic numbers, routes and the rationale concluding that there will be negligible impact on the SRN, and with agreement from the local highway authority and National Highways, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the assessment. The ES should identify likely construction traffic routes and numbers of movements and describe how the Proposed Development is likely to impact the SRN. Significant effects on the SRN should be assessed where they are likely to occur.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
38.3	Paragraph 2.1.3	Impacts on users of PRowS or other recreational routes	<p>Given the presence of PRowS within the site, the ES should confirm whether the Proposed Development would result in any PRow or other recreational routes being diverted or stopped up, on either a temporary or permanent basis.</p> <p>The ES should assess impacts to users of PRow or other recreational routes (including severance, delay, amenity, fear/ intimidation and safety) during construction, operation and decommissioning which are likely to result in significant effects.</p> <p>Where relevant, the ES should assess potential interactions between aspect assessments, for example, traffic and access, noise, air quality, landscape and visual impact and residential amenity.</p> <p>The locations of any diversions or closures should be illustrated on suitable figures in the ES.</p>
38.4	Paragraph 14.2.8	Study area	<p>The ES should confirm the final study area and key roads included in the assessment and explain how they have been identified.</p> <p>In addition to agreement with the local highway authority, consideration should also be given to industry guidance and the extent of the potential impacts and likely receptors, both human and ecological.</p> <p>A plan illustrating the extent of the study area, the expected route(s) of construction traffic and the anticipated numbers of vehicle movements should be included in the ES, showing vehicle type, peak hour and daily movements.</p>
38.5	Paragraph 14.3.2	Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan	<p>The Inspectorate would expect to see the proposed Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan, agreed with the relevant consultation bodies, secured through the inclusion of an Outline Decommissioning Plan or similar with the DCO application. The ES should clearly set out</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			how decommissioning is to be assessed and any components which may remain following decommissioning.
38.6	n/a	Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs)	The Scoping Report does not set out whether any AIL movements would be required. The ES should detail whether any AIL movements are required (for example the larger infrastructure such as the BESS) and assess any potential significant effects.

### 3.9 Air Quality

(Scoping Report Section 15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.1	Paragraphs 15.3.4 15.4.7 15.4.8  Table 19.1	Air quality – dust emissions during construction and decommissioning	<p>The Inspectorate does not consider that sufficient information has been provided at this stage regarding dust suppression techniques and the location of potential dust sensitive environmental receptors to support the scoping out of dust emissions during construction and decommissioning from further assessment.</p> <p>An assessment of dust impacts that conforms with relevant guidance (e.g., the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM)) on construction dust should be provided to demonstrate that mitigation measures proposed are appropriate for the scale of effects.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that once operational, the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in significant air quality effects as the components of the Proposed Development do not produce dust emissions.</p>
3.9.2	Paragraphs 15.3.4  Table 19.1	Impacts to air quality at sensitive human and ecological receptors from non-road mobile machinery (NRMM).	<p>The Inspectorate agrees that emissions from NRMM can be scoped out provided information on the type, duration and location of NRMM is shown in the ES to demonstrate that this would not result in LSE.</p>
3.9.3	Paragraph 15.3.4  Table 19.1	Air quality impacts during operation	<p>The Applicant proposes to scope out impacts to air quality at sensitive human and ecological receptors from the operational phase on the basis that road traffic flows during operation are expected to be minimal and no combustion plant would be present on site.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that operational vehicle emissions may be scoped out from further assessment, subject to the description of</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			development demonstrating that vehicle numbers are sufficiently low as to not trigger the thresholds for an air quality assessment.
3.9.4	Paragraphs 15.3.1 15.3.2	Air quality impacts from road traffic emissions – decommissioning	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out a separate assessment of air quality impacts associated with road traffic emissions on the basis that potential air quality effects during decommissioning are anticipated to be similar to, or of lesser magnitude than the construction phase and proposes to scope this matter out.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out, subject to evidence provided in the ES demonstrating that road traffic emission effects during the decommissioning phase would be similar to or less than during the construction phase, or there is clear agreement with relevant consultation bodies.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
	Paragraphs 15.4.2 15.4.3	Study area	<p>The Scoping Report states that the study area for sensitive ecological receptors will be up to 50m from the site boundary or 50m from the edge of the routes used by construction vehicles. The ES should provide justification with reference to the relevant guidance for the study area for ecological receptors and agree this where possible with relevant consultation bodies.</p> <p>The ES should include a plan showing the extent of the final study area, including proposed construction routes, the location of receptors (human and ecological) considered in the assessment.</p>
	Paragraph 15.4.10	Baseline	The Scoping Report details that dispersion modelling calculations (if required) would be verified using data gathered in the baseline air

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			<p>quality survey and Local Authority monitoring stations where appropriate. From the information provided within the Scoping Report it is unclear whether primary data collection is planned.</p> <p>Effort should be made to reach agreement with relevant consultation bodies including the local authorities, as to whether any additional survey or monitoring work is required to inform the baseline, including for other pollutants.</p>



### 3.10 Land Use and Agriculture

(Scoping Report Section 16)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.2	Paragraphs 16.2.1 – 16.2.4	Agricultural land classification (ALC) and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land	<p>The Inspectorate notes that an ALC survey will be carried out within the Proposed Development Site boundary to inform the baseline assessment of BMV agricultural land.</p> <p>The Applicant should ensure that the survey has sufficient coverage across the Proposed Development including the cable route to accurately inform the assessment in line with relevant guidance and/or standards (e.g. Natural England Technical Information Note TIN049, 2012), or justify why an alternative surveying methodology approach is sufficient.</p> <p>The Applicant's attention <b>is directed to Natural England's comments</b> on ALC and BMV land included in their response in Appendix 2 of the Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>The ES should also show regard to the quantity and quality of land that will be temporarily and permanently lost to the Proposed Development and the potential for cumulative impacts at a regional scale with other plans and projects that result in a reduction of available BMV land.</p> <p>The ES should demonstrate that the ALC survey has been undertaken by an experienced and qualified surveyor or assessor and that the</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			<p>survey method used is in accordance with relevant guidelines to determine ALC grade and soil quality.</p> <p>The areas of land assessed in the survey should clearly show the classification of each of the areas (e.g. in a table) with justification for the use of the land by grade.</p> <p>The ES should demonstrate that the mitigation hierarchy has been fully applied, to show that options have been considered to avoid or minimise loss of BMV land and maximise use of poorer quality agricultural land and, where BMV land is required, to provide a clear justification for why this has been necessary.</p> <p>The ES should also show the approach to construction, including any excavation and preservation of topsoil, selection of piling methods and machinery to reduce the impact of compaction, timing (e.g during drier conditions), and a commitment to applying the relevant codes of practice in relation to soil handling.</p> <p>Additionally, the ES should include details of the decommissioning phase including the after use of the Proposed Development, with details relating to proposed methods of returning land to its previous condition with respect to the baseline ALC survey, including an appropriate aftercare programme and opportunities for continued agricultural use and / or grassland management for biodiversity.</p>
3.10.3	Paragraph 16.3.1	Likely significant effects – sheep grazing	The ES should explain the benefits of grazing sheep at the operational site and what impacts this may have when considered against the existing land use.
3.10.4	Paragraph 16.3.2	Ground Disturbance	The ES should describe the construction, operation and decommissioning activities and how infrastructure has been located to avoid/minimise impacts of ground disturbance on soil and BMV land.

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			<p>A <b>description of how the Proposed Development's design</b> components have been selected, and how construction methods and the timing for construction for instance has been determined as part of the assessment of impacts on soil quality should be included in the ES.</p> <p>Impacts should be assessed where significant effects are likely to occur.</p>
3.10.5	Paragraph 16.5.2	Cumulative impacts	<p>The Scoping Report states that sites smaller than 20h will not be included within the cumulative assessment as a development of this size would not normally be considered for its impact for loss of agricultural land. Cumulative impacts on BMV land should be assessed at a national and local level.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advises that effort should be made to agree the methodology, study area and approach to the assessment with relevant consultation bodies and would expect the ES to provide clear justification for how the use of this threshold allows cumulative impact to be assessed.</p>
3.10.6	Section 16.5	Cumulative economic impacts	<p>The ES should assess the cumulative economic impacts of the Proposed Development alongside other similar NSIP schemes in the area such as Cottam, Gate Burton and Heckington Fen including loss of agricultural land and crop production. Cumulative economic impacts on agricultural businesses and agricultural suppliers should be considered, taking account of relevant guidance from IEMA for example.</p>
3.10.7	Paragraph 16.6.1	Soil resource	<p>The ES should include an assessment of the effects on soil resources and soil structure, due to the potential for soils stripping during construction, compaction from construction and decommissioning activity and to identify potential measures for appropriate soil</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			handling and storage, as well as setting out how any potential adverse impacts can be avoided or minimised.
3.10.8	Paragraph 16.6.1	Soil Management Strategy	The Scoping Report states that an outline Soil Management Strategy will be produced. For clarity this should be provided with the application and detail how this is secured through the DCO.
3.10.9	Paragraph 16.6.1	Mitigation measures in respect to agriculture	The ES should include a description of all proposed mitigation or compensatory measures and state how these measures will be secured.

### 3.11 Glint and Glare

(Scoping Report Section 17)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.2	Paragraphs 17.2.3 17.4.3	Ground-based receptors	The ES should justify the proposed assessment area of 1km as appropriate, explaining how elevated receptors which may overlook

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			the site have been considered in the assessment. Receptors should include PRoWs and bridleways as well as residential and road users.
3.11.3	Paragraphs 17.2.5 17.4.3	Railway receptors	The Scoping Report highlights that only railway receptors within 500m of the solar panel area will be included within the assessment based on a previous consultation with Network Rail. The ES should justify the study area, explaining why no significant effects would occur beyond 500m.
3.11.4	n/a	River users – navigation safety	The proposed assessment area should include river users on the River Trent, to ascertain whether the potential impact of glint or glare may give rise to LSEs. The Applicant's <b>attention</b> is directed to the comments from the Canal and River Trust in Appendix 2 on this matter.
3.11.5	n/a	Sensitive receptors	The Applicant is advised to use the ZTV developed for the LVIA to identify sensitive receptors with potential views of the site that may be affected by glint and glare. Effort should be made to agree the sensitive receptors with relevant consultation bodies. The locations of the sensitive receptors should be shown on an accompanying plan.

