

Rosefield Solar Farm

Appendix E-1: Response to AoCM Report from host authority

EN010158
July 2025
Rosefield Energyfarm Limited



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23/07/2025
Ref: 25/01897/DCO

Dear [REDACTED],

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) consultation to Buckinghamshire Council requested under s55 of the Planning Act 2008

This letter is in response to your email dated 20 May 2025, inviting the host authority: Buckinghamshire Council (BC), to submit representations on the adequacy of consultation taken so far to date during the pre-application period for the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm Scheme Development Consent Order project.

The Council notes that the Applicant has undertaken consultation activities in accordance with the procedural requirements of Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

Duty to consult under s42

The Council is only able to comment on the adequacy of consultation in relation to our role as host local authority under s42(1)(a), as a local authority as set out under s42(1)(b).

The Applicant has been in consultation with the Council during the development of the Scheme's design, including the optioneering process. Meetings have been held, and email correspondence has discussed some of the information that should be included in the Environmental Statement and how the consultation should be conducted.

Several rounds of public consultation have been undertaken including Phase 1 Consultation between 28th September and 10th November 2023, and Phase 2 Consultation between 18th September and 5th December 2024. Feedback received from Phase Two Consultation resulted in a number of changes to the proposals. A further Targeted Consultation on two proposed changes has taken place concurrently between 21st May and 16th July 2025 (56 days). The consultation period was determined following discussions with the applicant.

The Council acknowledges that statutory consultation under s42 has been undertaken.

Duty to consult the local community under s47

The Council have met with the Applicant in a series of initial meetings from April 2024, including a SoCC workshop on 23rd May 2024 to discuss the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

The Applicant formally consulted the Council between 12th July 2024 and 9th August 2024. Following the consultation responses, the Applicant made the following changes to the SoCC:

- Amending the consultation period from six to eight weeks
- Providing high-level information about the components of a solar farm within the SoCC
- Including younger audiences as a discrete seldom heard group
- Adding information on engaging members of Buckinghamshire Council
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The SoCC was published on 4th September 2024 and ran in parallel with the launch of the Applicant's Phase Two Consultation. It is noted that following the publication of the SoCC and start of Phase Two consultation, the Applicant became aware that the final SoCC contained the word 'draft' on the title page in error. Several actions were taken to address this, which included clarification notes on the website and informing the Council of the error and what actions had been taken to address this.

The Council notes that the Applicant consulted on the draft Statement of Community Consultation and subsequently published the final version. Statutory consultation under s47 has been carried out.

Duty to publicise under s48

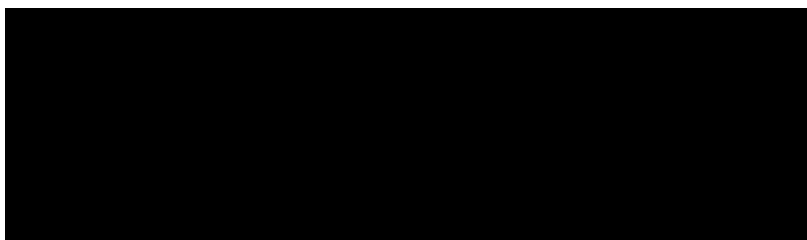
The Council notes that the Applicant has undertaken publicity in accordance with s48 of the Planning Act 2008, including publication in local and national newspapers and digital platforms.

Conclusion

As host authority, Buckinghamshire Council confirms that, for the purposes of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM), the Applicant has undertaken consultation in accordance with the requirements of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

This response is limited to the statutory adequacy of consultation and does not reflect the Council's position on the proposed development. The Council reiterates that the objections raised in its response to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) remain valid. These concerns relate to the environmental, landscape, and community impacts of the proposed development, and will be addressed in full as part of the Council's Local Impact Report and Written Representations at the appropriate stage of the DCO examination process.

Yours sincerely,





rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk