



POWER  
FOR GOOD

# Steeple Renewables Project

Statement of Community Consultation

January 2025



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1. RES (“the Applicant”) is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) in connection with its proposals for a new solar energy and battery storage scheme known as Steeple Renewables Project (“the Project”).
- 1.1.2. Anticipated to generate up to 400MW of solar energy, the Project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”), as defined by the Planning Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”), with up to 200MW of battery storage associated development and requires development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, via a Development Consent Order (“DCO”).
- 1.1.3. The purpose of this SoCC is to set out how the Applicant intends to consult people living in the vicinity of the Project about the proposal before submission of the DCO application. It includes:
- a description of the consenting process the Applicant must follow;
  - what the Applicant will be consulting on;
  - who the Applicant will consult;
  - how the Applicant will consult;
  - how people can respond to the consultation; and
  - how the Applicant will use the consultation feedback responses.
- 1.1.4. This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with section 47(1) of the 2008 Act, which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with the local community regarding their proposals, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this SoCC.
- 1.1.5. Understanding the views of the local community, local authorities and other stakeholders helps ensure the Applicant identifies valuable information and the feedback received will help shape the Project.
- 1.1.6. As the Project is an ‘EIA Development’ (meaning that it is subject to an environmental impact assessment or “EIA”), this SoCC also sets out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”).
- 1.1.7. In addition to the Applicant’s obligations under section 47, section 42 of the 2008 Act sets out how applicants must consult with prescribed consultees, local authorities and persons with an interest in land (“section 42 consultees”). All section 42 consultees known at the present time will be consulted in accordance with this SoCC and are invited to participate in consultation activities.

## 2. Steeple Renewables Project

### 2.1. The Project

2.1.1. The Project is located on land at Sturton-le-Steeple, Nottinghamshire, within the administrative boundaries of Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The Project will connect into the national grid at the recently decommissioned West Burton Power Station.

2.1.2. You can view the land under consideration on the Project website here:

<https://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk/media/o5npccme/steeple-renewables-land-under-consideration-v2.jpg>

2.1.3. The Project comprises an area of approximately 2,300 acres and is made up of land parcels in the vicinity of West Burton Power Station where solar panels and battery storage energy systems are proposed. The Project will also include\*:

- solar PV modules and associated mounting structures;
- underground cabling within the areas of the solar PV modules and connecting solar PV module areas to the on-site substation;
- on-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgears;
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
- highways access and internal tracks; and
- areas for ecological mitigation and enhancement.

*\*Please note that these details are subject to confirmation and may be subject to adjustments as the project progresses.*

2.1.4. The Project would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments generating up to 400MW of renewable energy, for approximately 180,000 homes every year, around 50% of all homes in Nottinghamshire<sup>1</sup>.

### 2.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

2.2.1. The Project constitutes an 'EIA Development' as defined by the EIA Regulations.

2.2.2. An EIA is therefore being prepared to ensure the potential environmental effects of the Project are properly understood and whether appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any significant adverse environmental effects. The DCO application will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement containing the findings of the EIA.

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<sup>1</sup>The homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted average annual electricity generation of the site and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024).

- 2.2.3. An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 03 June 2024. Together with the Applicant's Scoping Report, this identifies the environmental issues relevant to the Project and suggests any potential mitigation measures. The Scoping Opinion is available to view on the Planning Inspectorate website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010163/EN010163-000013-Steeple%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion%202017%20EIA%20Regs.pdf>
- 2.2.4. In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which sets out initial information on the potential environmental effects of the Project and any proposed mitigation, will be prepared and published that will help consultees to take an informed view on these matters.
- 2.2.5. The Applicant will invite feedback on the information presented in the PEIR as part of the statutory consultation. Feedback received will be considered before the DCO application and EIA are finalised for submission.

## 3. About RES

### 3.1. The Applicant - RES

- 3.1.1. RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.
- 3.1.2. At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.
- 3.1.3. Drawing on its decades of experience in the renewable energy and construction industries, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality, which contribute to a low carbon future by providing a secure supply of sustainable, low cost, clean green energy. RES is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and businesses, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process. RES is also committed to developing long term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments.
- 3.1.4. You can visit the Applicant's website at: <https://www.res-group.com/>

## 4. Consenting process

- 4.1.1. As the Project will have a generating capacity of more than 50MW, the Project is classified as a NSIP and under the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to submit an application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 4.1.2. If the application for the DCO is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the application that will then submit a report on the application to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “Secretary of State”) recommending whether consent should be granted or refused. The Secretary of State will make the final decision on the DCO application.
- 4.1.3. Interested parties are entitled to participate throughout the duration of the process, including after submission and during examination.
- 4.1.4. Before submitting a DCO application, the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and prescribed stakeholders.
- 4.1.5. An overview of the DCO process is shown in **Figure 1**.