### 3.12 Miscellaneous Issues

(Scoping Report Section 18)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.12.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.12.2	Paragraphs 18.3.1 – 18.3.2	Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	<p>The Applicant considers that the most significant EMF sources for the Proposed Development are likely to be the cable routes and associated infrastructure that connect the Proposed Development to the National Grid infrastructure at West Burton Power Station, and the scope of the assessment of EMFs in the ES is limited to the operational impact/consideration of any cables associated with the development which exceed 132kV. The only part of the Proposed Development likely to exceed this voltage is the underground export cables between the onsite substation and the existing West Burton substation which will likely be an underground 400kV cable.</p> <p>The ES should detail any design measures taken to avoid potential adverse effects from EMF in consultation with relevant consultation bodies as necessary.</p>
3.12.3	Paragraphs 18.3.5 – 18.4.4	Waste	<p>The ES should assess any impacts from off-site transport and disposal of waste generated during construction and decommissioning which are likely to result in significant effects. Any assumptions made, such as with regard to quantities of contaminated material, should be clearly set out and justified in the ES.</p> <p>The CEMP and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP) should include as much detail as possible on how waste</p>

ID	Ref	Description	<b>Inspectorate's comments</b>
			<p>would be managed in accordance with the waste management hierarchy, including any end use of the PV panels.</p> <p>The Applicant's <b>attention</b> is directed to the consultation response from Lincolnshire County Council with respect to cumulative waste impacts in Appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion.</p>

## APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES<sup>1</sup>

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
NHS England	NHS England
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Lincolnshire
	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Historic England (East Midlands)
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service
The relevant police and crime commissioner(s)	Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
	Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner
The relevant parish council(s)	North Leverton with Hablesthorpe Parish Council
	Sturton Le Steeple Parish Council [also acting on behalf of West Burton Parish Council]
	Clarborough and Welham Parish Council
	North and South Wheatley Parish Council
	Knaith Parish Council
	Marion and Gate Burton Parish Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency - East Midlands and Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire

<sup>1</sup> Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations')



SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Relevant Highways Authority	Nottinghamshire County Council
The relevant strategic highways company	National Highways (Midlands)
The Coal Authority	The Coal Authority
The relevant internal drainage board(s)	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board
	Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
	Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board
	Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Internal Drainage Board
The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust
The Forestry Commission	The Forestry Commission - East and East Midlands

TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS<sup>2</sup>

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
NHS England	NHS England
The relevant NHS Trust	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
	National Highways Historical Railways Estate
	Network Rail

<sup>2</sup> 'Statutory Undertaker' is defined in the APFP Regulations as having the same meaning as in Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities	The Canal and River Trust
The Civil Aviation Authority	The Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency - East Midlands and Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Anglian Water
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Northern Gas Networks Limited
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
	CNG Services Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Connections Ltd
	ESP Networks Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
Leep Gas Networks Limited	

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Mua Gas Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Squire Energy Limited
	National Gas
	Humbly Grove Energy Services Limited
	Saltfleetby Energy Limited
	Severn Gas Transportation Limited
The relevant electricity generator with CPO Powers	Cottam Power Station
	West Burton Power Station
The relevant electricity distributors with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands) Limited
	Aidien Ltd
	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Mua Electricity Limited
	Optimal Power Networks Limited
Squire Energy Metering Ltd	

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
The relevant electricity transmitters with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited

TABLE A3: SECTION 43 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 42(1)(B))<sup>3</sup>

LOCAL AUTHORITY <sup>4</sup>
Newark and Sherwood District Council
West Lindsey District Council
Bolsover District Council
Mansfield District Council
City of Doncaster Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Nottingham City Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Derbyshire County Council
Leicestershire county Council
Lincolnshire County Council

<sup>3</sup> Sections 43 and 42(B) of the PA2008

TABLE A4: NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

ORGANISATION
East Midlands Combined County Authority

## APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:
Anglian Water
Bassetlaw District Council
Bolsover District Council
Cadent Gas
Canal and River Trust
City of Doncaster Council
Clarborough and Welham Parish Council
The Coal Authority
Derby City Council
The Forestry Commission
The Health and Safety Executive
Historic England
Lincolnshire County Council
Mansfield District Council
National Gas
NATS Safeguarding
Natural England
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Nottingham City Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Rotherham District Council
Sturton le Steeple Parish Council



**Anglian Water Services**  
Lancaster House, Lancaster Way,  
Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon,  
Cambridgeshire. PE29 6XU

By Email: Planning Inspectorate  
[SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

[www.anglianwater.co.uk](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk)

Our ref: Steeple Renewables/  
ScopingResponse

21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Dear Mr. Wallis,

**Application by Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Steeple Renewables Project (the Proposed Development) - Anglian Water EIA scoping consultation response.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIA scoping report for above project, which is located within the Bassetlaw District of Nottinghamshire. The project is one of several NSIP solar projects in Lincolnshire/ Nottinghamshire which Anglian Water has been consulted on by the Planning Inspectorate.

Anglian Water is the appointed water undertaker for the main site as well as the cable route/ grid connection area, shown on Figure 1.1 Site Location Plan. Water recycling services are provided by Severn Trent Water.

The following response is submitted by Anglian Water, in its statutory capacity relating to potable water and water resources assets along with any wastewater and water recycling assets, where applicable.

**The Scheme – Anglian Water Existing Infrastructure**

Anglian Water works to support the construction and operation of national infrastructure projects that are conducted in accordance with the Water Industry Act 1991. We would expect that the Environmental Statement would include reference to any existing infrastructure managed by Anglian Water and the provision of replacement infrastructure and the requirements for new infrastructure.

Anglian Water works with developers, including those constructing projects under the 2008 Planning Act, to ensure requests for alteration of sewers, wastewater and water supply infrastructure is planned to be undertaken with the minimum of disruption to the project and customers.

Given the potential location and likely extent of the proposed development area, there could be existing Anglian Water assets both above and below ground, which serve the surrounding businesses and community. For example, there are existing Anglian Water assets including several water mains within the project area such as within roads / road verges which link the various settlements.

Utilities searches should, therefore, be undertaken to establish the extent of Anglian Water's assets within the scheme's application boundary. These should be mapped to establish interactions with assets and the scheme designed to avoid impacts upon those assets. Anglian Water would want to ensure the location and nature of these assets is identified and protected. To reduce the need for diversions and the attendant carbon impacts of those works, ground investigation would enable the promoter to design out these potential impacts and so also reduce the potential impact on services if construction works cause a pipe burst or damage to all supporting infrastructure.

Maps of Anglian Water's underground assets are available to view at the following link:

<http://www.digdat.co.uk/>

For further information on the above ground assets, you should contact Anglian Water's estates team on: [awsestates@savills.com](mailto:awsestates@savills.com)

Anglian Water's preference is to work with the applicant during the pre-application phase to reach agreement on design changes, mitigation and protection measures in the application prior to submission. This ensures that work to divert existing assets is minimised, reducing project costs and the carbon costs of the project. We would welcome on-going engagement to ensure that Anglian Water and the project have reached agreement on the approach to assets and connections in order that these matters are not drawn out during the Examination.

### **Scheme assessment, design, mitigation and connections**

#### **Water resources**

Within Chapter 9 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage', the scoping report makes number of references to water demand at construction, operation and de-commission stages of the project (paras. 9.3.10, 9.3.14 and 9.3.22). It is not anticipated that there will be significant water requirements at either of these stages and these have been scoped out.

Anglian Water wishes to point out that there are several other projects in the area with a potentially cumulative impact for demand for water resources. There is a need, therefore, to further establish and set out in more detail how the project will be supplied with water and if connections to our networks are required. Also, how water assets serving residents and business will be protected and how the design has been altered to reduce the need for new water infrastructure or the diversion of existing assets.

Anglian Water does not consider that sufficient information has been provided to reach a conclusion on the project impacts regarding water supply. Impacts of climate change in terms



of water availability for the construction, operation and decommissioning stages are also of relevance. Anglian Water requests that these points are covered in the EIA.

Anglian Water now advise that new non-household water supply requests (construction and operational phases) may be declined as these could compromise our regulatory priority of supplying existing and planned domestic growth. The flows needed to fill water storage tanks for example (if rainwater harvesting on site is not used to meet non-potable demand) will need to be assessed by Anglian Water to advise whether a supply is feasible, when assessed in terms of the potential to jeopardise domestic supply or at a significant financial or environmental cost.

Our new position on non-household supply is due to our joint aim with the Environment Agency of reducing abstraction to protect sensitive environments. The promoter will need to submit a water resources assessment setting out a daily demand for each stage of the project and whether this is for domestic or non-domestic uses. Further advice on water capacity and options can be obtained by contacting Anglian Water's Pre-Development Team at: [planningliasion@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:planningliasion@anglianwater.co.uk)

#### Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water

Anglian Water notes at para. 9.3.21 that a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) including Surface Water Drainage Strategy has been scoped in and will support the assessment of flood risk impacts. The Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be based on the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), which will demonstrate how surface water runoff from the proposed development will be managed.

We would welcome confirmation that the design of drainage will either be SuDS or a self-contained system for the construction and operational phases, which uses SuDS for rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses during construction and then operation.

#### Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)

We welcome the intention (para 4.6.2) to produce a CEMP. This should include steps to remove the risk of damage to Anglian Water assets from plant and machinery (compaction and vibration during the construction phase) including any haul and access roads and crossings. Further advice on minimising and then relocating (where feasible) Anglian Water existing assets can be obtained from: [connections@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:connections@anglianwater.co.uk)

#### **Engagement, the draft DCO Order and assisting the applicant**

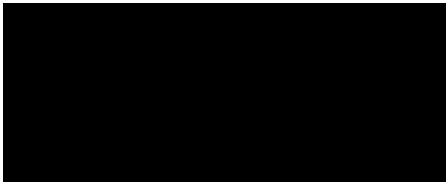
We note that at para 18.2.3 of the Scoping Report, the project plans to engage with several consultees. We would consider that Anglian Water should be included on the list of consultees to be drawn up by the applicant to follow their proposed approach to assessment and consultation set out in Chapter 9.

Anglian Water would welcome the instigation of discussions with RES Limited prior to the project layout and initial design and to assist the applicant before the submission of the Draft DCO for examination. We would recommend discussion on the following issues:

1. Impact of development on Anglian Water's assets and the need for mitigation.
2. The design of the project to minimise interaction with Anglian Water assets/critical infrastructure and specifically to avoid the need for mitigation works and diversions which have associated carbon costs.
3. Requirements for potable and raw water supplies.
4. Pre-construction surveys.
5. Draft Protective Provisions.

Advice on the form and content of suitable Protective Provisions in the draft Development Consent Order should be sought. Please do not hesitate to contact Carry Murphy [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@angliawater.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@angliawater.co.uk) on these aspects or should you require clarification on the above response or during the pre- application to decision stages of the project.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Jones  
Growth & Strategy Manager – Sustainable Growth

c.c. [info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Planning](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 24/00509/PREAPP Steeples Renewables Project  
**Date:** 03 May 2024 15:59:53  
**Attachments:** [ufm19\\_NSIP\\_-\\_Consultation.rtf](#)  
[Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System planning Guidance for FRS.pdf](#)

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Dear Sir,

In response to the above please find the following on behalf of the Fire Authority.

On receipt of a full planning application for the above proposed development the Fire Authority would ask that the matters on the attached Grid Scale Energy Storage System planning guidance document are addressed.

In addition to this any buildings that form part of the scheme are likely to be covered by approved documents pertaining to their construction and subsequently Fire Safety Legislation could apply.

The Fire Authority looks forward to further consultation on receipt of the final planning application to follow in 2025.

Regards

Tom

***Creating Safer Communities***

Website: [www.notts-fire.gov.uk](http://www.notts-fire.gov.uk)

Twitter: @NottsFire

Facebook: NottsFRS



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

The professional voice of the UK Fire & Rescue Service

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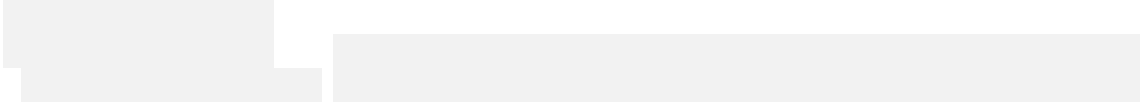
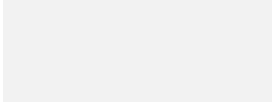


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**Bassetlaw**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
— North Nottinghamshire —



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 24-00509-PREAPP - Steeple Renewables Project - Conservation comments  
**Date:** 21 May 2024 15:31:07  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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PINS/Amanda

### Heritage assets

The proposal area and its surroundings include a range of heritage assets of varied levels of significance. Within Bassetlaw, this includes 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) within the boundary at Littleborough and a further SAM just outside (West Burton), a large number of Listed Buildings (LBs), non-designated heritage assets (NDHAs), 1 unregistered park & garden (Habblesthorpe Churchyard – see [here](#)), and 2 Conservation Areas (CAs) at Wheatley and Saundby.

There is also a complex network of unscheduled archaeology across the entire site (I defer to the views of the Lincolnshire/Nottinghamshire County Council archaeologists on that matter).

