

Rosefield Solar Farm

Consultation Report

EN010158/APP/5.1
DATE
Rosefield Energyfarm Limited

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)
Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009



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List of abbreviations

Term	Abbreviation
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone	AoCM
Adequacy of Consultation Report	AoCR
Balance of Solar System	BoSS
Battery Energy Storage System	BESS
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust	BBOWT
Development Consent Order	DCO
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA
Hectare	Ha
High Speed 2	HS2
His Majesty's Land Registry	HMLR
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009	APFP Regulations
Infrastructure Planning: (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017	EIA Regulations
Land Interest Questionnaire	LIQ
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	LVIA
Megawatt	MW
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project	NSIP
Planning Act 2008	PA 2008
Planning Performance Agreement	PPA
Preliminary Environmental Information Report	PEIR
Public Right of Way	PRoW
Residential Visual Amenity Assessment	RVAA
Section 42	S42

Term	Abbreviation
Section 44	S44
Section 46	S46
Section 47	S47
Section 48	S48
Section 51	S51
Statement of Common Consultation	SoCC
Statement of Common Ground	SoCG

Executive Summary

This Consultation Report (“the Report”) relates to the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm project (the “Proposed Development”) and is submitted by Rosefield Energyfarm Limited (the “Applicant”) in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”). The approach taken to pre-application and engagement was designed to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements set out in sections 42, 47, 48, 49 and 50 of the PA 2008, while also exceeding these minimum requirements to ensure best practice.

Pre-application consultation and engagement were key features of the evolution of the Proposed Development, enabling continuous improvements to the Applicant’s proposals and related assessments that form the basis of this application for development consent for the Proposed Development (the “Application”). This Report describes the pre-application consultation and engagement undertaken by the Applicant, summarises the responses received, and explains how the Applicant has had regard to them to develop its proposals.

The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic (‘PV’) development and energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the National Grid East Claydon Substation.

The Proposed Development would include a generating station with a total exporting capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (‘MW’).

The location of the Proposed Development is shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.1: Location Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The Proposed Development would be located within the Order Limits (the land shown on the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** within which the Proposed Development can be carried out). The Order Limits plan is provided as **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.2: Order Limits [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Land within the Order Limits is known as the ‘Site’.

The Consultation Report

The Report sets out how pre-application consultation (both statutory and non-statutory) was undertaken in the development of the Proposed Development. The main stages of consultation were:

- Phase One Consultation: Early plans and proposals (Autumn – Winter 2023) – a non-statutory consultation on early plans and proposals for the Proposed Development.
- Phase Two Consultation: Updated plans and proposals (Autumn – Winter 2024) – a statutory consultation on updated proposals for the Proposed Development, carried out in accordance with a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) and relevant legislative requirements.

- Targeted consultation on proposed changes (Spring - Summer 2025) – two concurrent targeted consultations on 1) proposed additional land to accommodate an access track identified following Phase Two Consultation and 2) proposed layout changes.

The Applicant has also undertaken a continuous programme of engagement since the launch of the Proposed Development in parallel with, and complementary to, its formal stages of pre-application consultation.

Outcomes of pre-application consultation

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 Applicant ensured that a range of engagement techniques were used, that materials were available in different formats and at appropriate levels and that the consultations and opportunities to provide feedback were widely publicised.

Key outcomes of Phase One Consultation included:

- 2,887 homes and businesses leafleted
- 421 people visited a public event and 241 visited the virtual exhibition.
- 565 responses received

Key outcomes of Phase Two Consultation included:

- 2,997 homes and businesses leafleted
- 239 people visited a public event, 1,598 visited the Rosefield Solar Farm project website and 56 visited the virtual exhibition
- 186 responses received

The Applicant had regard to all responses received to consultation in finalising its proposals, with feedback from both phases of formal consultation, and targeted consultations resulting in a number of changes being made to the Proposed Development. These changes, along with details of the ways in which the Applicant has complied with legislation, guidance and advice notes are explained in this Report.

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1. This Consultation Report (the “Report”) relates to the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm (the “Proposed Development”).
- 1.1.2. Rosefield Energyfarm Limited (the “Applicant”) has submitted an application (the “Application”) to the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) for the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3. In accordance with section 37(3)(c) and (7) of the Planning Act (“PA 2008”), the Applicant has submitted this Report as part of the Application.
- 1.1.4. This Report explains how the Applicant has complied with legislative requirements set out in the PA 2008 (as well as the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“APFP Regulations”) and the Infrastructure Planning: (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“EIA Regulations”). It also summarises the responses received to formal phases of consultation and explains how the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Application. It also provides information about non-statutory consultation and stakeholder engagement undertaken by the Applicant regarding the Proposed Development.

1.2. The Proposed Development

- 1.2.1. The Proposed Development is a new solar farm with battery storage in Buckinghamshire, close to the settlements of Steeple Claydon, East Claydon, Middle Claydon, Botolph Claydon and Calvert Green (the “Site”) within the administrative boundary of Buckinghamshire Council (“the host authority”).
- 1.2.2. The Proposed Development has a grid connection agreement with National Grid allowing the export and import of 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity through the East Claydon Substation.
- 1.2.3. The Proposed Development meets the criteria to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) under section 15(2) of the 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.
- 1.2.4. A full description of the Proposed Development is provided in **Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

1.2.5. Refining the design and layout of the Proposed Development was an iterative process, guided by a programme of pre-application consultation and engagement, as well as the outputs of environmental assessments and technical work. The key stages of design and how they relate to the stages of formal pre-application consultation are summarised in the **Design Approach Document [EN010158/APP/5.8]**.

1.3. Overview of the consultation process

1.3.1. **Table 1-1** provides a summary of key pre-application consultation milestones and signposts where these activities are described in the Report.

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 is detailed in **Chapter 3** of this Report
- Consultation relates to the formal stages of consultation (both non-statutory and statutory), the detail of which is provided in **Chapters 2, 5, 6 and 7** of this Report.

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

Activity	Date	Chapter of Report
Pre-Phase One Consultation: early engagement including with host authority	June – September 2023	Chapter 3 (sections 3.2.3 to 3.2.9)
Phase One Consultation: Early plans and proposals	28 September 2023 – 10 November 2023	Chapter 2
Pre-Phase Two Consultation: Stakeholder engagement to	November 2023 – September 2024	Chapter 3

Activity	Date	Chapter of Report
inform design development		
Development of the Statement of Community Consultation	April 2024 – August 2024	Chapter 4
Consultation of host local authority on the SoCC as prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008	12 July 2024 - 9 August 2024	Chapter 4 (section 4.7)
Publication of the SoCC	04 September 2024	Chapter 4 (section 4.8)
Notice of availability of SoCC in the vicinity of the proposal as prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008	04 September 2024	Chapter 4 (section 4.8)
SoCC made available in the vicinity of the proposal as prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008	04 September 2024 – 05 December 2024	Chapter 4 (section 4.8)
Notification of the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application as prescribed by s46 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 8	16 September 2024	Chapter 5 (paragraphs 5.4.16 to 5.4.18)

Activity	Date	Chapter of Report
of the EIA Regulations		
Phase Two Consultation: Updated plans and proposals	18 September 2024 – 05 December 2024	Chapter 5
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	Chapter 5 (section 5.7)
Consultation as prescribed under s42 of the PA 2008	18 September 2024 – 05 December 2024	Chapters 5 and 6
Consultation in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed under s47(7) of the PA 2008	18 September 2024 – 05 December 2024	Chapters 5 and 6
Post phase-two consultation: Stakeholder engagement to inform design development	December 2024 – August 2025	Chapter 3
Targeted consultation on proposed changes	21 May 2025 – 16 July 2025	Chapter 7

1.4. Report structure

1.4.1. This Report is structured as follows:

- **Executive summary:** provides an overview of this Report, detailing the background, the process and the outcomes of the steps undertaken.
- **Chapter 1 Introduction:** explains the purpose of this Report, describes the Proposed Development and summarises the key pre-application consultation milestones.
- **Chapter 2 Phase One Consultation 2023:** summarises non-statutory consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development between 28 September and 10 November 2023 ('Phase One Consultation'), including how the Applicant has had regard to feedback received and changes made as a result of consultation. It should be read alongside **Appendices A-1 to A-4 [EN010158/APP/5.2]**.
- **Chapter 3 Stakeholder and community engagement:** summarises non-statutory engagement undertaken with the local community, stakeholders and the host authority about the Proposed Development outside of formal consultation periods. It should be read alongside **Appendices B-1 to B-2 and M-1 to M-2 [EN010158/APP/5.2]**.
- **Chapter 4 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 C-1 to C-4 and D-1 to D-4 [EN010158/APP/5.2]**.
- **Chapter 5 Phase Two Consultation 2024:** details the statutory consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development between 18 September and 5 December 2024 ('Phase Two Consultation'). It should be read alongside **Appendices E-1, F-1, G-1 to G-3, H-1 and L-1 [EN010158/APP/5.2]** and **Copies of Newspaper Notices [EN010158/APP/1.7]**.
- **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. It should be read alongside **Appendices J-1 to J-2 [EN010158/APP/5.2]**.
- **Chapter 7 Additional targeted consultation:** details the two targeted consultations undertaken on proposed changes to the Proposed Development between 21 May 2025 and 16 July 2025, including how the Applicant has had regard to feedback received and changes made as a result of consultation. It should be read alongside **Appendices K-1 to K-5 [EN010158/APP/5.2]**.
- **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. It should be read alongside **Appendices L-1 to L-2 [EN010158/APP/5.2]**.

1.5. Covering letter and completed section 55 checklist

- 1.5.1. An **Application Covering Letter [EN010158/APP/1.1]** and completed **Section 55 checklist [EN010158/APP/1.4]** are submitted with the Application documents.
- 1.5.2. The completed Section 55 checklist signposts how the Applicant has complied with the pre-application consultation requirements within the PA 2008, APFP Regulations, EIA Regulations and the Planning Inspectorate's pre-application guidance.

2. Phase One Consultation 2023

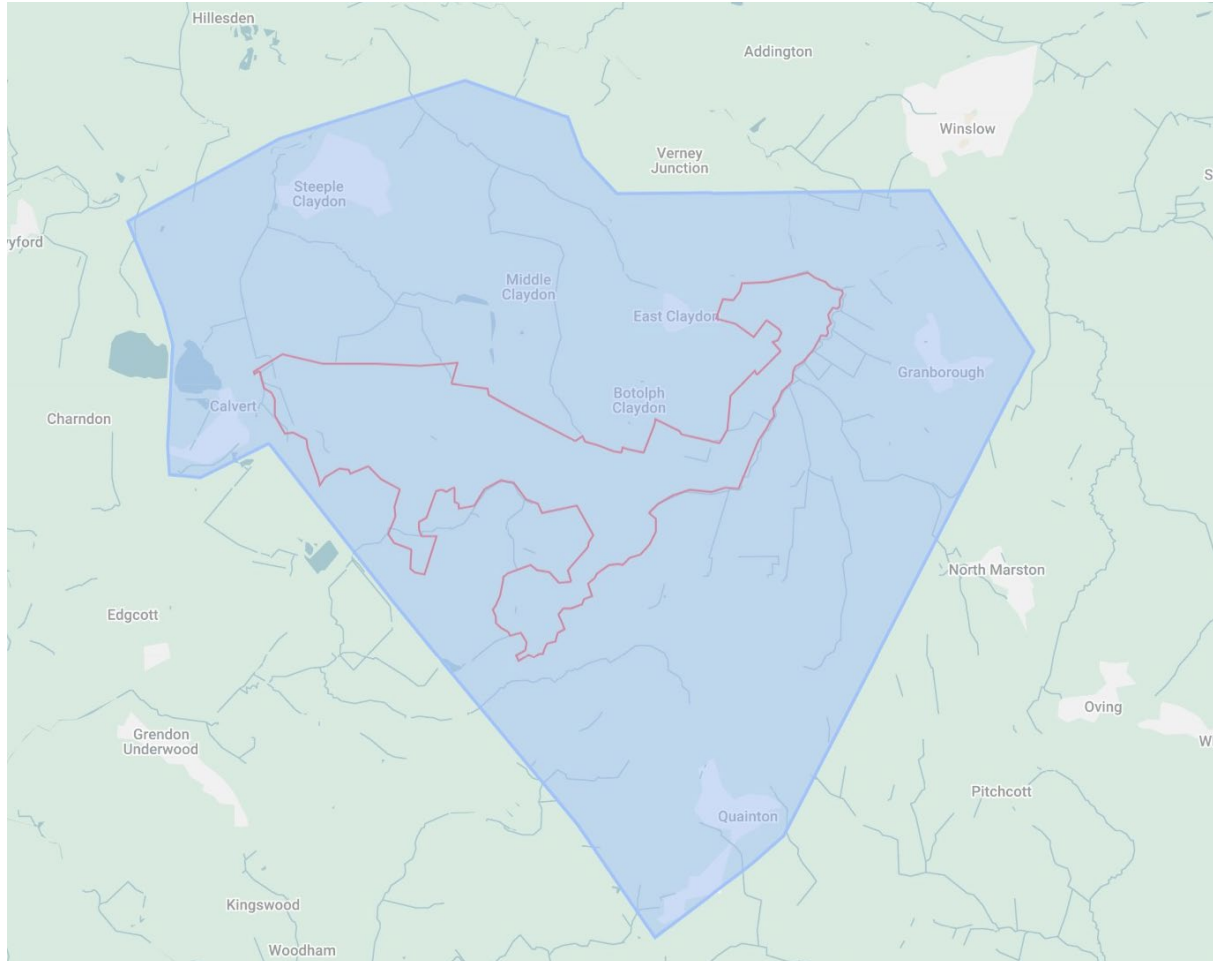
2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1. The Applicant conducted a period of non-statutory consultation ('Phase One Consultation: early plans and proposals) on the Proposed Development for six weeks between 28 September 2023 and 10 November 2023.
- 2.1.2. In preparing for the consultation, the Applicant designed a strategy to ensure that anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development could find out more and share their views. Key activities included:
- Delivering 5,774 newsletters to homes and businesses.
 - Holding five public events in locations around the proposed Site boundary, supported by a virtual exhibition and the Rosefield Solar Farm project website.
 - Placing copies of the consultation materials in locations around the proposed Site boundary for people to inspect and take away.
 - Writing to a number of stakeholders and community organisations to raise awareness of the consultation and provide more information about the proposals.
 - Providing a range of communication channels to enable anyone to find out more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback.
 - Conducting an advertising campaign which included print, digital and social media advertising.
- 2.1.3. The purpose of this period of non-statutory consultation was to gain feedback on the early design of the Proposed Development, the process of Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") and the Applicant's initial approach to community benefit. It also helped inform the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including the development of the SoCC.
- 2.1.4. The Applicant welcomed 421 people to public events about the Proposed Development and received 565 responses to its Phase One Consultation.
- 2.1.5. A detailed description of the activity carried out in support of the consultation is provided below, along with the feedback received.

2.2. Zones of consultation

- 2.2.1. The consultation was open to anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development who the Applicant considered may be directly or indirectly impacted, or who had comments they would like to be considered.
- 2.2.2. The Applicant defined inner and outer zones of consultation to ensure that consultation activity was appropriate and proportionate to the potential effects of the Proposed Development. These are defined as:
- Inner zone: People living, working or studying closest to the Proposed Development and therefore likely to have a direct interest. The zone was drawn taking into account the potential effects of the proposals, the proposed Site boundary, nearby settlements, the local network of Public Rights of Way ("PRoW") and existing boundaries, such as roads, to set the area. This totalled 21.18 square miles and encompassed 2,887 addresses. The map is provided below at **Figure 2-1**.
 - Outer zone: People living, working or studying within the administrative boundaries of the host authority.
- 2.2.3. Consultation activity and publicity was most intensive within the inner zone of consultation. The different techniques used to publicise the consultation are detailed in section 2.4.
- 2.2.4. At the same time as consulting the local community, the Applicant also consulted a wide range of stakeholders, using the prescribed consultee list set out in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations as guidance to ensure that stakeholders had sufficient opportunities to comment on the Proposed Development. It also considered additional organisations that could have an interest in the Proposed Development.
- 2.2.5. These groups included:
- The host and neighbouring local authorities.
 - Statutory bodies (such as the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England).
 - Other community groups and organisations that may have an interest in the proposals (such as the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust ('BBOWT')).

Figure 2-1 Inner zone of consultation: Distribution zone for the launch leaflet and consultation newsletter shown in blue in relation to the proposed Site boundary (red).



Consultation publicity

- 2.2.6. The Applicant launched the consultation and its early plans for the Proposed Development on 14 September 2023 – two weeks ahead of the start of the consultation period – to ensure there was sufficient notice to participate in the consultation and attend public events.
- 2.2.7. The Applicant used a range of techniques to publicise the Phase One Consultation, which are summarised below and included in **Appendix A-1: Launch and advertising:**
- Sending a launch leaflet (**Appendix A-1.1: Launch leaflet**) on 14 September 2023 to 2,887 homes and businesses within the inner zone to provide information about the consultation, including the timings of the public events and the Applicant's contact details.

- Writing to stakeholders and elected representatives on 14 September 2023 to introduce the Proposed Development and offer a briefing. This included parish councils, ward councillors, Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet, and Members of the Parliament within the inner zone. A sample email is included in **Appendix A-1.2: Stakeholder launch email**.
- Publishing a website with information about the Proposed Development and Phase One Consultation. Screenshots of the Rosefield Solar Farm project website at launch are provided in **Appendix A-1.3: Screenshot of launch Rosefield Solar Farm website**.
- Issuing a press release to approximately 27 local and energy industry publications (**Appendix A-1.4: Launch advertising**). Two local publications covered the launch: Bucks Radio and Bucks Free Press, as well as energy industry publications Energy Live News, reNEWS and EnergyPortal.EU.
- Sharing a post on the launch and consultation period on the EDF Renewables UK & Ireland LinkedIn account (c.87,000 followers), a screenshot of which is included in **Appendix A-1.4: Launch advertising**.

2.2.8. The Applicant gave advance notice to a number of stakeholders, including the host authority, parish councils and near neighbours. This included a series of pre-briefings, as well as door knocking 43 properties identified as closest to the Proposed Development on 13 September 2023 (the day prior to launch). More information about pre-launch activity is available in **Chapter 3** of this Report.

2.2.9. Following the launch of the Proposed Development, a range of activities was included in the Phase One Consultation programme (28 September – 10 November 2023) to publicise the Proposed Development and ensure that the community could access the consultation information and respond.

2.2.10. These activities are summarised below with supporting material included in **Appendix A-2: Phase One Consultation materials and advertising** and **Appendix A-3: Screenshots of Phase One Consultation website and virtual exhibition**.

2.3. Scope of Phase One Consultation

2.3.1. Consultation was carried out between 28 September 2023 and 10 November 2023. As part of the Phase One Consultation, information was presented on:

- The background to the Proposed Development.
- The need for the Proposed Development.

- Information about the Applicant.
- The DCO process.
- The role of consultation.
- The location of the Proposed Development.
- Approach to design and early design principles.
- Early design of the Proposed Development.
- The technology that would be used for the Proposed Development, including its grid connection.
- The EIA process.
- Approach to community benefits.
- How to participate in Phase One Consultation.
- The timeline for the Proposed Development and next steps.

2.3.2. The Applicant published information on the Proposed Development, including the early design and its approach to environmental assessments in a range of different materials as part of Phase One Consultation. These are listed below and provided in **Appendix A-2: Phase One Consultation materials and advertising** and **Appendix A-3: Screenshots of Phase One Consultation website and virtual exhibition**.

- Phase One Consultation booklet (**Appendix A-2.3**): a 32-page non-technical overview of the Proposed Development. The booklet also included information on the planning process, the Applicant, Phase One Consultation, the EIA process, and approach to community benefit.
- Phase One Consultation maps (**Appendix A-2.4**): A masterplan of the proposals, available in large scale at public events and on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website to provide alternative formats for people to understand the proposals.
- Phase One Consultation questionnaire: the main mechanism for collecting feedback (**Appendix A-2.5**).
- Phase One Consultation exhibition banners: an accessible summary of the Proposed Development, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps (**Appendix A-2.6**) shown at the public events and downloadable on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website.
- A virtual exhibition: containing the exhibition banners and a link to the online questionnaire and Rosefield Solar Farm project website (shown in **Appendix A-3**).

2.3.3. Through Phase One Consultation, the Applicant sought views on:

- The potential locations of the solar generation element of the Proposed Development, the potential areas for battery storage and general comments about the design of the Proposed Development.
- The potential to include environmental enhancements as part of the Proposed Development.
- Initial ideas for new public footpaths and suggestions for other improvements and additional routes.
- Any information about the area and local environment relevant to the Proposed Development.
- Any local initiatives that the Proposed Development could support and existing community funds and organisations operating in the area.

2.4. Consultation techniques

- 2.4.1. There were a range of means available for interested parties to find out more about the Proposed Development and ensure they had enough information to respond effectively to the consultation.
- 2.4.2. The Rosefield Solar Farm project website was updated with information about the consultation on 28 September 2023. The website included access to a summary of the proposals and online questionnaire, downloadable consultation materials, a link to the virtual exhibition, details of how to take part in the consultation and the Applicant's contact details.
- 2.4.3. The virtual exhibition contained digital versions of the exhibition banners that were available at the in-person public events, as well as links to the online questionnaire. The virtual exhibition was visited by 241 unique visitors at the close of Phase One Consultation. Screenshots of the virtual exhibition are provided in **Appendix A-3: Screenshots of Phase One Consultation website and virtual exhibition**.
- 2.4.4. All materials published as part of Phase One Consultation were made available on the website for the duration of the consultation period.

Public events

- 2.4.5. The Applicant held five public events within the consultation period. This included an additional event added following the project launch. Venues for the events were chosen for their availability, size and accessibility, and proximity to the Proposed Development. Events were planned for a variety of times and days of the week to ensure that people with different schedules and commitments were able to attend.
- 2.4.6. A preview session was held for elected representatives and officers (1pm-2pm on Wednesday 4 October 2023) at the first event at Calvert Green

Village Hall to enable stakeholders to view the consultation materials and ask questions to the project team.

- 2.4.7. Each exhibition comprised 14 information boards, large-scale maps and a 3D model which showed indicative images of the Proposed Development. People were able to write their feedback at the event and deposit completed feedback in a secure box. Copies of the consultation materials were available to be taken away.

Figure 2-2: Image of the public event held at East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall



- 2.4.8. 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.
- 2.4.9. The locations, times and attendance figures for the public events are included in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1: Public events held and attendance

Locations	Dates	Attendance
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Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar, Cotswolds Way, Calvert, MK18 2FJ	Wednesday, 4 October 2023 (2:30pm- 6:30pm)	84
Quainton Memorial Hall, Station Rd, Quainton, HP22 4BW	Friday, 6 October 2023 (2pm- 6pm)	60
East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall, Botyl Road, Botolph Claydon, MK18 2LR	Saturday, 7 October 2023 (10am-2pm)	163
Steeple Claydon Village Hall, 48 Queen Catherine Rd, Steeple Claydon, MK18 2PY	Monday, 9 October 2023 (10am-2pm)	73
Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar, Cotswolds Way, Calvert, Buckingham MK18 2FJ	Wednesday, 1 November 2023 (5pm-8pm)	41

Deposit points

- 2.4.10. Copies of the Phase One Consultation booklet and questionnaire were made available at deposit points close to the Site for the duration of the consultation period. Checks were made throughout the consultation period to ensure the deposit points were stocked. The locations are detailed in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2: Deposit points

Locations	Address	Opening hours
Steeple Claydon Library	48 Queen Catherine Rd, Steeple Claydon, MK18 2PY	Tuesday: 2.30pm-5.30pm Thursday: 9am-12pm Friday: 2.30pm-5.30pm Saturday: 9.30am-12.30pm
East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall	Botyl Road Botolph Claydon, MK18 2LR	Monday-Saturday: 9am-8pm (opening hours vary while community events are taking place).
Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar	Cotswolds Way, Calvert, MK18 2FJ	Monday-Thursday: 9am-11pm Friday-Saturday: 9am-12am Sunday: 9am-10.30pm

Winslow Community Library	Park Rd, Winslow, MK18 3DN	Monday: 9.30am-5pm Wednesday: 9.30am-1pm Friday: 1pm-5pm Saturday: 9.30am-1pm
Aylesbury Library	County Hall, Aylesbury HP20 1UY	Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9.30am-5pm Tuesday: 9.30am-7pm Saturday: 9.30am-4pm
Buckinghamshire Council	Walton Street Offices, Walton St, Aylesbury HP20 1UA	Monday-Thursday: 9am-5.30pm Friday: 9am-5pm

Stakeholders and community meetings

2.4.11. All stakeholders were offered briefings during the consultation period. A total of six meetings were carried out during Phase One Consultation, which are detailed in **Table 2-3**.

Table 2-3: Stakeholders met during Phase One Consultation

Stakeholder	Summary	Date
Middle Claydon Parish Council	Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development, discuss initial questions and experience of development in the area to date.	28 September 2023
Oxfordshire County Council	Telephone call to discuss approach to assessment of transport and dependencies.	03 October 2023
Public meeting hosted by Greg Smith MP and East Claydon Parish Council	Members of the project team attended and answered questions at a meeting of parish and unitary councillors hosted by Greg Smith MP.	10 October 2023
National Highways	Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development and proposed access routes.	27 October 2023

BBOWT	Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development and discuss approach to ecology.	03 November 2023
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Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority	Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development and discuss approach to battery safety and ongoing engagement.	07 November 2023
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2.4.12. Throughout the consultation, dedicated communication channels were open for enquiries about the Proposed Development and to arrange meetings. These included a Freephone number (0800 861 1097), email address (info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk) and a Freepost address (Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local).

2.5. Responding to the Phase One Consultation

2.5.1. Anyone could respond to the consultation by:

- Submitting comments or a hard-copy questionnaire by post using the Freepost address (no stamp required): Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL.
- Completing the online questionnaire by following links through the Rosefield Solar Farm project website (www.rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk).
- Emailing feedback or a completed questionnaire to info@rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk.
- Completing a questionnaire at the public events.

2.5.2. Printed copies of the questionnaire were made available at deposit points around the area (see **Table 2-2**), at the public events and were posted on request. The consultation questionnaire could also be downloaded on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website. Printed copies of the consultation questionnaire, along with the consultation booklet, were sent to elected representatives within the inner zone of consultation shown in **Figure 2-1** at the start of Phase One Consultation.

2.5.3. The feedback questionnaire comprised nine freeform questions, including a three-part question. The first three questions, 1a, 1b and 1c focused on the location of the solar panels and battery storage and invited respondents to provide general comments about the design of the Proposed Development.

2.5.4. Questions 2 and 3 asked respondents to share their thoughts on the environmental enhancements and new permissive pathways proposed as part of the Proposed Development.

- 2.5.5. Question 4 asked respondents to share any local knowledge of the surrounding area and environment which should be taken into account.
- 2.5.6. Questions 5 and 6 invited respondents to share suggestions about how the Proposed Development could help support local community initiatives and groups.
- 2.5.7. Finally, Question 7 gave respondents the opportunity to leave any further comments or suggestions.

2.6. Outcomes of Phase One Consultation

- 2.6.1. The Applicant received 539 responses from the community to Phase One Consultation by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on 10 November 2023.
- 2.6.2. The Applicant also received 12 responses from bodies classed as statutory consultees under s42(1)(a) or (b) of the PA 2008. These were:
 - Canal and River Trust
 - Crown Estate
 - East and Botolph Claydon Parish Council
 - Health and Safety Executive
 - Historic England
 - Middle Claydon Parish Council
 - National Gas
 - National Grid
 - Natural England
 - Steeple Claydon Parish Council
 - Quainton Parish Council
 - UK Health Security Agency
- 2.6.3. The Applicant received 14 consultation responses from bodies considered non-prescribed consultees. These were:
 - BBOWT
 - Calvert Green Parish Council
 - Councillor Angela Macpherson, Deputy Leader of Buckinghamshire Council and Grendon Underwood ward member
 - Councillor Frank Mahon, Grendon Underwood ward member
 - Councillor Iain Macpherson, Great Brickhill ward member

- Councillor Phil Gomm Great Brickhill ward member
- Edgecote Parish Council
- Granborough Parish Council
- Grendon Underwood Parish Council
- Greg Smith MP
- Hogshaw Parish Council
- National Trust
- Tenant Farmers Association
- Twyford Parish Council

2.7. Sources of responses

2.7.1. Freeform email submission was by far the most popular method used to respond to the consultation, accounting for 78% of responses. The source of responses is shown in **Table 2-4** below.

Table 2-4: Sources of responses

Source	Number
Email	419
Online questionnaire	115
Hard copy questionnaire (returned at public events or by Freepost)	5
Total	539

Table 2-5: Responses by question in the consultation questionnaire

Question	Number of responses
Q1a: Do you have any comments on our early plans and proposals for the potential locations of the solar energy generation element of Rosefield Solar Farm?	96
Q1b: Do you have any comments on our early plans and proposals for the areas we are considering for the battery storage element of Rosefield Solar Farm?	82

Q1c: Do you have any comments on our early plans and proposals for any other elements of Rosefield Solar Farm? 62

Q2: Are there any landscape or ecological enhancements you think we should include as part of the proposals? 90

Q3: Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve the current network of PRow to create a better experience for users? Please specify the locations of the PRow to which your comments refer. 68

Q4: Do you have any further information about the area and local environment which you think we should take into account? 76

Q5: Do you have any ideas you would like to share about how Rosefield Solar Farm could support local community initiatives? 61

Q6: Are you aware of any existing community funds and organisations that might be interested in partnering with Rosefield Solar Farm? 61

Q7: Please leave any further comments or suggestions you have, including any areas that you would like to know more about 63

2.7.2. Responses were received, securely recorded and analysed by a consultancy specialising in public consultation and stakeholder engagement. The following process was utilised:

- When a response was received, the Applicant identified whether the response had been submitted by an individual or organisation.
- 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 coded in as many layers 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.

2.8. Key themes raised to Phase One Consultation

- 2.8.1. **Table 2-6** sets out responses received from the community that did not follow the questionnaire format. **Tables 2-7 to 2-15** summarise community responses to each question received via the consultation questionnaire, including the frequency with which key themes were raised.

Table 2-6: Most common themes raised in freeform responses

Theme	Frequency
Cumulative construction impacts on our community and road network	330
Concerns about potential effects on tenant farmers	320
The Proposed Development should not be built on agricultural land	309
The Proposed Development would negatively impact the local environment and biodiversity	263
The Proposed Development would impact the local landscape/countryside	245
Concerns about potential effects on local wildlife	227
Concerns about potential effects on local habitat and local woodlands	216
Preference for an alternative low-carbon energy technology (e.g. wind or nuclear)	174

Table 2-7: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 1a

Theme	Frequency
The Proposed Development would impact the natural beauty of the area/country landscape.	29
The Proposed Development should not be built on agricultural land.	22
The Proposed Development is too large.	22
Solar should be placed on homes, industrial buildings or brownfield sites instead of greenfield sites.	19
There would be impacts on the local area during construction, including disruption and damage to local roads.	19
The Proposed Development would impact the UK's domestic food security.	16

General statements of opposition to the location of the Proposed Development.	14
The proposed site is too close to Botolph Claydon.	12
The Proposed Development would impact local tenant farmers that will not be able to farm the land.	11
The Proposed Development would impact the local PRow network.	11

Table 2-8: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 1b

Theme	Frequency
The Proposed Development would impact the natural beauty of the area/country landscape.	23
The Proposed Development should not be built on agricultural land.	14
General statements of opposition to the location of the Proposed Development.	11
The Proposed Development would impact our domestic food production.	9
Cumulative construction impacts on the local community and road network.	9
The Proposed Development would be better suited on rooftops and brownfield land.	8
The Proposed Development is proposed too close to local villages.	7
Concerns about battery fire risk.	6
Negative impact on local habitat and wildlife.	6
Opposition to visual impact of the battery storage element of the Proposed Development.	5

Table 2-9: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 1c

Theme	Frequency
The Proposed Development would impact the natural beauty of the area/ country landscape.	17

