

Rosefield Solar Farm

Consultation Report

Appendices A1-A4: Development of the
SoCC

EN010158
May 2025
Rosefield Energyfarm Limited



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Appendix A-1.1 – Covering email for informal consultation on draft SoCC



Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: 15 May 2025 15:53:15
Attachments: [DRAFT Rosefield Statement of Community Consultation_V1.pdf](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 April 2024 15:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Rosefield Solar Farm

Afternoon [REDACTED],

Please find attached Rosefield Solar Farms draft SoCC. As set out in the draft PPA, we are sharing this with you for informal consultation.

Our hope is that we could schedule a workshop w/c 29th April to go over the draft document with you. If you could let me know availability for that week I can get a meeting set up. Otherwise please let me know if you need more time to review the document and we can agree a date that works for you.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 April 2024 17:48
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Rosefield Solar Farm

Afternoon [REDACTED],

Can we arrange a time for a quick call to go over the PPA? It would be great to get the document finalised and signed so that we can kick off engagement with the external consultants that need to be instructed.

I am free all of tomorrow and can make myself available early next week, just let me know when works best for you.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Appendix A-1.2 – Draft SoCC for informal consultation



Rosefield Solar Farm

Draft Statement of Community
Consultation
Phase Two Consultation

DATE 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rosefield Solar Farm

- 1.1.1. Climate change is a challenge we must all play our part in addressing – from the small changes we need to make in our everyday lives to the transformational changes we need to make across our whole economy, including how we power our homes, businesses, and transport systems.
- 1.1.2. Over the next decade, the fossil fuels that once powered our economy need to be replaced with sources of low-carbon electricity. Solar is an important part of the way we can meet this challenge – it is reliable and can be built quickly. This is particularly important as the UK focuses on boosting its domestic supply of clean energy.¹
- 1.1.3. Rosefield Solar Farm ('Rosefield') is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage located in Buckinghamshire. Backed by EDF Renewables and PS Renewables, Rosefield would make an important contribution to our future energy network by producing enough clean, secure electricity to power more than 57,000 homes every year.²
- 1.1.4. Rosefield is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') because it would have a generating capacity above 50 megawatts ('MW'). This means we need to apply for a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate it.
- 1.1.5. Unlike planning applications which are determined by local planning authorities, NSIP applications are submitted to and determined by the relevant Secretary of State, in this case the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- 1.1.6. Applying for a DCO is a fixed legal process, which is illustrated in Figure 1. A key part of this process is the requirement for consultation with the local community and other stakeholders, including statutory consultees, before the DCO application is submitted. This is known as a 'statutory consultation.'
- 1.1.7. We held an initial stage of consultation (called a 'non-statutory consultation') between 28 September and 10 November 2023 on our early plans for Rosefield. This was to introduce our early proposals and gain feedback on them while they were still being developed.
- 1.1.8. The feedback we received from the community at this first stage, as well as the environmental surveys carried out since, have helped us to develop

¹ Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, [Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan](#), 2023.

² Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

our plans to the extent that we are now ready to carry out our statutory consultation.

- 1.1.9. The feedback we receive during our second stage of consultation will help inform our proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm before we submit our DCO application.
- 1.1.10. Before we carry out this consultation, we must publish a statement of how we will consult with the local community – known as a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC'). This SoCC has been prepared and publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and relevant guidance from the Planning Inspectorate (Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process).
- 1.1.11. It also reflects the feedback we have received from the host local authority for Rosefield – Buckinghamshire Council – which we have consulted in the preparation of this document.
- 1.1.12. As part of our DCO application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing how we consulted, the feedback that we received during our statutory consultation and how we have had regard to it. When considering our DCO application, the Secretary of State must consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate.
- 1.1.13. This SoCC sets out how we will consult with the local community. It includes:
- A brief summary of the Rosefield Solar Farm proposal
 - When consultation will be carried out
 - Who will be consulted
 - Where people can find out more about Rosefield Solar Farm
 - How we will consult (including on Preliminary Environmental Information)
 - How feedback will be collected and used to inform our proposals.

1.2 Environmental Impact Assessment

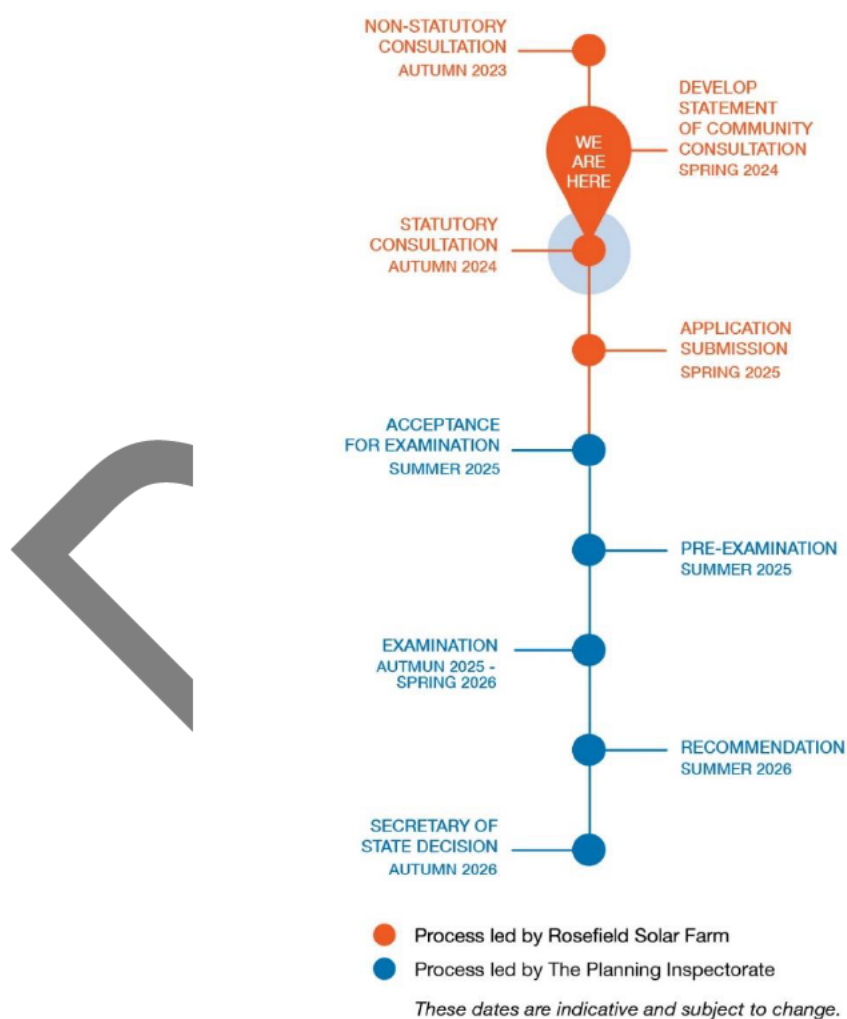
- 1.2.1. Rosefield Solar Farm is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development requiring an assessment of its likely significant effects on the environment under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Where appropriate, we will also describe measures that are proposed to avoid, reduce, or mitigate any significant adverse effects. We will report on this process in a document called an Environmental Statement ('ES') when we submit our DCO application.

- 1.2.2. At the statutory consultation, we will be sharing the initial results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on mitigation measures that we may need to introduce to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects. We will do so in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') document.

1.3 More information

- 1.3.1. You can find more information about the Planning Act 2008, the Planning Inspectorate and its role, as well as how to participate in the DCO process on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>, or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

Figure 1: Planning process for NSIPs and indicative timescales for Rosefield



2. Rosefield Solar Farm

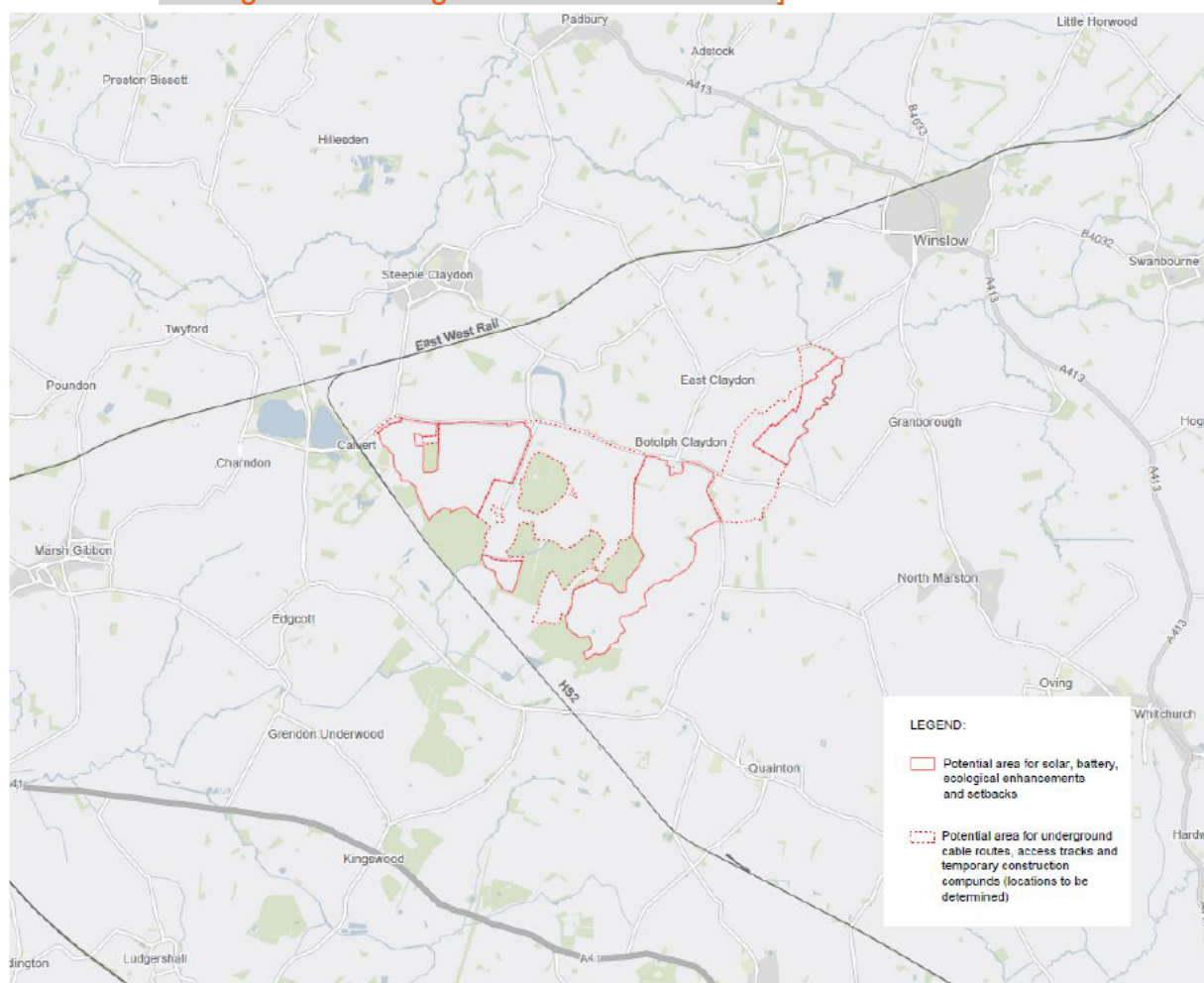
2.1 About our proposals

- 2.1.1. Rosefield is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage. The proposals also include infrastructure to connect Rosefield to the National Grid East Claydon Substation, and any necessary supporting site infrastructure and environmental mitigation, including landscaping.
- 2.1.2. We have secured a grid connection agreement with National Grid that would allow us to export up to 500MW of clean and secure electricity to this network, through the East Claydon Substation owned by National Grid. There would also be capacity to import power from the network.
- 2.1.3. Rosefield is located in the local authority area of Buckinghamshire Council (the host authority). Figure 2 shows the location of the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm.
- 2.1.4. Since the previous stage of consultation [overview of updated redline boundary to be added once refined cable route/access area is confirmed].
- 2.1.5. Further details of the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm will be included in the materials published during the consultation. Details of the materials we will publish are in the 'How will we consult' section at 3.6.
- 2.1.6. More information can also be found on our project website: www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk.