**Figure 1: The DCO Process**



- 4.1.6. The 2008 Act requires the Applicant to consult with persons with an interest in the proposed land and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the 2008 Act. They include bodies such as Bassetlaw District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency.
- 4.1.7. The 2008 Act requires the Applicant to consult with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act (the subject of this SoCC); and to publicise the proposals, locally and nationally. The local community is defined in the 2008 Act as people living within the vicinity of the land.
- 4.1.8. Further information on the DCO application process can be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate which has published a range of advice notes which intend to inform applicants, consultees, the public and others about a range of matters in relation to the 2008 Act process. This includes Advice Note Eight, which provides more detail on the NSIP planning process. All advice notes can be found on the Planning Inspectorate’s website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-infrastructure-planning-advice-notes>



- 4.1.9. In line with the requirements of the 2008 Act, the Applicant provided Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council with an opportunity to comment on a draft version of this SoCC. Regard has been had to their responses in producing this final version.

## 5. Engagement to date

- 5.1.1. The Applicant undertook early informal consultation on the Project between Monday 23 October and Monday 04 December 2023<sup>2</sup>.

- 5.1.2. The non-statutory consultation had the following aims:

- to introduce the Project to the public, providing an overview of the Project and the national need for solar;
- present the early plans;
- to give stakeholders and the community the opportunity to provide feedback on the early proposals; and
- to outline the next steps for the Project.

- 5.1.3. Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant held two face-to-face consultation events and one webinar. The consultation was publicised through a mixture of direct mailings, newspaper adverts and posters sent to local parishes. Dedicated project information channels were established for those who had questions about the Project or needed to get in contact with the project team. This engagement is summarised in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Summary of activities to date**

Activity	Total
Community newsletters issued	3,334
In-person consultation events	2
Stakeholder briefings	6
Webinars	1

- 5.1.4. There were a number of ways for members of the public and those interested in the consultation to provide feedback. These included:
- completing an online feedback form on the project website ([www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk](http://www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk));
  - completing a paper feedback form or sending written comments by post (FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project);
  - emailing feedback to the project email address ([info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk)); and

<sup>2</sup> Whilst the consultation material states a consultation close date of 4 December 2023, due to IT issues that rendered the feedback form inactive for two days, the consultation was therefore extended to account for this, and the consultation closed at 11:59pm on Wednesday 6 December 2023.

- calling the project information line (0115 718 2070).

