

# **Rosefield Solar Farm**

Appendices D-1 and D-2



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## Appendix D-1: Compliance with PA 2008: Guidance on the pre-application stage for NSIPs, April 2024

Table D-1: Compliance with PA 2008: Guidance on the pre-application stage for NSIPs, April 2024

Section	Topic	Applicant's response
019	<p>“Applicants are responsible for consulting on proposed applications for DCOs. Applicants are specifically required to undertake statutory pre-application consultation activities as stipulated in the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 42 of the Planning Act, together with the provisions of sections 43 and 44 of the Planning Act, requires applicants to consult certain persons, including statutory consultees, local authorities, and others with a relevant interest in the land to which the proposed application relates, prior to</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant identified and consulted with parties prescribed by sections 42, 43 and 44 of the PA 2008, as well as the local community as prescribed by section 47.</p> <p>Details of how the Applicant identified and consulted with individuals and bodies within each of these categories in accordance with the PA 2008 and the EIA Regulations 2017, along with additional non-prescribed consultees, is included in <b>Chapter 3</b> of the Report.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the proposed application in accordance with section 48 of the PA 2008 and APFP Regulations, as set out in <b>Chapter 3</b> of the Consultation Report. Copies of s48 notices as published are available in <b>Appendix C-3</b>.</p>

the submission of an application. The prescribed list of statutory consultees for the purposes of section 42 of the Planning Act is set out in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024;

- Section 47 of the Planning Act requires applicants to consult relevant local authorities on what is to be in their SoCC setting out how applicants intend to consult the local community on the proposed DCO application, and then carry out consultation in accordance with the SoCC;
- Section 48 of the Planning Act requires applicants to publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner as set out in Regulation 4 of the

APFP Regulations 2009;  
and

- the EIA Regulations 2017 set out requirements for preparing Environmental Statements prior to the submission of a DCO application, including engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities prior to formal pre-application activities under section 42 of the Planning Act.”

**019** “Effective pre-application consultation is key to developing well-prepared applications that are understood by the public. Consultation on development proposals allows consultees and local communities to influence how infrastructure that meets a national need can be accommodated in their area and enables applicants

The Applicant designed a consultation strategy to ensure that the proposals could be understood by anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development. **Chapter 3** of the Report sets out the Applicant’s approach to Phase Two Consultation. More information about additional phases of consultation conducted by the Applicant can be found in **Chapters 2** and **4** of the Report.

Feedback from consultees and local communities has helped to influence the Proposed Development. The Report sets out how the Applicant has and is continuing to utilise feedback to develop its proposals and highlights the key changes made in response to feedback received through formal consultation thus far.

The Consultation Report will include separate summary schedules of consultation responses for each phase of consultation to summarise the feedback received and the Applicant’s response.

to more effectively shape proposals.”

**019** “Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees during the pre-application stage, both through consultation and other forms of engagement, can bring about significant benefits for all parties...”

The Applicant has conducted a multi-phase consultation complemented by a continuous programme of stakeholder and community engagement to involve the local community, host authority and statutory consultees at the earliest possible opportunity.

Prior to Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant conducted an initial, ‘non-statutory’ phase of consultation on its early plans and proposals (Phase One Consultation), to ensure that feedback could shape the plans presented at Phase Two Consultation. In addition, the Applicant engaged with a range of stakeholders and the local community outside of formal consultation prior to Phase Two Consultation.

**Chapters 2, 3 and 4** of the Report outline the phases of pre-application consultation conducted on the Proposed Development. Information about non-statutory engagement undertaken by the Applicant outside of formal consultation, including with local communities, host authority and a range of statutory consultees will be available as part of the Consultation Report.

**019** “Without adequate pre-application consultation in line with the legislation, the subsequent application when it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate will not be accepted to proceed to examination. The Planning Inspectorate takes into account the responses received from local authorities during the acceptance period

The Consultation Report will demonstrate how pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development has met and exceeded the requirements set out in sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008, the EIA Regulations and the APFP Regulations, and complied with guidance on the pre-application process in accordance with section 50 of the PA 2008.

The contents of the Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the submission of the Application, and consulted on with the host authority, additionally demonstrates how the consultation programme has complied with relevant pre-application legislation and guidance.

to determine on behalf of the Secretary of State whether the consultation is adequate.”