Outside of Bassetlaw, on the east side of the river in Lincolnshire, are a further set of designated and non-designated heritage assets including SAMs, LBs and NDHAs.

### Littleborough SAM

Of particular concern is the inclusion of the **Littleborough Scheduled Ancient Monument** within the site area. This should be **removed** from the proposal at the earliest stage possible. A solar farm development would undoubtedly cause **substantial harm** if located directly on top of a SAM. The public benefits of solar development could be met on alternative, less heritage-sensitive sites in the wider area.

Conservation would also draw attention to paragraph 10.4.4, which states that for the development phase: *“There is the potential that if archaeological remains are found to exist within the Site, that the Proposed Development would cause some harm to these. However...it is considered that this would not result in a significant effect upon non-designated archaeological assets”*. This is incorrect, especially in close proximity to the SAMs and the Roman Road through Sturton le Steeple and Littleborough.

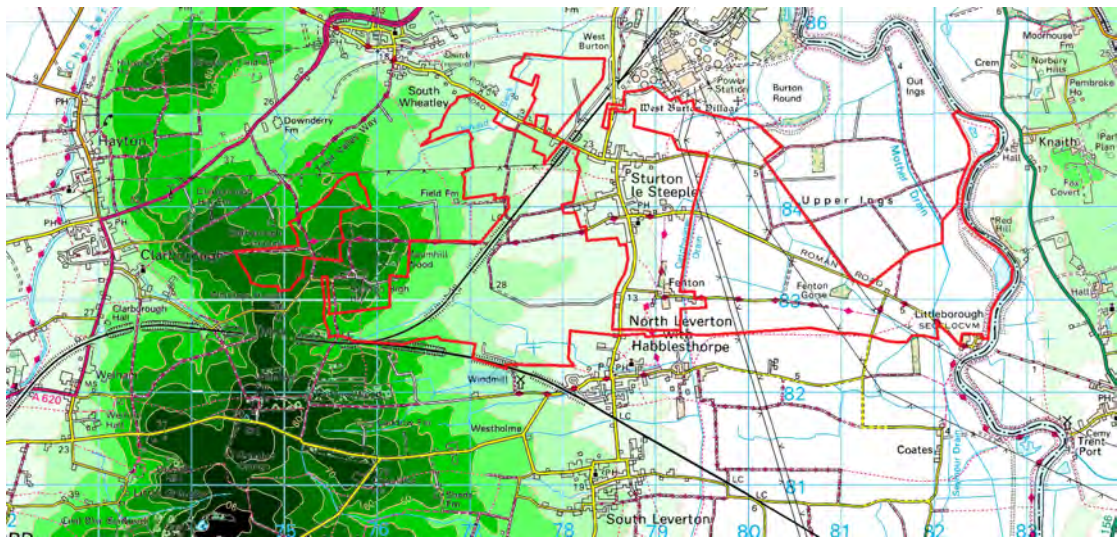
### Desktop study

For the forthcoming desktop study, a 3km radius is proposed for designated heritage assets and a 1km radius for non-designated heritage assets. Conservation is broadly in agreement with this suggestion, although would request that exceptions are made for those taller and higher grade Listed Buildings nearby (especially Medieval churches). The setting of North Leverton Windmill also goes beyond the 3km distance, so impact upon that wide setting needs additional consideration.

### Photographic study

A photographic viewpoints study will be required which takes into account the following:

- The setting of all heritage assets in the study area (note that ‘setting’ is much more than the visibility or otherwise of an asset; it also includes the wider experience of landscape, the built/natural environment and other such features);
- Key viewpoints along public highways and public rights of way;
- The natural contours of the landscape, including views from and towards publicly-accessible high and low points (contour map below).



- The impact of existing landscape screening including tree belts/clumps and hedgerows.

#### Data sources

For paragraph 10.5.7, I would suggest adding the 'Bassetlaw Heritage Mapping' web page to the list of data sources: <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-services/conservation-and-heritage/bassetlaw-heritage-mapping/>. From this page, an up-to-date list of all heritage assets in Bassetlaw is available, together with a description of each non-designated heritage asset, a statement of significance for each unregistered park & garden, and a designation statement for each Conservation Area.

I trust these comments are of use. I would be happy to provide more detailed comments on particular sites if this is of use.

I look forward to receiving a consultation on the next stage of the proposal.

Regards, Michael

**Michael S. A. Tagg BA (Hons), MSc, IHBC**

Conservation Manager  
Planning Services  
Bassetlaw District Council  
Queens Buildings  
Potter Street  
Worksop  
Nottinghamshire  
S80 2AH

Tel: 01909 533427

You will appreciate that the above comments are made at officer level only and do not prejudice any decision taken at a later date by the Council.





The Coal  
Authority

200 Lichfield Lane  
Mansfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG18 4RG

T: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

E: [planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk)

W: [www.gov.uk/coalauthority](http://www.gov.uk/coalauthority)

**For the attention of: Amanda Broadhead**

Bassetlaw District Council

[By email: [planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk)]

13 May 2024

Dear Amanda Broadhead

**Re: 24/00509/PREAPP**

**National Strategic Infrastructure Project Consultation from The Planning Inspectorate on Behalf of the Secretary of State for a Scoping Opinion; STEEPLE RENEWABLES, PROJECT**

Thank you for your notification of 3 May 2024 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

We have reviewed the site location plan provided and can confirm that the site falls within the Coal Authority's defined Development Low Risk Area. On this basis we have no specific comments to make.

However, in the interest of public safety, it is requested that the Coal Authority's Standing Advice note is drawn to the applicant's attention, where relevant.

Yours

**The Coal Authority Planning Team**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Planning:](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: 24/00509/PREAPP Consultation Response  
**Date:** 20 May 2024 10:23:19  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <[consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 20 May 2024 10:18  
**To:** Martyn Beckett [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@bassetlaw.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** 24/00509/PREAPP Consultation Response

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Dear Martyn Beckett,

Application ref: 24/00509/PREAPP

Thank you for your consultation which was received 3 May 2024.

Natural England have already been consulted by the Planning Inspectorate directly regarding this consultation. As such will be providing our comments directly to the inspectorate.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Rogers  
Consultations Team  
Natural England  
Hornbeam House, Electra Way  
Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 6GJ

Enquiries line: 0300 060 3900  
Email: [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)



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[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@bassetlaw.gov.uk)> [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@bassetlaw.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:45 PM  
**To:** SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <[consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)>

**Subject:** Planning Application Consultation 24/00509/PREAPP (PINS/NSIP Scoping)

Please see attached consultation

---

[Bassetlaw District Council] Martyn Beckett

Systems Support Officer

Bassetlaw District Council, Potter Street, N/A, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 2AH

W: [www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk)<<http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk>>

---

[Bassetlaw District Council] Martyn Beckett

Systems Support Officer

Bassetlaw District Council, Potter Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 2AH

W: [www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk)<<http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk>>

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Martyn Beckett  
Systems Support Officer

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Planning](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 24/00509/PREAPP Proposed development of a Solar Farm located in Nottinghamshire comprising up to 400MW of solar energy generation and a 200MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)  
**Date:** 18 May 2024 13:15:57  
**Attachments:** [Steeple Renewables Project Scoping Report – Archaeology Comments Bassetlaw District Council.docx](#)  
[ufm14\\_NSIP - Consultation.rtf](#)

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Hi Amanda

Many thanks for consulting me on this. I've attached my comments relating to archaeology for your consideration and I hope these can be added to the Council's response.

I've been recently contacted regarding a WSI for geophysical survey for this project which I've agreed as part of their assessment works. I'll keep you posted with results and the next stages, which should include trenching.

I hope this is all in order and please let me know if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Matt

**Matthew Adams**

**Senior Historic Environment Officer**

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL

**Mobile:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@[lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:lincolnshire.gov.uk)

**Teams:** [REDACTED]

**Website:** [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk)



---

**From:** Amanda Broadhead [REDACTED]@[bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:bassetlaw.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 9:59 AM

**To:** Matthew Adams [REDACTED]@[lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:lincolnshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** 24/00509/PREAPP Proposed development of a Solar Farm located in Nottinghamshire comprising up to 400MW of solar energy generation and a 200MW Battery Energy Storage

System (BESS)

Caution external: This email originated from outside of the council. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are confident the email is legitimate

Good morning Matthew

We requested some comments by today for us to provide the LPA's scoping opinion in regards to the above NSIP project. PINs have already confirmed that they won't extend the deadline and I have to submit the LPA's response by 21<sup>st</sup> May ....Please can you confirm whether you can provide comments under our paid service agreement?

Kind regards

Amanda Broadhead, MSc, MRTPI  
Planning Officer  
Development Management



Amanda Broadhead  
Planning Officer  
Bassetlaw District Council ,Potter Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80  
2AH  
W: [www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk)

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<b>Lead Ecologists Consultation Response</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 21 May 2024
<b>Planning Ref:</b>	24/00509
<b>Description:</b>	Proposed National Strategic Infrastructure Project Consultation from The Planning Inspectorate on Behalf of the Secretary of State for a Scoping Opinion

*Steeple Renewables Project Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report* prepared by Pegasus has been considered when formulating this Scoping Opinion.

#### **FURTHER DETAIL SHOULD BE PROVIDED ABOUT XXX**

##### **Scoped In**

###### *Statutory Designated Sites*

No Comments.

###### *Non-statutory Designated Sites*

Further details should be provided about the scope for additional/incidental management of any of these sites as part of the management regime of the wider site.

###### *Habitats*

Further details should be provided on the seeding/planting in the Solar Areas, the timing of management (noting probable presence of nesting birds, leverets, herpetofauna etc.) and the approach towards use of chemical control of vegetation on site given the vast scale of the project and proximity to major watercourse.

###### *Badger*

Further details on protections for retained/created setts from machinery operating on site etc. during the operational phase.

###### *Bats*

Further details are required on what compensation and enhancement for bats will be made available beyond any licencing requirements. For example, it is expected that identified commuting routes will be bolstered, main foraging areas retained and enhanced, but will new roosting provisions be provided?

###### *Birds*

Proposals for the inclusion of gaps in fencing for badger are admirable however it may be prudent for ground nesting birds, such as skylark, if these gaps were not present in all sectors and larger mammals such as badger, fox and hedgehog were excluded at least from some of the mitigation areas, if not some of the solar areas as well. The losses of skylark breeding territories to the scheme are substantial and clarification on exactly what bespoke compensation for this red listed species will be provisioned is needed.

Noted that access wasn't possible to the proposed Eastern Mitigation Area, and this will be surveyed in 2024. Further details of which species breed here is needed and further information on what if any improvements can be made to this habitat for it to be a 'Mitigation Area'.





Further details are required on the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan for the whole site and how this will consider nesting birds (this will likely also have beneficial effects on other species). Although much research pertains to skylark in Solar Farms, other species such as meadow pipit, linnet etc. may be prevalent and nest in the sward in and around panels.

*Great crested newts*

Further details on the mitigation and compensation for this species are required.

*Water vole*

Further details on the mitigation and compensation for this species are required.

*Otter*

No comment.

*Reptiles*

Further details on the mitigation and compensation for these species is required. It would be unfortunate to see these species scoped out when opportunities exist to bolster local populations and provide enhanced landscape connectivity.

*Terrestrial invertebrates*

Further details on enhancements for these species is required.

*Aquatic invertebrates*

The separation between the solar areas and the River Trent is very much welcomed given the research into solar farms and Ephemeroptera etc.

*Other SPI mammal species*

No comment.

*In combination effects*

Several other proposed solar developments similar in scope and scale and in proximity to or even bounding the site are emerging and these will doubtless be considered. Further details are required on communication between project teams and how habitat connectivity across these sites will be achieved. A lack of coherent connection between significant landscape features on the sites will represent a substantial loss for biodiversity in the region and ecology as a profession.