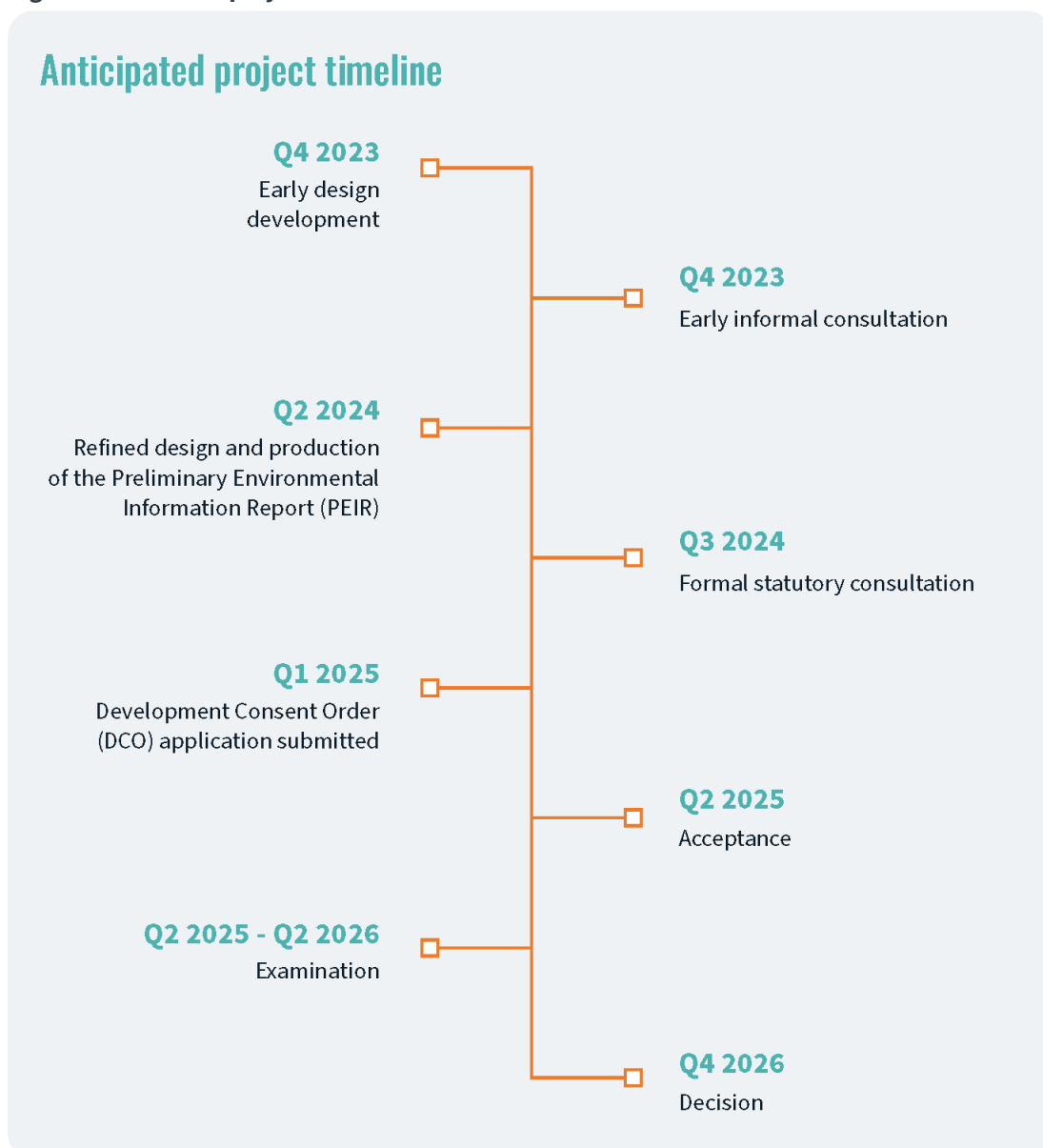
5.1.5. In total, throughout the six-week early informal consultation period, 118 responses were received.

5.1.6. More information about the non-statutory consultation can be found in the Early Consultation Report which is part of the documents that are currently available on the Project website. Archive documents from the non-statutory consultation will remain available on the Project website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge.

## 5.2. Timeline for the Project

5.2.1. **Figure 2** sets out an indicative timeline for each stage of the Project from consultation through to the Secretary of State's decision.

**Figure 2: Indicative project timeline**





## 6. Statutory consultation under section 47 of the 2008 Act

### 6.1. How the Applicant will consult on the proposed application

- 6.1.1. The Applicant will undertake statutory consultation in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act for six weeks starting on Monday 20 January 2025. The deadline for consultation responses is 11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025. All responses to the consultation must be received by the closing date.
- 6.1.2. This consultation will provide an opportunity for people in the local community and interested parties to have their say about the Applicant's proposals for the Project.
- 6.1.3. As well as the community consultation in accordance with section 47, this consultation will also include:
- consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under section 42 of the 2008 Act);
  - consultation with host and neighbouring local planning authorities (under section 42 of the 2008 Act);
  - consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Project (under section 42 of the 2008 Act); and
  - publication of the consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act).

### 6.2. Who is The Applicant consulting?

- 6.2.1. The Applicant will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC. The Applicant's consultation process is open to anyone with an interest in the Applicant's proposals for the Project.
- 6.2.2. The Applicant has identified a consultation zone (CZ) (shown in **Figure 3**) for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act. This is the same CZ that was initially defined for the Applicant's early informal consultation and based on a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed site boundary within which the solar PV panels, energy storage system and on-site substation and supporting infrastructure would be located.
- 6.2.3. The CZ encompasses the entire village of Sturton-le-Steeple, the village in which the Project is proposed. To the south, the CZ extends to include the villages of North Leverton, South Leverton, and Treswell. Westward, it reaches Clarborough and Welham, while to the north, it includes Beckingham and Saundby. Extending northwest, the CZ covers North and South Wheatley. To the east, across the River Trent, the CZ also incorporates the villages of Gate Burton, Knaith, Lea, and Marton.
- 6.2.4. The CZ has been amended beyond these criteria, in certain areas, to consider:
- existing physical features, such as main roads;
  - capturing entire communities rather than excluding small numbers of properties; and

- where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications.