**020**

“The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and uncontroversial application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages. For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage statutory consultation process.”

The Applicant conducted a multi-stage consultation on the Proposed Development. This included an initial ‘non-statutory’ phase of consultation (Phase One Consultation) to collect early feedback on the Proposed Development and a second ‘statutory’ phase of consultation which discharged the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 concurrently (Phase Two Consultation).

The Applicant additionally conducted two targeted consultations concurrently on proposed changes to the Proposed Development. A summary of pre-application consultation and engagement milestones is presented in **Table 1-1** of the Report.



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| <b>020</b> | <p>“What consultation is planned and when will form a key part of the applicant’s overall programme for completing the pre-application stage. It will need to be included in the Programme Document supplied by the applicant to the Planning Inspectorate for the Inception Meeting.”</p>   | <p>The Applicant launched its proposals for the Proposed Development in September 2023 before this guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published in April 2024. The Applicant held an Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate on 09 August 2023 and held regular meetings to provide updates on the progress of the Proposed Development through the pre-application stage, including timings for consultation. The Applicant will set out how it has had regard to s51 advice received as part of these meetings in s the Consultation Report.</p> |
| <b>020</b> | <p>“Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to warrant going beyond the statutory 28-day minimum timescales for consultation laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response.”</p> | <p>The Applicant conducted thorough, effective and proportionate consultation on the Proposed Development. Phase One, Phase Two and targeted consultation periods substantially exceeded the 28 calendar days required for consultation under the PA 2008 and APFP Regulations. The Applicant provided a range of ways for people to find out more about the Proposed Development so that they could understand the proposals and provide their feedback on them.</p>   |

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| <b>020</b> | <p>“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.”</p> | <p>Throughout the pre-application stage, the Applicant continued to refine its proposals in response to the outputs of its environmental assessments, technical work and feedback from consultation. Key changes made to the Proposed Development following Phase One and Phase Two consultations are set out in <b>Chapters 2</b> and <b>3</b> of the Report.</p> <p>Where changes to the Proposed Development have required minor additions to the proposed Order Limits, or it is considered useful to gain feedback on them ahead of the submission of the Application, the Applicant has commenced targeted statutory consultation with relevant prescribed and non-prescribed consultees and affected land interests.</p>  |
| <b>020</b> | <p>“Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered. In</p>  | <p>Where changes to the Proposed Development have required minor additions to the proposed Order Limits, or it is considered useful to gain feedback on them ahead of the submission of the Application, the Applicant has commenced targeted statutory consultation with relevant prescribed and non-prescribed consultees and affected land interests. The Applicant designed a consultation that was proportionate to the likely effects of the proposed changes. This considered the limited nature of the proposed changes, and that there were no new or different likely significant environmental effects expected as a result of the proposed changes than those presented within the PEIR at Phase Two Consultation. More information about the targeted consultation is detailed in <b>Chapter 4</b> of the Report.</p> |

understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for

example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

021	<p>“Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted, including statutory bodies, the Marine Management Organisation where appropriate, local authorities, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed.”</p>	<p>The Applicant identified and consulted with parties prescribed by sections 42, 43 and 44 of the PA 2008 and the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended). Details of how the Applicant identified and consulted with prescribed consultees where their statutory function was relevant to the Proposed Development during Phase Two Consultation is included in <b>Chapter 3</b> of the Report. Details of how the Applicant identified and consulted with relevant prescribed consultees during targeted consultation is included in <b>Chapter 4</b> of the Report.</p>
021	<p>“Section 47 of the Planning Act sets out the applicant’s statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants will want to consider the issues that may need to be addressed ahead of submission and may also wish to seek the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.”</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with the local community as prescribed in s47 of the PA 2008. In addition, the Applicant sought the views of a range of groups who were not statutory consultees but could have a potential interest in the Proposed Development (see <b>Chapter 3</b> of the Report).</p>
021	<p>“The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 amended</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed the updated list of statutory bodies in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations and confirmed that all relevant statutory bodies or their successors were consulted by the Applicant where their statutory function was relevant to the Proposed</p>

the APFP Regulations 2009 by substituting a new table of persons prescribed for the purpose of section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act (duty to consult) and also section 56(2) of the Planning Act (notifying persons of an accepted applications) which is covered in the acceptance guidance. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all relevant prescribed consultees are consulted about a proposed application.