**Scoped Out**

*Hazel dormouse*

No comment.

## Steeple Renewables Project Scoping Report – Archaeology Comments Bassetlaw District Council

The Environmental Impact Assessment scoping report for the Steeple Renewables Project sets out the proposed approach regarding cultural heritage and archaeology at Chapter 10. I generally support the outline approach presented, however the following comments should be addressed as the pre-application assessment proceeds.

The proposed site is very large, covering 943.4ha in an area of known high archaeological potential. This includes an extensive Roman landscape of towns (including the scheduled monument *Segelocum*) and smaller settlements along the main Roman road between Lincoln and Doncaster (Margery 28a). This formed part of the main, national north-south road network between London and York and bypassed the unreliable ferry crossing across the Humber estuary on Ermine Street. It was a high traffic road with extensive remains associated with settlement, villas, farming and industry extending some distance either side. Archaeological work in the area has identified numerous previously unknown sites of significance associated with it. There is also significant potential for prehistoric through to medieval activity throughout the proposed site.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will require desk-based research, non-intrusive surveys, and intrusive field evaluation for the full extent of proposed impact. The results should be used to minimise the impact on the historic environment through informing the project design and an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation. The provision of sufficient baseline information to identify and assess the impact on known and potential heritage assets is required by Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d)), National Planning Statement Policy EN1 (Section 5.8), National Planning Statement Policy EN3 (Section 2.10.107-119), and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The full potential impact zone including in-scope cable connection corridors will require geophysical survey to provide an initial assessment of the site-specific archaeological potential and to inform a robust programme of archaeological trial trenching and subsequent post-consent mitigation. Pre-determination evaluation of the cable connection corridors can be very useful with informing a decision on the most cost effective and viable route.

The scoping report recognises the extensive and diverse range for archaeological remains within the site boundary and acknowledges the potential for direct and damaging impacts from the proposed development (Section 10.4.4).

However, it seeks to present a narrative of low impact, which is often presented with solar farm development. This is inaccurate and the cumulative effect of piling, kilometres of cable trenching, landscaping, construction activity and the likely disturbance from numerous refits and decommissioning will be substantial and very damaging to any surviving archaeological remains, both known and as yet unknown. The developmental impacts will be on a similar scale to any other large-scale development.

The scoping report makes provision for a full desk-based assessment (DBA), geophysical survey of the full site boundary (Section 10.5.13) which is welcomed. However, these techniques alone are

insufficient to properly identify and understand archaeological potential and significance. A programme of evaluation trenching to cover a minimum of 3% of the order limits will be necessary to properly identify and characterise the archaeological resource within the site. This is necessary to inform the cultural heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) and the DCO application.

Trenching results are essential for effective risk management and to inform project viability, programme scheduling and budget management. Failing to do so could lead to unnecessary destruction of heritage assets, potential programme delays or viability issues, and excessive cost increases that could otherwise be avoided. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the applicant as set out in Section 10.5.15.

I welcome the applicant's intention to present an outline mitigation strategy with their DCO application (Section 10.7.2). The strategy will necessarily be based upon the results of the evaluation work outlined above.

I also welcome the proposal to enhance public understanding of the local heritage following the results of the archaeological work associated with the project (Section 10.7.3). This will provide significant public benefit through heritage outreach work in the local community.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Planning](#)  
**Subject:** Steeple Renewables Project  
**Date:** 16 May 2024 08:51:59

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**Subject:** 24-00509-PREAPP - Steeple Renewables Project - Conservation comments  
**Date:** 21 May 2024 15:32:59  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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### Heritage assets

The proposal area and its surroundings include a range of heritage assets of varied levels of significance. Within Bassetlaw, this includes 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) within the boundary at Littleborough and a further SAM just outside (West Burton), a large number of Listed Buildings (LBs), non-designated heritage assets (NDHAs), 1 unregistered park & garden (Habblesthorpe Churchyard – see [here](#)), and 2 Conservation Areas (CAs) at Wheatley and Saundby.

There is also a complex network of unscheduled archaeology across the entire site (I defer to the views of the Lincolnshire/Nottinghamshire County Council archaeologists on that matter).

Outside of Bassetlaw, on the east side of the river in Lincolnshire, are a further set of designated and non-designated heritage assets including SAMs, LBs and NDHAs.

### Littleborough SAM

Of particular concern is the inclusion of the **Littleborough Scheduled Ancient Monument** within the site area. This should be **removed** from the proposal at the earliest stage possible. A solar farm development would undoubtedly cause **substantial harm** if located directly on top of a SAM. The public benefits of solar development could be met on alternative, less heritage-sensitive sites in the wider area.

Conservation would also draw attention to paragraph 10.4.4, which states that for the development phase: *“There is the potential that if archaeological remains are found to exist within the Site, that the Proposed Development would cause some harm to these. However...it is considered that this would not result in a significant effect upon non-designated archaeological assets”*. This is incorrect, especially in close proximity to the SAMs and the Roman Road through Sturton le Steeple and Littleborough.

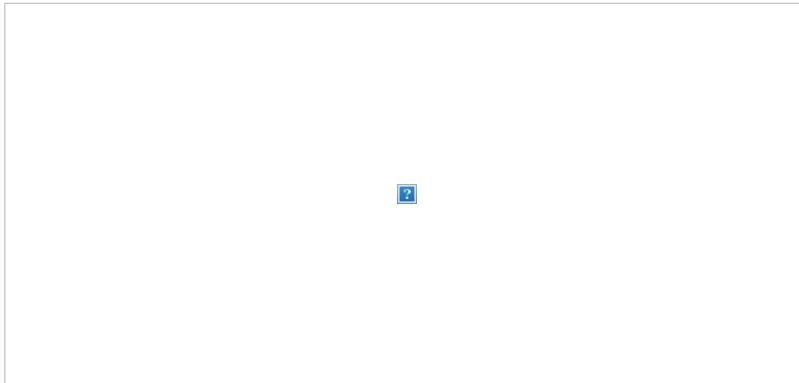
### Desktop study

For the forthcoming desktop study, a 3km radius is proposed for designated heritage assets and a 1km radius for non-designated heritage assets. Conservation is broadly in agreement with this suggestion, although would request that exceptions are made for those taller and higher grade Listed Buildings nearby (especially Medieval churches). The setting of North Leverton Windmill also goes beyond the 3km distance, so impact upon that wide setting needs additional consideration.

### Photographic study

A photographic viewpoints study will be required which takes into account the following:

- The setting of all heritage assets in the study area (note that ‘setting’ is much more than the visibility or otherwise of an asset; it also includes the wider experience of landscape, the built/natural environment and other such features);
- Key viewpoints along public highways and public rights of way;
- The natural contours of the landscape, including views from and towards publicly-accessible high and low points (contour map below).



- The impact of existing landscape screening including tree belts/clumps and hedgerows.

### Data sources

For paragraph 10.5.7, I would suggest adding the ‘Bassetlaw Heritage Mapping’ web page to the list of data sources: <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-services/conservation-and-heritage/bassetlaw-heritage-mapping/>. From this page, an up-to-date list of all heritage assets in Bassetlaw is available, together with a description of each non-designated heritage asset, a statement of significance for each unregistered park & garden, and a designation statement for each Conservation Area.

I trust these comments are of use. I would be happy to provide more detailed comments on particular sites if this is of use.

I look forward to receiving a consultation on the next stage of the proposal.

Regards, Michael

signature (work), 10 pc



**Michael S. A. Tagg BA (Hons), MSc, IHBC**

Conservation Manager  
Planning Services  
Bassetlaw District Council  
Queens Buildings  
Potter Street  
Worksop

Nottinghamshire  
S80 2AH

Tel: 01909 533427  
[REDACTED]

You will appreciate that the above comments are made at officer level only and do not prejudice any decision taken at a later date by the Council.

---

 Michael Tagg  
Conservation Manager  
Bassetlaw District Council, Potter Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 2AH  
W: [www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk)

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— North Nottinghamshire —







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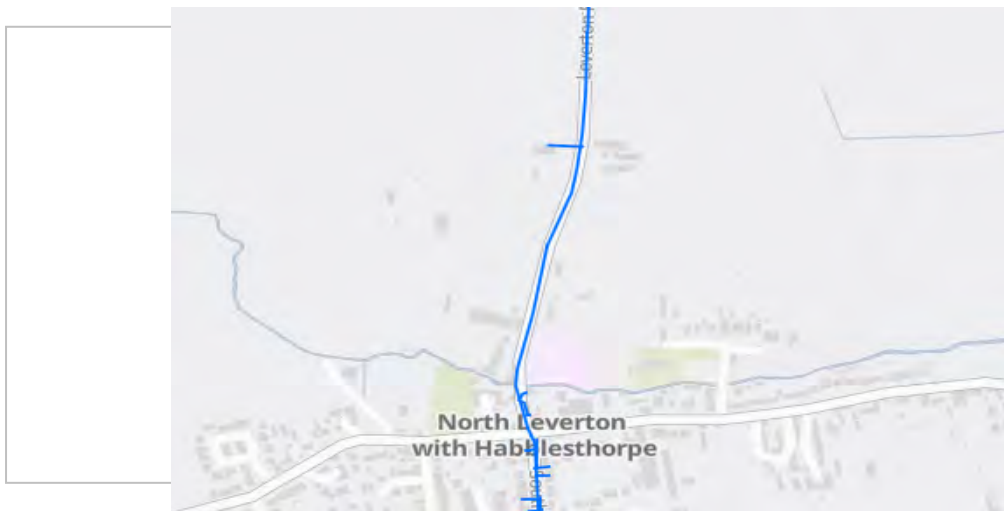
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] EN010163 – Steeple Renewables Project – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 24 April 2024 10:03:58  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello.

Thank you for the below and attached.

I believe I have reviewed the proposed scheme boundary. I understand there are no Cadent interactions with the current Red Line Boundary, however there is a close interaction with a medium pressure pipe in Leverton road, north of North Leverton, see below. I can see from the Plan I was able to find on line to see if the scheme effects the highway.



On a separate note, the addition of a clearly accessible Red Line Boundary for the scheme and other EIA scoping reports would help process these schemes. As you can imagine there are a large number of DCO projects we need to review. It is common that a lot of time is spent looking for a useable plan to review the scheme, which was the case for this scheme.

Please keep Cadent informed if there are any chances to the Red Line Boundary in the future.

Kind regards

Toby

---

**From:** Steeple Renewables Project <SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 April 2024 18:43  
**To:** Feirn, Toby [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cadentgas.com>; .box.Landservicesworkrequest.GD16 <LandServices@cadentgas.com>  
**Cc:** Steeple Renewables Project <SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** [EXT] EN010163 – Steeple Renewables Project – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

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**FAO: Mr Toby Feirn, Planning and consents specialist.**

Dear Mr Feirn

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Steeple Renewable Energy.

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is **21 May 2024** which is statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Kind regards

Lucy Hicks

EIA & Land Rights Advisor

Environmental Services Team

Major Casework Directorate

The Planning Inspectorate, 3M Kite, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Helpline: 0303 44 5000

Email: [lucy.hicks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.hicks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Web: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> (National Infrastructure Planning)

Web: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate) (The Planning Inspectorate)

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Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Operations Group 3  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol BS1 6PN

Your Ref EN010163

Our Ref IPP - 226

Thursday 16 May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11. Scoping consultation- application by Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Steeples Renewables Project (the Proposed Development).**

Thank you for your consultation.

We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The Trust is a prescribed consultee in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) process.

The Trust has reviewed the Scoping Report, and we note that the Indicative Parameters Plan at Figure 1.2 shows that the site boundary adjoins the River Trent for approximately 3km running north from Littleborough. The Trust is Navigation Authority for the River Trent and also has freehold landowner interests with respect to the riverbed. The river is classified as a commercial waterway and can accommodate large freight carriers as well as smaller vessels.