2.2 About the developers

- 2.2.1. Rosefield Solar Farm is backed by Rosefield Energyfarm Ltd – a joint venture between EDF Renewables and PS Renewables.
- 2.2.2. EDF Renewables is a subsidiary of EDF Group, one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies. In the UK, it has 41 operating sites providing much needed low carbon electricity across all renewable technologies.
- 2.2.3. PS Renewables is an established UK-based renewable energy development and construction company, with an existing solar portfolio totalling more than 850MW of electricity.
- 2.2.4. We have a strong track record of working jointly on solar projects.
- 2.2.5. You can find out more about both organisations at: www.edf-re.uk and www.psrenewables.com.

Figure 2: Location of Rosefield Solar Farm [new redline to be inserted once updated underground cabling/access area confirmed]



3. Consulting the community

3.1 Developing our approach to consultation

- 3.1.1. Our approach to consultation has been informed by our early engagement with key stakeholders, as well as our phase one consultation.
- 3.1.2. The phase one consultation was held between 28 September 2023 to 10 November 2023 to introduce our proposals to the community and gain initial feedback on them, including on our early design for Rosefield Solar Farm, our approach to assessing environmental effects and community benefit.
- 3.1.3. The feedback we have received to date has helped us refine our proposals and our ongoing approach to consultation and engagement.

3.2 Our approach to statutory consultation

- 3.2.1. Our statutory consultation will be open to anyone with an interest in Rosefield Solar Farm who considers that they may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposals, or has a view that they would like considered.
- 3.2.2. Our multi-stage approach to consultation has ensured that community input has already helped to shape the plans we are presenting. The feedback that we receive from this stage of consultation will help us to further refine our proposals and inform our assessments before we submit our DCO application.
- 3.2.3. We are committed to making sure that everybody has the opportunity to understand and provide their feedback on our proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm. Our key objectives for achieving this through our pre-application consultation include:
 - Ensuring thorough engagement and consultation on our proposals.
 - Ensuring proposals are clearly presented, and issues easily understood.
 - Providing sufficient opportunities for interested parties to understand and influence our plans.
 - Gathering high quality responses to, and feedback on, our plans to help inform proposals.
 - Delivering a consultation that meets the legal requirements and best practice for a DCO application.

3.3 Timing

- 3.3.1. The statutory consultation will run for 6 weeks from **DATE** to **DATE**. All responses must be received by 11:59pm on **DATE**.

3.4 What will we consult on?

- 3.4.1. During the statutory consultation, we will be asking for views on:
- The proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm, including the preferred locations of each of its elements and our proposed environmental enhancements and mitigation.
 - The PEIR, which will present an initial account of the potential environmental effects of Rosefield Solar Farm during construction, operation and decommissioning, as well as preliminary details on mitigation measures that we may need to introduce to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any potentially significant adverse effects.
 - How Rosefield Solar Farm could contribute to the local community, including local initiatives or organisations that Rosefield could support over its lifetime.

3.5 Who will we consult?

- 3.5.1. We have defined two geographic zones – an inner zone and an outer zone – for the purpose of consulting with the local community. This recognises the fact that levels of potential impact are likely to vary with distance to the site. These zones have informed how we will publicise the consultation and are set out below, with further detail about the consultation information detailed in sections 3.6.4-3.6.28.
- 3.5.2. We will publicise the consultation in both zones using our project website, by placing adverts in local newspapers and on social media, and by issuing press releases to local media outlets.
- 3.5.3. We will also email those people who have previously registered to receive project updates.

Inner zone

- 3.5.4. The inner zone covers people who live and work closest to the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm and their political representatives. Our consultation activity will be most intensive within this zone. A map of this zone is shown in Figure 3.
- 3.5.5. This zone includes all properties within one and a half kilometres of the areas where we are proposing to place solar and battery, extending in some locations to consider the potential wider effects of the proposal and human geographic boundaries. For example, we have extended the inner zone boundary to include:
- Villages with Public Rights of Way that connect into the areas proposed for solar and battery storage, such as Quainton and Steeple Claydon.
 - Locations that were highlighted as important to the local community in non-statutory consultation feedback, such as Quainton Hill.

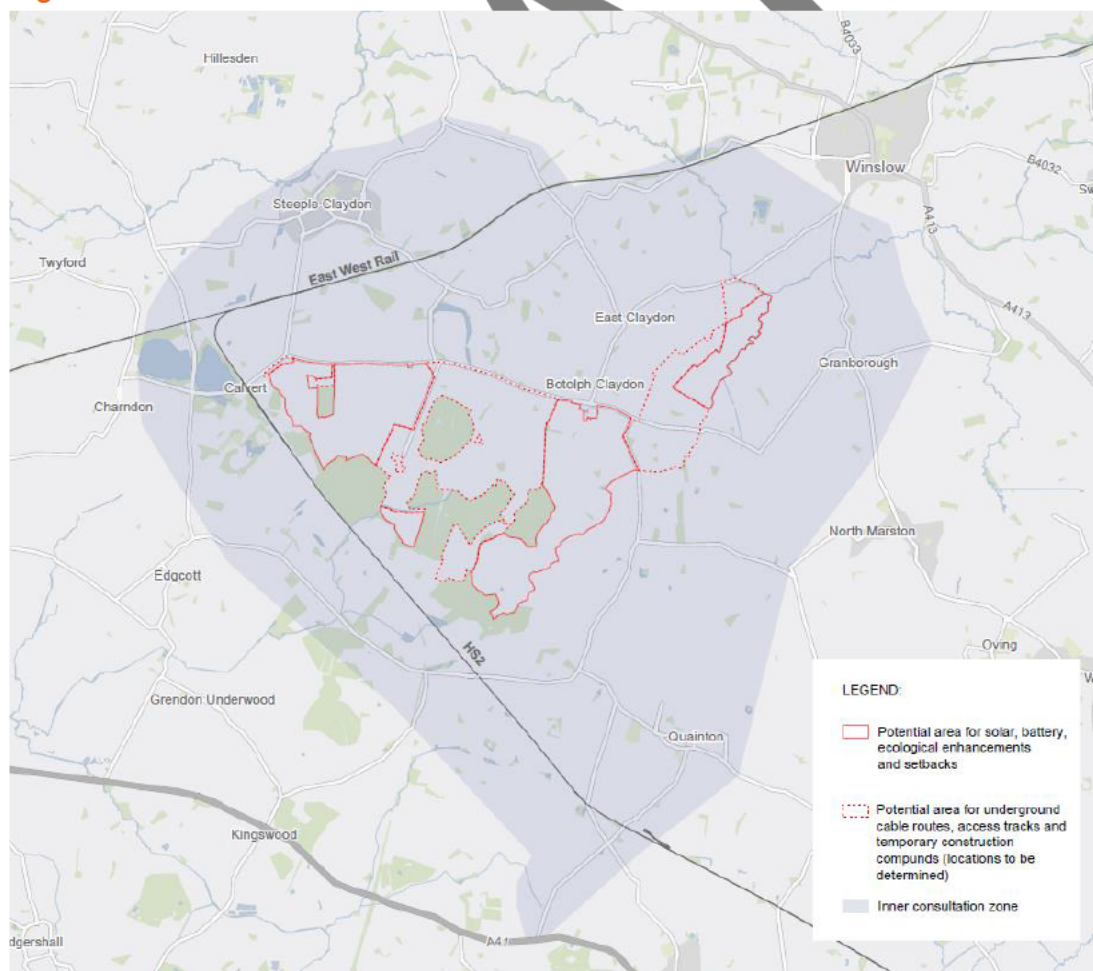
- Properties that are near the proposed main access route.

3.5.6. A newsletter will be sent to all properties within the inner zone at the beginning of consultation. Where possible, it is intended that public events and deposit points will be focused in or close to this area.

3.5.7. We will write to elected members of Buckinghamshire Council, the local Member of Parliament, parish councils and community groups within this zone to offer them a briefing and support them in promoting the consultation using their existing communication channels. Parish Councils located within this zone include:

- Calvert Green Parish Council
- Steeple Claydon Parish Council
- East and Botolph Claydon Parish Council
- Hogshaw Parish Council
- Quainton Parish Council
- Granborough Parish Council

Figure 3: Inner zone



Outer zone

- 3.5.8. The outer zone covers those living and working in the area outside of the inner zone, who may be affected by or have an interest in our proposals due to the proposals being brought forward in their local authority area. This zone follows the local authority boundary of Buckinghamshire Council.
- 3.5.9. In addition to the methods set out in section 3.5.2, we will write to all Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet members and the parish councils listed below to support them in promoting the consultation using their existing communication channels.
- Twyford Parish Council
 - Edgecote Parish Council
 - Grendon Underwood Parish Council
 - Winslow Parish Council
 - Charndon Parish Council

Statutory consultees and community organisations

- 3.5.10. At the same time as consulting the local community, we will also consult a range of statutory consultees as set out by Section 42 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm. These groups include:
- The host and neighbouring local authorities
 - Statutory bodies (such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and others)
 - Other community groups and organisations that may have an interest in the proposals (such as Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Aylesbury & District Group Ramblers and others)
 - People with an interest in land (e.g. owners or tenants) that may be affected by the proposals.
- 3.5.11. The proposed application will also be publicised as required by Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

3.6 How will we consult?

- 3.6.1. This section sets out how we intend to consult during the consultation.
- 3.6.2. We will present information in a variety of formats and enable feedback to be submitted in a number of ways to encourage participation in the consultation. More detail on the consultation techniques we will use is provided in sections 3.6.4-3.6.28.

- 3.6.3. Should we carry out any further stages of consultation prior to submission of the DCO application, we will use some, but not necessarily all, of the means of consultation set out in this document. We will work with Buckinghamshire Council to assist us in deciding the most appropriate activities for any further stages of consultation.

