

Welcome

Thank you for attending our early informal consultation event for Steeple Renewables Project.

Please browse the boards and take a copy of our consultation brochure to learn about our proposals for Steeple Renewables Project. Our early informal consultation began on Monday 23 October and will run for six weeks until Monday 4 December 2023.

All feedback received will be considered alongside ongoing environmental and technical work to help develop and refine our proposals before presenting you with more detail during our formal statutory consultation next year.

Why solar?

There is now widespread recognition that the UK, and the rest of the world, is in a climate emergency. To help address climate change the UK has committed to reaching net-zero by 2050, requiring us to quadruple our low-carbon electricity generation.

Solar energy, alongside onshore wind, is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation making it perfectly placed to assist in our transition to net zero.

Solar energy enables more electricity to be generated domestically without reliance on imports and is not subject to sudden price fluctuations or the uncertainty of global markets. It can therefore play an important role in improving the security and diversification of the UK's energy supply.

With government forecasting placing solar as the cheapest source of new electricity generation for the coming years, this means investment in solar projects like Steeple Renewables Project is not just good for the environment - but also for the consumer.

Who is RES

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company.

At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 12GW worldwide for a large client base. RES employs more than 2,500 people and is active in 14 countries working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. You can find more information at www.res-group.com.

ACTIVITIES



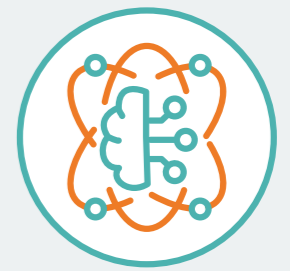
DEVELOP



SUPPORT



CONSTRUCT



DIGITAL

TECHNOLOGIES



WIND



SOLAR



STORAGE



TRANSMISSION &
DISTRIBUTION



GREEN
HYDROGEN



Project overview

RES is exploring the opportunity to develop a renewables project on land at Sturton-le-Steeple, Nottinghamshire. We anticipate that the project could include up to 400MW of solar energy generation and 200MW of battery storage, to help store energy for when it is most needed. RES is also investigating the possibility of incorporating other renewable technologies into the proposals. Collectively, the solar farm and battery storage facility would offer a mix of renewable energy generation and storage.

We are in the early stages of considering a number of parcels of land near to the village of Sturton-le-Steeple to bring forward a renewable energy project. If consented, it is anticipated that Steeple Renewables Project will be capable of producing clean, green electricity for approximately 156,884 homes¹ every year, **around 45% of all homes in Nottinghamshire**.

At this early stage it is anticipated that Steeple Renewables Project could:



Generate up to 400MW of renewable energy, enough to power around half of the homes in Nottinghamshire



Support the UK's targets to reach net-zero by 2050



Utilise grid capacity at the decommissioned West Burton Power Station



Deliver a community benefits package tailored to the needs and priorities of the local community, including RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme



Provide £224 million investment into the construction of the scheme, boosting the local construction sector²



Create 400 jobs over the 24-month build programme, supporting skills and employment in the local community³