The eastern part of the site alongside the River Trent is identified as an area of biodiversity mitigation and proposed pv panels and associated infrastructure are shown to be approximately 550-600m away from the river at their nearest. We note that there is no requirement for any cable crossing over or under the river.

Section 8 of the Scoping Report discusses Ecology and Biodiversity and indicates that appropriate ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures will be identified within the Environmental Statement, including the provision of biodiversity mitigation areas along both the eastern and western boundaries of the site. It is stated that there is intended to be engagement and consultation with relevant stakeholders from the scoping stage onwards in relation to the scope of study for ecology and to identify appropriate biodiversity mitigation and enhancements for the proposed development. We recommend that this engagement should include discussions with the Canal & River Trust in relation to proposed planting in the eastern boundary biodiversity mitigation area alongside the River Trent.

Section 9 of the Scoping Report discusses flood risk and drainage matters. We recommend that the Environmental Statement should consider whether the proposed development would result in any changes in drainage to the River Trent. If any likely increases in surface water runoff/discharge to the river are expected to occur, it will be important to consider whether these are likely to have any effect on navigation on the river. For example, new or increased flows from outfalls can affect passing boat traffic depending on the angle and strength of flow.

### **Canal & River Trust**

Fradley Junction, Alrewas, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 7DN  
T 0303 040 4040 E [canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us) W [canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Section 14 of the Scoping Report discusses transport and access and solely considers options for construction traffic accessing the site by road. We suggest that the Environmental Statement should consider whether there is potential to utilise the River Trent (as a commercial waterway) for transportation of materials to the site and whether this does or does not represent a feasible alternative to transport by road.

Section 17 of the Scoping Report discusses the potential effects of the development arising from glint and glare. The report does not identify the River Trent as a potential receptor to be considered in a Glint and Glare Assessment. We acknowledge that the sites for the panels are set well away from the River Trent and their location and the local topography (particularly the presence of a raised flood bank) suggest that they are unlikely to be visible from the river. However, notwithstanding the distance between the panels and the river, the Environmental Statement should consider whether glint and glare impacts to river users are likely to occur. The River Trent is a navigable waterway which is also designated as a commercial waterway carrying freight. It is therefore important that visual impacts (including impacts from glint and glare) on the river do not result in any harm to navigational safety. Whilst we do not necessarily expect there to be any significant impact on the river or river users, we do therefore consider that this matter should be addressed in the Glint and Glare Assessment so that it can clearly demonstrate whether any impacts are likely and, if so, to what extent.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

**Ian Dickinson MRTPI**  
Area Planner



<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design>

## **Canal & River Trust**

Fradley Junction, Alrewas, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 7DN

**T** 0303 040 4040 **E** [canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us) **W** [canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Subject:** City of Doncaster Council response to EIA Scoping Opinion  
**Date:** 25 April 2024 14:45:54

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Dear Sir/Madam

Having considered the content of the report I can confirm that we do not have any comments to make on the submission.

Yours faithfully

Roy Sykes  
Head of Service (Planning)  
Directorate of Place  
City of Doncaster Council  
Address: Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU  
E-mail: [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk  
Website: [www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)

cdc grey



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Subject:** EN010163 - Steeple Renewables Project - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 15 May 2024 17:47:35

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The Coal  
Authority

200 Lichfield Lane  
Mansfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG18 4RG

T: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

E: [planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk)

W: [www.gov.uk/coalauthority](http://www.gov.uk/coalauthority)

**For the attention of: Lucy Hicks**

Bassetlaw District Council

[By email: [lucy.hicks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.hicks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)]

9 May 2024

Dear Lucy Hicks

**Re: EN010163**

**Application by Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Steeple Renewables Project (the Proposed Development); LAND AT, STURTON LE STEEPLE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Thank you for your notification of 23 April 2024 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

We have reviewed the site location plan provided and can confirm that the site falls within the Coal Authority's defined Development Low Risk Area. On this basis we have no specific comments to make.

However, in the interest of public safety, it is requested that the Coal Authority's Standing Advice note is drawn to the applicant's attention, where relevant.

Yours

**The Coal Authority Planning Team**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EN010163 – Steeple Renewables Project – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 24 April 2024 08:42:26  
**Attachments:** [~WRD2854.jpg](#)

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Morning,

As this site is over 40 miles away from Derby city I have no points of substance to offer.

Regards,

**Paul Clarke** MRTPI | Chief Planning Officer | Derby City Council, The Council House,  
Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS | Telephone 01332 641642 | [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)

**Houses in Multiple Occupation** Between 2 April and 31 May we are seeking your views on whether we should have more controls over the creation of Houses in Multiple Occupation. Tell us how they affect you and whether more controls are necessary by emailing [developmentcontrol@derby.gov.uk](mailto:developmentcontrol@derby.gov.uk) using or for more information visit our web page <https://letstalk.derby.gov.uk/hmo-proposed-article-4-direction>

---

**From:** Steeple Renewables Project <SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 6:25 PM  
**To:** Paul Clarke [REDACTED]@derby.gov.uk>; Development Control <developmentcontrol@derby.gov.uk>; Steeple Renewables Project <SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** EN010163 – Steeple Renewables Project – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

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**FAO: Chief Planning Officer Paul Clark**

Dear Mr Clark,

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Steeple Renewable Energy.

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is 21 May 2024 which is statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Kind regards

Lucy Hicks

EIA & Land Rights Advisor

Environmental Services Team

Major Casework Directorate

The Planning Inspectorate, 3M Kite, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Helpline: 0303 44 5000

Email: [lucy.hicks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.hicks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Subject:** EN010163 - Steeples Renewable Project - EIA Scoping  
**Date:** 20 May 2024 14:56:11  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

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Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this proposal.

As the Government's Forestry Experts, we endeavour to provide relevant information to enable the project to reduce any impact on irreplaceable habitat such as ancient semi natural woodland as well as other woodland.

We can confirm there are no Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands within the site area.

However there is one 1.14ha area of traditional orchard and two areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland (0.85ha & 2.38ha) within the site that are all on the Priority Habitat Inventory.

This recognises that under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan they were recognised as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan has now been superseded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework but this priority status remains under the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006. (NERC) Sect 40 "Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity" and Sect 41 – "List of habitats and species of principle importance in England".

The 0.85ha area of woodland is within the area designated as a biodiversity area, however both the traditional orchard and the 2.38ha woodland are within the area designated for panels. While the scoping report states that mature and veteran trees will be a priority for retention, the orchard and woodlands are not specified except to mention improved woodland management.

Fragmentation is one of the greatest threats to lowland mixed deciduous woodland. Woodlands can suffer loss or deterioration from nearby development through damage to soils, roots and vegetation and changes to drainage and air pollution from an increase in traffic, particularly during the construction phase of a development.

For any woodland within the development boundary, land required for temporary use or land where rights are required for the diversion of utilities you must take into consideration the Root Protection Zone. The Root Protection Zone (as specified in British Standard 5837) is there to protect the roots of trees, which often spread out further than the tree canopy. Protection measures include taking care not to cut tree roots (e.g., by trenching) or causing soil compaction around trees (e.g., through vehicle movements or stacking heavy equipment) or contamination from poisons (e.g., site stored fuel or chemicals).

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) sets out the UK government's approach to sustainable forestry and woodland management, including standards and requirements as a basis for regulation, monitoring and reporting requirements. The UKFS has a general presumption against deforestation. Page 23 of the Standard states that: "Areas of woodland are material considerations in the planning process...."

A scheme that bisects any woodland will not only result in significant loss of woodland cover but will also reduce ecological value and natural heritage impacts due to habitat fragmentation, and have a huge negative impact on the ability of the biodiversity (flora and fauna) to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Woodland also provides habitat for a range of Section 41 Priority Species including all bats.

With the Government aspiration to increase tree and canopy cover to 16.5% of land area in England by 2050. The Forestry Commission is seeking to ensure that tree planting is a consideration in every development not just as compensation for loss. However, there are a number of issues that need to be considered when proposing significant planting schemes:

- Biosecurity of all planting stock needs to be considered.
- Woodlands need to be climate, pest and disease resilient.
- Maximise the ecosystem services benefits of all new woodland wherever possible (flood reduction)
- Planting contributes to a 'resilient treescape' by maximising connectivity across the landscape.
- Plans are in place to ensure long term management and maintenance of woodland.

It is expected that there will be a thorough assessment of any loss of all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and the development of mitigation measures to minimise any risk of net deforestation because of the scheme. Hedgerows, individual trees and woodlands within a development site should also be considered in terms of their overall connectivity between woodlands affected by the development. Perhaps with the creation of some larger woodland blocks and hedgerow/hedgerow trees to ensure maximum gains to increase habitat connectivity and benefit biodiversity across the whole site, not solely in specific areas or as screening. Plans should also be in place for the long term management and maintenance of any new woodland, with access needing to be considered for future management. I hope these comments have been useful to you, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Sandra

*Sandra Squire*

Local Partnership Advisor  
East & East Midlands

  
 [@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:_____@forestrycommission.gov.uk)



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**From:** [REDACTED] [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Subject:** EN010163 – Steeple Renewables Project – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 21 May 2024 17:00:29  
**Attachments:** [image503506.jpg](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Your Ref: EN010163

Our Ref:

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11 Application by Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Steeple Renewables Project (the Proposed Development) Scoping consultation and notification**

**Historic England Advice**

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above referenced EIA scoping report and associated appendices.

Upon reviewing the assessment methodology that has been applied to the scoping report, our observations are as follows.

The study radius for designated assets seems reasonable, however, professional judgment should still be applied to include particularly sensitive/important assets beyond the fixed radius. The search radius for the non-designated assets is best commented upon by the local planning authority's archaeological advisors in this instance.

We would take the opportunity to highlight the need for an approach to setting impact to take in the kinetic views, rather than fixed viewpoints. For a robust approach to settings impact assessment, we refer you to our published guidance at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/>. Photomontages or visualisations would be helpful to aid the understanding of the impact to the setting of the designated and non-designated heritage assets.

In section 10.3.3 of the scoping report it states 'once the SZTV was applied this reduced the numbers of designated assets', the above-mentioned photomontages or visualisations, plus further clarifications on what assets have been scoped out with this approach, would be beneficial in appraising this EIA scoping report.

Without prejudice to any other assets which may be highlighted through the EIA process, we would also draw attention to the Norman Grade I listed church of St Nicholas, which is located adjacent to the scheduled Roman town and has Roman fabric incorporated into the structure and the Grade II\* listed Burton Chateau which sits atop a hill with wide views over the river to its west and North Leverton Windmill.

The illustrative application area is also within the setting of scheduled monument 'Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm' (NHLE 1017741), where it connects with the power station at West Burton.

The illustrative application area includes part of scheduled monument 'Segulocum Roman town' (NHLE 1003669). The town was located on the west bank of the River Trent at the ford of a Roman road linking Doncaster and Lincoln. It sits within a wider, broadly contemporary archaeological landscape of settlement and activity along the Roman transport network of river and road, noting, for example, the scheduled Roman fort south of Littleborough Lane to the east of the river (NHLE 1004935).

We would also highlight that the scheduled monument Segelocum Roman Town, due to the nature of the archaeological remains, is known to extend well beyond the limits of the scheduling, and likely to contain remains of equivalent importance and contribute to the archaeological significance of the scheduled monument. We would highlight the need for suitable assessment and characterisation of any peripheral archaeological remains to the scheduled monument itself. Further geophysical survey can be found from the County Historic Environment Team and the district Council's Historic Environment advisor in addition to making a detailed Historic Environment Record consultation.

It is pertinent to note the importance of the River Trent in relation to the significance to Segelocum Roman Town, and this should be assessed in reference to the impact to the setting of the monument and the legibility of the monument within the historic landscape.