Consultation information

- 3.6.4. Information about our proposals will be published for consultation in the following formats:

- **A consultation newsletter:** a newsletter issued to addresses within the inner zone setting out how to find out more about the proposals and participate in the consultation; including information on accessing materials, the locations and timings of the public events, and how people can share their feedback. This will additionally be published on the project website to view and download.
- **A consultation booklet:** an accessible summary of our proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps. This will be available in hard copy at deposit points and the public events, posted on request and published on the project website to view and download.
- **A questionnaire:** the main way we will collect feedback from the community. The questions will be easy to understand and the responses will be considered as we refine our plans. This will be available in hard copy at deposit points and the public events, posted on request and published on the project website to view and download.
- **A 3D model:** a virtual model of the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm site will be available to view at the public events.
- **A website:** the project website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk) will host all of the consultation documents, including the PEIR, as well as links to a virtual exhibition and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the deposit points and public events as well as hosting contact information for people to get in touch with the team.
- **A virtual exhibition:** containing the exhibition banners on display at the public events and a link to the online questionnaire and project website. It will host contact information for people to get in touch with the team.
- **Exhibition banners:** an accessible summary of our proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps which will be displayed at the public events. The exhibition banners will also be available in the virtual exhibition and as PDFs to download from the project website.
- **The Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR):** containing the initial results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as

preliminary information on measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects.

- 3.6.5. Printed copies of the SoCC and consultation documents – including the PEIR – will be available in local libraries and community venues ('deposit points') close to the proposed site for Rosefield Solar Farm and maintained throughout the consultation period. USBs containing all of these documents will also be available to take away. All materials will be published on the project website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk).
- 3.6.6. Deposit points have been selected to ensure they are within the inner zone, are accessible and have opening times to accommodate people with different time commitments.
- 3.6.7. The locations of the deposit points, which are listed in Table 2 below, will be publicised in our consultation material, including the newsletter, consultation booklet and on the project website.
- 3.6.8. We will provide hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC free of charge on request – as well as USBs containing all of the consultation materials (including the PEIR). We will review requests for hard copies of the PEIR on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.
- 3.6.9. Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. in different languages, large print or easy access) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

Table 2: Deposit points [To be confirmed with venues]

| Location | Opening hours* |
|--|---|
| Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar Cotswolds Way, Calvert | Thursday 10am – 12pm Friday 7pm – 11pm |
| East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall Botyl Road, Botolph Claydon | Monday to Thursday 8am – 11pm Friday and Saturday 8am – 12am |
| Steeple Claydon Library 48 Queen Catherine Rd, Steeple Claydon | Tuesday 2.30pm – 5.30pm Thursday 9am – 12pm Friday 2.30pm – 5.30pm Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm |

*Please check opening times before travelling

Website and virtual exhibition

- 3.6.10. From the start of consultation, the project website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk) will host all of the consultation documents, including the PEIR, as well as links to the virtual exhibition and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the deposit points and public events as well as hosting contact information for people to get in touch with the team.
- 3.6.11. The interactive virtual exhibition will be accessed through the website and will provide an alternative format for people to learn about the proposals. It will include information boards which will be on display at the public events, links to documents and the online questionnaire.

Public events

- 3.6.12. We will hold in-person public events during the consultation period to enable anyone with an interest in the proposals to find out more about them and ask questions to members of the team. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire will be available at these events for members of the public to take away. Completed questionnaires will be able to be returned at the events.
- 3.6.13. The dates and times of these events are listed in Table 3 below. The events are being held in accessible venues around the proposed Rosefield site and have been organised at a range of dates and times to ensure that people with different schedules are able to attend. This includes events after normal working hours and on the weekend.
- 3.6.14. Details about the dates and times of the public events will be published on the project website, in the consultation newsletter and booklet. The schedule will also be included in supporting publicity such as newspaper and social media adverts. We will consider requests for additional events throughout the consultation period on a case-by-case basis. Any further events would be publicised on the project website, using social media adverts and, if possible, at the venue.

Table 3: Public events

| Location | Date and time |
|--|---------------|
| Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar | TBC |
| East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall | TBC |
| Steeple Claydon Village Hall | TBC |
| Quinton Memorial Hall | TBC |

Presentations and stakeholder meetings

- 3.6.15. We will seek to accommodate reasonable requests for presentations and briefings from stakeholder groups, for example: local authorities, parish councils, and local community groups, during the consultation period.
- 3.6.16. Other activities will be carried out, if considered necessary and appropriate, to engage specific interests or seldom heard groups (see section 3.6.28). This could include, for example, further meetings with residents who are closest to the proposed site.
- 3.6.17. Details of all our consultation activity will be included in a Consultation Report which we will submit as part of our DCO application.

Publicity and advertising

- 3.6.18. We will publicise the consultation and associated activities in local media ahead of the start of the consultation period and will update local broadcast and print media channels on our activity during the consultation.
- 3.6.19. Where publication timings allow, we will seek to use local newsletters to further engage with local communities.
- 3.6.20. Statutory notices will be published in line with Section 47 and Section 48 of the Planning Act.

Social media

- 3.6.21. We will use social media advertising to help publicise the consultation and encourage those with an interest in our proposals to get involved. We are unable to accept feedback via social media.

Consultation hotline and email address

- 3.6.22. To find out more information or request copies of the consultation materials, anyone can contact the consultation team by freephone (0800 861 1097) during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm). Outside of these hours, callers will be able to leave a message requesting a callback.
- 3.6.23. Alternatively, people can email info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk or write to the team via Freepost (no stamp required): Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL.

Collection of responses

- 3.6.24. We will produce a questionnaire inviting feedback on different elements of the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm. The questionnaire will be available to complete on the project website: www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk, in printed form at public events, at deposit points around the local area and on request using the project contact details.
- 3.6.25. The completed hard-copy questionnaire can be returned using the Freepost address set out in this document during the consultation period, or at the public events.

- 3.6.26. Respondents will also be able to complete the questionnaire online, which will be made available through the project website: www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk as well as the virtual exhibition.
- 3.6.27. Alternatively, respondents can write to us via email or Freepost using the details set out in this document. All written feedback will be accepted.

Seldom heard audiences

- 3.6.28. It is important to ensure that everyone with an interest in the proposals has the opportunity to comment on our proposals as part of the consultation. We want our consultation to be inclusive and gather feedback from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultations such as people without internet access, seasonal workers, younger people and socially isolated people. We will do this by:
- Writing to the local authority and organisations representing seldom heard individuals and groups directly.
 - Choosing accessible venues for deposit points and public events.
 - Publicising the consultation in digital and print editions of local newspapers and on social media.
 - Holding public events at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends to enable participation by people with different time commitments.
 - Making provision for people without internet access through the consultation programme. This includes sending a consultation newsletter to every address within the inner zone, holding public events in the area, publicising the consultation in print editions of local newspapers and making hard copies of consultation materials available on-request and at deposit points.

4. Consultation arrangements

4.1. How to find out more

4.1.1. Anyone can find out more by:

- Contacting us on 0800 861 1097 or info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk or by writing to the Freepost address (Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL).
- Attending a public event which we will hold in locations around the proposed Rosefield site.
- Viewing the virtual exhibition on our website: www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk
- Reading the consultation booklet which will be available online or in hard copy on request, at deposit points around the area and at the public events.
- Reviewing the PEIR by going to www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk or visiting a deposit point.

4.2 Responding to the consultation

4.2.1. We welcome feedback on our proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm. Anyone can share their views by:

- Completing the consultation questionnaire online at www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk.
- Returning a questionnaire by Freepost (no stamp required) to the following address: Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL.
- Returning a questionnaire by email: info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk.
- Submitting comments by email to info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk or in writing to the above Freepost address.

4.2.2. Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 23:59 on DATE.

4.2.3. Responses must be individual. Petitions will be treated as a single response for the purpose of the Consultation Report.

4.3. How we will consider the responses

4.3.1. Following this consultation, we will consider all of the feedback we receive as we continue refining our proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm before submitting a DCO application. The DCO application will include a Consultation Report, which will set out how we have consulted, summarise the responses received and explain how we have had regard to them.

- 4.3.2. Any comments received will be analysed by Rosefield Energyfarm Ltd and its appointed agents. Copies may be made available to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered part of the DCO process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on the public record and will be held securely by Rosefield Energyfarm Ltd and its agents in accordance with data protection laws. Any personal details will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.
- 4.3.3. The Planning Inspectorate has also published details of how it manages comments received in a Privacy Notice available on its website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice/customer-privacy-notice>.

4.4 Further information

- 4.4.1. For further information, please contact us by:
- Calling 0800 861 1097 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
 - Emailing info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk
 - Writing to the team at Rosefield Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local.

Rosefield

Solar Farm

rosefieldsolarfarm.com

Appendix A-2 – Regard had to host authority informal feedback on draft SoCC



Appendix A-2: Regard had to host authority informal feedback on the draft SoCC

Table A-2: Informal feedback from host authority regarding the draft SoCC and the Applicant's response

| Summary of comment | Change Y/N | Applicant's response |
|--|------------|---|
| <i>The SoCC should include more specific information on the application proposals, particularly the type and size of key scheme components, including the grid connection, and details on construction phase activities.</i> | Y | Noting that more detail about the proposals would be published as part of Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant included information about the main elements of a solar farm (section 2.2). |
| <i>More information in the SoCC will help Buckinghamshire Council to understand and comment on the most appropriate methods of consultation. It would also be helpful to understand how the consultation might interface with other projects planned in the area.</i> | N | The role of the SoCC was to outline the Applicant's approach to its Phase Two Consultation and therefore the Applicant did not include information about the proposals in the SoCC. However, the Applicant engaged with the host authority to ensure it had the information required to comment on the draft SoCC. This included a SoCC workshop held on 23 May 2024 as well as regular Planning Performance Agreement meetings between the host authority and the Applicant. |
| <i>Paragraph 3.4.1's reference to "preferred locations each of its elements" needs to be clarified. The consultation materials must clearly indicate which elements are fixed (e.g. in terms of design or location) and which will be influenced by consultation responses.</i> | Y | The Applicant amended the wording of this section of the SoCC to ensure that it was clear that it was seeking feedback on the potential locations of different parts of the Proposed Development. The consultation materials were clear about the design stage of our proposals and therefore which aspects are fixed, and which could be influenced by feedback. This included, for example, information about optionality of the location and layout |

of the Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound and Battery Energy Storage System in the consultation booklet, and exhibition boards. In addition, the Applicant published a version of the proposed operational layout of the Proposed Development with a grid overlay so that respondents to the consultation could make location-specific comments as part of their consultation feedback.

The document lacks a clear timeline. Figure 1 should be revised to specify the months during which the statutory consultation will occur, given that Autumn 2024 is imminent.

N

While Figure 1 of the SoCC gave an overview of the DCO process at a high-level, the Applicant included details about the specific timings of Phase Two Consultation within the SoCC, including the deadline to received feedback.

The SoCC should detail how the applicant is adhering to the DLUHC's April 2024 guidance. This includes whether a Programme Document is being produced to reflect the guidance including:

N

The SoCC was prepared with regard to the relevant guidance and legislation, including Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (published 30 April 2024).

- ***date proposed for submission of the application***
- ***comprehensive pre-application timeline***
- ***main issues for resolution and activities to be undertaken to address these***
- ***engagement strategies for statutory consultees and local authorities including financial support agreements***

- **identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed ·**
- **cross reference to the SoCC required by S47 of the Planning Act.**

Paragraph 3.3.1 states a six-week consultation period, which Buckinghamshire Council appreciates as it exceeds the statutory minimum of 4 weeks. However, Buckinghamshire Council suggests that this period be considered the minimum, with a preference for extending it to eight weeks.

Y

In response to feedback from the host authority, the Applicant amended the consultation period stated in the SoCC to eight-weeks (between 18 September and 14 November 2024).