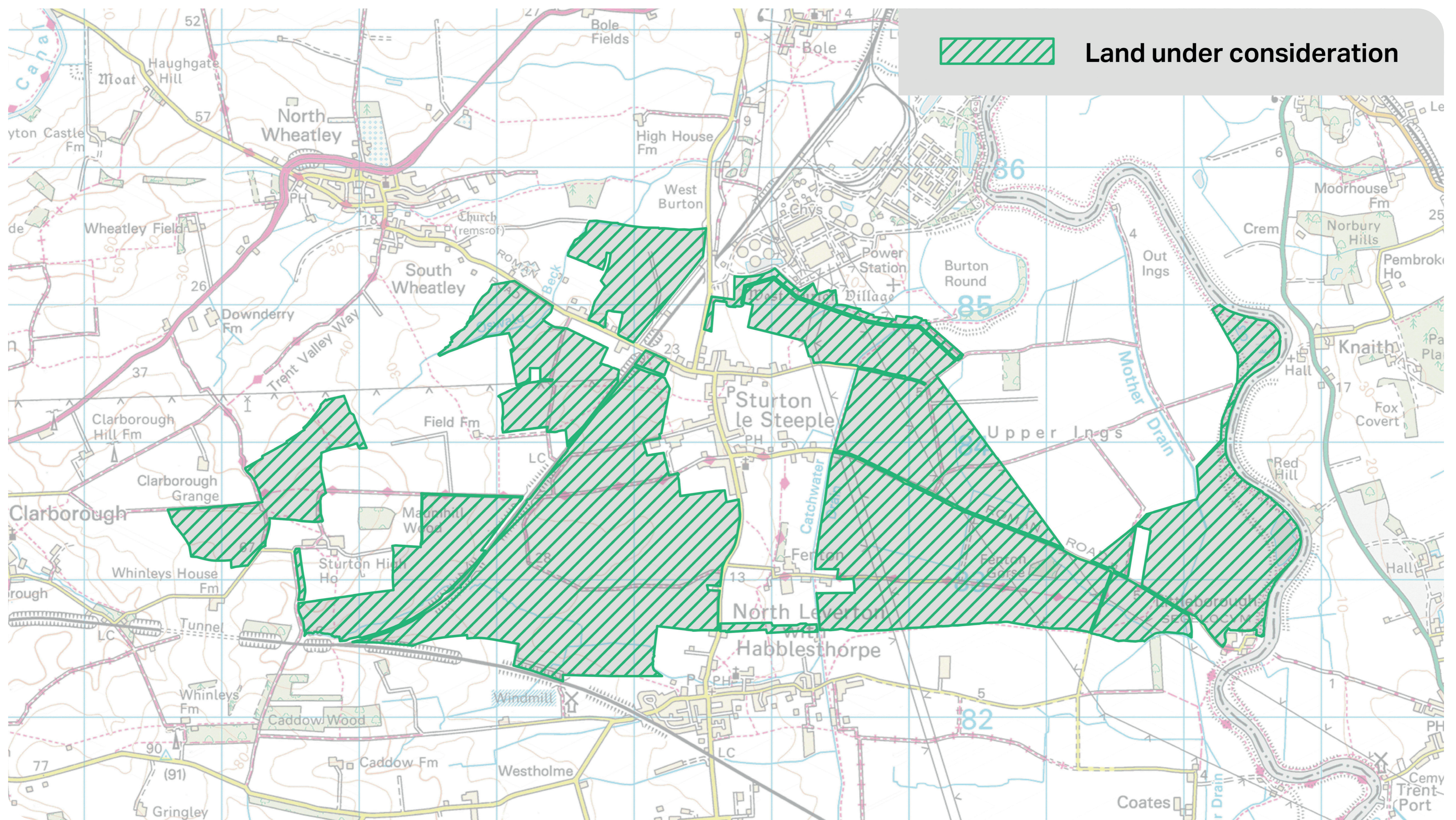
Enable continued agricultural use of the land alongside the renewable energy project

1. 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 the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,748 kWh (Dec 2021).
2. Based on information provided by the client, a value of £560,000 per MW has been used to calculate construction cost. This cost per MW is multiplied by 400MW, an approximate figure for the generation capacity of the project, to reach a total construction cost of around £224 million.
3. Based on previous experience of other solar farms, the construction phase could support around 1 job per MW during the peak of the construction phase, therefore Steeple could support in the region of 400 jobs.



Project plan

The below plan is indicative and the precise boundaries of the final application area, which could include or exclude parcels from those shown in green, will be developed as we continue with the detailed design of the proposal.



Considerations

As you may be aware, West Burton Power Station has recently been decommissioned. This has released grid capacity adjacent to the land where we are looking to bring forward a renewables project. We have secured a connection agreement with National Grid to utilise this grid capacity. This proximity to the grid will also help to reduce the impact of the project on the surrounding area, limiting the amount of new infrastructure that would otherwise be required to access the grid.

Identifying suitable sites for solar developments requires a balance between grid accessibility and other factors such as: site accessibility, landscape, ecology, archaeology, and the ability to mitigate impacts on the local area.