Furthermore, we would also take the opportunity to highlight the relevance of our guidance on deposit modelling, which can be found at [Deposit Modelling and Archaeology | Historic England](#), which should be applied alongside our guidance on Planning and Archaeology, which can be found at [HEAN 17 Planning and Archaeology, \(historicengland.org.uk\)](#).

In order to effectively reduce risk to archaeological remains through design and mitigation, an iterative approach to field evaluation should be applied, including but not restricted to Trial trench evaluation, a strategy for which should be developed in consultation with the Local Planning Authority.

Certain classes of asset such as flint scatters and military remains will require bespoke approach. Additionally, any work within the scheduled area will require consultation with Historic England and the granting of consent.

Kind regards,





The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Operations Group 3  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Amy Charlesworth  
Infrastructure Officer  
Planning Services  
Lincolnshire County Council  
County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln, LN1 1YL  
Tel: 07586481880

Email: [NSIPS@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:NSIPS@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Sent by E-Mail to:  
[SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Your Ref: EN010163  
Date: 21 May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Proposal: Scoping Consultation under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

**Application by Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Steeple Renewables Project (the Proposed Development)**

**Location: Land at Sturton le Steeple, Nottinghamshire.**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 April 2024 consulting Lincolnshire County Council, as a neighbouring authority, on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) dated April 2024.

The Council have reviewed the information and have the following comments to make.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

The Council is pleased to see the interrelationship between environmental factors within the ES is proposed to be scoped in, this is welcomed.

An assessment of inter project effects should also be considered. The proposed study area should be sufficient in extent to capture relevant projects within the Lincolnshire geographical boundary. This assessment should include a review of planning applications and the development plan in Lincolnshire and also include other projects that are currently proposed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process.

Consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts associated with the development and other NSIP schemes within the locality, in particular Gate Burton Energy Park, West Burton Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project, Tillbridge Solar Project and North Humber to High Marnham, which are currently at pre-application, pre-examination, recommendation and decision stage.

The Council would expect the ES to contain a separate chapter on the assessment of cumulative effects covering both intra project and inter projects effects. Which, in addition to setting out the approach and methodology, clearly identifies other relevant projects and the potential for cumulative effects, any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources. It should also provide an assessment of the significance of the potential cumulative impacts identified, likely duration of the impacts (including phasing details) and mitigation measures.

### **Landscape and Visual Impact**

It is noted that the landscape and visual study area extends into areas within Lincolnshire County Councils administrative boundary. Considering the proximity of this boundary to the project scope there is potential for the development to indirectly impact on the wider landscape character and/or setting in Lincolnshire. Particularly in respect of cumulative landscape impacts and impacts on visual amenity. The applicant is advised to consult with the County Council and West Lindsey District Council to ascertain whether there are any landscape areas, sensitivity receptors or viewpoints from within the Lincolnshire boundary that should be considered in the landscape and visual assessments.

Paragraph 7.4.5 of the Scoping Report sets out the planning policy context. Lincolnshire County Council should also be considered as its administrative boundary is within close proximity of the proposals. This includes the policies contained within the Lincolnshire Mineral and Waste Local Plan (2016) and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023). Please note the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is currently under review.

### **Built Heritage**

As above, the study area identified for cultural heritage (3km from the site boundary) also extends into Lincolnshire County Councils administrative boundary. Consideration should be given to any impacts upon heritage assets including built heritage and historic landscapes located within Lincolnshire. The applicant is advised to view 'The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire' which should be included as a data source and can be found on the Council's website here:

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/historic-environment/historic-landscape-characterisation](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/historic-environment/historic-landscape-characterisation)

The applicant is also advised to review the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Lincolnshire County Council. Further information on the HER can be found on the council's website here:

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/historic-environment/historic-environment-record](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/historic-environment/historic-environment-record)

### **Traffic and Transport**

The Scoping Report Section 14, in particular Table 14.1 identifies key highway links. Some of which route through Lincolnshire on predominantly single carriageway A-Roads.

Consideration should therefore be given to traffic routing for construction traffic and how this is likely to impact the Lincolnshire road network, amenity and combined effect of construction traffic with other development in the locality, including the other NSIP schemes referred to above. The engagement with local authorities in respect of traffic and transport at paragraphs 14.3.2 to 14.3.3 of the Scoping Report is noted. The Council would expect the Lincolnshire Highway Authority to be included in this consultation.

### **Waste**

Further consideration should be given to the impact of waste generated from the decommissioning phase and/or end of life solar arrays requiring replacement, in terms of how and where it is disposed of and its transportation from the site. Given the number of other solar schemes in the locality that would be operating on similar timescales there is potential for significant amounts of waste to be generated at this stage. The impact from replacement and/or decommissioning should also be considered cumulatively with these other developments.

To date the applicant has had very little discussion with the County Council and it is expected that more dialogue will take place with the neighbouring authorities as the project proceeds through the pre-application stage.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,  
Amy Charlesworth

**For Neil McBride**  
**Head of Planning**



EN010163

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: EN010163 – Steeple Renewables Project – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 24 April 2024 10:36:11  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Steeple - Letter to stat cons\\_Scoping & Reg 11 Notification.pdf](#)

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Good Morning Lucy,

Thank you for your email.

Regarding EN010163 for Steeple Renewables Project there are no National Gas assets affected in this area.

If you would like to view if there are any other affected assets in this area, please raise an enquiry with [www.lsbud.co.uk](http://www.lsbud.co.uk). Additionally, if the location or works type changes, please raise an enquiry.

Kind regards

**Hayley White**  
**Asset Protection Assistant**

[REDACTED]  
[\[REDACTED\]@nationalgas.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalgas.com)



National Gas Transmission, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA  
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**Sent:** 23 April 2024 19:48  
**To:** [box.assetprotection@nationalgas.com](mailto:box.assetprotection@nationalgas.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: EN010163 – Steeple Renewables Project – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

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**FAO: National Gas**

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Steeple Renewable Energy.  
Please note the deadline for consultation responses is **21 May 2024** which is statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Kind regards

Lucy Hicks  
EIA & Land Rights Advisor  
Environmental Services Team  
Major Casework Directorate  
The Planning Inspectorate, 3M Kite, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Helpline: 0303 44 5000

Email: [lucy.hicks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.hicks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Web: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> (National Infrastructure Planning)

Web: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate) (The Planning Inspectorate)

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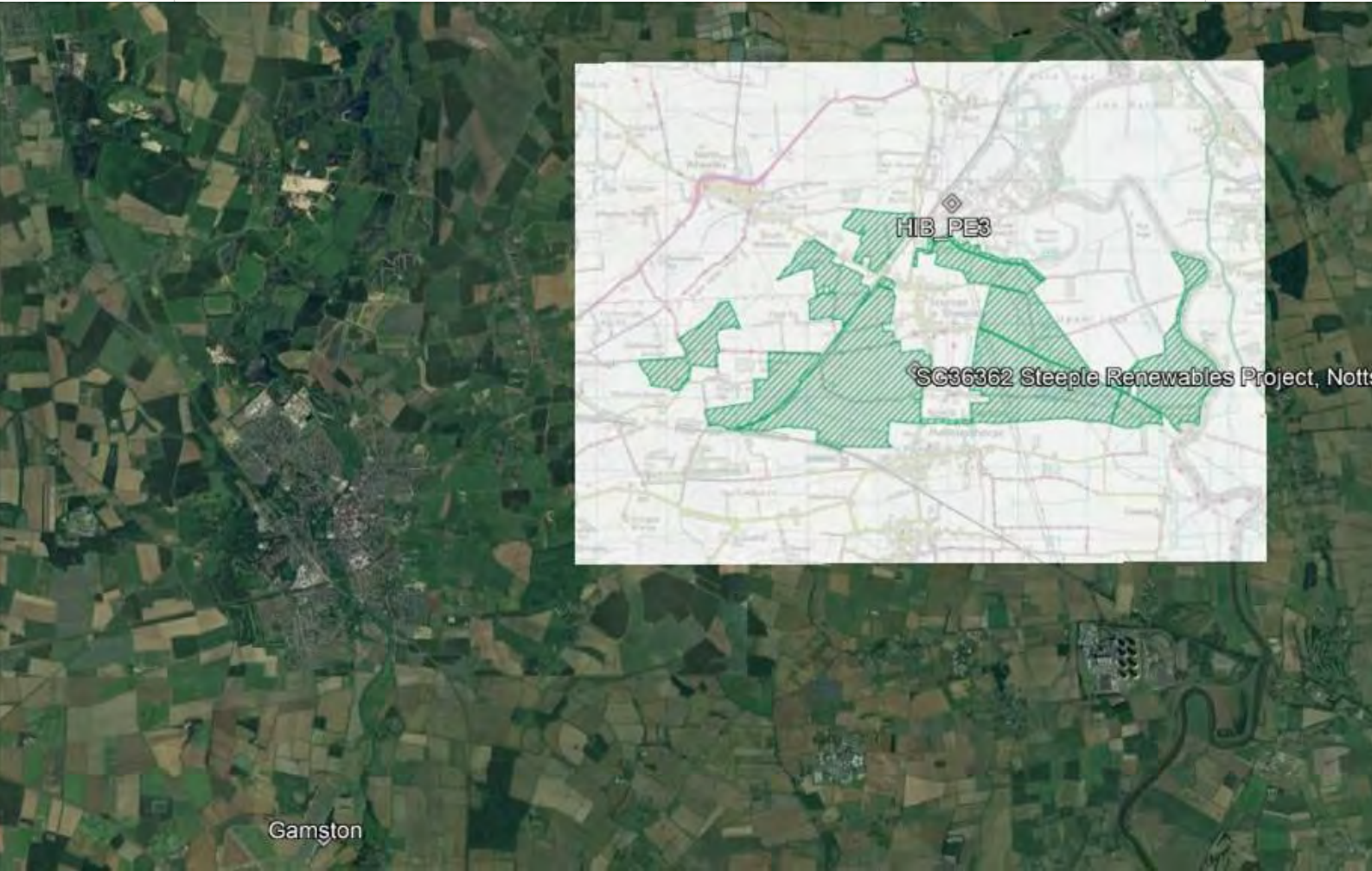
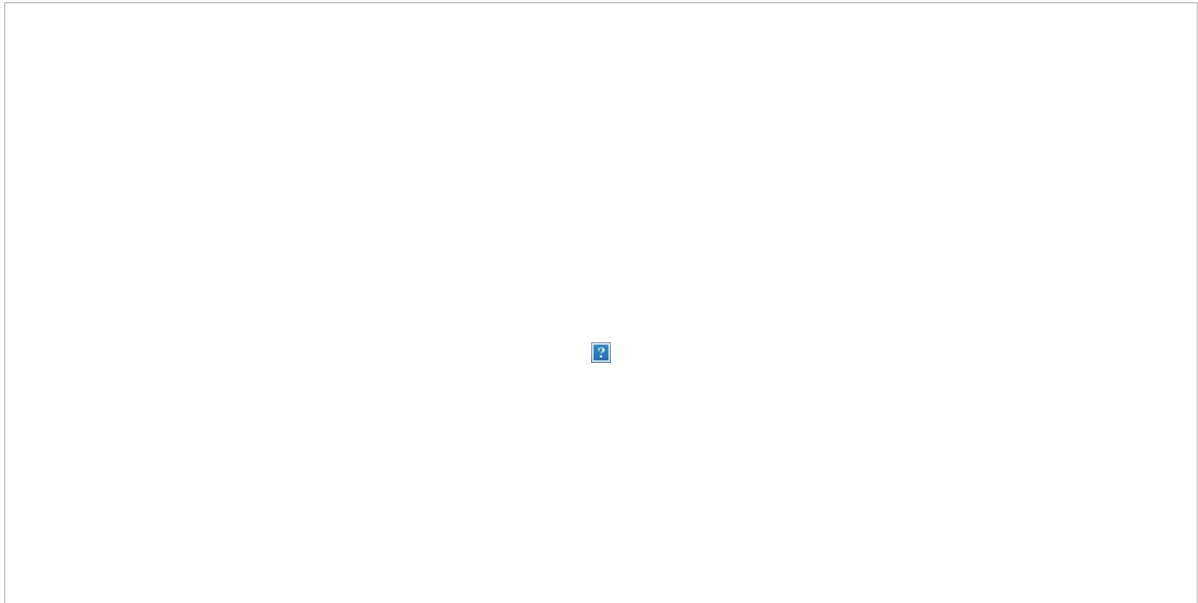
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: EN010163 – Steeple Renewables Project – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation [SG36362]  
**Date:** 01 May 2024 17:12:48  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
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[image005.png](#)  
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[image002.jpg](#)  
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Dear Sirs,

We refer to the Scoping consultation dated 23 April 2024. NATS operates no infrastructure within 10km of the site in question. Accordingly it anticipates no impact from the application and has no comments to make on the Scoping Opinion.