Following the start of Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant identified that some information was unintentionally omitted from the PEIR. While it was not believed that the minor omission would have affected the ability of anyone to understand and provide feedback on the Proposed Development the Applicant extended the consultation period stated in the SoCC by 21 days (to 11:59pm on 05 December 2024). This was to ensure that respondents were given the statutory 28-days to review the additional information once this was published on 07 November 2024.

This gave in excess of 11 weeks to provide feedback on the Proposed Development.

The SoCC should provide a clearer commitment to giving advance notice of the consultation period to the community and other consultees to ensure they are prepared and available to respond as required. Paragraphs 3.6.18-20 are

N

While the Applicant did not include specific timescales within its SoCC, the Applicant outlined a range of methods it would use to publicise the consultation in section 3.6 of the SoCC.

quite limited in this respect and should be updated with more commitment to when advance notice will be provided (suggest minimum two weeks' notice to key consultees, perhaps with direct mailing/emails).

The Applicant launched its consultation on 4 September 2024, giving 14 days' notice of the consultation period which commenced on 18 September 2024.

Presentations and briefings offered to parish councils and community groups should also include ward members.

Y

The Applicant amended section 3.5.8 of the SoCC to include specific reference to ward members of the host authority.

The document should define what constitutes a "reasonable request for a presentation or briefing" and commit to providing briefings to specific groups if needed.

Y

The Applicant defined in section 3.6.18 what would constitute a 'reasonable request for a presentation or briefing' as:

- received during the consultation period;
- from an organisation or individual who requires an additional way to find out more about our proposals or to provide feedback, which cannot be accommodated by the consultation activities outlined in this SoCC.

In section 3.6.17 of the SoCC, the Applicant committed to providing briefings for stakeholder groups, 'for example local authorities, parish councils, and local community groups.' Section 3.6.19 additionally made provision for the Applicant to carry out further activities if considered necessary and appropriate, to engage specific interests or seldom heard groups.

The seldom heard audiences should also consider younger age groups and using targeted

Y

The Applicant amended section 3.6.31 of the SoCC accordingly to make specific reference to younger age

methods that are more likely to capture them i.e. use of social media. When providing information thought should be given to the use of language limiting technical jargon to ensure that it is accessible to a wide audience.

groups as an example of a group seldom heard in consultation, as well as the use of social media advertising as a technique to reach seldom heard groups.

The SoCC should list additional groups that are relevant to the consultation, such as Middle Claydon, Marsh Gibbon Parish Council, Winslow and Villages Community Board, and Buckingham and Village Community Board. The Council would appreciate a similar approach taking toward members and parishes that are within the outer zone as those within the inner zone.

Y

The Applicant amended sections 3.5.8-3.5.12 of the SoCC accordingly to list additional groups and make specific reference to elected members in both the inner and outer zones of consultation.

As part of consultation, additional information should be made available in order to give full and detailed consideration of the potential impacts. If this information is supplied early enough, the consultation will be more meaningful. The concerns are that without established baselines, fixed areas and adequate information available about the impact of the proposed development, the consultation exercise without a follow up consultation is premature. Care should be taken in the use of language to ensure that it is accessible to a wide range of audiences.

N

Details of the Proposed Development were published in a range of consultation materials as part of the Applicant's Phase Two Consultation. All materials were listed in the SoCC (section 3.6.5) and were available from the start of consultation period. Materials were presented at a range of different levels of detail to ensure that it was accessible to a wide range of audiences. For example, a non-technical summary of the PEIR was published alongside the PEIR.

The SoCC should outline a clear and inclusive consultation method, learning from previous non-

N

The Applicant agrees with this comment. The Applicant's approach to consultation was designed to be

statutory consultations to address any concerns effectively.

inclusive and open to anyone with an interest in Rosefield Solar Farm who considers that they may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposals or has a view that they would like considered. The SoCC was informed by our early engagement with stakeholders and Phase One Consultation.

The Consultation Report should reflect how feedback from the non-statutory consultation has informed the statutory consultation and the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) should be in the form of a draft Environmental Statement (ES), however it should also be available in a format and language which can be easily understood by non-technical consultees. The assessment in the PEIR should also be sufficiently advanced so that community can understand the potential impacts and whether/how they might be affected.

N

The Consultation Report will outline how feedback from the Phase One Consultation has informed Phase Two Consultation and the Proposed Development. The PEIR included the results of the Applicant's preliminary environmental assessments and was accompanied by a non-technical summary. The PEIR was sufficiently advanced to allow consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, noting environmental assessment work was still ongoing and would be presented in the Environmental Statement.

The SoCC should state that project updates will be published on the project website and distributed to key consultees at regular intervals following the consultation, to update them on progress. This is in the interests of the applicant as well as the community, to help build trust and avoid a break in information between consultation and submission.

Y

The Applicant amended section 3.6.4 of the SoCC to include the commitment to provide updates about the Proposed Development to statutory consultees and on the Rosefield Solar Farm website as appropriate.

Para 3.6.3 should be clear about what will happen should there be substantial changes to the project or its impacts as a whole prior to DCO submission.

Y

The Applicant amended section 3.6.3 of the SoCC to include the commitment to consult with Buckinghamshire Council on any targeted consultation, noting that the level of consultation required would be informed by the potential effects of the change and the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 2024.

Appendix A-3 – Formal consultation on the draft SoCC



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Appendix A-3.1 – Covering email and letter inviting host authority feedback on draft SoCC

Appendix A-3.2 – Draft SoCC for formal consultation

Appendix A-3.1 – Covering email and letter inviting host authority feedback on draft SoCC



From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Rosefield Solar Farm - draft SoCC for formal review
Date: 10 July 2024 11:02:42
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[Rosefield SoCC Letter to Buckinghamshire Council.pdf](#)
[DRAFT Rosefield Statement of Community Consultation.docx](#)

Good morning [REDACTED],

As discussed in our meeting last week, I am now sharing Rosefield Solar Farms draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for your formal review. Please find attached a cover letter and the draft SoCC for review. In accordance with Section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008, this consultation will last for 28 days, starting tomorrow on 11 July 2024 and closing at 11:59pm on 8 August 2024.

The attached draft SoCC takes into account Buckinghamshire Councils informal feedback on an earlier version of the draft SoCC. The summary table below sets out the Councils comments and how we have responded to these. I hope this is useful in guiding your review.

| Buckinghamshire Council comment | Rosefield Solar Farm response |
|---|--|
| <p>Detailed Application Proposals: The SoCC should include more specific information on the application proposals, particularly the type and size of key scheme components, including the grid connection, and details on construction phase activities.</p> <p>It is anticipated that more detailed information will be provided in the formal consultation materials, however, more information in the SoCC will help the Buckinghamshire Council (BC) to understand and comment on the most appropriate methods of consultation. It would also be helpful to understand how the consultation might interface with other projects planned in the area.</p> | <p>See updated section 2.2 for an overview of the main elements of a solar farm.</p> <p>The role of the SoCC is to outline our approach to statutory consultation. More detail about our proposals will be published as part of our statutory consultation. However, we would be more than happy to provide additional information to assist Buckinghamshire Council outside of the SoCC document.</p> |
| <p>Clarity on Scheme Elements: Paragraph 3.4.1's reference to "preferred locations of each of its elements" needs to be clarified. The consultation materials must clearly indicate which elements are fixed (e.g. in terms of design or location) and which will be influenced by consultation responses.</p> | <p>See section 3.4.1 amended accordingly.</p> <p>Our consultation materials will be clear about the design stage of our proposals and therefore what aspects are fixed and what could be influenced by feedback.</p> |
| <p>Consultation Timeline: The document lacks a clear timeline. Figure 1 should be revised to specify the months during which the statutory consultation will occur, given that Autumn 2024 is imminent.</p> | <p>At this stage, we are aiming to commence consultation in September (see updated section 3.3.1).</p> <p>We will continue to keep the Council updated on our progress.</p> |
| <p>Alignment with DLUHC Guidance on the pre-application process (April 2024): The SoCC should detail how the applicant is adhering to the DLUHC's April 2024 guidance. This includes whether a Programme Document is being produced to reflect the guidance including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• date proposed for submission of the application,• comprehensive pre-application timeline,• main issues for resolution and activities to be | <p>This SoCC has been prepared with regard to the relevant guidance from the Planning Inspectorate (Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 2024), and will provide a Programme Document to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July in line with the updated guidance.</p> |

undertaken to address these,

- engagement strategies for statutory consultees and local authorities including financial support agreements,
- identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed and
- cross reference to the SoCC required by S47 of the Planning Act.

Consultation Period: Paragraph 3.3.1 states a six-week consultation period, which BC appreciates as it exceeds the statutory minimum of 4 week. However, BC suggests that this period be considered the minimum, with a preference for extending it to eight weeks.

We are proposing to hold a 6 week consultation in line with our phase one consultation. Our initial phase of consultation saw a strong response rate from the local community, indicating that this timeframe was sufficient.

Advance Notice for Consultation: The SoCC should provide a clearer commitment to giving advance notice of the consultation period to the community and other consultees to ensure they are prepared and available to respond as required. Paragraphs 3.6.18-20 are quite limited in this respect and should be updated with more commitment to when advance notice will be provided (suggest minimum two weeks notice to key consultees, perhaps with direct mailing/emails).

We will provide as much notice as possible of our statutory consultation and our public events.

Presentation and Briefing Requests: Presentations and briefings offered to parish councils and community groups should also include ward members. The document should define what constitutes a “reasonable request for a presentation or briefing” and commit to providing briefings to specific groups if needed. The seldom heard audiences should also consider younger age groups and using targeted methods that are more likely to capture them i.e. use of social media. When providing information thought should be given to the use of language limiting technical jargon to ensure that it is accessible to a wide audience.

See sections 3.5.8, 3.6.17-18 and 3.6.31 amended accordingly.

Identification of Additional Groups: The SoCC should list additional groups that are relevant to the consultation, such as Middle Claydon, Marsh Gibbon Parish Council, Winslow and Villages Community Board, and Buckingham and Village Community Board. The Council would appreciate a similar approach taking toward members, parishes that are within the outer zone as those within the inner zone.

See sections 3.5.8-3.5.12 amended accordingly.

Provision of Comprehensive Information: As part of consultation, additional information should be made available in order to give full and detailed consideration of the potential impacts. If this information is supplied early enough, the consultation will be more meaningful. The concerns are that without established baselines, fixed areas and adequate information available about the impact of the proposed development, the consultation exercise without a

Our statutory consultation will include a range of materials outlining our detailed proposals and preliminary environmental information.

See section 3.6.5 for how this information will be presented.

follow up consultation is premature. Care should be taken in the use of language to ensure that it is accessible to a wide range of audiences.

Method of Consultation: The SoCC should outline a clear and inclusive consultation method, learning from previous non-statutory consultations to address any concerns effectively.

Our approach to consultation will be inclusive and open to anyone with an interest in Rosefield Solar Farm who considers that they may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposals, or has a view that they would like considered.

Our SoCC has been informed by our early engagement with stakeholders and our first phase of consultation.

Consultation Report and PEIR: The Consultation Report should reflect how feedback from the non-statutory consultation has informed the statutory consultation and the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) should be in the form of a draft Environmental Statement (ES), however it should also be available in a format and language which can be easily understood by non-technical consultees. The assessment in the PEIR should also be sufficiently advanced so that community can understand the potential impacts and whether/how they might be affected.