While the list of prescribed bodies who must be consulted was updated in April 2024, from time to time a body may cease to exist but may still be listed as a statutory consultee in the Regulations pending their updating. In such situations applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body.

Development. A full list of section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees consulted on the Proposed Development is available in **Appendix C-1**.

The Applicant conducted targeted consultation on minor changes to the Proposed Development between 21 May 2025 and 16 July 2025. In compiling a list of relevant prescribed consultees to be consulted, the Applicant had regard to the list of prescribed consultees listed in the amended APFP Regulations. Information about how the Applicant identified and consulted with prescribed consultees is included in **Chapter 4** of the Report. A full list of section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees consulted as part of the targeted consultation is available in **Appendix C-5**.

Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Planning Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.”

- 022** “It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early engagement. This can help inform the Programme Document that they later take to the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the best approach to engage the relevant communities in the
- The Applicant engaged with the host authority prior to launch of the Proposed Development which helped inform the Applicant’s approach. This included sharing details of its Phase One Consultation.

most effective and proportionate way.”

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| 022 | <p>“Under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern.”</p> | <p>The Applicant published a SoCC setting out how it intended to consult the local community on the Proposed Development as part of its Phase Two Consultation. In preparing the SoCC, the Applicant sought to ensure that the consultation could be accessible to anyone likely to have an interest in the Proposed Development. The SoCC included commitments to develop materials in a range of different formats and use a variety of techniques to ensure that everyone with an interest in the Proposed Development could find out more and share their feedback. More detail about how the Applicant developed its approach to consultation and SoCC is available in <b>Chapter 2</b> of the Report.</p> |
| 022 | <p>“Local communities may need support to help them to input to the NSIP consenting process. Independent community liaison chairs or forums can be used to provide support to local communities and non-statutory consultees to enable them to provide an</p>   | <p><b>Chapter 3</b> of the Report sets out how the Applicant designed a consultation strategy to ensure that anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development could find out more and input into the consultation process. This involved providing materials in a range of different formats and at different levels of information, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A consultation 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</li> </ul>                                     |



effective input to the pre-application process.

Applicants will want to consider whether these should be used, not least to assist an applicant's own assessment of potential examination issues in preparing their Programme Document and SoCC."

how people can share their feedback. This was additionally published on the project website to view and download.

- A consultation booklet: an accessible summary of the proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps. This was available in hard copy at deposit points and the public events, posted on request, and published on the Rosefield Solar Farm website to view and download.
- A 3D model: a virtual model of the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm site was available at the public events.
- A website: the Rosefield Solar Farm project website ([www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk)) hosted all the consultation documents, including the PEIR, as well as links to the virtual exhibition and online questionnaire. It also included details of the deposit points and public events as well as hosting the project's contact information.
- A virtual exhibition: containing the exhibition banners on display at the public events and a link to the online questionnaire and Rosefield Solar Farm project website.
- Exhibition banners: an accessible summary of the proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps which were displayed at the public events. The exhibition banners were available in the virtual exhibition hosted on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website.
- The Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR): containing the initial results of ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects.

All of these materials are available to view on the Rosefield Solar Farm website ([www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk/document-library](http://www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk/document-library)). These materials will be appended to the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.

Formal phases of consultation were supplemented by a programme of continuous stakeholder and community engagement throughout the pre - application stage. Information about engagement outside of formal consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report.