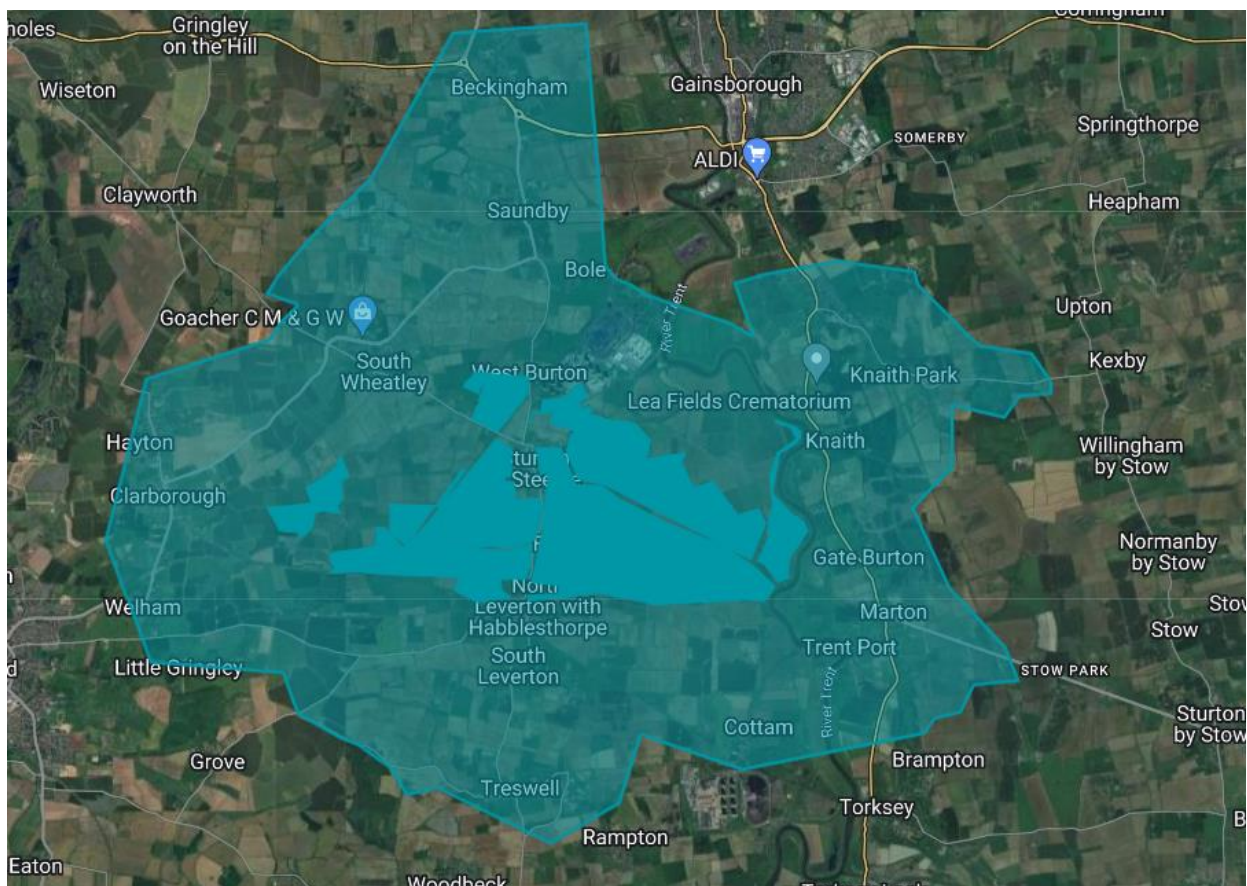
6.2.5. Within the CZ, the Applicant will be consulting any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the Project by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.

6.2.6. This will include:

- parish councils representing parishes within the CZ, Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the CZ;
- elected representatives in local authorities within the CZ; and
- relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups;
- and the Applicant is also committed to making sure that individuals and organisations outside of the CZ are given the opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation.

### Figure 3: Consultation zone (CZ) for the Project

The dark teal area is the proposed site, with the village of Sturton-le-Steeple in the centre, and the lighter shaded area shows the same CZ that was initially defined for the informal consultation on the Applicant's early proposals, based on a minimum 2km distance from the proposed site boundary.