Our Consultation Report will outline how feedback from the non-statutory consultation has informed the statutory consultation and our proposals.

The PEIR will include the results of our preliminary environmental assessments and will be accompanied by a non-technical summary.

The PEIR will be sufficiently advanced so the community can develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of Rosefield Solar Farm. Please note that some environmental assessment work is still ongoing and will be reported on in our ES.

Regular Project Updates: The SoCC should state that project updates will be published on the project website and distributed to key consultees at regular intervals following the consultation, to update them on progress. This is in the interests of the applicant as well as the community, to help build trust and avoid a break in information between consultation and submission.

See section 3.6.4 amended accordingly.

Following the statutory consultation period, we will continue to provide updates about Rosefield Solar Farm to statutory consultees and on our website as appropriate.

Substantial Changes: Para 3.6.3 should be clear about what will happen should there be substantial changes to the project or its impacts as a whole prior to DCO submission.

See section 3.6.3 amended accordingly.

We will consult Buckinghamshire Council on any targeted consultation required. The level of consultation will be informed by the potential effects of the change and the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 2024.

We would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of the attached letter and draft SoCC and please get in touch if you have any questions.

Cheers,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

By email only: [REDACTED]

10 July 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008 Section 47: Duty to consult the local community

I am writing to you regarding Rosefield Solar Farm – a proposed new solar farm and battery storage facility in Buckinghamshire.

Rosefield Solar Farm is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under the Planning Act 2008 because the amount of electricity it would generate is over 50 megawatts ('MW'). This means we need to apply for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') to build and operate it.

As part of the DCO process, we must consult with the host local authority on the contents of our draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which sets out our approach to engagement, how we will carry out our statutory consultation and how interested parties can share their feedback.

This letter gives notice of a request for comments on our draft SoCC from Buckinghamshire Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

We would very much welcome your feedback on our draft SoCC, which includes changes made in response to informal consultation with Buckinghamshire Council on 23 May 2024. We are grateful for the comments that we have received to date which have particularly helped us to develop our approach to our statutory consultation.

The feedback we receive will be used to help us develop and finalise our SoCC before it is published. We will set out how we have considered all the comments that we have received in our Consultation Report which will form part of our DCO application.

In accordance with Section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008, this consultation will last for 28 days commencing from 11 July 2024. Please do respond to this email with your comments on the draft SoCC by 11:59pm on 8 August 2024.

We would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this letter and the accompanying draft SoCC and do get in touch in the meantime should you have any questions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]r

Rosefield Solar Farm



Appendix A-3.2 – Draft SoCC for formal consultation



Rosefield Solar Farm

Draft Statement of Community
Consultation
Phase Two Consultation

DATE 2024



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1. Introduction

1.1. Rosefield Solar Farm

- 1.1.1. Climate change is a challenge we must all play our part in addressing – from the small changes we need to make in our everyday lives to the transformational changes we need to make across our whole economy, including how we power our homes, businesses and transport systems.
- 1.1.2. Over the next decade, the fossil fuels that once powered our economy need to be replaced with sources of low-carbon electricity. Solar is an important part of the way we can meet this challenge – it is reliable and can be built quickly. This is particularly important as the UK focuses on boosting its domestic supply of clean energy.¹
- 1.1.3. Rosefield Solar Farm ('Rosefield') is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage located in Buckinghamshire. Backed by EDF Renewables and PS Renewables, Rosefield would make an important contribution to our future energy network by producing enough clean, secure electricity to power more than 57,000 homes every year.²
- 1.1.4. Rosefield is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') because it would have a generating capacity above 50 megawatts ('MW'). This means we need to apply for a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate it.
- 1.1.5. Unlike planning applications which are determined by local planning authorities, NSIP applications are submitted to and determined by the relevant Secretary of State, in this case, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- 1.1.6. Applying for a DCO is a fixed legal process, which is illustrated in Figure 1. A key part of this process is the requirement for consultation with the local community and other stakeholders, including statutory consultees, before the DCO application is submitted. This is known as a 'statutory consultation'. The statutory consultation will be the second phase of consultation on our proposals for Rosefield.
- 1.1.7. We³ completed our first phase of consultation (called a 'non-statutory consultation') between 28 September and 10 November 2023 on our early

¹ Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, [Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan](#), 2023.

² Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

³ Rosefield Energyfarm Ltd (company No. 11618221), whose registered office is at Alexander House 1 Mandarin Road, Rainton Bridge Business Park, Houghton Le Spring, Sunderland, England, DH4 5RA (referred to in this document as Rosefield).

plans for Rosefield. This was to introduce our early proposals and gain feedback on them while they were still being developed.

- 1.1.8. The feedback we received from the community during our first phase of consultation, as well as the environmental surveys and technical work carried out since, has helped us to develop our proposals to the extent that we are now ready to carry out our statutory consultation.
- 1.1.9. The feedback we receive during our second phase of consultation will help us refine our proposals for Rosefield before we submit our DCO application.
- 1.1.10. Before we carry out this consultation, we must publish a statement of how we will consult with the local community – known as a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC'). This SoCC has been prepared and publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and relevant guidance from the Planning Inspectorate (Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 2024).
- 1.1.11. It also reflects the feedback we have received from the host local authority for Rosefield – Buckinghamshire Council – which we have consulted in the preparation of this document.
- 1.1.12. As part of our DCO application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing how we consulted, the feedback that we received during statutory consultation and how we have had regard to it. When considering our DCO application, the Secretary of State must consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate.
- 1.1.13. This SoCC sets out how we will consult with the local community. It includes:
 - A brief summary of the Rosefield proposal
 - When consultation will be carried out
 - Who will be consulted
 - Where people can find out more about Rosefield
 - How we will consult (including on Preliminary Environmental Information)
 - How feedback will be collected and used to inform our proposals.

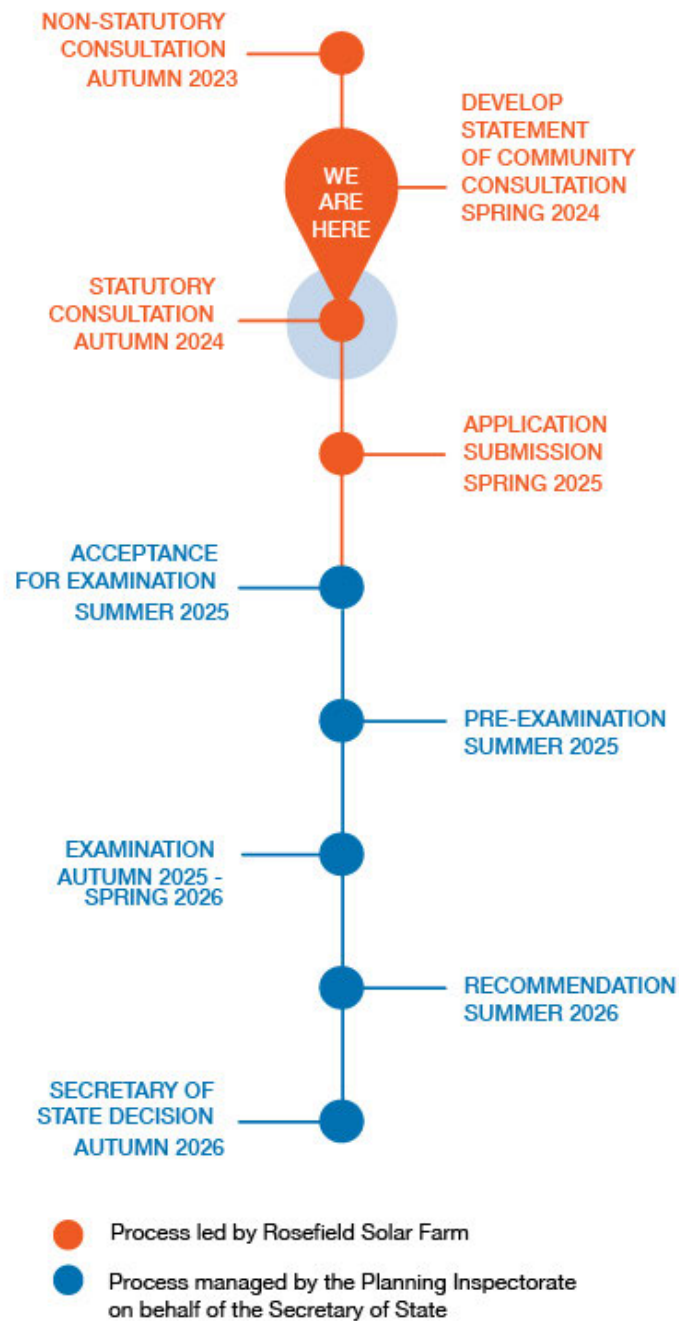
1.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.2.1. Rosefield is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development requiring an assessment of its likely significant effects on the environment under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Where appropriate, we will also describe measures that are proposed to avoid, reduce, or mitigate any significant adverse effects. We will report on this process in a document called an Environmental Statement ('ES') when we submit our DCO application.
- 1.2.2. At the statutory consultation, we will be sharing the preliminary results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as information on mitigation measures that we may need to introduce to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects. We will do so in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') document.

1.3. More information

- 1.3.1. You can find more information about the Planning Act 2008, the Planning Inspectorate and its role, as well as how to participate in the DCO process on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>, or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

Figure 1: Planning process for NSIPs and indicative timescales for Rosefield



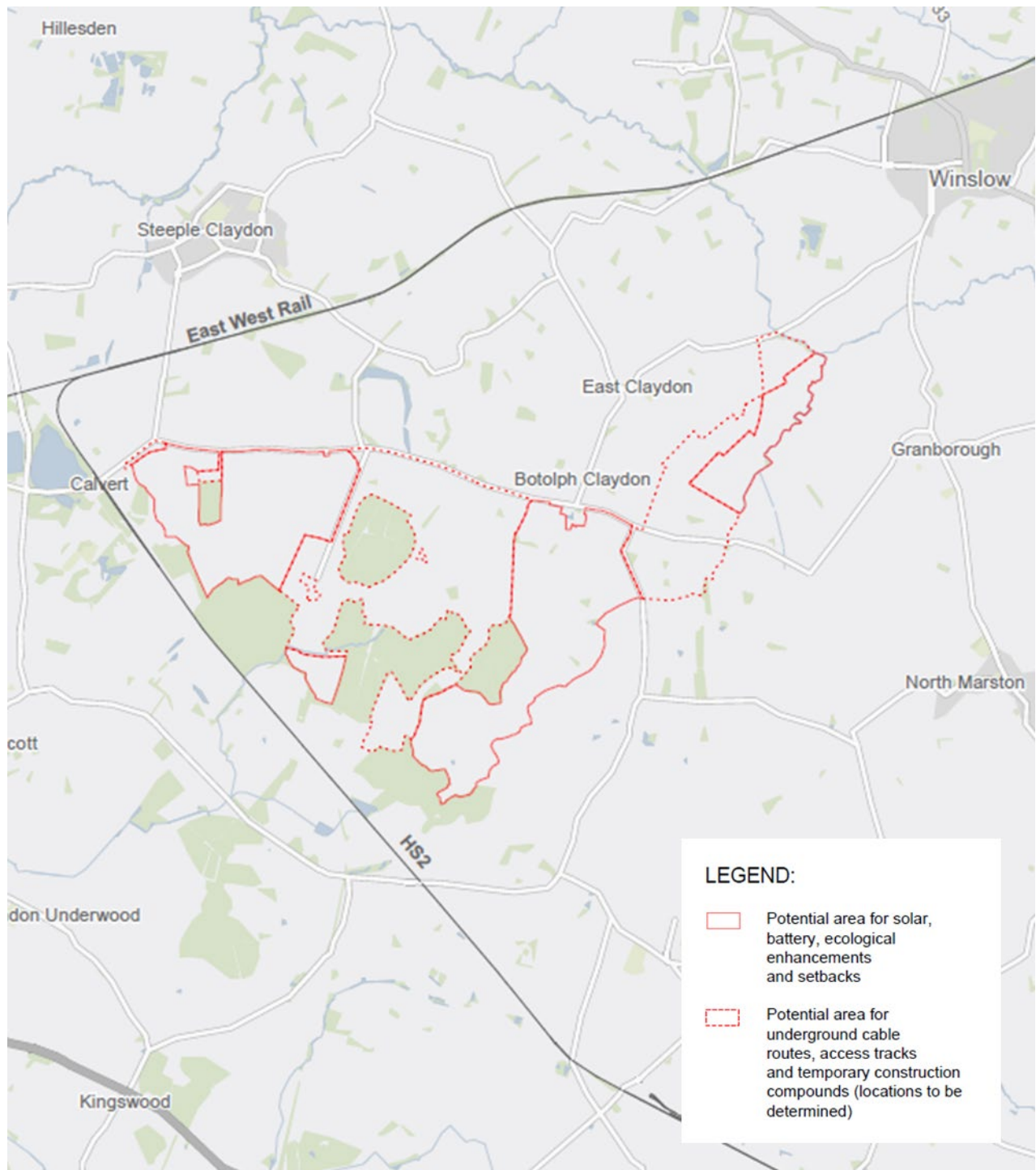
These dates are indicative and subject to change.