The plan above displays the land we are exploring for renewable energy generation. Typically, solar energy generation uses just 5% of the total ground area of a site. We expect that Steeple Renewables Project would enable dual-purpose land use, allowing for the generation of clean electricity alongside continued agricultural use of the land, for example via sheep grazing.

We believe that the land we are exploring at Sturton-le-Steeple is perfectly placed to deliver a project that can help the UK reach its decarbonisation goals, whilst minimising impacts on the local community. **The project also presents an opportunity for this part of Nottinghamshire to continue its historic role of helping to power the UK.**

Neighbouring projects

The proposals for Steeple Renewables Project are being brought forward independently by RES. However, we are aware of a number of other renewables projects currently progressing through the planning process in close proximity to our proposed site.

As part of our assessments, we will review and consult on the cumulative effects and our inter-relationship of our project in combination with those nearby schemes to ensure that we take account of your views and that it is fully assessed in our application.

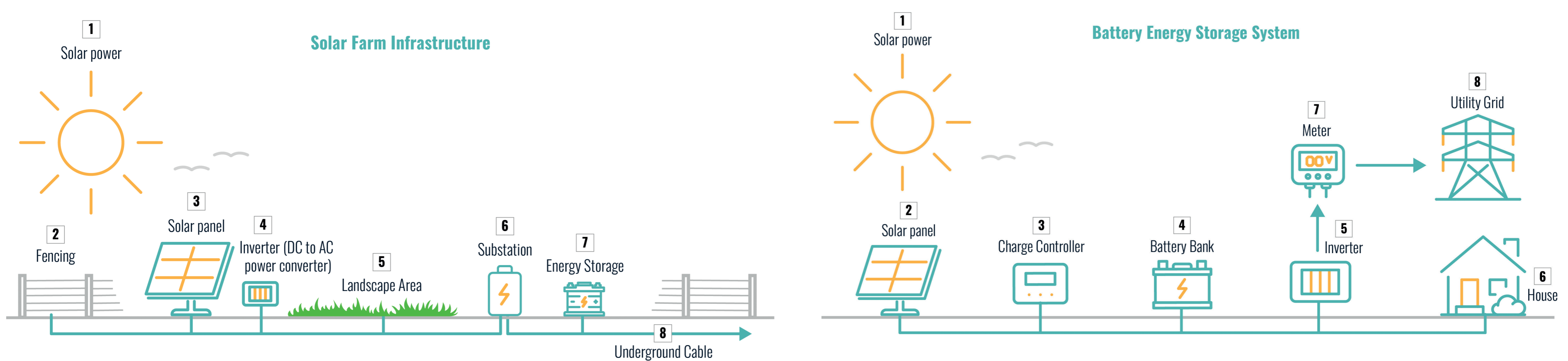
What does a solar farm look like with battery storage?

Solar PV panels use silicon, a great conductor, enclosed in a metal frame with glass. Sunlight, even on cloudy days, hits the silicon, generating DC electricity when photons knock electrons off silicon atoms. Wiring captures this energy. An inverter converts DC to AC and feeds it into the grid. Bifacial modules have two sides, capturing additional energy from reflected light.

As the plans are still at an early stage, the exact layout of panels and infrastructure across the site is still being developed. However, the following elements are anticipated to be included in the project:

- Solar PV modules and the associated mounting structures
- On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgears
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Wildflower planting
- Underground cabling within the areas of the solar PV modules and connecting solar PV module areas to the on-site substation
- Supporting infrastructure including access tracks, security measures, gates, lighting
- Improvements to hedgerows throughout the site

How the project works



The planning (DCO) process

Due to the amount of renewable energy the project could generate, we anticipate that Steeple Renewables Project would be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that to gain consent for the project, we will be planning to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The final decision on whether the project is consented would then be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The DCO process involves several stages:

1. Pre-application stage:

The developer engages in consultation and prepares a detailed application, including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and other supporting documents.

2. Submission:

The developer submits the application to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate). The Planning Inspectorate shall act on behalf of the Secretary of State, which examines the application as the 'Examining Authority'.

3. Examination:

The Examining Authority shall then conduct an examination process, including public hearings, to assess the application's merits, environmental impact, and public opinion. The Examining Authority then prepares a Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State.

4. Decision:

The Secretary of State reviews the examination report and makes a decision to grant or refuse the DCO. This decision is based on the project's national significance, environmental impact, and other relevant factors.

We are committed to meaningful engagement with the local community

To achieve this, we want to ensure that there is ample opportunity for local input and are undertaking a two-stage programme of community engagement and consultation. This stage is early and informal consultation. Once we have developed our proposals for Steeple Renewables Project further, we will be undertaking formal statutory consultation on the detail of our plans in 2024.



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

As part of our early consultation, we want to understand what environmental issues relating to the project are important to you.

We are currently in the process of commencing early baseline environmental work, including ecology assessments. At this stage, the matters that may be considered could include those topics set out below.

- Environmental statement assessment, scope and methodology
- Order limits and environmental context
- Scheme Description – The proposed development
- Alternatives and design iteration
- Relevant policy considerations, including consideration of climate change
- Landscape and visual amenity
- Residential Amenity
- Ecology and ornithology
- Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage
- Ground Conditions
- Minerals
- Cultural Heritage
- Socio-Economic
- Noise and vibration
- Transport and Access
- Air Quality
- Soils and Agricultural Land Classification
- Glint and Glare
- Waste

Are there any impacts you might have questions about, based on the information we are presenting as part of this early consultation? We will carefully consider and review all feedback received and alongside the results of our ongoing technical assessments, we will use the feedback to help develop our proposals further.



Community benefits

RES seeks to be a power for good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to ensure tangible local benefits. If consented, Steeple Renewables Project could deliver a number of lasting benefits to community in Sturton-le-Steeple and the surrounding areas including:

Direct job creation

The proposed solar farm will create and support direct jobs, covering a wide range of skills, during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages. Where possible, RES is committed to local recruitment and is also exploring the possibility of supporting local apprenticeship opportunities.

Indirect job creation

It is anticipated that through the creation of direct jobs, Steeple Renewables Project will also support indirect job creation in the local economy. This will include jobs in local industries providing goods and services to the project's direct employees, e.g., jobs at shops and hotels.

Gross Value Added (GVA)

The project will provide a boost to the regional economy during construction, throughout operation and during the decommissioning phases. This boost to GVA will be the result of increased spending in the local economy.

Annual Business Rates

Throughout its operation, the project will generate annual business rates which will be payable each year.

We take a tailored approach and will work directly with the community to understand how the project could support the local area and help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits. This approach will help to deliver a community benefits package that is aligned with the priorities of the local community.