<p><b>023</b> “Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consult the prescribed bodies as appropriate under Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as well as the Marine Management Organisation in certain circumstances, under section 42 of the Planning Act, giving the consultees at least 28 days to respond;</li> <li>• publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act, and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009 sets out the detail of what this publicity must entail; and</li> <li>• by section 49 of the Planning Act have regard to any relevant consultation</li> </ul>	<p>During Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant identified and consulted with parties prescribed by sections 42, 43 and 44 of the PA 2008 where their statutory function was relevant to the Proposed Development. Details of how the Applicant identified and consulted with individuals and bodies within each of these categories in accordance with the PA 2008 and the EIA Regulations, along with additional non-prescribed consultees, is included in <b>Chapter 3</b> of the Report.</p> <p>A full list of section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees consulted on the Proposed Development is available in <b>Appendix C-1</b>. A full list of persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 will be included within the Book of Reference submitted with the Application.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the proposed application in accordance with section 48 of the PA 2008 and APFP Regulations, as set out in <b>Chapter 3</b> of the Report. Copies of s48 notices as published are available in <b>Appendix C-3</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant conducted parallel targeted statutory consultations on minor changes to the Proposed Development between 21 May 2025 and 16 July 2025. The Applicant designed these consultations to be proportionate to the likely effects of the proposed changes. This considered the limited nature of the proposed changes, and that there were no new or different likely significant environmental effects expected as a result of the proposed changes than those presented within the PEIR at Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>In compiling a list of relevant prescribed consultees to be consulted, the Applicant had regard to the list of prescribed consultees in the updated Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. Information about how the Applicant identified and consulted with prescribed consultees is included in <b>Chapter 4</b> of the Consultation Report. A full list of s42(1)(a) and</p>
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responses from either statutory consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act, local communities under section 47 of the Planning Act, or wider publicity under section 48 of the Planning Act.”

(b) consultees consulted as part of the targeted consultation is available in **Appendix C-5**. A full list of persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 will be included within the Book of Reference submitted with the Application.

The Applicant did not publicise the targeted consultations in accordance with s48 of the PA 2008 due to the targeted nature of the consultation.

The Applicant will set out how it has had regard to consultation responses to each phase of consultation from consultees under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 (where applicable) in the Consultation Report. The Applicant has provided information about the key changes made to in response to feedback received to Phase One and Phase Two consultations in **Chapters 2 and 3** of the Report.

**023** “Applicants will often need detailed technical input from statutory consultees as expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the impacts of projects, and other important matters. In many cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others before the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate.”

Detail about the consultation and engagement carried out with technical bodies to inform EIA undertaken in support of the Proposed Development will be included in the relevant topic chapters of the Environmental Statement.

As part of its Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant invited comments on a Preliminary Environmental Information Report. A summary of feedback received to Phase Two Consultation and the Applicant’s consideration by topic will be provided as part of the Consultation Report.

**024** “Some statutory consultees have cost recovery arrangements in place for the advice they provide. The ability for statutory consultees

The Applicant engaged with host authority and key stakeholders early in the pre-application process. This included entering into a Planning Performance Agreement with the host authority through the pre-application stage, and cost recovery arrangements with Natural England and the Environment Agency to ensure engagement with technical specialists throughout the Proposed Development. Detail about the consultation and

to respond effectively to pre-application requests for advice means they have the information they need from applicants to do so. It is essential therefore that applicants arrange early engagement with statutory consultees to avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the consenting process.”

engagement carried out with technical bodies to inform EIA undertaken in support of the Proposed Development will be included in the relevant topic chapters of the Environmental Statement.

**024** “Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under section 42 of the Planning Act they must identify and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question.”

Phase Two Consultation: The Applicant consulted with each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44 of the PA 2008. **Chapter 3** of the Report sets out how the Applicant identified section 44 consultees.

Targeted consultation: A targeted approach was considered to be proportionate given the changes did not affect the outcome of the environmental impact assessment, as set out in the PEIR published during Phase Two Consultation. The Applicant used the same process to identify consultees outlined in **Chapter 3** of the Report.

A full list of the persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 will be included in the Book of Reference submitted with the Application.

**024** “It is the applicant’s responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the

Details of how the Applicant has exercised due diligence in identifying all persons under sections 42(1)(d) is provided in **Chapter 3** of the Report. The Applicant confirms it will publish a Book of Reference as part of the Application which is sufficiently up to date and

application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009.”

fully meets the requirements of the APFP Regulations. All data relating to the Book of Reference will be stored in a live electronic database and will be kept up to date as the Application progresses.

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| <b>024</b> | <p>“Where appropriate, the Book of Reference should be supplemented by a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker, submitted by the applicant and updated during the examination, setting out the status of negotiations with landowners, Crown bodies and statutory undertakers affected by proposals for</p> | <p>The Applicant will submit a Schedule of Negotiations as part of the Application which will be updated during the examination stage as required. The Schedule of Negotiations covers all of the information contained within the Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker.</p> |
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compulsory acquisition of land or rights and temporary possession.”