2. Rosefield Solar Farm

2.1. About our proposals

- 2.1.1. Rosefield is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage. The proposals also include infrastructure to connect Rosefield to the National Grid East Claydon Substation, and any necessary supporting site infrastructure and environmental mitigation, including landscaping.
- 2.1.2. We have secured a grid connection agreement with National Grid that would allow us to export up to 500MW of clean and secure electricity to this network, through the East Claydon Substation owned by National Grid. There would also be capacity to import power from the network.
- 2.1.3. Rosefield is located in the local authority area of Buckinghamshire Council (the host authority). Figure 2 shows the proposed location of Rosefield.
- 2.1.4. Since the first phase of consultation [overview of updated redline boundary to be added once refined cable route/access area is confirmed].

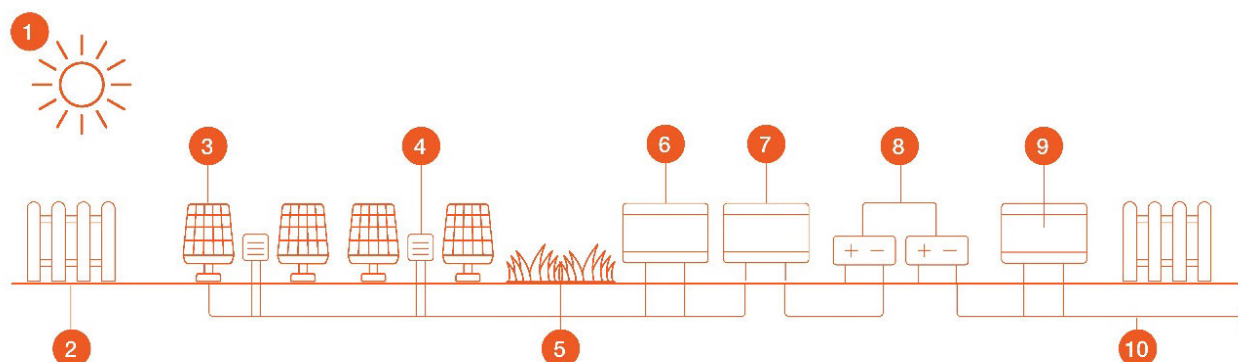
Figure 2: Location of Rosefield [new redline to be inserted once updated underground cabling/access area confirmed]



2.2. How solar farms work

- 2.2.1. The main elements that typically make up a solar farm are outlined below, with each element illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3: The components of a solar farm



This diagram shows the main elements that typically make up a solar farm. It is not to scale and for indicative purposes only.

- 2.2.2. Solar farms use energy from the **sun (1)** to generate electricity, with battery storage and a substation feeding it into the National Grid.
- 2.2.3. **Fencing (2)** encloses the operational areas to keep the site secure and the community safe. Deer fencing is usually used where solar panels are located, with more robust fencing near the project substation and battery storage.
- 2.2.4. The **solar panels (3)** are set up in rows, connected to each other by cables to transfer the electricity generated by the panels to inverters.
- 2.2.5. **Inverters (4)** are needed to convert the direct current (DC) electricity generated by the solar panels into alternating current (AC) electricity, which is suitable for use in homes and businesses. Inverters can be located underneath the solar panels or in areas sometimes referred to as 'Balance of Solar System'. The 'Balance of Solar System' also includes switchgears (which control the electrical equipment), and transformers (which 'step up' the voltage to the required level for sending to the solar farm substation).
- 2.2.6. **Landscape and biodiversity areas (5)** to mitigate environmental effects and help boost biodiversity across the site.
- 2.2.7. **Collector compounds (6)** can be used to reduce the amount of underground cabling that is needed by collecting electricity from a number of inverters.

- 2.2.8. The **solar farm substation (7)** receives all the electricity generated by the solar farm, then raises the voltage, before sending it on to the **National Grid substation (9)** to enter the network.
- 2.2.9. The main role of **battery storage (8)** is to store electricity at times when demand is lower and release it to the National Grid when it is most needed.
- 2.2.10. **Underground cables (10)** connect the various components of a solar farm and transport the electricity to the National Grid substation.

2.3. [About the developers](#)

- 2.3.1. Rosefield Solar Farm – a joint venture between EDF Renewables UK and PS Renewables.
- 2.3.2. EDF Renewables UK is a subsidiary of EDF Group, one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies. EDF Renewables UK has 43 renewable energy sites in the UK totalling more than 1.5 GW, with 14 GW of projects in planning and development, including wind, battery and solar.
- 2.3.3. PS Renewables is an established UK-based renewable energy development and construction company, with an existing solar portfolio totalling more than 850MW.
- 2.3.4. We have a strong track record of working jointly on solar projects.
- 2.3.5. You can find out more about both organisations at: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

3. Consulting the community

3.1. Developing our approach to consultation

- 3.1.1. Our approach to consultation has been informed by our early engagement with key stakeholders, as well as our phase one consultation.
- 3.1.2. The phase one consultation was held between 28 September 2023 and 10 November 2023 to introduce our early proposals and gain initial feedback on them.
- 3.1.3. We publicised this consultation by issuing press releases, publishing adverts on social media, online news platforms and in local newspapers, sending a newsletter to 2,887 local addresses around the proposed site and updating the project website with details of the consultation.
- 3.1.4. We wrote to a range of stakeholders to notify them of our consultation, offering briefings or inviting them to our in-person events, including:
 - Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet
 - Grendon Underwood and Great Brickhill ward members
 - The local Member of Parliament
 - Statutory consultees and local environment, business and heritage organisations
 - The following parish councils:
 - Steeple Claydon Parish Council
 - Botolph and East Claydon Parish Council
 - Middle Claydon Parish Council
 - Calvert Green Parish Council
 - Quainton Parish Council
 - Granborough Parish Council
 - Grendon Underwood Parish Council
 - Hogshaw Parish Council
 - Edgcott Parish Council
 - Charndon Parish Council
 - Twyford Parish Council
 - Winslow Parish Council.

- 3.1.5. We presented materials in a range of formats to ensure that everyone with an interest in our plans could find out more and share their feedback. This included:
- Holding five in-person events, with a series of information banners and an interactive 3D model of Rosefield. Members of the project team were available at these events to answer questions.
 - Hosting a virtual exhibition on our project website.
 - Publishing a consultation booklet and questionnaire, which were available on our website, at public events, in hard copy at local community buildings and sent to community members by mail on request.
- 3.1.6. People could share their views by completing an online questionnaire, accessed through the project website, emailing the questionnaire to the project email, posting a hard-copy questionnaire to the Freepost address or submitting comments by email or in writing to the Freepost address.
- 3.1.7. The feedback we have received to date has helped us refine our proposals and shape our approach to consultation and engagement, for example, we plan to host consultation events both during and outside of normal business hours to accommodate a range of different schedules.
- 3.1.8. We have continued to engage with the community and stakeholders since the non-statutory consultation as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Ongoing engagement following non-statutory consultation Activity

| Activity | Summary |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Near neighbour engagement | <p>We have written to 31 residents living near the site to request access to complete surveys to help us understand potential visual and amenity impacts.</p> <p>We are grateful to the 14 residents who provided access to their properties to allow us to complete these assessments.</p> |
| Community engagement | <p>We have created an on-site surveys page on our project website to ensure that the community is being kept up to date with on-site activity: https://rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk/on-site-surveys/</p> <p>We are continuing to answer enquiries through our communications channels.</p> |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Engagement with host authority | We have continued to hold meetings with Buckinghamshire Council since the close of our non-statutory consultation. The purpose of these meetings has been to share updates on Rosefield, including discussions on our approach to consultation and engagement, and to seek feedback on certain aspects of our proposal, such as ecology, archaeology and other topics. |
|---------------------------------------|--|

| | |
|---|---|
| Engagement with statutory consultees | We have met with statutory and technical consultees to assist with the EIA process and the evolution of our design. This includes relevant statutory bodies such as National Grid, Anglian Water, National Trust, Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Buckinghamshire Berkshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, [add stakeholders as meetings are held]. |
|---|---|

3.2. Our approach to statutory consultation

- 3.2.1. Our statutory consultation will be inclusive and open to anyone with an interest in Rosefield who considers that they may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposals or has a view that they would like considered.
- 3.2.2. Our multi-phase approach to consultation has ensured that community input has already helped to shape the plans we are presenting. The feedback that we receive from this phase of consultation will help us to further refine our proposals and inform our assessments before we submit our DCO application.
- 3.2.3. We are committed to making sure that everybody has the opportunity to understand and provide their feedback on our proposals for Rosefield. Our key objectives for achieving this through our pre-application consultation include:
 - Ensuring thorough engagement and consultation on our proposals.
 - Ensuring proposals are clearly presented, and issues easily understood.
 - Providing sufficient opportunities for interested parties to understand and influence our plans.
 - Gathering high quality responses to, and feedback on, our plans to help inform proposals.
 - Delivering a consultation that meets the legal requirements and is in accordance with the relevant guidance from the Planning Inspectorate (Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 2024).

3.3. Timing

- 3.3.1. The statutory consultation will run for 6 weeks from [insert date] September 2024 to [insert date] 2024. All responses must be received by 11:59pm on [insert date] 2024.

3.4. What will we consult on?

- 3.4.1. During the statutory consultation, we will be asking for views on:
- The proposals for Rosefield, including the potential locations of each of its elements and our proposed environmental enhancements and mitigation.
 - The PEIR, which will present an initial account of the likely significant environmental effects of Rosefield during construction, operation and decommissioning, as well as preliminary details on mitigation measures that we may need to introduce to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any potentially significant adverse effects.
 - How Rosefield could contribute to the local community, including local initiatives or organisations that Rosefield could support over its lifetime.