Regards  
S. Rossi  
NATS Safeguarding Office





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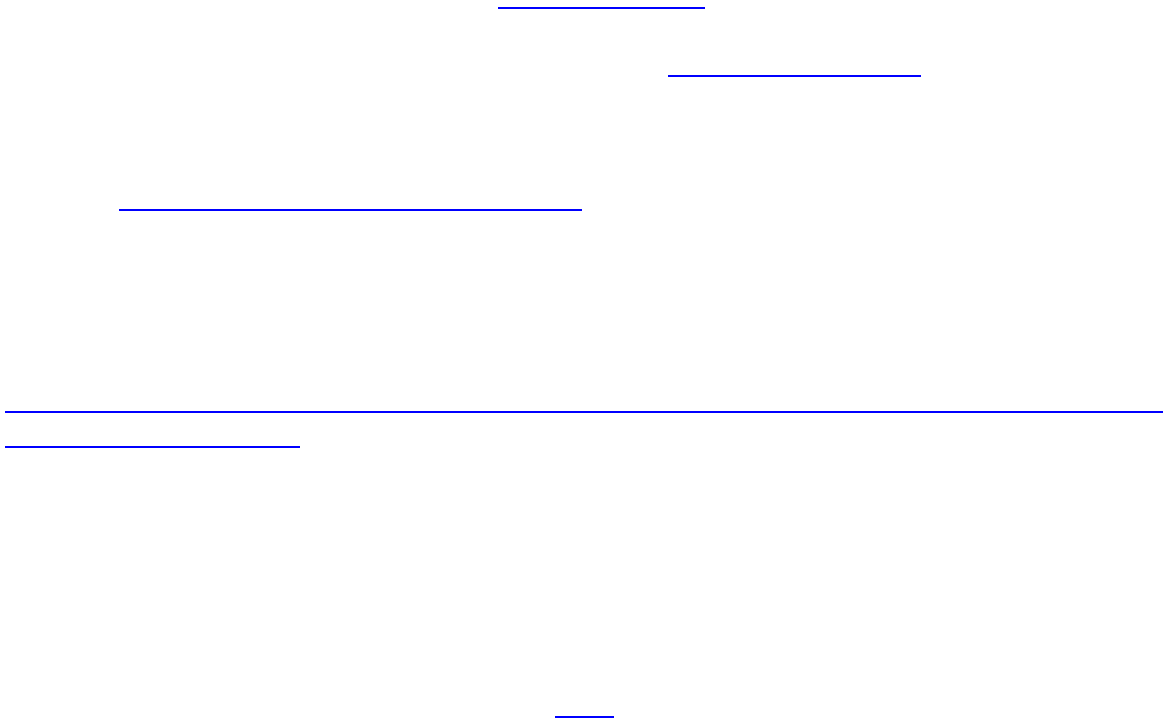
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*Calidris alpina alpina*  
*Pluvialis apricaria*

*Vanellus vanellus*  
*Anas platyrhynchos*

*Tringa totanus*

*Philomachus pugnax*

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*Tadorna tadorna*  
*Anas crecca*

*Numenius phaeopus*  
*Anas Penelope*

*Anser anser*  
*Egretta garzetta*  
*Anser brachyrhynchus*

*Grus grus*

*Circus cyaneus*  
*Circus aeruginosus*

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## ***Background***

## ***Survey periods and frequency***

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## ***Survey design***



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The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Operations Group 3  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Telephone: 01636 650000  
Email: [planning@nsdc.info](mailto:planning@nsdc.info)

Date: 21 May 2024  
Application ref: 24/SCO/00002

By email to: [SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:SteepleRenewables@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Sirs,

**Planning Act 2008 (As Amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations)  
Application by Renewable Energy Solutions (RES) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Steeple Renewables Project (the Proposed Development)  
EIA Scoping Opinion Request**

I refer to the above and a communication received by the Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, providing a consultation notification by the Planning Inspectorate with regard to the above-mentioned project and the EIA Scoping request received from the applicant.

In its capacity as a Consultation Body, under the EIA Regulations (and a 'neighbouring' Planning Authority for this prospective NSIP project) Newark and Sherwood District Council have reviewed the available information publicised, notably the Scoping Report and the Associated Figures.

Following a review of the Scoping Report, we note that the applicant intends to consider the potential for cumulative effects and refers to both NSIP projects and planning applications within the 'host' planning authority administrative area of Bassetlaw District Council. At this stage, we can see no evidence of the consideration of the potential for cross boundary cumulative effects. Newark and Sherwood District Council are a 'host' authority for the One Earth Solar Farm NSIP project, which lies to the north of the district.

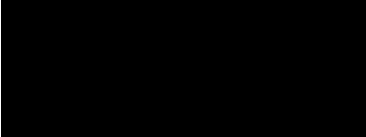
In the absence of any evidence that this has been taken into account, at this stage we would recommend that the consideration of the potential for cumulative effects also extends to beyond the immediate boundary of the host authority and in this case also consider the referenced NSIP project within the Council's district and vice versa. The potential for interactions between NSIP projects across local authority boundaries should be considered, along with the potential for 'in-combination' effects.

At this stage we can confirm that we have no further comments to make but look forward to receiving further formal consultations in due course on the project, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008.

Please note that this matter has not been formally reported to the District Council's Planning Committee. In these circumstances the comments are those of an Officer of the Council under delegated power arrangements.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, Simon Betts, the case officer who has dealt with this consultation, on 01636 655369.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Hughes  
Business Manager – Planning Development



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Steeple Renewables Project](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Scoping consultation - Steeple Renewables Project  
**Date:** 24 April 2024 10:53:17

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Hello

I can confirm that Nottingham City Council does not have any comments regarding the scoping opinion.

Thanks

Matt Gregory  
Head of Planning Strategy and Geographic Information  
Growth and City Development  
Nottingham City Council  
Loxley House  
Station Street  
Nottingham NG2 3NG

[REDACTED]

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**Subject:** RB2024/0600 - Steeple Renewables Project - EIA Scoping Opinion  
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## STURTON LE STEEPLE PARISH COUNCIL

I am writing on behalf of Sturton le Steeple Parish Council, which represents the view of the residents of the parish of Sturton le Steeple and surrounding areas affected by the Steeple Renewables Project.

The local community set up an independent working party known as Fields for Farming, writing to all residents asking for their feedback on the planning proposal. The Parish Council would like to present this feedback and fully support its outcomes.

Residents overwhelmingly objected to the proposed construction of a large solar farm on the designated agricultural land in our community. **745** responses were received with **739** opposed and 6 supporting, that a **99.2%** objection rate. While as a Parish Council we recognize the importance of renewable energy, the chosen location for this project raises several significant concerns for our residents as detailed in the survey.

### **Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan**

The Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan was consulted upon widely with residents and businesses and approved by referendum in 2016. Since that there have been significant changes in UK energy policy with the closure of the coal fired power station at Cottam and the subsequent closure of West Burton Power Station. The Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan Review updates a number of policies including landscape policies to provide more policy protection for parts of the Ward most valued by the community.

Paragraph 18.5 refers particularly to solar energy production, and states...

“On appropriate sites in the countryside, the use of solar energy is supported provided the development: a) is effectively screened from view; and b) does not harm the landscape character of the Ward; and c) is supported by a comprehensive package of ecological mitigation and enhancement measures.

Paragraph 18.6 states... “The need to safeguard heritage assets and landscape character will be a key consideration in any renewable energy proposal”

Whilst the Parish Council appreciates that this proposal will be decided at the national level, It is clear that it does not conform to local planning policy guidelines and would be rejected if determined at a local level.

### **Residents Comments**

“It seems ridiculous to me that this issue is not being managed strategically across the entire country. The Government have allowed this to become a free-for-all”.



## **Loss of countryside / wildlife habitat**

### **95.7% of surveys returned showed concern for the loss of countryside and wildlife habitat.**

The environmental impact on local wildlife cannot be overlooked. The area is home to various species, many of which could be disturbed or displaced by the construction and operation of the solar farm. The disruption of habitats and natural ecosystems poses a significant risk to biodiversity and the overall environmental health of our region.

**90.1% expressed concerns about the impact on the landscape.** The proposed solar farm spans a vast area, disproportionately large relative to the size of our community. This extensive footprint will inevitably lead to the transformation of a considerable portion of our landscape, fundamentally altering the character and aesthetics of our rural environment. Alteration of land use will have a profound impact on local wildlife habitats, water drainage patterns, and soil integrity. Our community prides itself on its scenic, open spaces and agricultural heritage, both of which are threatened by the imposing scale of this development.

### Residents Comments

“We need to preserve hedgerows and field for wildlife”.

“Skylark, Yellowhammer and Grey Partridge all breed in these fields. They are red listed birds (endangered) and should not be disturbed

## **Loss of farmland for food Production**

**95.2% of residents object** because the land earmarked for this solar farm is currently used for farming and food production. Our agricultural sector is vital not only for local food supply but also for supporting the livelihoods of numerous families in our area.

### Residents Comments

“This Area has become a target for renewable energy companies. Good quality agricultural land should not be used for this purpose”.

“Us young people can see that it is very short sighted to think solving the ‘energy crisis’ with taking food production sites for solar is not logical, and there are other locations. Sturton does enough for industry”

“It is not sensible to sacrifice food security for energy security where there are obvious alternatives. The decision is based upon personal profit without regard to local or national interests”.

“This proposal is far too big, it completely engulfs one village and would mean that the land in our parish would be 90% industrialised. It is a rural farming area and should remain so. Fields are for food not solar panels”.

“New homes should be made to have solar panels when building and agricultural land for crops”.

“The countryside is too valuable for food production. Solar is unreliable and a poor producing alternative to wind power. The scale of the scheme is just outrageous”.

## **Loss of Agricultural Jobs**

**86.7% of residents were concerned about the loss of jobs.** The chosen site for the solar farm is currently productive agricultural land that supports a variety of crops. This land is not only crucial for local food production but also forms the backbone of our rural economy. The transformation of productive farmland into a solar energy site will inevitably lead to the loss of agricultural jobs, affecting those who rely on this industry for their income. This shift could have devastating economic consequences for our rural community.

### Residents Comments

“Use Solar on all new build houses and all industrial sheds/railway stations etc, not on our natural productive biodiverse farming land. You are killing jobs and the environment with this greed and shorted sighted vision”.

**Density of existing developments in the area** (Nuclear Fusion project, Quarry, National Grid Upgrades. Other large solar projects)

**82.3% of resident expressed concern over the volume of project presently going through the planning process.** It has been estimated that if RES were to go ahead 90% of the parish would be industrialised which will have a significant impact on everyone living in the parish.