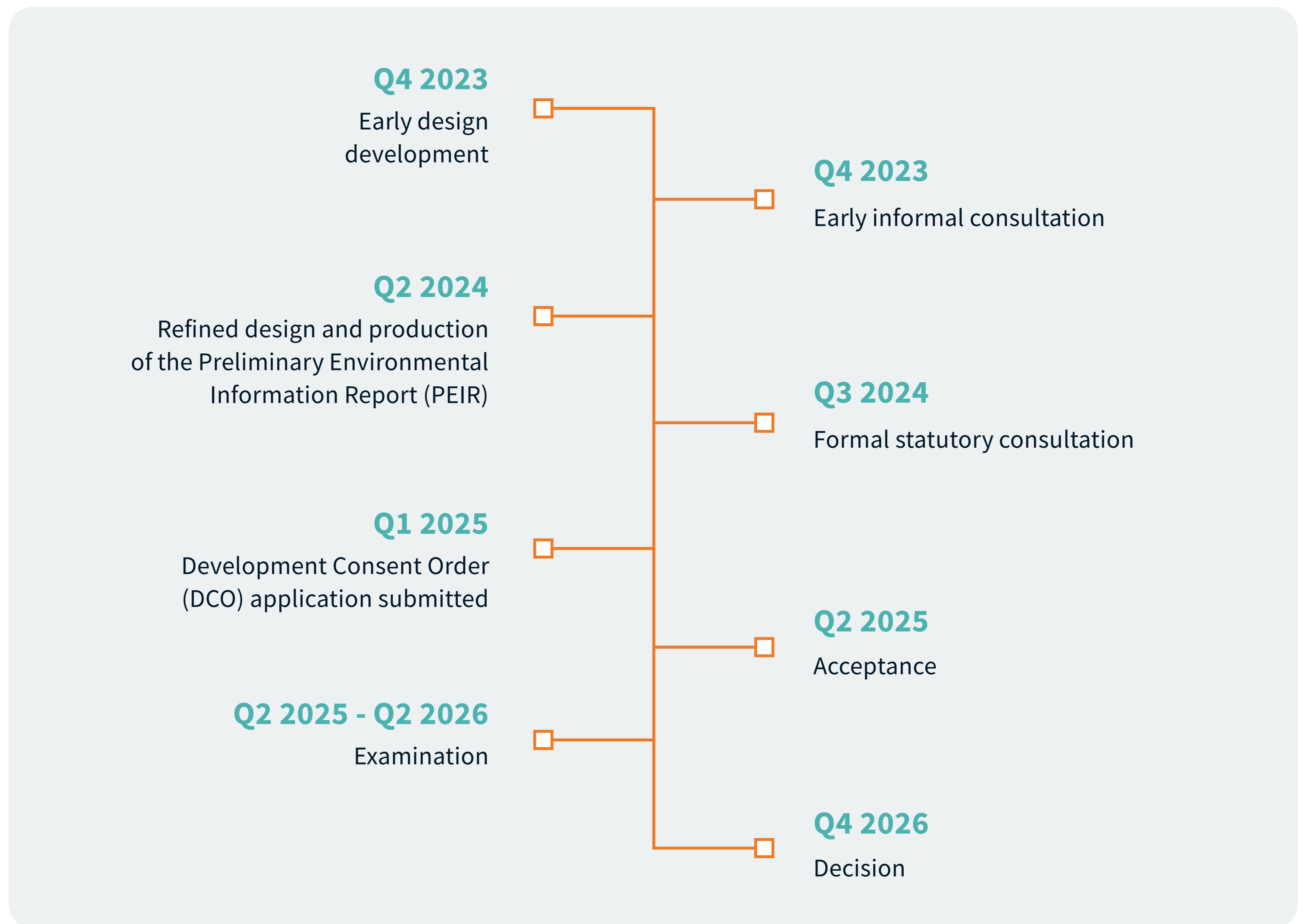
Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS)

In consultation with the local community, RES will explore the possibility to deliver its Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) as part of a tailored community benefits package, once the project is operational, if consent is secured. Developed in response to research and feedback from local communities around RES' operational wind farms, LEDS has been running for over 10 years and offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating project, without needing to change energy provider.

For Steeple Renewables Project we would identify a catchment area which incorporates properties closest to the project. The qualifying properties within the catchment area will be contacted at the relevant time and offered the opportunity to apply for the annual discount which would be paid directly to their electricity provider.



Anticipated project timeline



We really value your feedback

This event is intended to provide the opportunity for you to meet and speak with members of the project team and discuss any questions you may have. Please don't forget to fill out one of the feedback forms provided to submit your response to our early consultation.

Alternatively, you can take one away and return it to us free of charge at FREEPOST Steeple Renewables Project or answer the questions via our project website:

www.steeplerenewablesproject.co.uk

The project website also hosts our virtual exhibition where you can view all the information that has been available at this event.

We will also be hosting a project webinar, which you can sign up to via our project website, this will be held on:

- **Wednesday 22 November, from 6pm-7pm**

The deadline for providing feedback to this early consultation is Monday 4 December 2023. We will carefully consider all feedback received alongside our ongoing technical assessments, to help us develop the proposals further before presenting you with more refined proposals alongside detailed environmental information in formal statutory consultation next year.

The image shows a sample of the feedback form. It includes sections for 'Our proposals', 'Privacy Statement', 'You can respond to this consultation by', and 'Your Details'. The form is titled 'Steeple Renewables Project Early informal consultation feedback form' and features the RES logo. It contains various text boxes for personal information and checkboxes for consent and preferences.