3.5. Who will we consult?

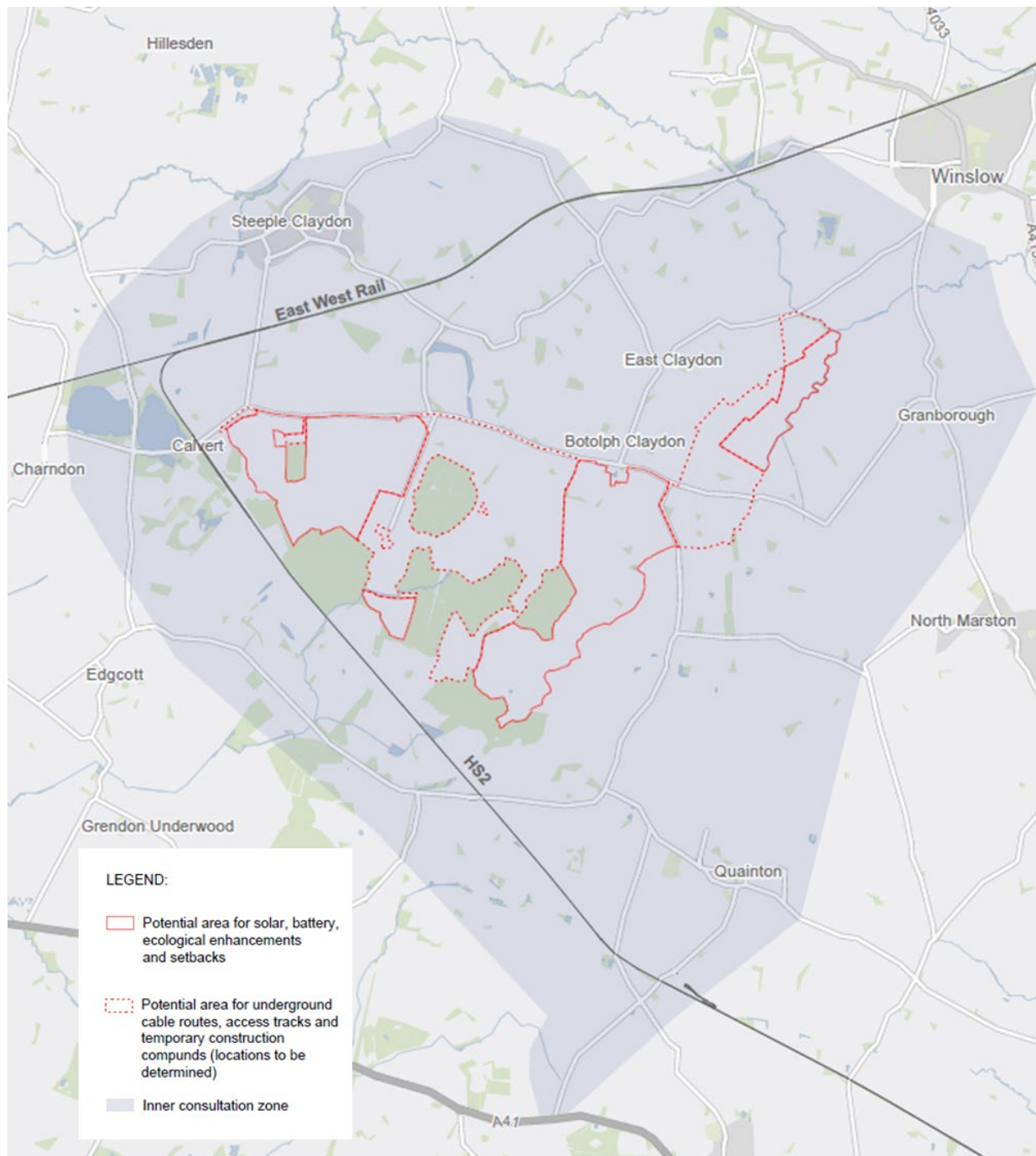
- 3.5.1. The consultation will provide an opportunity for anyone interested in our proposals to find out more and share their feedback.
- 3.5.2. We have defined two geographic zones – an inner zone and an outer zone – for the purpose of consulting with the local community. This recognises the fact that levels of potential impact are likely to vary with distance to the site. These zones have informed how we will publicise the consultation and are set out below, with further detail about the consultation information detailed in sections 3.6.5-3.6.32.
- 3.5.3. We will publicise the consultation in both zones using our project website, by placing adverts in local newspapers and on social media, and by issuing press releases to local media outlets.
- 3.5.4. We will also email those people who have previously registered to receive project updates.

Inner zone

- 3.5.5. The inner zone covers people who live and work closest to the proposed Rosefield and their political representatives. Our consultation activity will be most intensive within this zone. A map of this zone is shown in Figure 4.
- 3.5.6. This zone includes all properties within one and a half kilometres of the areas where we are proposing to place solar and battery, extending in some locations to consider the potential wider effects of the proposal and human geographic boundaries. For example, we have extended the inner zone boundary to include:
- Villages with Public Rights of Way that connect into the areas proposed for solar and battery storage, such as Quainton and Steeple Claydon.
 - Locations that were highlighted as important to the local community in non-statutory consultation feedback, such as Quainton Hill.
 - Properties that are near the proposed main access route.
- 3.5.7. A newsletter will be sent to all properties within the inner zone at the beginning of consultation. Where possible, it is intended that public events and deposit points will be focused in or close to this area.
- 3.5.8. We will write to ward members of Buckinghamshire Council, the local Members of Parliament, parish councils and community groups within this zone to offer them a briefing or invite them to our public events, and support them in promoting the consultation using their existing communication channels. Parish Councils located within this zone include:
- Calvert Green Parish Council
 - Steeple Claydon Parish Council
 - Middle Claydon Parish Council
 - East and Botolph Claydon Parish Council
 - Hogshaw Parish Council
 - Quainton Parish Council
 - Granborough Parish Council
 - Winslow Parish Council
 - Addington Parish Council
 - Grendon Underwood Parish Council
 - Twyford Parish Council
 - Charndon Parish Council

- Edgcott Parish Council
- North Marston Parish Council
- Hillesden Parish Council
- Westcott Parish Council

Figure 4: Inner zone [new redline to be inserted once updated underground cabling/access area confirmed]



Outer zone

- 3.5.9. The outer zone covers those living and working in the area outside of the inner zone, who may be affected by or have an interest in our proposals due to the proposals being brought forward in their local authority area. This zone follows the local authority boundary of Buckinghamshire Council.
- 3.5.10. We will publicise the consultation to people in this zone through the project website, by placing adverts in local newspapers and on social media, and by issuing press releases to local media outlets.
- 3.5.11. In addition to these methods, we will write to all Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet members and Marsh Gibbons Parish Council to offer them a briefing or invite them to our public events, and support them in promoting the consultation using their existing communication channels.

Statutory consultees and community organisations

- 3.5.12. At the same time as consulting the local community, we will also consult a range of statutory consultees as set out by Section 42 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm. These groups include:
 - The host and neighbouring local authorities
 - Statutory bodies (such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and others)
 - Other community groups and organisations that may have an interest in the proposals (such as Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Winslow and Villages Community Board, Buckingham and Village Community Board, Aylesbury & District Group Ramblers and others)
 - People with an interest in land (e.g. owners or tenants) that may be affected by the proposals.
- 3.5.13. The proposed application will also be publicised as required by Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

3.6. How will we consult?

- 3.6.1. This section sets out how we intend to consult during the consultation.
- 3.6.2. We will present information in a variety of formats and enable feedback to be submitted in a number of ways to encourage participation in the

consultation. More detail on the consultation techniques we will use is provided in sections 3.6.5-3.6.32.

- 3.6.3. Should we carry out any further phases of consultation prior to submission of the DCO application, including, if necessary, in response to substantial changes to the project or its effects, our approach to consultation will be informed by the new National Infrastructure Planning Guidance published on 30 April 2024. We will use some, but not necessarily all, of the means of consultation set out in this document and will work with Buckinghamshire Council to assist us in deciding the most appropriate activities for any further phases of consultation.
- 3.6.4. Following the statutory consultation period, we will continue to provide updates about Rosefield on our website and to statutory consultees as appropriate.

Consultation information

- 3.6.5. Information about our proposals will be published for consultation in the following formats:
- **A consultation newsletter:** a newsletter issued to addresses within the inner zone setting out how to find out more about the proposals and participate in the consultation; including information on accessing materials, the locations and timings of the public events, and how people can share their feedback. This will additionally be published on the project website to view and download.
 - **A consultation booklet:** an accessible summary of our proposals for Rosefield, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps. This will be available in hard copy at deposit points and the public events, posted on request and published on the project website to view and download.
 - **A questionnaire:** the main way we will collect feedback from the community. The questions will be easy to understand and the responses will be considered as we refine our plans. This will be available in hard copy at deposit points and the public events, posted on request and published on the project website to view and download.
 - **A 3D model:** a virtual model of the proposed Rosefield site will be available to view at the public events.
 - **A website:** the project website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk) will host all of the consultation documents, including the PEIR, as well as links to a virtual exhibition and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the deposit points and public events as well as hosting contact information for people to get in touch with the team.

- **A virtual exhibition:** containing the exhibition banners on display at the public events and a link to the online questionnaire and project website. It will host contact information for people to get in touch with the team.
 - **Exhibition banners:** an accessible summary of our proposals for Rosefield, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps which will be displayed at the public events. The exhibition banners will also be available in the virtual exhibition and as PDFs to download from the project website.
 - **The Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR):** containing the initial results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects.
- 3.6.6. Printed copies of the SoCC and consultation documents – including the PEIR – will be available in local libraries and community venues ('deposit points') close to the proposed site for Rosefield and maintained throughout the consultation period. USBs containing all of these documents will also be available to take away. All materials will be published on the project website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk).
- 3.6.7. Deposit points have been selected to ensure they are within the inner zone, are accessible and have opening times to accommodate people with different time commitments.
- 3.6.8. The locations of the deposit points, which are listed in Table 2 below, will be publicised in our consultation material, including the newsletter, consultation booklet and on the project website.
- 3.6.9. We will provide hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC free of charge on request – as well as USBs containing all of the consultation materials (including the PEIR). We will review requests for hard copies of the PEIR on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.
- 3.6.10. Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. in different languages, large print or easy access) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

Table 2: Deposit points **[To be confirmed]**

| Location | Opening hours* |
|--|---|
| Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar Cotswolds Way, Calvert | Thursday 10am – 12pm Friday 7pm – 11pm |
| East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall Botyl Road, Botolph Claydon | Monday to Thursday 8am – 11pm Friday and Saturday 8am – 12am |
| Steeple Claydon Library 48 Queen Catherine Rd, Steeple Claydon | Tuesday 2.30pm – 5.30pm Thursday 9am – 12pm Friday 2.30pm – 5.30pm Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm |

*Please check opening times before travelling

Website and virtual exhibition

- 3.6.11. From the start of consultation, the project website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk) will host all of the consultation documents, including the PEIR, as well as links to the virtual exhibition and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the deposit points and public events as well as hosting contact information for people to get in touch with the team.
- 3.6.12. The interactive virtual exhibition will be accessed through the website and will provide an alternative format for people to learn about the proposals. It will include information boards which will be on display at the public events, links to documents and the online questionnaire.

Public events

- 3.6.13. We will hold in-person public events during the consultation period to enable anyone with an interest in the proposals to find out more about them and ask questions to members of the team. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire will be available at these events for members of the public to take away. Completed questionnaires will be able to be returned at the events.
- 3.6.14. The dates and times of these events are listed in Table 3 below. The events are being held in accessible venues around the proposed Rosefield site and have been organised at a range of dates and times to ensure that

people with different schedules are able to attend. This includes events after normal working hours and on the weekend.

- 3.6.15. Details about the dates and times of the public events will be published on the project website, in the consultation newsletter and booklet. The schedule will also be included in supporting publicity such as newspaper and social media adverts. We will consider requests for additional events throughout the consultation period on a case-by-case basis. Any further events would be publicised on the project website, using social media adverts and, if possible, at the venue.
- 3.6.16. In the unlikely event that there are changes to the locations or times of our events, we will publicise this information on our website.

Table 3: Public events

| Location | Date and time |
|--|---------------|
| Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar | TBC |
| East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall | TBC |
| Steeple Claydon Village Hall | TBC |
| Quainton Memorial Hall | TBC |

Presentations and stakeholder meetings

- 3.6.17. We welcome reasonable requests for presentations and briefings from stakeholder groups, for example: local authorities, parish councils, and local community groups, during the consultation period.
- 3.6.18. A reasonable request is defined as a request:
- received during the consultation period;
 - from an organisation or individual who requires an additional way to find out more about our proposals or to provide feedback, which cannot be accommodated by the consultation activities outlined in this SoCC.
- 3.6.19. Other activities will be carried out, if considered necessary and appropriate, to engage specific interests or seldom heard groups (see section 3.6.31-3.6.32). This could include, for example, further meetings with residents who are closest to the proposed site.
- 3.6.20. Details of all our consultation activity will be included in a Consultation Report which we will submit as part of our DCO application.

Publicity and advertising

- 3.6.21. We will publicise the consultation and associated activities in local media ahead of the start of the consultation period and will update local broadcast and print media channels on our activity during the consultation.
- 3.6.22. Where publication timings allow, we will seek to use local newsletters to further engage with local communities.
- 3.6.23. Statutory notices will be published in line with Section 47 and Section 48 of the Planning Act.

Social media

- 3.6.24. We will use social media advertising to help publicise the consultation and encourage those with an interest in our proposals to get involved. We are unable to accept feedback via social media.

Consultation hotline and email address

- 3.6.25. To find out more information or request copies of the consultation materials, anyone can contact the consultation team by freephone (0800 861 1097) during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm). Outside of these hours, callers will be able to leave a message requesting a callback.
- 3.6.26. Alternatively, people can email info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk or write to the team via Freepost (no stamp required): Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL.

Collection of responses

- 3.6.27. We will produce a questionnaire inviting feedback on different elements of the proposed Rosefield. The questionnaire will be available to complete on the project website: www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk, in printed form at public events, at deposit points around the local area and on request using the project contact details.
- 3.6.28. The completed hard-copy questionnaire can be returned using the Freepost address set out in this document during the consultation period, or at the public events.
- 3.6.29. Respondents will also be able to complete the questionnaire online, which will be made available through the project website: www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk as well as the virtual exhibition.
- 3.6.30. Alternatively, respondents can write to us via email or Freepost using the details set out in this document. All written feedback will be accepted.

Seldom heard audiences

- 3.6.31. It is important to ensure that everyone with an interest in the proposals has the opportunity to comment on our proposals as part of the consultation. We want our consultation to be inclusive and gather feedback from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultations such as people without internet access, seasonal workers, younger people and socially isolated people. We will do this by:
- Writing to the local authority and organisations representing seldom heard individuals and groups directly.
 - Choosing accessible venues for deposit points and public events.
 - Publicising the consultation in digital and print editions of local newspapers.
 - Publicising the consultation on social media to help reach young people.
 - Holding public events at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends to enable participation by people with different time commitments.
 - Making provision for people without internet access through the consultation programme. This includes sending a consultation newsletter to every address within the inner zone, holding public events in the area, publicising the consultation in print editions of local newspapers and making hard copies of consultation materials available on-request and at deposit points.
- 3.6.32. Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. in different languages, large print or easy access) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

4. Consultation arrangements

4.1. How to find out more

4.1.1. Anyone can find out more by:

- Contacting us on 0800 861 1097 or info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk or by writing to the Freepost address (Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL).
- Attending a public event which we will hold in locations around the proposed Rosefield site.
- Viewing the virtual exhibition on our website: www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk
- Reading the consultation booklet which will be available online or in hard copy on request, at deposit points around the area and at the public events.
- Reviewing the PEIR by going to www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk or visiting a deposit point.

4.2. Responding to the consultation

4.2.1. The consultation provides an opportunity for anyone interested in our proposals to find out more and share their feedback. We welcome feedback on our proposals for Rosefield. Anyone can share their views by:

- Completing the consultation questionnaire online at www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk.
- Returning a questionnaire by Freepost (no stamp required) to the following address: Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL.
- Returning a questionnaire by email: info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk.
- Submitting comments by email to info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk or in writing to the above Freepost address.

4.2.2. Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on **DATE**.

4.2.3. Responses must be individual. Petitions will be treated as a single response for the purpose of the Consultation Report.

4.3. How we will consider the responses

- 4.3.1. Following this consultation, we will consider all of the feedback we receive as we continue refining our proposals for Rosefield before submitting a DCO application. The DCO application will include a Consultation Report, which will set out how we have consulted, summarise the responses received and explain how we have had regard to them.
- 4.3.2. Any comments received will be analysed by Rosefield and its appointed agents. Copies may be made available to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered part of the DCO process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on the public record and will be held securely by Rosefield and its agents in accordance with data protection laws. Any personal details will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.
- 4.3.3. The Planning Inspectorate has also published details of how it manages comments received in a Privacy Notice available on its website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacynotices/customer-privacy-notice>.
- 4.4. Further information
- 4.4.1. For further information, please contact us by:
- Calling 0800 861 1097 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
 - Emailing info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk
 - Writing to the team at Rosefield Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local.

Appendix A-4 - Regard had to host authority formal feedback on draft SoCC



Appendix A-4: Regard had to host authority formal feedback on the draft SoCC (08 August 2024)

| Summary of comment | Change Y/N | Applicant's response |
|--|------------|--|
| <i>The document provides limited information regarding the proposed access to the site.</i> <i>Whilst acknowledging the need for flexibility at this stage, any indication of potential access points would be appropriate, especially given the close proximity of other major infrastructure development in the area.</i> | N | <p>The role of the SoCC is to outline the Applicant's approach to its statutory, Phase Two Consultation. Further detail on the updated proposals, including proposed access points were included in the materials published as part of Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>To limit confusion, the Applicant did not include material information within the SoCC. This was to ensure that interested community members would refer to the material published as part of Phase Two Consultation, which would include a full picture of the proposals.</p> |
| <i>It would be appropriate that within the SoCC that it is outlined that due consideration of other surrounding developments will have to be considered, and the overall cumulative impact on the area.</i> | N | <p>The role of the SoCC is to outline the Applicant's approach to its statutory, Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>An overview of all the local proposals and projects considered as part of the assessment of the likely effects of Rosefield was included within the PEIR, published as part of Phase Two Consultation.</p> |
| <i>Can figure 1 be updated to reflect the exact period of consultation, we understand that this is subject to change, and this can form part of the annotation on the diagram.</i> | Y | <p>The Applicant specified the exact consultation period (between 18 September to 11:59pm on 14 November 2024) within the SoCC, including within Figure 1.</p> |

| | | |
|--|----------|---|
| <p><i>As outlined previously an 8-week period should be accommodated, where possible.</i></p> | <p>Y</p> | <p>In response to feedback from the host authority, the Applicant amended the consultation period to eight-weeks (between 18 September and 14 November 2024).</p> <p>During the Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant extended the consultation period by 21 days to 11:59pm on 05 December 2024 (78 days total). This was to ensure that respondents were given the statutory 28-days to review additional information which was published on 07 November 2024. Respondents therefore had in excess of 11 weeks to provide feedback as part of the consultation.</p> |
| <p><i>Regarding Social Media publicity please can you clarify which sources of social media will be used? What forms have you used in previous DCO's, if applicable?</i></p> | <p>Y</p> | <p>The Applicant updated the SoCC to specify that it would publish Meta adverts and utilise the LinkedIn account of EDF Renewables UK and Ireland to publicise the consultation.</p> |
| <p><i>Paragraph 3.6.5 outlines a number of areas of information to be provided. We would again reinforce our previous comment that the earlier the detailed information is provided the more meaningful the consultation rounds will be for members of the public and interested parties.</i></p> | <p>N</p> | <p>The Applicant published all Phase Two Consultation materials on 18 September 2024, 15 days in advance of the first public event on 03 October 2024. This was to ensure that members of the public had enough time to review the materials and attend events to ask questions and discuss our materials with our project team. Events were staggered (three on week three of the consultation period and two on week five of the consultation period) to additionally assist with this.</p> <p>It is also noted that respondents were given 78-days to review the consultation materials and provide feedback</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | on the proposals, significantly in excess of the statutory 28-day minimum. |
| <i>The SoCC needs to make more obvious how individuals/ interested groups can gather further information. The more detail that's added to the SoCC, increases transparency of the project.</i> | N | Section 4 of the SoCC outlined how members of the public could find out more and provide feedback on the proposals. |
| <i>It should be made clear that environmental assessment work is ongoing for the relevant areas to avoid any ambiguity.</i> | N | This is noted. |
| <i>Any updates should be provided to interested parties, as some of these will not immediately be statutory consultees in the process.</i> | N | <p>While no formal changes were made to the SoCC, the Applicant has sought to keep people with an interest in the Proposed Development updated with any changes. For example, where amended or additional information was published during Phase Two Consultation, this was signposted on the Rosefield Solar Farm website.</p> <p>The Applicant additionally sent a Community Update newsletter to all addresses within the inner zone of consultation (2,993 addresses) on 21 May 2025 to provide an update on the Proposed Development following Phase Two Consultation.</p> |
| <i>Buckinghamshire Council welcomes engagement, welcomes discussion with the applicant and will reinforce our requirement for the DCO process and associated consultations to be as transparent</i> | N | This is noted and the Applicant thanks the host authority for its engagement through the pre-application period. |

as possible to ensure that the local community are kept informed at every step of the process.

Questionnaire: Paragraphs 3.1.5-3.1.6 we would welcome the opportunity to review and comment on the draft questionnaire, to enable interested parties the ability to provide a full balanced response, and to ensure that all relevant areas are covered.

N

The Applicant shared the questions included within the consultation questionnaire with the host authority through its regular Planning Performance Agreement meeting.

We welcome continual engagement on issues such as appropriate locations for documents to be made available, timing and location of drop-in sessions, any guidance/standards the council has on accessibility/engagement.

N

The Applicant informed and agreed any changes to the consultation programme (e.g. the length of the consultation period and the updated locations for the deposit points) with the host authority.

In preparing the SoCC, the Applicant had regard to the host authority's Statement of Community Involvement and accessibility statement.



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