### 6.3. What is the Applicant consulting on?

- 6.3.1. The Applicant will present proposals for the Project including how they have been informed by the Applicant's environmental assessments and consultation to date.
- 6.3.2. The Applicant will be seeking feedback on the ongoing evolution of the proposals for the Project and:
- The overall proposals for the Project;
  - The updated site plan for the proposed site;
  - Measures proposed to avoid or minimise impacts identified in the Applicant's preliminary environmental assessment; and
  - (whilst outside of the considerations for the DCO application) the Applicant's proposals for community benefits and Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS).
- 6.3.3. The Project will be explained in the following materials:
- PEIR – the PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA;
  - PEIR Non-Technical Summary – the Non-Technical Summary provides a non-technical summary of the PEIR and the conclusions within the PEIR. This summary is written in plain language without technical jargon, making it accessible to the general public;
  - Consultation brochure – this brochure will provide an overview of the proposals including site layouts and connection infrastructure; and
  - Maps – the maps will set out the site areas in which the Project will be located.

**Table 2: Statutory consultation materials for the Project**

Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
<b>Consultation newsletter</b>	<p>A newsletter publicising the consultation and outlining a high-level overview of the Project, details of the consultation programme, including the location, dates and times of the public consultation events. The newsletter will also include a QR code that links to the project website. This newsletter will be distributed to 3000+ addresses within the CZ.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be issued to wider consultees via email and distributed to local interest groups and sent to statutory bodies in the post.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be available to view and download on the project website.</p>
<b>Consultation brochure</b>	<p>A consultation brochure will be published on the project website at the start of the statutory consultation period, and will be available for download. The brochure provides a summary of the proposals the Applicant is consulting on, an outline of the environmental assessment work, details of how people can take part, and how feedback will be used to influence and shape the proposals.</p> <p>Printed copies of this brochure will be available to take away at all consultation events, at deposit locations (listed in <b>Table 4</b>), and on request by contacting the project team.</p>

Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
<b>Navigation document</b>	<p>At the start of the statutory consultation period, a comprehensive Project Navigation Document will be published on the project website, and made available in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points (listed in <b>Table 4</b>).</p> <p>This document will offer a clear overview of all consultation materials available for review, along with a user-friendly guide to help navigate them. Designed to simplify the consultation process, it will direct readers to specific sections of interest, ensuring they can easily locate relevant information and engage meaningfully with the materials provided.</p>
<b>Feedback form</b>	<p>A feedback form will be prepared to gather feedback on all aspects of the Project.</p> <p>The feedback form will be available for completion online via the project website and will be accessible throughout the six-week consultation period.</p> <p>Printed feedback forms will be available (free of charge) on request by contacting the project team, in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points (listed in <b>Table 4</b>), along with freepost envelopes.</p> <p>The feedback form will also be available to download from the website, complete in pen and return to FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project.</p>
<b>Exhibition boards</b>	<p>Exhibition boards will be created to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Project.</p> <p>The boards will be designed to assist the understanding of the Project at the consultation events.</p> <p>Members of the public will also be available to view the boards in the virtual exhibition on the project website, which will go live on the day of the first event.</p>
<b>PEIR</b>	<p>The PEIR will contain a description of the Project, and a preliminary assessment of the environmental effects of the Project, based on the assessments carried out to date.</p> <p>It will also set out how the Applicant proposes to mitigate the impacts of and maximise the benefits of the Project.</p> <p>The PEIR will be available for download free of charge from the project website. A printed copy of the full PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and deposit locations.</p> <p>Copies of the PEIR contained on a USB stick can be provided on request free of charge.</p> <p>A hard copy can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs. Requests for hard copies can be made by email: <a href="mailto:info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a> or by calling 0115 718 2070.</p>
<b>PEIR Non-Technical Summary</b>	<p>The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provides a non-technical summary of the preliminary environmental information and the</p>

Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
	<p>conclusions within the PEIR. This summary will be written in plain language without technical jargon, making it accessible to the general public.</p> <p>The NTS will be available to view on the Applicant's project website, at deposit locations, at or consultation events and posted out on request free of charge.</p>
<b>Maps and plans of the Project</b>	<p>Additional maps and plans for the Project will also be available on the project website and at the consultation events and deposit locations.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies of the maps will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £350 for one full suite of documents - to be paid for by the recipient).</p>
<b>Materials in alternative formats</b>	<p>Requests for consultation information in additional formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>All requests should be made to the project team by email: <a href="mailto:info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a> or by calling 0115 718 2070.</p>