### Residents Comments

“The pylons for the National Grid upgrade are bad enough. We don’t need to take on any more of this in this area. Enough is Enough”

“West Burton Power Station worked hard to maintain good relations with our local community. This proposal outrageously swamps, destroys and invades the local area. It feels like a slap in the face and is very upsetting”

“We can’t bear to imagine being completely surrounded”.

“This proposal will have a catastrophic impact on the local communities and also productive farmland. The sheer size and location is disgusting and disrespectful”.

“The agricultural land and green landscape needs to be preserved for future generations and the longevity and protection of the environment”.

“RES disregard any criteria that will have an effect on the community financially, environmentally, quality of life, visual aspect etc. They have swamped this are because of easy access to the grid so more profit for them”.

## **Increased traffic during the construction**

**75.8% of residents had severe concerns about the increase in traffic during the construction phase.** A large-scale project like the one proposed will bring an influx of heavy machinery and increased traffic to our small, rural community. Our infrastructure is not equipped to handle the massive increase in traffic, which will not only disrupt daily life but also

pose safety risks to residents and schools. The noise, dust, and general disturbance during the construction period will negatively affect the quality of life for those living nearby.

### Residents Comments

“This will drastically change the countryside where we live, the traffic through the village is already causing terrible damage and construction traffic will be horrendous”.

### **Climate Change**

A number of residents commented on climate change and the ‘bigger picture’. Here are some examples:

“Importing food and drink from overseas does nothing to reduce climate change. Reducing the amount of space for food production would only increase food mileage and could negate the good created by solar energy. Development of brownfield sites for industry or housing should include a clause for solar energy to be incorporated”

“All new houses by law have to have certain levels of insulation to reduce heat loss. All new houses by law should also have solar panels on roofs”.

“Solar panels are not green. How are they made? Where do the materials come from? We are sold a lie!”

“We need to keep all the farmland free from development of all kinds if we want to be a substantial country. Crops are failing all over the world and with climate change the position will only get worse”.

“The amount of land suitable for agriculture on our planet is fairly fixed and we are already reaching the limit to its ability to feed us. Climate change and building developments are reducing the available agricultural land year on year, so further reducing it by deliberately covering it with solar panels rather than on buildings, is clearly insane. This is being done for short term profit with no thought for the future”.

Sturton le Steeple parish council represents its residents by voicing their concerns and aspirations at the local government level. We are responsible to our residents for addressing issues of planning, traffic, and public safety. It is for these reason that the Parish Council of Sturton le Steeple is strongly opposed to the proposal by RES for a solar farm in our parish.

Andrew Frankish

Chair, Sturton le Steeple Parish Council.

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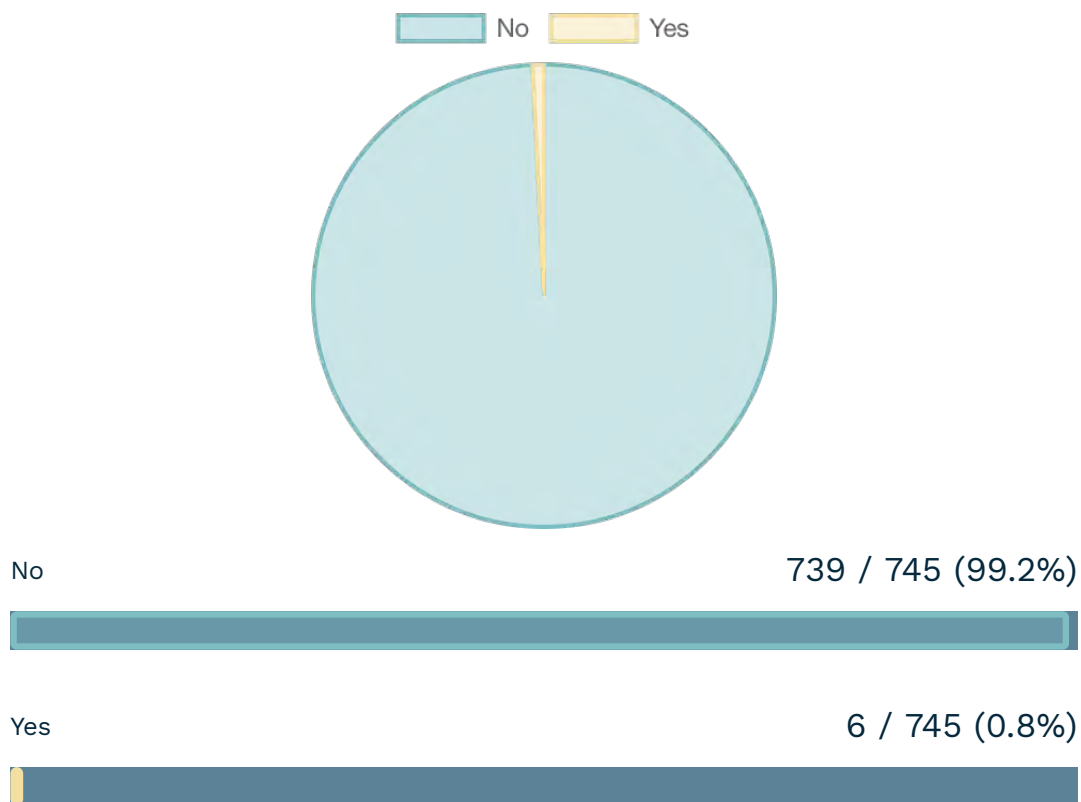
# Report for "Fields For Farming"

May 20th 2024, 1:44:26 pm

This form has been submitted a total of **745** times.

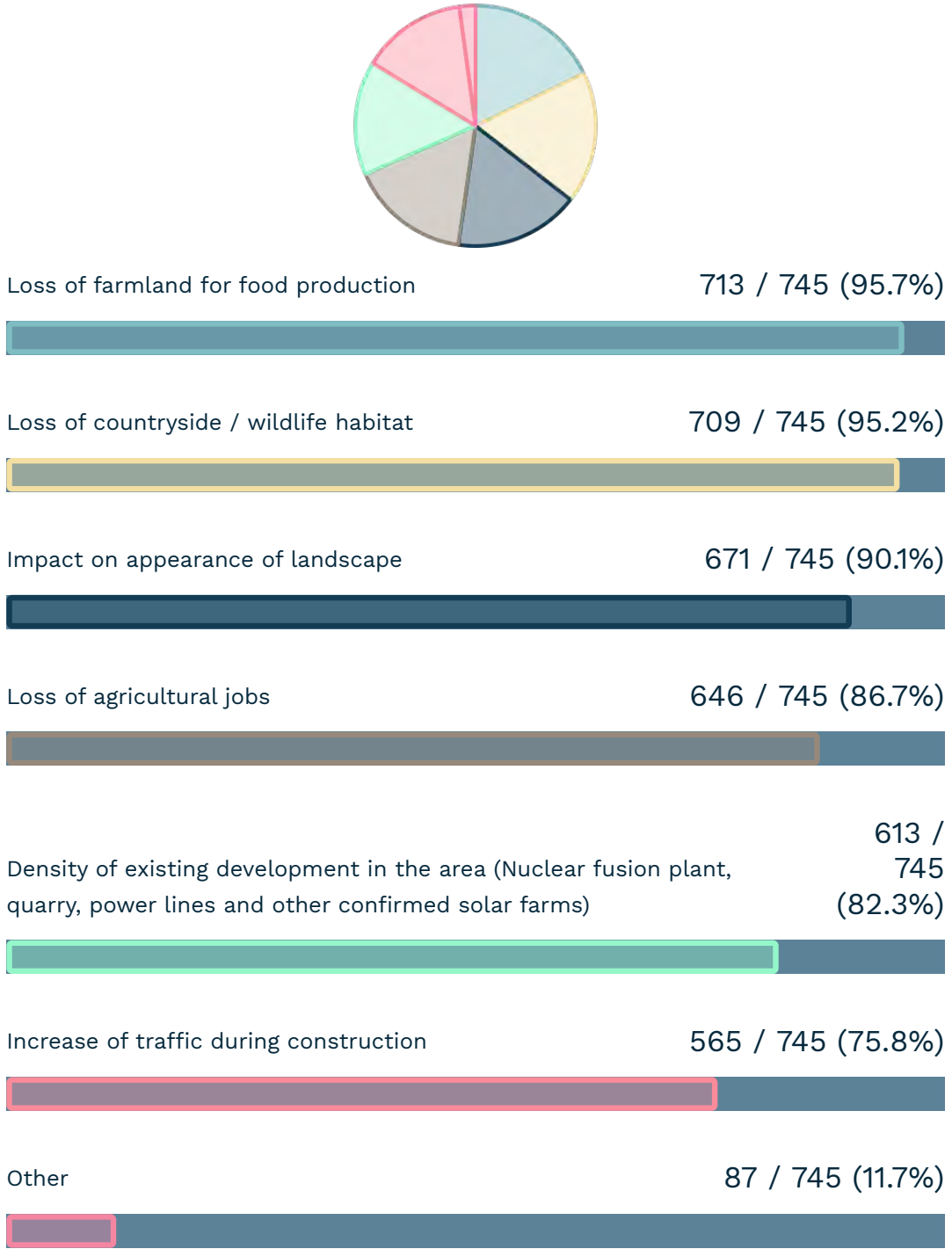
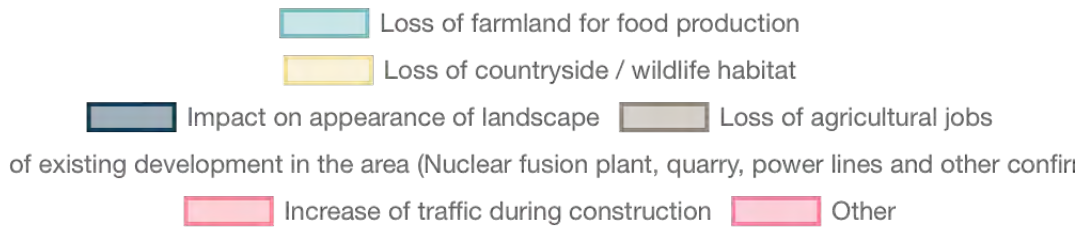
Do you support RES' proposals to take over 1,600 acres out of agricultural production within the local area\* for use as a solar farm?

**745** out of **745** people answered this question.



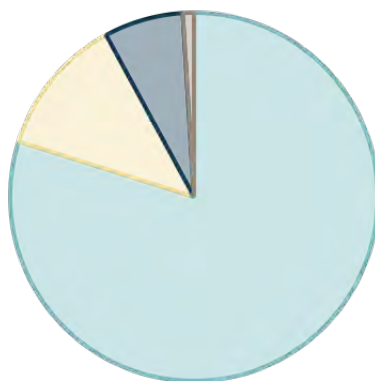
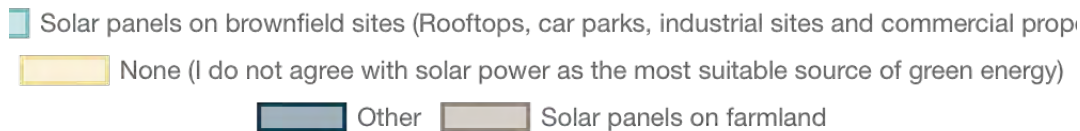
If no, for what reason(s) do you oppose the development?

**739** out of **745** people answered this question.



# Which areas do you support as locations for solar energy production?

**745** out of **745** people answered this question.



Solar panels on brownfield sites (Rooftops, car parks, industrial sites and commercial properties) 654 / 745 (87.8%)



None (I do not agree with solar power as the most suitable source of green energy) 100 / 745 (13.4%)



Other 57 / 745 (7.7%)



Solar panels on farmland 8 / 745 (1.1%)