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| <b>024</b> | <p>“It should be noted that for an accepted application, the situation concerning compilation of land interests can continue to evolve during the examination as new information becomes available, and it is not uncommon for the Book of Reference to be revised and resubmitted more than once. This is usually a substantial undertaking and applicants should dedicate sufficient time and resource, particularly as in many cases there may be parcels of land where there is little information available. With this in mind, applicants are advised to make maximum use of electronic data bases when compiling the Book of Reference to enable such changes to be made easily.”</p> | <p>The Applicant will continue to carry out diligent inquiry through the examination stage to ensure that the Book of Reference remains up to date. All data relating to the Book of Reference will be stored in a live electronic database and will be kept up to date as the Application progresses.</p> |
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- 024** “In addition, land interests can change over time and new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process, it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage
- A full list of persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 will be included in the Book of Reference submitted with the Application.
- Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant carried out concurrent targeted consultations between 21 May 2025 – 16 July 2025. One new land interest (the Forestry Commission) was identified on a precautionary basis as a result of a minor addition to the proposed Site boundary. The Forestry Commission was previously consulted on the Proposed Development as a prescribed consultee under section 42(1)(a) as part of Phase Two Consultation.
- The Applicant will continue to carry out diligent inquiry to ensure that the Book of Reference submitted as part of the Application is up to date. All data relating to the Book of Reference will be stored in a live electronic database and will be kept up to date as the Application progresses.

with the process if the application is accepted for examination.”

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| <b>024</b> | <p>“Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.”</p>   | <p>A full list of persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 will be included in the Book of Reference submitted with the Application.</p> <p>Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant carried out concurrent targeted consultations between 21 May 2025 – 16 July 2025. One new land interest (the Forestry Commission) was identified on a precautionary basis as a result of a minor addition to the proposed Site boundary. The Forestry Commission was previously consulted on the Proposed Development as a prescribed consultee under section 42(1)(a) as part of Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to carry out diligent inquiry to ensure that the Book of Reference submitted as part of the Application is up to date. All data relating to the Book of Reference will be stored in a live electronic database and will be kept up to date as the Application progresses.</p> |
| <b>025</b> | <p>“The Programme Document will enable the Planning Inspectorate to determine at the Inception Meeting that the proposed consultation arrangements are adequate for the level of complexity of the proposed project. The Programme Document should also identify an appropriate milestone during the pre-application stage to enable the</p> | <p>The Applicant held an Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate on 09 August 2023, holding regular meetings to provide updates on the progress of the Proposed Development through the pre-application stage, including timings for consultation. The Applicant will set out how it has had regard to s51 advice received as part of the Consultation Report.</p>  |



Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.”

- 025** “This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.
- The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and
- The Applicant has produced this Report to fulfil the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. This confirms the consultation undertaken to date and that the commitments set out in the SoCC have been met and provides a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the application.
- The Applicant shared its proposed approach to completing the AoCM with the host authority for agreement on 04 April 2025, before submitting the Report to the host authority for review on 21 May 2025. The Applicant has submitted the Report, and response from the host authority to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the submission of the Application. This will also be appended to the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.

the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.

The adequacy of consultation milestone is an informal but nonetheless important opportunity to check that the pre-application programme is on track, and if it is seriously adrift the Planning Inspectorate will advise the applicant about the steps necessary to enable the application to be submitted having fulfilled the statutory requirements. Inevitably this could mean a renegotiation of the expected date of submission, with the objective of avoiding the prospect of an application not being accepted for examination.”

- 026** “Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their
- The Consultation Report will form part of the Application for the Proposed Development and will be submitted in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. It will describe the pre-application consultation and engagement undertaken by the Applicant,

application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Planning Act and how the proposed application has been shaped as a result. The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State will consider this report when deciding whether or not the applicant has complied with the pre-application consultation requirements, and ultimately, whether or not an application can be accepted to proceed to examination.

This report should not include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially, how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:

summarises the responses received and explains how the Applicant has had regard to them to develop its proposals.