Table 3: The project website

Features	Rationale
<b>Online downloadable copies of all the statutory consultation material, including: The PEIR, consultation brochure and feedback form</b>	To ensure the exhibition material is accessible to those who may not be able to get to an in-person event or a deposit location. This will ensure that the consultation is accessible to everyone who wants to participate.
<b>Virtual exhibition</b>	<p>To ensure that people who cannot attend the events are able to access the same materials that are present at the in-person events.</p> <p>This will allow people to virtually walk around the consultation room simulating how the exhibition boards would be viewed at a public consultation event. The consultation feedback mechanism will also be able to be accessed via the virtual exhibition.</p>
<b>Web page content</b>	<p>The Project website will provide up to date information about the Project and have downloadable versions of all the documents that have been prepared for statutory consultation.</p> <p>The website will feature several pages that will provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an overview of the Project, the energy it will generate, information on the opportunity the Project presents and the potential benefits it could bring</li> <li>• an up to date version of the site plan, rationale for site selection and zoomed in plans of each land area</li> <li>• a brief overview of the DCO process and an indicative project timeline</li> </ul>

Features	Rationale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>benefits to the local economy and community that could be delivered as part of the proposals</li> <li>information about RES and its history as a renewable energy developer and its global portfolio of projects</li> </ul>
<b>Online feedback form</b>	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity. This will be available from the consultation launch until close.
<b>Register for updates function</b>	This will enable the public to register to be updated about the Project, once they have signed up they will receive updates at key project milestones.
<b>Webinar registration form</b>	To enable members of the public to register to join the webinar.
<b>Contact details</b>	To provide details of how to contact the project team for any further questions.

## 6.4. Approach to community consultation

- 6.4.1. During the statutory consultation, the Applicant will use a range of methods to ensure an inclusive, meaningful, and open consultation. The Applicant will use a range of digital and non-digital methods of communication to ensure that the consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.
- 6.4.2. The Applicant will be focusing the consultation on communities within the primary consultation zone (CZ); however, the Applicant will ensure communities outside of the CZ are made aware of the consultation.
- 6.4.3. Inside the CZ:
- All homes and businesses within the CZ will be sent a consultation newsletter with high-level details about the Project and consultation programme, as well as contact details for the project team;
  - Consultation events will be held at locations within the CZ;
  - Relevant groups and organisations such as parish councils and local interest groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities; and
  - The Applicant has also identified a list of local community spaces within the CZ that will be directly mailed a poster to put up, advertising how people can get involved in the consultation.
- 6.4.4. Outside of the CZ:
- The Applicant will raise awareness of the consultation using a number of methods, including via local news media, social media, project website and direct communication with organisations such as regional, environmental, religious or health organisations located outside of the CZ.
- 6.4.5. **Table 4** below sets out the approaches that will be used to consult on the proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information.



Table 4: Statutory consultation methods for the Project

Consultation methods	
Method	Detail
<b>Consultation events</b>	<p>The Applicant will be holding three in-person events at locations spread across the CZ. These events will be publicised in the consultation newsletter, the consultation brochure, on posters, in local news media and in a public notice and on the project website.</p> <p>These events will run for periods of five hours on a mixture of weekdays and weekends to accommodate different availability.</p> <p>Details of the events are available in <b>Table 5</b>.</p>
<b>Stakeholder briefing meetings</b>	<p>The Applicant will seeks to brief key political stakeholders, representing wards, constituencies and parishes within the consultation zone.</p> <p>The Applicant will consider invitations to, or requests for, meetings with affected stakeholders, other local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<b>Webinar</b>	<p>One webinar will be held for members of the public to join to provide an alternative option for those who may not be able to attend the in-person events. This will be held in the evening outside of normal working hours to make the session as accessible as possible.</p> <p>Individuals can register to join the webinar via the website. The webinar will be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 12 February 2025: 6:30PM-8:00PM</li> </ul> <p>A recording of the webinar will be made available online for those unavailable to attend.</p>
<b>Project contact details</b>	<p>Members of the public will be able to call and speak to a member of the project team on the project information line (0115 718 2070), email (<a href="mailto:info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>) or write in (FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project)</p>
<b>Deposit and information points</b>	<p>Hard copies of the consultation materials including this SoCC, the consultation brochure and the PEIR will be available to view at the following deposit locations and times:</p> <p><b>Gainsborough Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Tuesday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Wednesday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Thursday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Friday:</b> 9:00AM - 5:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Saturday:</b> 9:00AM - 1:00PM</li> </ul> <p><b>Retford Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Tuesday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Wednesday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Thursday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> </ul>



Consultation methods	
Method	Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Friday:</b> 9:00AM - 6:00PM</li> <li>• <b>Saturday:</b> 9:00AM – 3:30PM</li> </ul> <p>Documents are also available to be viewed and collected at Sturton-le-Steeple Village Hall, The Sturton Hall and Conference Centre, Brickings Way, Sturton Le Steeple, DN22 9HY. Please note this venue does not have regular opening hours but materials are available to be collected when the village hall is open. The village hall opening times can be seen on their website at <a href="https://www.sturtonhall.org.uk/">https://www.sturtonhall.org.uk/</a>.</p> <p>Only hard copies of the consultation newsletter, consultation brochure, navigation document, NTS and feedback form will be available for people to take away with them.</p> <p>The Applicant will check on a weekly basis that sufficient volumes of consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period.</p>
<b>Project website and virtual exhibition</b>	<p>A dedicated project website (<a href="http://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk">www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>) will be updated for people to find out more information about the proposals and to provide feedback.</p> <p>All consultation documents will be presented on the Project website and available for download, free of charge, from the document library. The website will also feature a virtual exhibition. Information will be consistent with materials available at the deposit locations and consultation events.</p>

## 6.5. Consultation events

- 6.5.1. Three in-person public consultation events will be held for communities to find out information about the Project and speak to members of the project team. The consultation events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues located within the CZ.
- 6.5.2. Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each consultation event. There will be a series of exhibition boards to present the proposals for the Project, including maps.
- 6.5.3. Those attending will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.
- 6.5.4. **Table 5** outlines the dates, times, and locations of each of the consultation events.

**Table 5: Details of the consultation events**

Date	Time	Location
Saturday 01 February 2025	10:00AM- 3:00PM	Sturton Hall and Conference Centre Brickings Way, Sturton-le-Steeple, Retford, DN22 9HY
Wednesday 05 February 2025	2:00PM-7:00PM	South Leverton Memorial Institute Town St, South Leverton, Retford, DN22 0BT
Wednesday 12 February 2025	6:30PM-8:00PM	Online Webinar
Wednesday 19 February 2025	2:00PM-7:00PM	Sturton Hall and Conference Centre Brickings Way, Sturton-le-Steeple, Retford, DN22 9HY

## 6.6. Promoting the consultation

6.6.1. The Applicant will use a variety of methods to make people aware of the Project and publicise the statutory consultation. These methods are outlined in **Table 6** below.

**Table 6: Methods for promoting the statutory consultation for the Project**

Methods to promote the consultation	
Method	Detail
<b>Consultation newsletter</b>	Consultation newsletters will be posted to all homes and businesses in the CZ ahead of the statutory consultation period. The newsletter will also be issued to statutory consultees in the mail, and to wider consultees via email, including local interest groups.
<b>Press releases</b>	To raise awareness of the Project and the consultation programme, both within and beyond the CZ, the Applicant will share a press release with local media outlets at the start of consultation.
<b>Social media</b>	The Applicant will run social media adverts prior to and throughout the consultation. These adverts will be targeted to reach people within the CZ and the surrounding areas.  The adverts will publicise the consultation and point people towards the project website and virtual exhibition, they will also advertise the consultation events.
<b>Emails and letters</b>	The Applicant will send both emails and letters about the consultation programme to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs;</li> <li>• elected representatives at Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council;</li> <li>• host and neighbouring parish councils;</li> <li>• host and neighbouring local authorities; and</li> <li>• local interest groups, such as environmental groups.</li> </ul> Parish councils will be sent hard copies of the consultation brochure as part of the mailing to statutory consultees.

Methods to promote the consultation	
Method	Detail
<b>Statutory notices</b>	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the consultation, in accordance with section 48 of the 2008 Act, will be published once in a national newspaper (The Guardian) and The London Gazette and twice (across two successive weeks) in local circulating papers, The Retford Times and the Nottingham Post.</p> <p>Statutory notices publicising the SoCC, in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act, will be published once (for one week) in local circulating papers: The Retford Times and the Nottingham Post.</p>
<b>Newspaper advertising</b>	<p>An advert publicising the consultation – separate to the statutory notices – will be published in the Retford Times ahead of the consultation launch. The advert will run for one week, publicising the consultation dates and advertise the consultation events and the deposit locations.</p>
<b>Information posters</b>	<p>Posters including details of the consultation, how to access information about the Project and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations within and outside of the CZ, including libraries, shops and civic buildings. These will be hosted in agreement with relevant organisations and venues.</p> <p>Information posters will be sent to all host and neighbouring parish councils, to be used on local noticeboards, and to help raise awareness of the consultation.</p>

- 6.6.2. Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond the Applicant's control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the Project. Any activity changes will also be published on the project website.

