

Rosefield Solar Farm

Adequacy of Consultation Report

EN010158
May 2025
Rosefield Energyfarm Limited



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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1. This Adequacy of Consultation Report ('the Report') has been prepared by Rosefield Energyfarm Limited ('the Applicant') as part of the development of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Rosefield Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Development meets the criteria to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") under section 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008') as it is a proposed generating station which would be within England, does not generate electricity from wind, would not be offshore and would have a total generating capacity of more than 50 MW.
- 1.1.3. In 2024, the Government introduced new guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects:
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024)
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024)
- 1.1.4. Both the Guidance and the Prospectus introduce a new, non-statutory adequacy of consultation milestone (AoCM). The purpose of the AoCM is to provide the Applicant with the opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document which:
- Establishes the consultation undertaken to date;
 - Confirms that the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) have been met; and
 - Provides a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the application.
- 1.1.5. The document should enable the Planning Inspectorate and the host local authorities to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date, minimising the risk of non-acceptance at the acceptance stage.
- 1.1.6. The Applicant shared a copy of this Report with Buckinghamshire Council ('the host authority') on 21 May 2025. A copy of the response provided by the host authority on 24 July 2025 is appended to this Report (see **Appendix E-1**).

1.1.7. Under section 55(4)(b) of the PA 2008, at the acceptance stage the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from local authorities about the adequacy of consultation.

1.1.8. This Report provides an overview of how the Applicant has complied with pre-application statutory requirements set out in the Act.

1.2. The Proposed Development

1.2.1. The area of land required for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be outlined as part of the DCO Application. This includes land required for temporary and permanent uses.

1.2.2. The proposed Site boundary comprises 675.05 hectares of land and is located within the administrative area of Buckinghamshire close to the settlements of Steeple Claydon, East Claydon, Middle Claydon, Botolph Claydon and Calvert Green.

1.3. Overview of the consultation process

1.3.1. **Table 1-1** provides a summary of key pre-application consultation milestones.

1.3.2. The Applicant has undertaken a continuous programme of engagement in parallel with, and complementary to, its formal phases of pre-application consultation. The important distinction between consultation and engagement are as follows:

- Engagement relates to discussions between the Applicant, community and stakeholders outside formal phases of consultation. The programme of engagement undertaken by the Applicant outside of formal phases of consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.
- Consultation relates to the formal stages of consultation (both non-statutory and statutory). Information about statutory consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapters 2, 3 and 4** of this Report. Information about non-statutory consultation will be included as part of the Consultation Report.

Table 1-1: Summary of pre-application consultation and engagement activities

Activity	Date
Pre-Phase One Consultation: early engagement including with host authority	June – September 2023

Phase One Consultation: Early plans and proposals	28 September 2023 – 10 November 2023
Pre-Phase Two Consultation: Stakeholder engagement to inform design development	November 2023 – September 2024
Development of the Statement of Community Consultation	April 2024 – August 2024
Consultation of host local authority on the SoCC as prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008	12 July 2024 - 9 August 2024
Publication of the SoCC	04 September 2024
Notice of availability of SoCC in the vicinity of the proposal as prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008	04 September 2024
SoCC made available in the vicinity of the proposal as prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008	04 September 2024 – 05 December 2024
Notification of the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application as prescribed by s46 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations	16 September 2024
Phase Two Consultation: Updated plans and proposals	18 September 2024 – 05 December 2024
Proposed application publicised as prescribed by s48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations	11 September 2024 and 18 September 2024
Consultation as prescribed under s42 of the PA 2008	18 September 2024 – 05 December 2024
Consultation in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed under s47(7) of the PA 2008	18 September 2024 – 05 December 2024
Post phase-two consultation: Stakeholder engagement to inform design development	December 2024 – Ongoing
Targeted consultation on changes to the proposed Site boundary and the layout of Parcel 3.	21 May 2025 – 16 July 2025.

1.4. Report structure

- 1.4.1. The structure of this Report is intended to broadly follow the structure of the Consultation Report which will form part of the Application.
- 1.4.2. As the AoCM focusses on ensuring that the Applicant has adequately discharged formal requirements relating to pre-application consultation, the Applicant has not included detailed information about non-statutory consultation and engagement. This will be provided as part of the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.
- 1.4.3. In addition, the Applicant is in the process of analysing responses received its Phase Two Consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of the Application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008 and will evidence how consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 1.4.4. The Applicant has created a table showing how this Report relates to the Consultation Report (**Appendix D-2**). This is to assist the host authority with any adequacy of consultation response at the acceptance stage.
- 1.4.5. This Report is structured as follows:
 - **Chapter 1 Introduction:** explains the purpose of this Report, describes the Proposed Development and summarises the key pre-application consultation milestones.
 - **Chapter 2 Approach to statutory consultation and development of the SoCC:** explains the purpose, objectives and legal requirements for statutory consultation and details the preparation and publication of the SoCC. It should be read alongside **Appendices A-1 to A-4** and **B-1 to B-4**.
 - **Chapter 3 Phase Two Consultation 2024:** details the statutory consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development from 18 September – 5 December 2024 ('Phase Two Consultation'). It should be read alongside **Appendices C-1 to C-4**. It also includes narrative on the responses received to Phase Two Consultation and how they are shaping the Application.
 - **Chapter 4 Additional targeted consultation:** details targeted consultation currently being undertaken between 21 May 2025 and 16 July 2025. Regard should be had to **Appendix C-5**.
 - **Chapter 5 Conclusion:** draws conclusions on how the Applicant has discharged its requirements for pre-application consultation under the PA 2008. It should be read alongside **Appendices D-1 and D-2**.

2. Approach to statutory consultation and development of the SoCC

2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1. The Applicant undertook an initial phase of consultation on its early plans and proposals between 28 September and 10 November 2023 ('Phase One Consultation').
- 2.1.2. The purpose of this initial stage of consultation was to introduce early proposals for the Proposed Development to the local community in order to collect feedback on its emerging design.
- 2.1.3. Consultation activity included posting two leaflets to 2,887 addresses around the proposed Site boundary on 14 September 2023 and 28 September 2023 to share information about the proposals and promote the consultation. The Applicant held five public events at venues located around the proposed Site boundary and wrote to a range of consultees.
- 2.1.4. All of the materials published as part of Phase One Consultation are available to view on the Rosefield Solar Farm website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk/document-library). These materials will be appended to the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.
- 2.1.5. The Applicant received 565 responses to Phase One Consultation.
- 2.1.6. Feedback from Phase One Consultation helped to inform the design of the Proposed Development presented at Phase Two Consultation. This included:
- A reduction in the area proposed for solar panels by 40% from 1,108 acres to 689 acres including:
 - Removal of a section of proposed solar in a field to reduce potential effects on the setting and significance of Claydon House and Claydon Park.
 - Removal of sections of proposed solar in four fields to provide larger setbacks from residential properties and existing Public Rights of Way ('PROW').
 - Removal of two fields from the proposed Site boundary to provide separation from residential properties and the village of Botolph Claydon.
 - Removal of three fields to reduce potential effects on ecological receptors.

- Removal of sections of proposed solar in four fields located to the east of the Bernwood Jubilee Way to reduce effects on the landscape character and visual setting towards Quainton Hill.
- Increasing the proposed areas set aside for nature by five times, from 82 acres to 434 acres.
- Proposing a new 1.9km footpath to open up access to Knowl Hill.

2.1.7. Feedback from Phase One additionally helped to inform the Applicant's approach to its Phase Two Consultation. This included:

- Ensuring public events were at a range of times and dates to suit people with different time commitments.
- Extending the inner zone of consultation to include areas of importance to the local community (e.g. PROWs, Quainton Hill).
- Publishing an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan for consultation in response to concerns about the impact of construction traffic on local roads.

2.1.8. The Applicant undertook statutory consultation ('Phase Two Consultation') on its updated proposals between 18 September and 5 December 2024 in accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 (see Chapters 3 and 4).

2.2. Objectives for statutory consultation

2.2.1. The Applicant's approach to pre-application consultation was designed to ensure that consultees had the opportunity to understand and share feedback on the proposals and feel satisfied that they had been able to engage with the process. The key objectives for achieving this through pre-application consultation were:

- Ensuring thorough, open and transparent engagement and consultation on our proposals.
- Ensuring proposals are clearly presented and easily understood.
- Providing sufficient opportunities for interested parties to understand, provide feedback 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.

2.3. Legal requirements for statutory consultation

- 2.3.1. The statutory pre-application consultation for the Proposed Development was designed to comply with statutory requirements in:
- PA 2008,
 - Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ("APFP Regulations"), and
 - Infrastructure Planning: (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017("EIA Regulations").
- 2.3.2. The Applicant has ensured that its pre-application consultation accords with the applicable legal framework and provides a high-quality, meaningful process of consultation with the local community, land interests, elected representatives and statutory consultees.
- 2.3.3. A table setting out the statutory requirements with an explanation of how the Applicant has complied with each requirement and identifying where further information can be found is included in **Appendix D-1**. More details about how the Applicant has carried out its Phase Two Consultation is presented in **Chapter 3** of this Report.

2.4. EIA Scoping

- 2.4.1. On 13 November 2023, the Applicant submitted an EIA Scoping Report and a request for a Scoping Opinion to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) under the provisions of the EIA Regulations. This described the scope and methodology for the technical studies proposed to provide an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development and, where necessary, described suitable mitigation measures. It also described topics and sub-topics proposed to be scoped out of the EIA process, and the justification for doing so.
- 2.4.2. The EIA Scoping Report was developed following consultation with a number of statutory consultees. Meetings that took place as part of this process will be detailed within the Environmental Statement that will be submitted as part of the Application.
- 2.4.3. Following consultation with statutory bodies, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) adopted a Scoping Opinion on 21 December 2023. The Environmental Statement submitted as part of the Application will be based on the Scoping Opinion.
- 2.4.4. Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion and the Applicant's response will be included in the Environmental Statement, demonstrating that all issues have been considered during the EIA process.

- 2.4.5. Following adoption of the Scoping Opinion, consultation was undertaken with relevant statutory consultees in the preparation of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and has been considered in the preparation of the Environmental Statement (including where required by the Scoping Opinion).
- 2.4.6. The Applicant additionally reviewed the list of consultees contacted by the Planning Inspectorate as part of its consultation on its Scoping Opinion to ensure that all organisations contacted by the Planning Inspectorate were included in subsequent consultation activity. All consultees included in Appendix 1 and 2 of the Scoping Opinion were consulted as part of Phase Two Consultation.
- 2.4.7. The Applicant was not notified of any additional consultation bodies under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.

2.5. Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- 2.5.1. As prescribed by section 47(1) of the PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a SoCC (**Appendix B-1.1**) setting out how it proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of the proposed Site boundary. In accordance with section 47(2) of the PA 2008, the Applicant consulted the local authority within section 43(1) of the PA 2008 (i.e. the host authority) on the contents of the SoCC.

2.6. Development of the SoCC

- 2.6.1. In preparing the draft SoCC, the Applicant's approach was informed by best practice, guidance from the Planning Inspectorate, Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, engagement with the host authorities and feedback from Phase One Consultation.
- 2.6.2. Feedback from the host authority helped to inform the development of the SoCC. The Applicant agreed its approach to consultation on the draft SoCC through its Planning Performance Agreement with the host authority. This included a timetable for engagement which included the provision for an early review of the SoCC ahead of formal consultation.
- 2.6.3. On 12 April 2024, the Applicant shared a draft SoCC (see **Appendix A-1**) with the host authority for informal comment, ahead of a SoCC workshop with the Applicant and the host authority which took place on 23 May 2024.
- 2.6.4. Themes discussed at the workshop included:
- Including high-level information about the project within the SoCC
 - Engaging Buckinghamshire Council members as part of the consultation

- Length of consultation period (with host authority indicating preference for eight-week consultation period)
- Engaging seldom-heard audiences
- Approach to determining scope of any targeted consultation, should this be required.

2.7. Formal consultation on the draft SoCC

- 2.7.1. The Applicant formally consulted the host authority on the draft SoCC from 12 July 2024 to 11:59pm on 9 August 2024, in accordance with sections 47(2) and (3) of the PA 2008.
- 2.7.2. The Applicant's covering letter and a copy of the draft SoCC issued to the host authorities is included at **Appendix A-3**. The Applicant received responses to the draft SoCC from the host authority on 8 August 2024.
- 2.7.3. The Applicant had regard to the responses from the host authority as required by section 47(5) of the PA 2008 and then finalised the SoCC for publication.
- 2.7.4. Tables listing feedback received to both informal and formal consultation and how the Applicant had regard to that feedback in preparing the final version of the SoCC are provided in **Appendix A-2** and **Appendix A-4**.
- 2.7.5. Key changes made in response to feedback from the host authorities included:
- 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
- 2.7.6. Following formal consultation on the draft SoCC, Steeple Claydon Library and Calvert Green Village Hall confirmed they would not be able to accommodate the volume of consultation materials required. Therefore, the Applicant found alternative venues (Winslow Community Library and East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall). The host authority confirmed these were acceptable as alternate locations prior to the start of the consultation and the Applicant amended the SoCC to reflect this change.

2.8. Publication of the SoCC

- 2.8.1. The SoCC was published on 04 September 2024 (see **Appendix B-1**) and made available for inspection by the public free of charge in accordance with section 47(6) of the PA 2008 on the Rosefield Solar Farm website

(**Appendix B-3**) and by depositing a printed copy at each location listed in **Table 2-1**. Hard copies of the SoCC were available to inspect at these locations between 04 September 2024 and 05 December 2024.

- 2.8.2. Hard copies of the SoCC were available on request free of charge from 04 September 2024 and could be requested using the Applicant's communication channels, including a freephone number, freepost address and email address (see sections 3.6.19-3.6.20). Two requests for a hard copy of the SoCC were received and fulfilled.

Table 2-1: Locations where the SoCC was made available for public inspection

Deposit location	Opening hours
East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall, Botyl Road, Botolph Claydon MK18 2LR	Monday to Thursday: 8am – 11pm Friday to Saturday: 8am – 12am
Winslow Community Library, Park Road, Winslow MK18 3DN	Monday: 9:30am – 5pm Wednesday: 9:30am – 1pm Friday: 1-5pm Saturday: 9:30am – 1pm

- 2.8.3. The Applicant also published the SoCC's availability in a newspaper circulated in the vicinity of the land, as prescribed by section 47(6) of PA 2008. The Applicant published the section 47 notice in both The Bucks Herald and Winslow Advertiser on 04 September 2024. These newspapers have an average combined circulation of 1,195 per issue within the inner and outer consultation zone (defined in **Chapter 3**). A copy of these notices as published, which confirms the name of the publication and the date these were published, is provided in **Appendix B-2**.
- 2.8.4. The publication of the SoCC ran in parallel with the launch of the Applicant's Phase Two Consultation (which commenced 14 days later on 18 September 2024). This involved:
- Sending a newsletter to 2,993 addresses within the inner zone of consultation (see **Figure 3-3**) on 04 September 2024 to publicise the availability of the SoCC and the upcoming consultation. It also included the times, dates and locations of the public events.
 - Writing to a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees, including elected representatives, parish councils, technical bodies, community organisations and business groups to publicise the upcoming consultation.

- Updating the Rosefield Solar Farm project website with information about the upcoming consultation, including the consultation newsletter and the times, dates and locations of the public events.
- Issuing a press release to approximately 50 journalists and media outlets on 04 September 2024 to publicise the availability of the SoCC and Phase Two Consultation. The press release listed the times, dates and locations of the public events. Coverage included Bucks Herald, Bucks Radio and Solar Power Portal.
- Sharing a post on the launch of the consultation period on the EDF Renewables UK (part of Rosefield Energyfarm Limited) LinkedIn account (c. 93,000 followers), which received 7,406 impressions.
- Print and digital advertising in the Bucks Free Press and Bucks Herald which advertised the consultation, including the dates, times and locations of the public events as well as the location of the deposit points.

2.8.5. The Applicant subsequently carried out local community consultation in accordance with the SoCC. The Applicant has listed the requirements of the SoCC, and how it has carried out the consultation in accordance with each requirement in **Appendix B-4**. Details of activity carried out as part of the consultation can be found in **Chapter 3** of this Report.

2.8.6. Following 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.

2.8.7. The below actions were undertaken to address this:

- Adding a clarification note on the electronic copy of the SoCC on the Rosefield Solar Farm website and sending updated physical copies of the SoCC to both deposit points for replacement (shown in **Appendix B-1.2** and in **Figure 3-5** at the deposit point at Winslow Community Library).
- Adding clarification text under the link to the SoCC hosted on the Rosefield Solar Farm website to signpost the error (shown in **Appendix B-1.2**).
- Informing the host authority of the error and the actions taken to address this to ensure it was content with the measures undertaken.

3. Phase Two Consultation 2024

3.1. Overview

- 3.1.1. The Applicant conducted statutory consultation (Phase Two Consultation: updated plans and proposals) on the Proposed Development in accordance with the PA 2008, APFP Regulations and EIA Regulations between 18 September and 05 December 2024.
- 3.1.2. To ensure that anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development could find out more and share their views, the Applicant designed a consultation strategy comprising a mix of techniques, including:
- Issuing 2,993 letters to homes and businesses around the proposed Site boundary.
 - Holding five events in locations around the proposed Site boundary, supported by a virtual exhibition available through the Rosefield Solar Farm website.
 - Placing copies of the consultation materials – including the PEIR – in locations around the proposed Site boundary for people to inspect. Copies of the consultation booklet, consultation questionnaire and USBs containing the consultation materials were also available to take away from these locations.
 - Writing to a number of stakeholders and community organisations to raise awareness of the consultation.
 - Providing a range of communication channels to enable anyone to find out more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback.
 - Conducting statutory and non-statutory advertising to publicise information about the Proposed Development and how people could participate in the consultation.
- 3.1.3. The purpose of the consultation was to seek feedback on the updated plans and proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm, including the PEIR.
- 3.1.4. During Phase Two Consultation, 239 people attended events about the Proposed Development, with 1,598 unique visitors to the Rosefield Solar Farm website (7,162 total views). The Applicant received 186 responses to the consultation.

3.2. Scope of Phase Two Consultation

- 3.2.1. Consultation was carried out for 11 weeks (78 days) between 18 September and 05 December 2024, significantly in excess of the statutory 28-day minimum prescribed in section 45(2) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the APFP Regulations.

- 3.2.2. Following the start of Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant identified that some information was unintentionally omitted from the PEIR. These were six figures (Figures 12.1 to 12.6) which accompanied Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration, and the figures within Appendix 7.7: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report 2024.
- 3.2.3. Due to the nature of the omitted material, it was not believed that the minor omission would have affected the ability of anyone to understand and provide feedback on the Proposed Development. However, in the spirit of government guidance on pre-application consultation, the Applicant extended the consultation period stated in the SoCC (18 September to 14 November 2024) by 21 days. 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.
- 3.2.4. On 06 November 2024, the Applicant wrote to the host authority to confirm the actions taken to mitigate this error, which are detailed below:
- Updating the electronic version of the PEIR hosted on the Rosefield Solar Farm website, as well as the physical copies of the PEIR at the deposit points to include the omitted information.
 - Publishing an update on the home page of the Rosefield Solar Farm website.
 - Adding clarification notes under the PEIR on the Rosefield Solar Farm website and under each figure to ensure the additional information was clearly signposted.
 - Sending links to the omitted figures directly to consultees likely to have an interest in them (e.g. the Environmental Health Officer at the host authority).
 - Updating digital advertising with the amended consultation deadline with links through to the Rosefield Solar Farm website to find out additional information.
 - Updating site notices erected around the proposed Site boundary with the revised deadline for feedback (11:59pm on 05 December 2024).
- 3.2.5. As well as seeking comments on the Proposed Development generally, feedback was sought on the key elements of the Proposed Development, including:
- The design of the Proposed Development, including the preferred location of each of its elements and proposed environmental enhancements and mitigation.
 - The PEIR, which presented an initial account of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning, as well as preliminary

details on mitigation measures that could be introduced to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any potentially significant adverse effects.

- How the Proposed Development could contribute to the local community, including the development of a community benefit package.

3.2.6. Information on the Proposed Development and preliminary environmental assessment was published for consultation in a range of different materials and formats, including:

- Phase Two Consultation booklet: an accessible, 36-page non-technical overview of the Proposed Development. It also included information on the planning process, the consultation process (including how to find out more and respond to Phase Two Consultation) and the Applicant's approach to community benefit.
- Phase Two Consultation maps: the updated operational layout for Rosefield Solar Farm, as well as a map showing the proposed construction routes, access points and construction compounds. A version of the updated operational layout was published with a grid overlay to aid respondents to make location-specific comments on the design of the Proposed Development.
- Phase Two Consultation questionnaire: the main mechanism for collecting feedback.
- Phase Two Consultation exhibition banners: an accessible summary of the Proposed Development, EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps.
- Virtual exhibition: a virtual exhibition hall which contained the exhibition banners, consultation questionnaire, and a digital interactive portal to enable users to view 3D visualisations of the Proposed Development from key views around the proposed Site boundary.
- The PEIR: the initial results of environmental assessments carried out in support of the Proposed Development, as well as preliminary information on measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects. The PEIR included a non-technical summary of the preliminary assessment of effects.

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

3.3. Responding to Phase Two Consultation

3.3.1. All consultees were able to respond to the consultation by:

- Completing an online questionnaire on the Rosefield Solar Farm website: www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk
- Submitting feedback or completed questionnaire by email to info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk
- Posting a completed questionnaire or submitting comments to the Freepost address: Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL
- Returning a completed questionnaire at the public events.

3.4. Consultation with statutory consultees and notification to the Secretary of State (section 42 and section 46)

Section 42

- 3.4.1. Consultation letters were delivered between 13 - 18 September 2024 to statutory consultees identified by the Applicant. The letter notified consultees about Phase Two Consultation and set out where to find out more information about the Proposed Development, including the times and dates of the public events and how to access the consultation materials. It also identified them as a statutory consultee under s42 of the PA 2008, set out the ways in which respondents could share their feedback and get in contact with the project, and confirmed the (original) deadline for receipt of feedback, 11:59pm on 14 November 2024 (in accordance with s45 of the PA 2008). Samples of the letters are available in **Appendix C-2**.
- 3.4.2. There are different categories of consultee under s42 of the PA 2008. The sections below set out how the Applicant identified the consultees in each category. A full list of the section 42(a) and (b) consultees relevant to the Proposed Development is provided at **Appendix C-1**. 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.

Section 42(1)(a): such persons as may be prescribed

- 3.4.3. The Applicant identified prescribed consultees with reference to Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation and the list of consultation bodies in Appendix 1 of the EIA Scoping Opinion dated 21 December 2023.
- 3.4.4. The Applicant did not consult the Marine Management Organisation (section 42(1)(aa)) as the Proposed Development is not considered likely to affect any of the areas specified in subsection 2 of s42 of the PA 2008 (e.g. tidal or offshore areas) or Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations.

Section 42(1)(b): each local authority that is within section 43

- 3.4.5. The Applicant consulted with local authorities identified in s43 of the PA 2008 as prescribed by s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008. The local authorities consulted for the purposes of the Proposed Development are identified in **Table 3-1**. The administrative boundaries of the local authorities are shown in **Figure 3-1** and **Figure 3-2**. The four categories of local authority are set out below:
- 'A' is a neighbouring local authority (s43(2)) that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated.
 - 'B' council within whose area development is situated 'B' is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host authority.
 - 'C' is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host authority.
 - 'D' is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority – a neighbouring local authority (s43(2A)).
- 3.4.6. As a unitary authority, Buckinghamshire Council is categorised as a category 'B' authority. To ensure category 'D' authorities were captured, Buckinghamshire Council was additionally treated as a category 'C' authority in order to identify category 'D' authorities.

Table 3-1: Section 42(1)(b) local authorities

Local authority	Category within section 43 of PA 2008
Buckinghamshire Council	B/C
Cherwell District Council	A
Dacorum Borough Council	A
London Borough of Hillingdon	A
South Oxfordshire District Council	A
Three Rivers District Council	A
Central Bedfordshire Council	D
Hertfordshire County Council	D

Greater London Authority	D
Milton Keynes Council	D
Oxfordshire County Council	D
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	D
Slough Council	D
West Northamptonshire Council	D
Wokingham Council	D

Figure 3-1: Administrative boundaries of A and B category local authorities with the indicative location of the Proposed Development shown in red

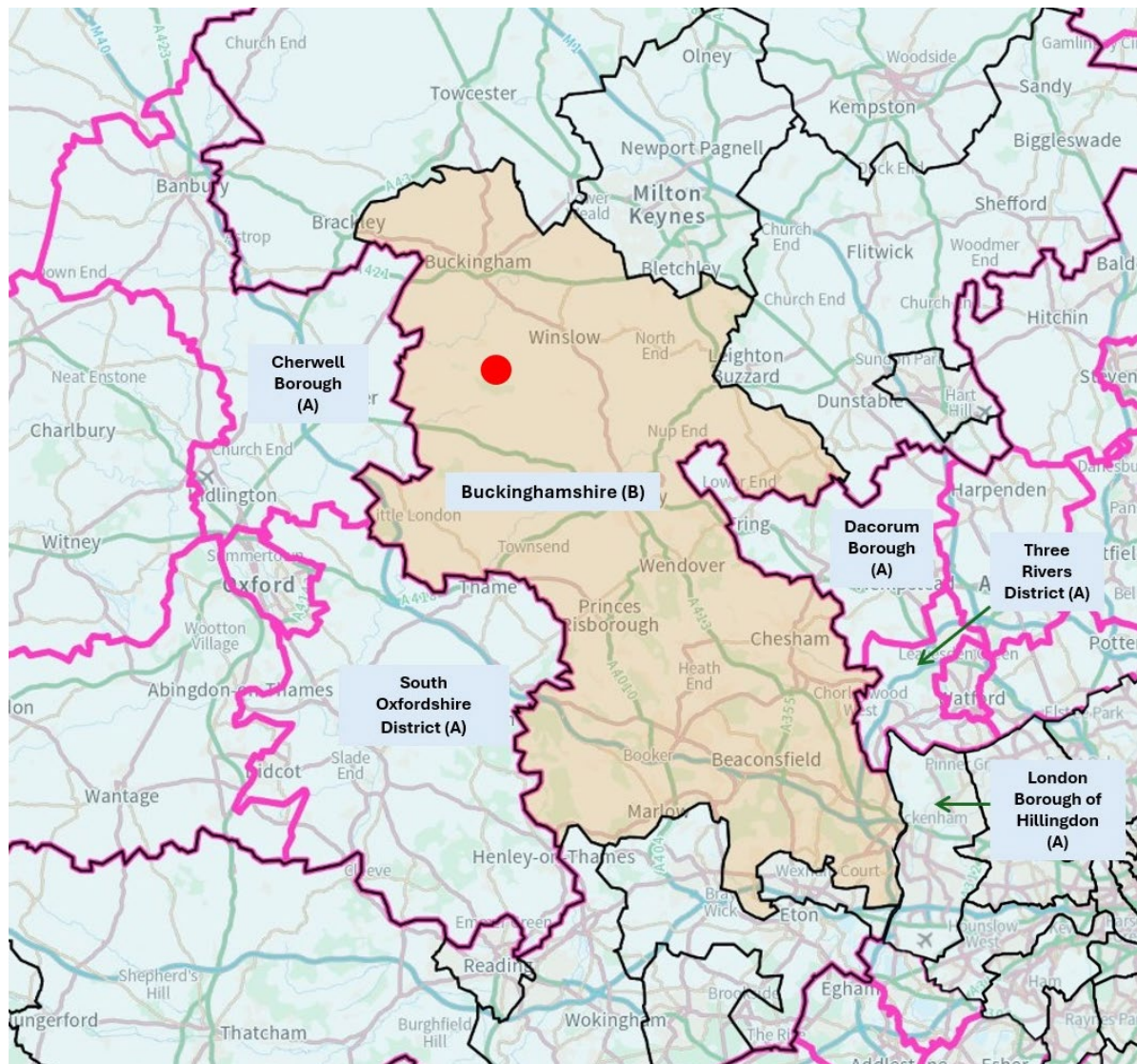
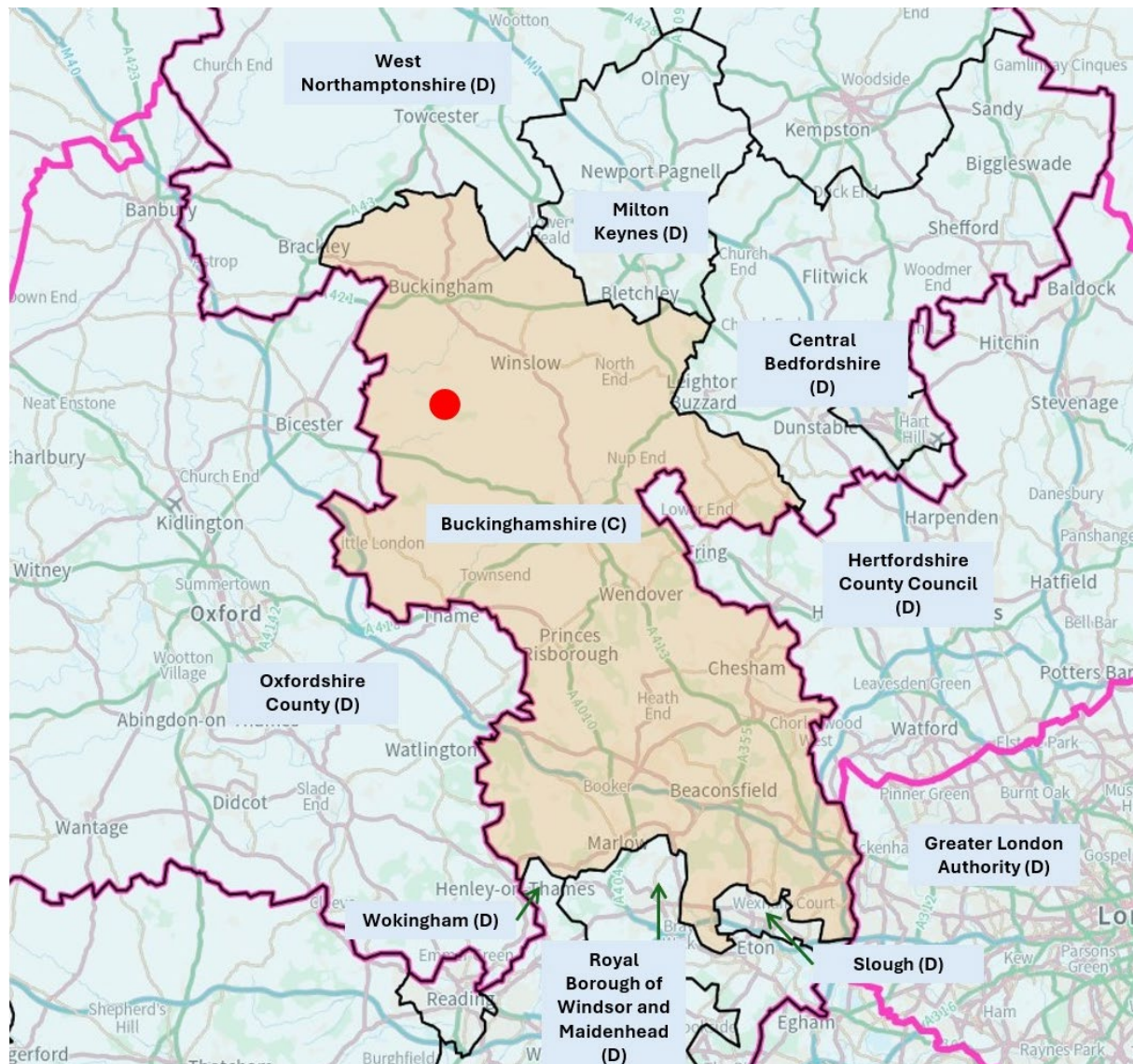


Figure 3-2: Administrative boundaries of C and D category local authorities with the indicative location of the Proposed Development shown in red



Section 42(1)(c): Greater London Authority

- 3.4.7. As a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority, the Greater London Authority was consulted in this capacity on the Proposed Development pursuant to section 42(1)(b). The Proposed Development is not itself located in Greater London so there was no requirement to consult under section 42(1)(c).

Section 42(1)(d): each person who is within one or more categories set out in section 44

- 3.4.8. S42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more categories set out in s44 of the PA 2008. The categories are:
- Category 1: A person is within Category 1 if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land.
 - Category 2: A person is within the Category 2 if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is interested in the land, or has the power to sell and convey the land or to release the land.
 - Category 3: A person is within the Category 3, if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, considers they would or might be entitled to make a 'relevant claim' as a result of (a) the implementing of the DCO, (b) the DCO having been implemented or (c) use of the land once the DCO has been implemented. There are three types of relevant claim: a claim under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965; a claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973; and a claim under section 152(3) of the PA 2008.
- 3.4.9. Land Referencers were appointed by the Applicant to complete the process of diligent inquiry prior to, throughout, and following Phase Two Consultation to identify relevant persons with an interest in land. The diligent inquiry process included the following methods described below.
- 3.4.10. Title information: His Majesty's Land Registry ('HMLR') registers and title plans were used to identify all parties that fall into one or more of the categories set out in paragraph 3.4.7. Additional desk top activities were undertaken to validate the information, including using the Royal Mail address finder, TraceSmart and Companies House. HMLR spatial polygons and title plans were used to create geo-referenced landownership parcels which were given a unique reference number. Information extracted from Registers was recorded against the relevant landownership parcel on the secure Land Referencing database Metis. To ensure any new interests were identified, refreshes of HMLR Registers were conducted every six months, or at a significant milestone in the pre-application stage (e.g., Phase Two Consultation), whichever came first.
- 3.4.11. Environmental Impact Assessment: As part of the preparation of the PEIR, the Applicant's environmental specialists and Land Referencing teams collaborated in identifying receptors potentially impacted by the Proposed Development with a view to understanding whether there were any 'Category 3' persons who might have a 'relevant claim' as defined by section 44(6) of the PA 2008.

- 3.4.12. Land Interest Questionnaires (“LIQs”): HMLR Register information was further verified using LIQs. These were issued to all identified land interests, both within the Order Limits and those identified outside the Order Limits as potential Category 3 interests. The LIQs asked respondents to confirm that the information extracted from the HMLR Register was correct and provide additional information not publicly available e.g., tenancy agreements and informal rights of access. Where new interests were found, LIQs were issued and the process outlined above was followed to verify their details, supplemented by desktop referencing and the use of publicly available information.
- 3.4.13. Where LIQs were not returned, contact was sought with interested parties through a variety of methods to confirm their land interest. This included LIQ reminder letters, phone calls and emails if the information was held on record. Where no contact information was held, site visits were conducted to speak to interested parties in person.
- 3.4.14. Unregistered site notices: Unregistered site notices were erected at sixteen locations around the proposed Site boundary during the Phase Two Consultation period in publicly accessible locations. Site notices were monitored and replaced, where required, on a weekly basis for the duration of the Phase Two Consultation. Where land is unregistered under roads, ad medium filum has been assumed and the adjacent landowners included as subsoil interests.
- 3.4.15. The Applicant consulted with all parties identified under s42(1)(d) and s44 of the PA 2008 at the time of Phase Two Consultation. There were 45 Category 1 and 2 consultees. No consultees were categorised as solely Category 3 interests.
- 3.4.16. Following letters being issued on 13 September 2024, one return to sender was received on 16 September 2024. A forwarding address was identified and a notice was hand-delivered on 24 September 2024.
- 3.4.17. Continued diligent enquiry identified a further two parties who, on a precautionary basis, were consulted under section 42(1)(d) as it was considered that they may hold an interest in the Order Limits - The National Trust and The Freshwater Habitats Trust. The National Trust was contacted on 16 September 2024 by phone and notified by email (noting they were a non-prescribed consultee and were therefore sent information about the consultation on 04 September 2024). The Freshwater Habitats Trust was notified on 08 October 2024.
- 3.4.18. The Applicant has undertaken statutory consultation pursuant to section 42(1)(d) with all people falling within section 44 of the PA 2008, based on the Order Limits for the Application. A full list of the persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 at the time of the Application will be included in the Book of Reference submitted with the Application.

Notification to the Secretary of State (section 46)

- 3.4.19. In accordance with s46 of the PA 2008, the Applicant wrote to the Secretary of State on 16 September 2024 in advance of s42 consultation commencing on 18 September 2024 to provide notification of the consultation and signpost where consultation documents could be accessed. A copy of this letter is provided in **Appendix C-2**.
- 3.4.20. The letter provided details of where the consultation materials could be accessed and enclosed:
- A copy of the section 48 notice
 - Sample cover letters sent to consultees pursuant to sections 42(1)(a) and (b) and cover letters sent to consultees pursuant to section 42(1)(d), which included a copy of the plan showing the proposed Site boundary of the Proposed Development.
- 3.4.21. The Applicant received an acknowledgement of receipt of information concerning the proposed application from the Planning Inspectorate on 18 September 2024. A copy of this letter is provided in **Appendix C-2**.

3.5. Consultation with the local community (section 47)

- 3.5.1. The Applicant consulted with the local community in accordance with the SoCC provided in **Appendix B-1**, as prescribed by section 47(7) of the PA 2008 and in parallel with its section 42 consultation and section 48 publicity.

Definition of consultees

- 3.5.2. The consultation was open to anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development who had feedback that they wanted to be considered. The Applicant used a mix of techniques to ensure that there were a range of ways to find out more about the Proposed Development and remove barriers to engagement.
- 3.5.3. To ensure consultation activity was targeted towards those living, working, studying, or otherwise using areas most likely to be affected by the Proposed Development, the Applicant defined two geographic zones – an inner zone and an outer zone – for the purposes of community consultation. Consultation activity was most intensive within the inner zone.
- 3.5.4. The inner zone covered people living, working and studying closest to the Proposed Development (and likely to be directly affected by the proposals), and their political representatives. This zone included all addresses within one and a half kilometres of the proposed Site boundary, extending in some areas to consider potential wider effects of the

Proposed Development and human geographic boundaries. For example, the inner zone boundary was extended to include:

- Villages with Public Rights of Way that connect into the areas proposed for solar and/or battery storage, such as Quainton and Steeple Claydon.
- Locations that were highlighted as important to the local community in Phase One Consultation feedback, such as Quainton Hill.
- Properties that are near the proposed main access route.

3.5.5. A map of this zone in relation to the proposed Site boundary is shown in **Figure 3-3**.

3.5.6. The outer zone covered those living, working and studying outside of the inner zone who may be affected by or have an interest in the Proposed Development due to it being proposed within their local authority area. This zone followed the administrative boundary of the host authority and is shown in relation to the proposed Site boundary in **Figure 3-4**.

Figure 3-3: Inner consultation zone (blue) in relation to the proposed Site boundary (red)

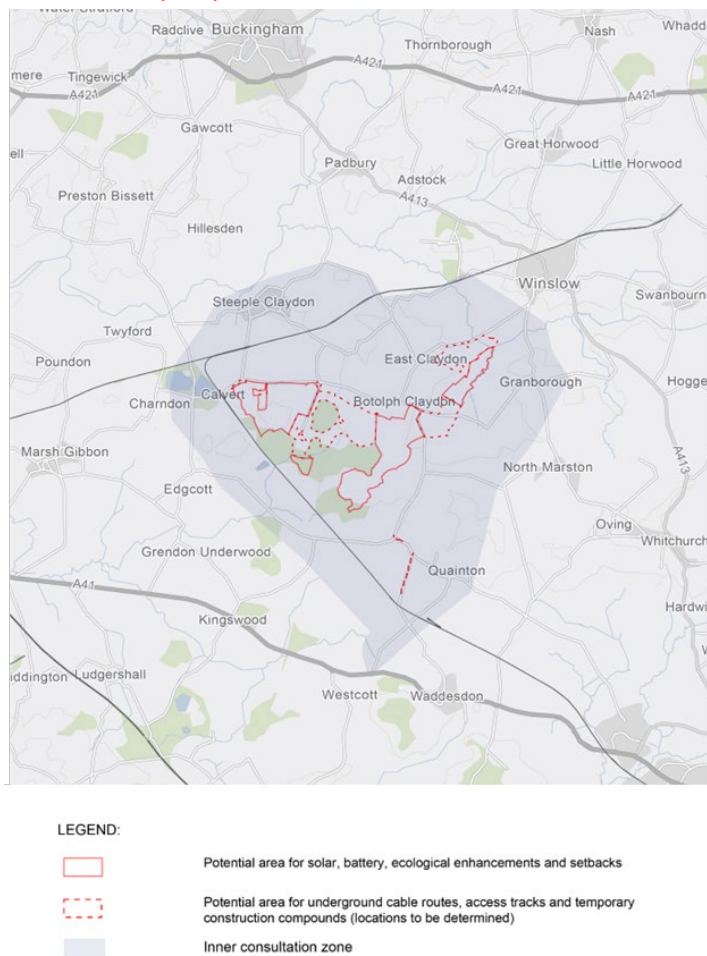
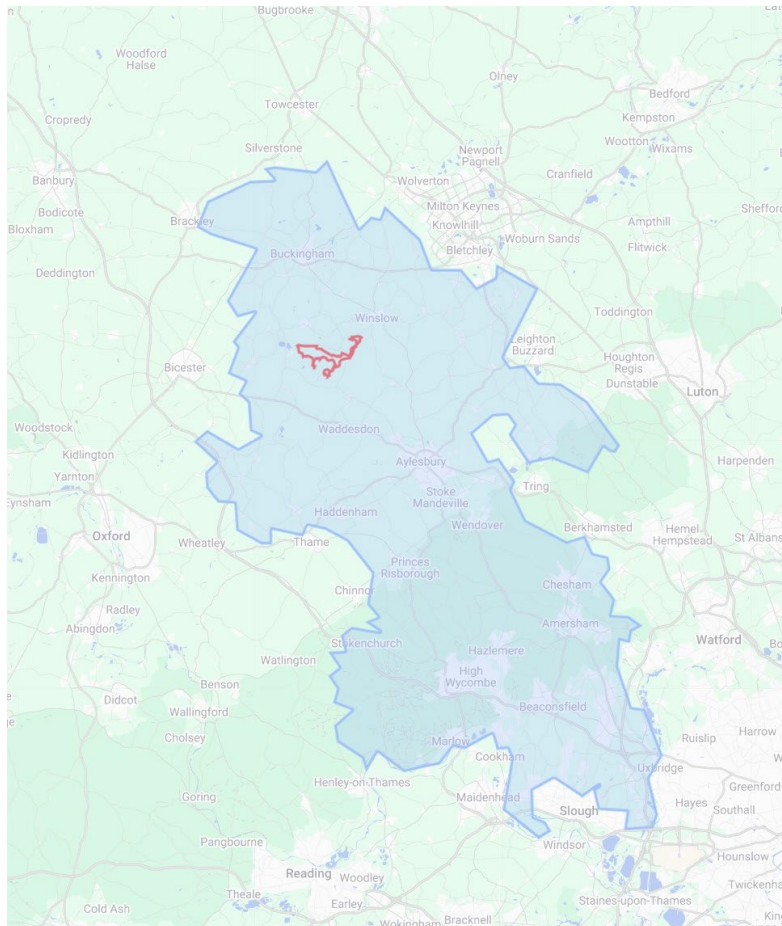


Figure 3-4: Map of the outer consultation zone (blue) in relation to the proposed Site boundary (red)



3.5.7. The Applicant also consulted a wide range of non-prescribed consultees due to their representative function, local knowledge and potential interest in the Proposed Development. Organisations were identified through desktop research, feedback from Phase One Consultation and engagement with the host authority. These included parish councils, community and seldom heard groups, education providers, business representative groups and local interest organisations (including ecology, heritage and walking groups). A total of 124 non-prescribed consultees were contacted by the Applicant.

Availability of consultation materials

3.5.8. Consultation materials were available to inspect in printed form throughout the consultation period at two deposit locations, listed in **Table 3-2**. The SoCC was available to inspect at each location from 04 September 2024, with the remaining consultation materials available from the beginning of the consultation period on 18 September 2024.

- 3.5.9. As well as a printed copy of the PEIR and SoCC to inspect, each location was sent copies of the consultation booklet and consultation questionnaires for people to take away. USBs containing the consultation materials – including the PEIR – were also available for people to take away.
- 3.5.10. Where information was updated during Phase Two Consultation (as described in sections 2.8.7 to 2.8.8 and 3.2.2 to 3.2.4), the deposit point was either updated by the Applicant or the materials were sent to the deposit points by post to update.
- 3.5.11. Regular checks (phone calls, emails and physical checks) were made of the deposit points to ensure materials remained available. An example of the deposit point at Winslow Community Library clearly showing the materials available is provided in **Figure 3-5**.

Table 3-2: Location of deposit points

Location	Opening times
East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall Botyl Road, Botolph Claydon MK18 2LR	Sunday to Thursday: 8am – 11pm Friday and Saturday: 8am – 12am
Winslow Community Library Park Rd, Winslow MK18 3DN	Monday: 9.30am – 5pm Wednesday: 9.30am – 1pm Friday: 1 – 5pm Saturday: 9.30am – 1pm

- 3.5.12. All consultation materials were available to view and download from 18 September 2024 from the Rosefield Solar Farm website. Anyone could get in touch to request (free of charge) printed copies of the consultation booklet and consultation questionnaire as well as USBs containing the consultation materials.
- 3.5.13. Four copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire were posted out following requests received through the Applicant's communication channels. The Applicant received one request for a hard copy of the chapters and appendices relevant to biodiversity of the PEIR from members of the Butterfly Conservation Trust. In addition, one copy of the Non-Technical Summary was issued to a member of the public. A copy of Figure 18.1 from the PEIR was issued to an elected representative following the public event at Calvert Green Village Hall. All these requests were fulfilled free of charge.
- 3.5.14. The consultation materials were available in alternate formats and languages upon request. This was advertised in the SoCC and Phase Two

Consultation booklet. No requests for alternative formats or languages were received.

- 3.5.15. Copies of the consultation materials were also available at the public events. Printed copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire were available to attendees to take away along with USBs containing the full set of consultation materials. Printed copies of the PEIR and SoCC were available to inspect at the events.

Figure 3-5: Consultation materials available at Winslow Community Library



3.6. Consultation materials and activities

Consultation newsletter

- 3.6.1. As described in paragraph 2.8.5, the launch of the Applicant's Phase Two Consultation ran in parallel with the publication of the SoCC. On 04 September 2024, a newsletter was sent to the inner zone (2,993 addresses) to publicise the availability of the SoCC and give advance notice of Phase Two Consultation which would begin 14 days later on 18 September 2024. The newsletter was also made available on the Rosefield Solar Farm website.

- 3.6.2. The newsletter publicised the consultation, including the dates, times and locations of the public events as well as the addresses and opening times of the deposit points. It also set out how people could access consultation materials, find out further information (e.g. by visiting the Rosefield Solar Farm website or contacting the Applicant using its communications channels), and how to respond to the consultation.
- 3.6.3. The consultation newsletter is available to view on the Rosefield Solar Farm website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk/document-library). A copy of this newsletter will be appended to the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.

Rosefield Solar Farm website and virtual exhibition

- 3.6.4. The Rosefield Solar Farm website hosted all of the consultation information throughout the consultation period, including a virtual exhibition with 3D indicative visualisations showing where Solar PV development was proposed.
- 3.6.5. The website hosted a document library which contained the following:
- SoCC
 - Consultation booklet
 - Consultation questionnaire (with an online version of the questionnaire linked on the website)
 - Exhibition banners summarising the proposals available at the public events
 - Consultation maps of the Proposed Development – including a map of the Proposed Development with a grid overlay to help people provide specific comments on the proposals.
 - PEIR
 - Consultation newsletter
 - Section 48 notice
- 3.6.6. The website was kept up to date for the duration of the Phase Two Consultation. The website has continued to host the consultation materials for reference and has been kept up to date following Phase Two Consultation.
- 3.6.7. Between publication of the SoCC and the day before the consultation started, there were 604 unique visitors to the Rosefield Solar Farm website who spent an average of 1 minute and 09 seconds on the website. Of the 604 unique visitors, 216 users clicked through to the document library. At this time, the website contained information about the

Proposed Development, materials available at Phase One Consultation and a copy of the SoCC that could be viewed and downloaded.

- 3.6.8. During the consultation period, there were 1,598 unique visitors to the Rosefield Solar Farm website (7,162 total views). Visitors to the website were most likely to visit the document library (460 users), with 260 users clicking through to the PEIR and 194 clicking through to the consultation booklet.
- 3.6.9. The interactive virtual exhibition provided an alternative format for people to learn about the Proposed Development. It included exhibition banners on display at the public events, plans of the Proposed Development, links to the online questionnaire and Rosefield Solar Farm website, as well as a link to a digital interactive portal. The digital interactive portal contained 3D indicative visualisations of the Proposed Development from different viewpoints around the proposed Site boundary. There were also two videos showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from the local road network. The virtual exhibition had 56 unique users within the consultation period. This is available to view through the Document Library page of the Rosefield Solar Farm website:
<https://rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/>. Screenshots of the virtual exhibition will be included as part of the Consultation Report.

Public events

- 3.6.10. Five public events were held within the consultation period. Venues for the events were chosen for their availability, size, accessibility and proximity to the Proposed Development.
- 3.6.11. Events were planned at a variety of different times and days of the week to accommodate the varying schedules and commitments of consultees. A preview session to enable elected representatives and officers to view the event and meet the project team took place between 1-2pm prior to the first event at Calvert Green Village Hall.
- 3.6.12. Each exhibition comprised 14 information boards, with large-scale copies of the updated layout of the Proposed Development and photomontages. Copies of the layout presented at Phase One Consultation were available to explain changes to the design that had been made. Copies of the SoCC and PEIR were available to inspect, with copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire available to be taken away. People were able to write their feedback at the event and deposit completed feedback in a secure box.
- 3.6.13. A digital 3D model was also available at the public events and showed indicative visualisations of the Proposed Development. The 3D model was operated by a company specialising in 3D modelling using a computer and television monitor, with attendees able to request to see indicative

visualisations of the solar panels from different locations. It also showed how planting could be utilised to screen areas of the Proposed Development and the existing baseline, as well as the preferred location of the battery storage and Rosefield Solar Farm.

- 3.6.14. The locations, times and attendance figures for the exhibitions are included in **Table 3-3**. In total, 239 people attended the five events.

Table 3-3: Public events held and attendance

Locations	Date	Attendance
Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar Cotswolds Way, Calvert MK18 2FJ	Thursday 3 October 2pm-6pm	34
East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall Botyl Road, Botolph Claydon MK18 2LR	Friday 4 October 4pm-8pm	112
Quainton Memorial Hall Station Rd, Quainton, Aylesbury HP22 4BW	Saturday 5 October 10am-2pm	27
Steeple Claydon Village Hall 48 Queen Catherine Rd, Steeple Claydon MK18 2PY	Friday 18 October 3.30pm-8pm	43
Quainton Memorial Hall Station Rd, Quainton, Aylesbury HP22 4BW	Saturday 19 October 10am-2pm	23

Stakeholder meetings

- 3.6.15. The Applicant also held meetings with interested stakeholders during the consultation period. This included a briefing for members of Buckinghamshire Council, as well as meetings with Milton Keynes College, the National Infrastructure Commission and National Highways.
- 3.6.16. The Applicant was also pleased to meet with representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Butterfly Conservation Trust and the relevant Internal Drainage Board at the public events, as well as elected representatives at parish, unitary and parliamentary levels.
- 3.6.17. The Applicant fulfilled all requests for stakeholder briefings during the consultation period and continues to welcome requests for briefings on the proposals.

Seldom heard groups

- 3.6.18. The Applicant sought to ensure that its consultation programme was inclusive and accessible to people seldom heard in consultation activity by:
- Writing to local authorities and organisations representing seldom heard individuals and groups to ensure our consultation activity and materials are appropriate and remove barriers to engagement.
 - Choosing accessible venues for deposit points and public events.
 - Publicising the consultation in digital editions of local newspapers and on social media to reach different demographics, such as younger 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 included 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.
 - Providing materials in alternative formats on request (e.g. different languages, large-print or easy read). Contact details to request materials in alternative formats were published on the Rosefield Solar Farm website, in the consultation booklet and newsletter.
 - Providing a variety of communication channels including a freephone number, email address and Freepost for those seeking further information.
- 3.6.19. In addition, the Applicant wrote to 59 gateway organisations and 11 education providers on 04 September 2024 and 18 September 2024, to let them know about the consultation, offer them a briefing and support them to promote the consultation on their own communications channels. This included a graphic highlighting how people could participate in the consultation was sent to all organisations where an email address was found during desktop research.

Communication channels

- 3.6.20. The consultation freephone (0800 861 1097) enabled anyone to get in touch to find out more about the consultation, request printed copies of the consultation materials and USBs, and speak to a member of the project team about the proposals. The freephone line was answered during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm).

- 3.6.21. Alternatively, people could email info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk with questions or requests for documents or USBs. This resulted in four copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire being sent out.

3.7. Publicising the consultation

- 3.7.1. Advertising took place across the inner and outer zone to publicise the consultation. Methods included newspaper advertising, social media and issuing press releases.

Section 48

- 3.7.2. The Applicant published notices containing the prescribed details in the newspapers and on the dates set out in **Table 3-4** pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008 and regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations.

Table 3-4: Details of newspaper publication of section 48 notice

Newspaper	Date of advertisement
Bucks Herald	11 September and 18 September 2024
The Guardian	11 September 2024
London Gazette	11 September 2024

- 3.7.3. A copy of the notices as published, as well as a screenshot showing this on the Rosefield Solar Farm website, is provided in **Appendix C-3**.
- 3.7.4. The Proposed Development is an EIA development, and therefore in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations the Applicant enclosed a copy of the section 48 notice to the consultation bodies as part of the letters sent to all section 42 consultees.

Newspaper and social media advertising

- 3.7.5. In addition to the statutory notices, the Applicant sought to publicise the consultation through an advertising campaign encompassing local newspapers, digital advertising and social media advertising. The purpose of the campaign was to reach people within the inner and outer zone (**Figures 3-3** and **3-4**) to raise awareness of the consultation, including the times and dates of the public events and where people could find out more about the Proposed Development.
- 3.7.6. Advertising during the Phase Two Consultation period was supplemented by pre-consultation advertising between 04 September – 18 September 2024 to publicise the launch of Phase Two Consultation and the availability of the SoCC, as described in paragraph 2.8.5.

- 3.7.7. From the start of the consultation period, the Applicant advertised the consultation, including the dates, times and locations of the public events, and where people could find out more information about the Proposed Development in both print and digital versions of the Bucks Herald and Bucks Free Press (combined circulation of 6,003 per issue).
- 3.7.8. A media release (in addition to one published at launch on 04 September 2024) was issued to approximately 50 journalists and media outlets on 18 September 2024 to update on the start of the consultation period. Information about the consultation was covered by BBC Beds, Herts & Bucks and Bucks Free Press.
- 3.7.9. The Applicant used social media advertising to reach as many people as possible. Advertisements were run on Facebook and LinkedIn platforms to promote the consultation and encourage those with an interest to submit their feedback.
- 3.7.10. A post was shared on the EDF Renewables UK & Ireland LinkedIn account (c. 93,000 followers) on 18 September 2024 to publicise the commencement of Phase Two Consultation, which received 6,027 impressions (in addition to one published at launch on 04 September 2024 which received 7,406 impressions).
- 3.7.11. A series of Facebook advertisements set out the dates of the consultation period, information about the public events and how people could find out more information and share their feedback. The Applicant targeted users living within 20 kilometres of the proposed Site boundary between 11 September 2024 and 05 December 2024, reaching 84,627 users.

3.8. Outcomes of Phase Two Consultation

- 3.8.1. The Applicant received 186 responses to Phase Two Consultation. A total of 186 “relevant responses” for the purposes of s49 of the PA 2008 were received in response to Phase Two Consultation. **Table 3-5** includes a breakdown of responses by response type.

Table 3-5: Number of responses received by method

Method of response submission	Total
Emails	166
Online questionnaire	18
Hard-copy (post or returned at event)	2

3.8.2. Responses have been received, securely recorded and analysed by a consultancy specialising in public consultation and stakeholder engagement. The following process has been utilised:

- When a response was received which provided identifying details (e.g., a postcode, company name), it was identified whether the response had been submitted by an individual or organisation under s42, s47 or s48.
- Each response was assigned a unique ID number, and their feedback was recorded against this number in a secure database.
- Hard copy questionnaires and letters were manually typed and recorded against the respondent's unique ID number.
- Responses were analysed at sentence level, using thematic coding to group together comments on similar topics, with unique ID numbers logged against comments to indicate frequency.
- An individual response was broken down and coded in as many themes as required to ensure that the entire sentiment was captured.
- The coding process enabled all responses to be indexed according to the issues raised by respondents and allowed a detailed summary to be prepared of the content by themes and topics raised.

3.9. Responses received to section 42 consultation

3.9.1. The Applicant received 33 responses from consultees prescribed under section 42(1)(a) or (b) to Phase Two Consultation. All of these responses were sent via email and did not follow the format of the consultation questionnaire, due to the detailed and specific nature of their comments.

3.9.2. These respondents included:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Anglian Water | • Historic England |
| • Buckinghamshire Council | • National Highways |
| • Bucks Fire and Rescue | • National Trust |
| • Calvert Green Parish Council | • Natural England |
| • East Claydon Parish Council | • NGET |
| | • Steeple Claydon Parish Council |

3.9.3. The Applicant received responses from Natural England and Quainton Parish Council on 06 December 2024, and National Highways on 19 December 2024. All were accepted by the Applicant.

- 3.9.4. The Applicant will include a summary of any responses to Phase Two Consultation identified as consultees under s42(1)(d) within the Consultation Report.
- 3.9.5. Within the Consultation Report, the Applicant will include a table which summarises feedback received from s42 consultees by theme and topic, along with the regard had by the Applicant and whether the feedback resulted in a change to the Proposed Development.

3.10. Responses received to section 47 consultation

- 3.10.1. This section sets out “relevant responses” for the purposes of s49 of the PA 2008 received from the local community, including a summary of the most common topics raised in feedback received.
- 3.10.2. The Applicant received 153 responses¹ to the s47 consultation between 18 September and 5 December 2024, with the vast majority of responses received via email (89%). The methods available to respond to the consultation are set out in section 3.3.
- 3.10.3. A total of 87 respondents provided a postcode as part of their consultation response, and responses received by village are shown in **Table 3-6**. All postcodes have been mapped in **Figure 3-6**.
- 3.10.4. Almost a third (32%) of respondents who provided a postcode were from Botolph Claydon, followed by 20% of respondents from East Claydon.

Table 3-7: Responses received by village

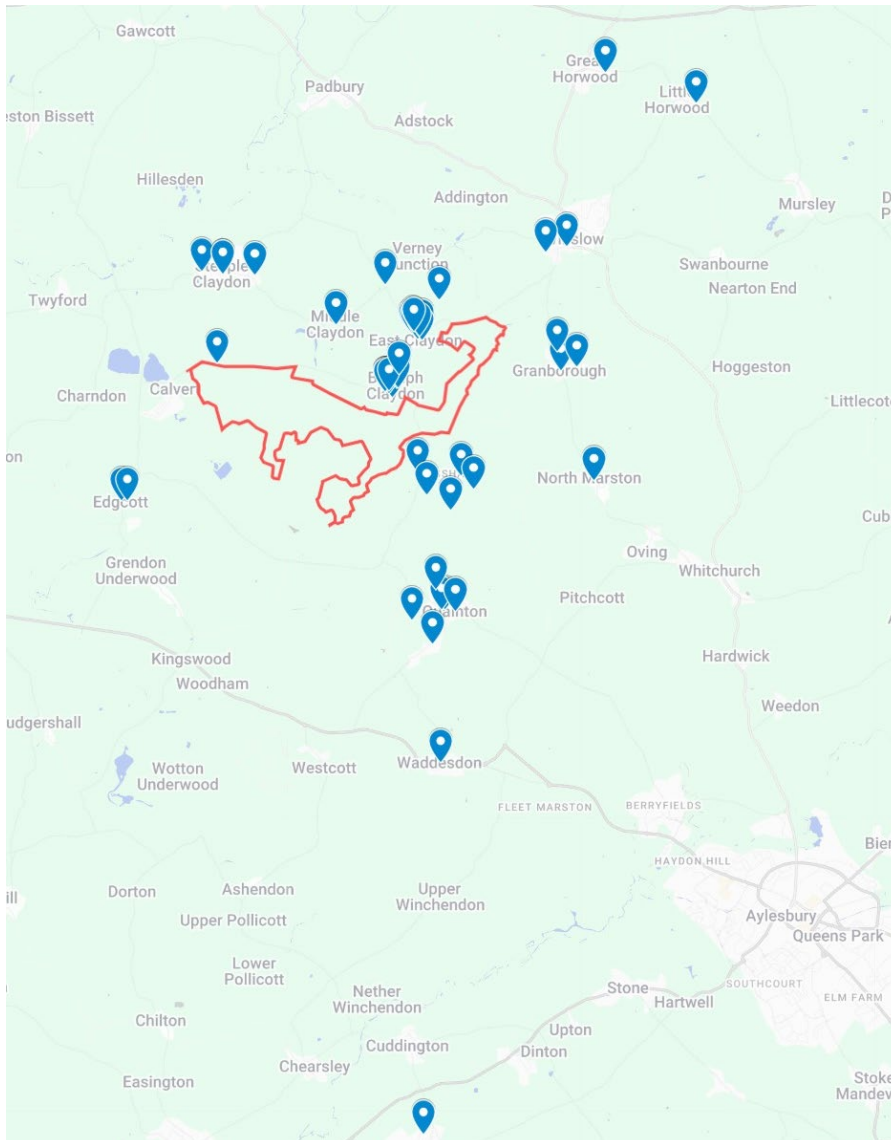
Village	Total
Botolph Claydon	28
East Claydon	18
Steeple Claydon	7
Quinton	6
Granborough	5
Hogshaw	5
Winslow	4

¹ Noting that this may change where s47 responses are identified as section 42(1)(d) as part of the reporting process.

Other

14

Figure 3-6: Geographical location of responses (blue pins) which provided a postcode in relation to the proposed Site boundary (red)



3.10.5. The Consultation Report will include an appendix which will summarise the feedback received from s47 consultees by theme and topic, along with the regard had to the feedback by the Applicant and whether the feedback resulted in a change to the Proposed Development.

3.11. Responses received to section 48 consultation

3.11.1. The Applicant sought responses from s48 consultees (see section 3.7). None of the consultation responses specified that they had submitted under s48.

3.12. Changes to the Proposed Development following Phase Two Consultation

- 3.12.1. Changes to the design of the Proposed Development that have been made as a result of feedback received to Phase Two Consultation include:
- Removal of proposed solar development from a field to reduce effects on a residential property.
 - Removal of proposed solar development from parts of two fields to reduce effects on a residential property.
 - Removal of proposed solar development from parts of two fields to reduce potential effects on the setting and significance of Claydon House and Claydon Park.
 - Potential for the Rosefield Substation and battery storage to be located in a field (E23) removed – Field E23 is now proposed for solar only.
 - New hedgerow planting proposed along the parts of the Bernwood Jubilee Way within the proposed Site boundary.
 - New permissive walking routes proposed to connect HS2 footway to Steeple Claydon and future HS2 footway to Calvert Green.
 - New permissive walking route proposed to connect Knowl Hill to Calvert Road, extending the proposed route shown at Phase Two Consultation. Removal of proposed solar development from a field to reduce effects on a residential property.
 - Option for the southern cable route to connect Parcels 1 and 2 removed.
 - New permissive walking route to connect Splash Lane and Bernwood Jubilee Way.
 - Amendments to proposed footpath diversions to run along field edges where possible, rather than through the middle of fields where solar is proposed.
- 3.12.2. A Community Update newsletter was sent to all addresses within the inner zone on 21 May 2025. This included the updated operational layout of the Proposed Development and describes the changes made as a result of the feedback received. This is included within **Appendix C-4** of the Report to demonstrate how feedback is shaping the Application.

4. Additional targeted consultation

4.1. Purpose of consultation

- 4.1.1. Feedback received from Phase Two Consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessment and technical work, resulted in a number of changes to the proposals.
- 4.1.2. Where these changes required minor additions to the proposed Order Limits, or it was considered useful to gain feedback on them ahead of the submission of the Application, the Applicant commenced targeted statutory consultation with relevant prescribed and non-prescribed consultees and affected land interests.
- 4.1.3. The Applicant is undertaking targeted consultation on two proposed changes (together 'the proposed changes') concurrently between 21 May – 16 July 2025 (56 days). The consultation period was determined in consultation with the host authority.
- 4.1.4. The Applicant has set out a description of the proposed changes, consultation method and identification of consultees for each targeted consultation below.

Change 1: Addition to the proposed Site boundary ('the proposed additional land')

- 4.1.5. Change 1 relates to the incorporation of an existing farm track, currently used by traffic associated by HS2, to provide access to the area proposed for landscaping and environmental enhancements in Parcel 1a. This requires an amendment to the proposed Site boundary and is therefore subject to targeted consultation. This would allow light vehicles, such as tractors, to access this area for planting and maintenance.

Change 2: Proposed changes to the layout of Parcel 3 ('the proposed layout changes')

- 4.1.6. At Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant presented and assessed two different scenarios for the location of the BESS, Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation to account for uncertainty associated with the proposed replacement National Grid East Claydon Substation.
- 4.1.7. The Applicant has identified a single preferred layout for these elements, which involves the following:
 - At Phase Two Consultation, Rosefield Substation was proposed to be sited in either Field E11 or Field E23 in Parcel 3. In response to feedback, this is now proposed to be sited in Fields E11 and E20 in Parcel 3.
 - At Phase Two Consultation, the BESS was proposed to be in Field E23 in Parcel 3 and/or Fields D8/D9 in Parcel 2. In response to feedback

received, Field E23 has been removed as an option for the BESS site. The BESS is now solely proposed to be located in Fields D8/D9 in Parcel 2.

- At Phase Two Consultation, the Main Collector Compound was proposed to be located in either Field E20, E21, E22 or E23 in Parcel 3. In response to feedback, Field E23 has now been discounted as a potential location, while Field E11 is being considered alongside Fields E20, E21 or E22 in Parcel 3.

4.1.8. Neither of the proposed changes would affect the outcomes of the environmental assessments described in the PEIR published as part of Phase Two Consultation.

4.2. Identification of consultees

4.2.1. The Applicant undertook targeted consultation with affected s42(1)(d) consultees as required by PA 2008. Land interests were identified through a process of diligent inquiry undertaken by the Applicant as described in paragraphs 3.4.9 to 3.4.14 to ensure that any additional land interests were consulted.

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

4.2.3. The Applicant also consulted with relevant prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a) and (b) and non-prescribed consultees on a precautionary basis. This included host local authorities, parish councils and organisations likely to have an interest in the proposed changes (e.g., those with an interest in the proposed additional land such as HS2, and those likely to have an interest in the proposed layout changes). In compiling the list of prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, the Applicant took into account 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.

4.2.4. In line with the SoCC, the Applicant sought advice on its approach from the host authority through its regular PPA calls on 19 February and 02 April 2025. In response to feedback from the host authority, the Applicant extended the consultation period to eight weeks, from the four weeks originally proposed.

4.2.5. A full list of prescribed and non-prescribed consultees consulted on the proposed changes is provided at **Appendix C-5** (sorted by each targeted consultation). 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.

4.3. Consultation activity

- 4.3.1. The Applicant sent letters by recorded delivery to all consultees, notifying them of the changes and inviting comment for a 56-day period between 21 May 2025 and 16 July 2025. The content and plans included within the letters differed for each targeted consultation.

Change 1: Targeted consultation on the proposed additional land

- 4.3.2. All consultees received a letter to notify them of the changes and invite comment for a 56-day period between 21 May and 16 July 2024, as well as a plan showing the proposed Site boundary with the proposed additional land shown in blue. Land interests received land interest plans relevant to the nature of their interest.

Change 2: Targeted consultation on the proposed layout changes

- 4.3.3. All consultees received a letter to notify them of the changes and invite comment for a 56-day period between 21 May and 16 July 2024. An enclosed plan showed the updated layout within Parcel 3, with an extract of the previous proposed layout in this area for comparison (presented at Phase Two Consultation) presented on the same page.
- 4.3.4. In addition, the Applicant also prepared an addendum to the PEIR to confirm that the proposed layout changes would not result in any new or different potentially significant effects than those presented at Phase Two Consultation. The letter contained a link to the PEIR Addendum which was published on the Rosefield Solar Farm website.

Activity on both of the proposed changes

- 4.3.5. Where consultees were consulted on both of the proposed changes, the Applicant emailed these consultees to explain the relationship between the two consultations and confirm that any response made could cover both the proposed changes.
- 4.3.6. The Applicant also wrote to members representing the ward in which the Proposed Development is located, offering a meeting to discuss the proposed changes.
- 4.3.7. Noting the wider community interest in the Proposed Development, the Applicant issued a Community Update newsletter (**Appendix C-4**) to all addresses within the inner zone of consultation (2,993 addresses) on 20 May 2025 to coincide with the start of targeted consultation. This described all the changes made to the design of the Proposed Development.

- 4.3.8. Given the targeted nature of the consultation, the Applicant invited feedback on the proposed changes in writing via Freepost or email, rather than using a consultation questionnaire.
- 4.4. Responses received to targeted consultation and changes made to the Proposed Development in response to feedback received
 - 4.4.1. Both targeted consultations are currently ongoing at the time of writing this Report.
 - 4.4.2. The Consultation Report will include a summary of feedback received to the targeted consultation by theme and topic, along with the regard had to the feedback by the Applicant and whether the feedback resulted in a change to the Proposed Development.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1.1. This Report describes how the statutory requirements for pre-application consultation have been fulfilled by the Applicant, and demonstrates that the consultation has met the requirements set out in sections 42, 47, 48, 49 and 50 of the PA 2008 (as well as the requirements of the APFP Regulations and EIA Regulations). **Appendix D-1** sets out how the Applicant has complied with guidance on the pre-application process.
- 5.1.2. The purpose of this Report is to enable the Planning Inspectorate and the host local authorities to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date, minimising the risk of non-acceptance at the acceptance stage. It mirrors the content and structure of the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. This relationship is shown in **Appendix D-2**.
- 5.1.3. The Applicant shared a copy of the Report with Buckinghamshire Council ('the host authority') on 21 May 2025. A copy of the response provided by the host authority on 24 July 2025 which has been appended to this Report (**Appendix E-1**). The Applicant has submitted this Report to the Planning Inspectorate ahead of the planned submission of the Application.
- 5.1.4. As demonstrated by this Report, feedback from consultation and engagement has been integral to developing the design of the Proposed Development. The Applicant's programme of consultation and engagement has spanned almost two years, and has included two formal phases of consultation, two additional targeted consultations and a continuous programme of stakeholder engagement.
- 5.1.5. The Applicant is very grateful to all those who have responded to the consultation and engaged with the project team to help shape the Proposed Development so far.
- 5.1.6. Full detail about the Applicant's programme of pre-application consultation and engagement, including how feedback has informed the design of the Proposed Development, will be provided in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.



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