The Consultation Report will include information required by this guidance. Where this information is included within the Report submitted to fulfil the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone, this is signposted in brackets:

- An overview of the consultation process and timeline (found in **Chapter 1** of the Report).
- Detail of how the Applicant has complied with the statutory requirements of the PA 2008, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance in this document (**Appendix D-1** and **Chapter 3** of the Report).
- How the Applicant has had regard to advice issued under s51 of the PA 2008.
- Detail as to how the Applicant has complied with requirements to consult local communities in accordance with the SoCC (provided in **Appendix B-4**).
- Separate summary schedules of consultation responses for each phase of consultation.
- How the Applicant has had regard to feedback in developing its proposals and highlights key changes made in response to feedback received through formal consultation (**Chapters 2 and 3** of the Report).

- provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline;
- set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance;
- set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC;
- set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);
- provide a description of how the proposed application for submission

has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result;

- provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and
- be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to.”

<b>026</b> “It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of	The consultation booklet published as part of Phase Two Consultation provided updates and changes made following Phase One Consultation. The documents were written in clear, accessible and non-technical language. Outside of formal phases of consultation,
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the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.”

the Applicant undertook a number of meetings with stakeholders to discuss consultation feedback. In addition, on 21 May 2025 the Applicant issued a Community Update newsletter (**Appendix C-4**) to all properties within the inner zone of consultation to share how feedback from Phase Two Consultation was shaping the design of the Proposed Development. This was also published on the Rosefield Solar Farm website. Following acceptance of the Application, the Applicant will publicise the Consultation Report and how people can participate in the next steps of the DCO process.

**026** “A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant effects, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate.”

The Applicant has undertaken meetings with stakeholders and the local community to discuss feedback from formal consultation. Detail of how the Applicant has engaged with technical consultees on feedback received to consultation, including the development of Statements of Common Ground and agreement of protective provisions will be outlined in the Consultation Report.

# **Appendix D-2: Guide to the AoCM Report**



## Appendix D-2: Guide to the AoCM Report

### 1.1. Overview

1.1.1. The AoCM Report has been prepared in order to demonstrate how the Applicant has complied with the statutory pre-application requirements for consultation as part of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

1.1.2. To assist with the formal adequacy of consultation milestone at the acceptance stage of the DCO process, the AoCM Report has been structured to follow the Consultation Report which will form part of the Application. However, the AoCM Report is not intended to be a full Consultation Report, and particularly does not include the following:

- Detailed information about non-statutory consultation and engagement, given the focus of the milestone is on how the Applicant has fulfilled statutory requirements.
- Sample consultation materials in an effort to reduce the size of the Report (noting these are available on the Rosefield Solar Farm website and the Applicant can share samples with the host authority on request).
- Detailed information about how consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application, given feedback analysis for Phase Two Consultation and targeted consultations are still ongoing. The Applicant has included a summary of key changes made to the design of the Proposed Development since Phase Two Consultation in Chapter 4 of the Report and the Community Update newsletter (**Appendix C-4**).

1.1.3. This table explains the relationship between the AoCM Report and the Consultation Report (indicative only), in order to assist the host authority in preparing its response to the AoCM Report and subsequently the adequacy of consultation response at the acceptance stage.

- Green: Information included in the AoCM Report will be substantively the same as the information presented in the relevant section of the Consultation Report.
- Amber: Some information provided in the AoCM Report, however further information will be included within the Consultation Report.
- Blue: Not included as part of the AoCM Report, will form part of the Consultation Report.



**Table D-2: Relationship between the Consultation Report and AoCM Report**

Consultation Report	Adequacy of Consultation Report
<p><b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> <p>explains the purpose of this Report, describes the Proposed Development and summarises the key pre-application consultation milestones.</p>	<p>The AoCM Report describes the Proposed Development and summarises the key-pre-application consultation milestones.</p>
<p><b>Chapter 2: Phase One Consultation 2023</b></p> <p>To summarise non-statutory consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development from 28 September 2023 - 10 November 2023 ('Phase One Consultation'), including how the Applicant has had regard to feedback received and changes made as a result of consultation.</p>	<p>Detailed information about the non-statutory Phase One Consultation will be available within the Consultation Report. Key information is included within Chapter 2 of the AoCM Report including a summary of changes made to the Proposed Development as a result of feedback received.</p>
<p>Appendix A-1: Launch materials and advertising</p>	
<p>Appendix A-2: Phase One Consultation materials and advertising</p>	
<p>Appendix A-3: Screenshots of Phase One Consultation website and virtual exhibition</p>	
<p>Appendix A-4: Summary of responses to Phase One Consultation and consideration by topic</p>	
<p><b>Chapter 3 Stakeholder and community engagement</b></p> <p>To summarise non-statutory engagement undertaken with the local community, stakeholders and local authority about the Proposed Development outside of formal consultation periods.</p>	
<p>Appendix B-1: Summary of community engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation</p>	

Appendix B-2: Summary of stakeholder engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation	
Appendix B-3: Early engagement on Adequacy of Consultation Milestone	The AoCM Report and the host authority response will be included as part of this Appendix.
<b>Chapter 4 Approach to statutory consultation and development of the SoCC:</b> explains the purpose, objectives and legal requirements for statutory consultation and details the preparation and publication of the Statement of Community Consultation.	Chapter 2 of the AoCM Report explains the purpose, objectives and legal requirements for statutory consultation and details the preparation and publication of the Statement of Community Consultation.
Appendix C-1: Informal consultation on the draft SoCC	Appendix A-1
Appendix C-2: Regard had to host authority informal feedback on draft SoCC	Appendix A-2
Appendix C-3: Formal consultation on the draft SoCC	Appendix A-3
Appendix C-4: Regard had to host authority formal feedback on draft SoCC	Appendix A-4
Appendix D-1: Final SoCC	Appendix B-1
Appendix D-2: Section 47 notice	Appendix B-2
Appendix D-3: Screenshot of Springwell Solar Farm website with availability of the SoCC	Appendix B-3
Appendix D-4: Compliance with the SoCC	Appendix B-4
Chapter 5 Phase Two Consultation 2024: details the statutory consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development from 18 September 2024 – 5 December 2024 ('Phase Two Consultation').	Chapter 3 of the AoCM Report details the statutory consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development from 18 September - 5 December 2024 ('Phase Two Consultation').

Appendix E-1: List of prescribed consultees consulted under section 42(1)(a) and (b) during Phase Two Consultation	Appendix C-1
Appendix F-1: Sample letters sent to consultees under s42(1)(a), (b) and (d) and non-prescribed consultees	
Appendix G-1: Section 46 notification	Appendix C-2
Appendix G-2: Phase Two Consultation materials and advertising (ex. S48 notices which will be included in Part 1)	Links provided to Phase Two Consultation materials. S48 notices provided in Appendix C-3.
Appendix G-3: Screenshots of Phase Two Consultation website and virtual exhibition	
Appendix H-1: List of non-prescribed consultees and community organisations consulted during Phase Two Consultation	
Appendix I-1: Preliminary Environmental Information Report	Links provided to Phase Two Consultation materials.
<b>Chapter 6 Responses to Phase Two Consultation: summarises the responses received to Phase Two Consultation, including how the Applicant has had regard to feedback received and changes made as a result of consultation.</b>	Detailed information about the feedback received to Phase Two Consultation will be available within the Consultation Report. Key information is included within Chapter 3 of the AoCM including a summary of changes made to the Proposed Development as a result of feedback received and Appendix C-4.
Appendix J-1: Summary of s42(1)(a), (b) and (d) responses to Phase Two Consultation and consideration by topic	
Appendix J-2: Summary of s47 responses to Phase Two Consultation and consideration by topic	
Chapter 7 Additional targeted consultation: details the targeted consultation undertaken on changes to the Order Limits from 17 July 2024 – 16	Detailed information about the feedback received to the targeted consultation will be available within the Consultation Report. Key information about how the

August 2024 to enable highways improvements, including how the Applicant has had regard to feedback received and changes made as a result of consultation	Applicant is conducting the targeted consultation is available as part of Chapter 4 of the AoCM Report.
Appendix K-1: List of prescribed consultees consulted during targeted consultation	Appendix C-5
Appendix K-2: Targeted consultation materials	
Appendix K-3: Summary of responses to targeted consultation and consideration by topic	
Chapter 8 Conclusion: draws conclusions on the key themes of the consultation responses and the changes that the Applicant has made to the proposals as a result of feedback received.	
Appendix M-1: Compliance with PA 2008: Guidance on the pre-application stage for NSIPs, April 2024	The AoCM Report includes a table of compliance in Appendix D-1.
Appendix M-2: Compliance with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report, August 2024	The Applicant has had regard to this guidance in formulating the AoCM Report and structure of the Consultation Report as outlined in this document.



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