## 6.7. Engagement with seldom heard groups

- 6.7.1. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the consultation is accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including 'under-represented' or 'seldom heard' groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.
- 6.7.2. These groups and individuals that may find it harder to be involved in the consultation, and/or need additional support to access materials, include:
- geographically isolated communities
  - young people
  - older people
  - disabled people and those with learning disabilities
  - people who do not have English as a first language

**Table 7: Consultation with seldom-heard groups for the Project**

<b>Seldom-heard groups</b>	<b>Consultation approach</b>
<b>Older people</b>	<p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the CZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phonenumber.</p> <p>Requests for consultation information in additional formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via a freepost address so feedback can be easily provided by post.</p> <p>Consultation events at two locations within the CZ, with members of the team available to answer questions to help inform feedback responses.</p>
<b>Disabled people and those with learning disabilities</b>	<p>Providing information in both digital and non-digital formats.</p> <p>Requests for consultation information in additional formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phonenumber.</p> <p>Consultation events at two locations within the CZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p> <p>One online webinar, so anyone who may not be able to attend an in-person event can have the opportunity to ask questions of the project team.</p> <p>Ensure all event spaces have disabled access and facilities, and the layout of the consultation room provide space for those with, wheelchairs and other mobility aids to move around.</p>
<b>Geographically isolated communities</b>	<p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the CZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via an online form and via the freepost address so feedback can be easily provided from all locations.</p> <p>One webinar for people to join and find out about the Project.</p> <p>Advertising the availability of the Project phonenumber for stakeholders with further questions to speak with the project team, regardless of location.</p>
<b>Young people</b>	<p>Online engagement methods, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant will run social media adverts throughout the consultation. These adverts will be targeted so will reach people within the CZ and the surrounding areas.</p>

Seldom-heard groups	Consultation approach
	The adverts will publicise the consultation and point people towards the project website and virtual exhibition, they will also advertise the consultation events.
<b>People who do not have English as a first language</b>	Requests for consultation information in additional languages will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required.  If required, the team could appoint appropriate translation services who can read materials such as the PEIR out over the phone. Stakeholders can request this service by contacting the project team through the below communication channels.

## 6.8. Information channels

6.8.1. The following channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information, or request copies of the consultation materials and documents. These channels are provided in **Table 8** below:

**Table 8: Information channels for the Project**

Channel	Contact details	Hours of operation
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk">www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>	24/7
<b>Telephone</b>	0115 718 2070	9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours)
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk">info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk</a>	24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days)
<b>Post</b>	FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project	24 hour (mailbox will be monitored between 9am-5:30pm on weekdays)

6.8.2. Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis so the Applicant can establish how best to provide the information required. This will include materials such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation.

## 7. Responding to the consultation

### 7.1. How to respond to the consultation

7.1.1. Feedback to the consultation must be submitted **by 11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025**. Responses received after this date may not be considered.

7.1.2. Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:

- Completing the feedback form online which can be accessed via the project website from Monday 20 January 2025: ([www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](http://www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk))
- Attending a consultation event and completing a printed feedback form which can be handed into the project team in-person or taken away and sent to us via a freepost (using FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project). Feedback forms can also be collected from the community deposit locations, downloaded from the website, and completed in pen or requested from the project team, using the contact details in **Table 8**.
- Emailing into [info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk)
- Writing to us at FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project (no stamp is required)

### 7.2. Further consultation

7.2.1. If, following the statutory consultation, the Applicant considers it is necessary to undertake further geographically targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate. Wider consultation could also be carried out if considered appropriate.

7.2.2. Any additional consultation will be carried out on a proportionate basis in line with the principles set out in this SoCC and communicated to the host local authorities in advance.

## 8. How the Applicant will use consultation feedback

- 8.1.1. When the Applicant's statutory consultation closes at **11:59pm on Monday 03 March 2025**, the Applicant will have regard to all comments received. All feedback, including ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders, is important to us and will help to influence the Applicant's design for the Project.
- 8.1.2. Once the Applicant has reviewed and finalised the application, the Applicant will produce a Consultation Report, which will set out how the feedback from the pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced the Applicant's proposed application.
- 8.1.3. The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the DCO application.
- 8.1.4. Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: [www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk](http://www.steepplerenewablesproject.co.uk).



## 9. Contact details

- 9.1.1. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more information about the Project and the Applicant's consultation programme. The project team can be contacted using any of the communications lines listed below.
- 9.1.2. Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille then please contact us using the details provided. Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print.
- 9.1.3. The Applicant's communications channels are:
- Email: [info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk)
  - Call: 0115 718 2070
  - Write to: FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project (you do not need a stamp)