Cumulative construction impacts on the local community and road network.	12
General statements of opposition to the location of the Proposed Development.	10
The Proposed Development should not be built on agricultural land.	10
The Proposed Development is too large.	9
The Proposed Development would be better suited on rooftops and brownfield land.	9
Concern that the Proposed Development would impact on local habitat and wildlife.	6
The Proposed Development is only financially benefiting the company bringing it forward.	5
There would be an impact on the quality of the local rural lifestyle as a result of the Proposed Development.	4
There are more appropriate/efficient types of renewable and low-carbon technology that should be considered (e.g. wind) rather than the Proposed Development.	3

Table 2-10: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 2

Theme	Frequency
General statements of opposition to the Proposed Development.	26
The landscape and ecology of the Site does not need enhancement.	21
Any enhancements would not be enough to compensate for the impact of the Proposed Development.	13
Respondent provided an ecological and landscaping suggestion, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting more wildflower areas, more woodlands, mature trees, native habitat, and hedgerows. Creating new ponds and a country park south of Botolph Claydon with new footpaths and benches for people to sit. Opening-up access to the site, enhancing the connection to Runt's Wood and creating cycle paths that connect the site and surrounding villages. 	12

This proposal would impact on the local environment and biodiversity of the site.	10
This area/the local environment should be left alone.	7
This gesture is tokenistic/insulting.	7
The Proposed Development would impact the natural beauty of the area/country landscape.	6
Plant more native habitat, trees and woodlands.	6
The mitigation areas should be bigger.	5
Solar should be on roofs and brownfield sites instead of greenfield sites.	4

Table 2-11: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 3

Theme	Frequency
Leave the Site and/or PRoW network as it currently is.	18
Respondent made a suggestion, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving accessibility by resurfacing footpaths and removing stiles. Creating new PRoW. Improve/create cycle and walking paths connecting the site and surrounding villages. Setting solar areas back by 100m from all bridleways. Raising walkways. Increase setbacks on footpaths leading to the woodlands and create tall hedgerows on each side of footpaths to block the view of the site. 	15
The Proposed Development would ruin the existing local PRoW network.	11
Do not build a solar farm here.	10
This offer is tokenistic/insulting.	4
The CCTV and security fencing element of the Proposed Development would ruin the existing local PRoW network.	4

The Proposed Development cannot enhance the local PRow network.	4
The Proposed Development would impact the quality of life of residents in the area.	4
Setbacks need to be increased from PRow and woodland areas.	4
All footpaths should be protected.	3

Table 2-12: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 4

Theme	Frequency
There would be cumulative impacts from other developments in the area which need to be taken into account.	32
The Proposed Development would impact the natural beauty of the area/ country landscape.	21
There would be impact on the local environment as a result of the Proposed Development.	14
There would be impact on local wildlife and habitat as a result of the Proposed Development.	13
The Proposed Development would only benefit the landowner and company bringing it forward.	9
The Proposed Development would result in the loss/damage of agricultural land.	8
The Proposed Development would impact the local community and residents.	7
The Proposed Development is too large.	6
The Proposed Development would impact tenant farmers.	5
Criticism of the landowner for providing land for the Proposed Development.	4
The proposed Site is inappropriate for the Proposed Development.	4

Table 2-13: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 5

Theme	Frequency
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General statements of opposition. 38

Respondent made a suggestion, including: 28

- Subsidised electricity for locals.
- Funding for local schools.
- Financial support for solar panels to be installed on homes.
- Funding for local youth groups and sports clubs.
- Improve the local community bus service.
- Improve the local road infrastructure.
- Funding support for local farmers.
- Financial support for local nature projects.
- Large community fund granted with no restrictions.
- Cycle path/PRoW improvement.
- Molly's Café.

The community fund is a bribe. 11

The Proposed Development would not benefit the community. 6

Table 2-14: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 6

Theme	Frequency
Nobody wants to partner with the Applicant/support the Proposed Development.	42
Respondent made a suggestion, including:	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molly's Café. • Claydon Cycling Club. • Community cafes. • Calvert Green Community Association. • Steeple Claydon Solar. • Gawcott Solar. • Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park. • Claydons Solar Action Group. • Funding to fix the local community's cars. 	

- Safe cycle routes between villages.
- A new purpose-built secondary school.
- Cheap electricity for the local community.
- Bus services between villages.
- Funding to support opportunities for young people in the area.

General statements of opposition. 8

The Proposed Development would not benefit the community. 2

Table 2-15: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 7

Theme	Frequency
The proposed Site is inappropriate for the Proposed Development.	18
The Proposed Development should not be built on agricultural land.	13
Rosefield Solar Farm will impact the local landscape/countryside.	13
There would be cumulative impacts from other developments in the area which need to be taken into account, including traffic impacts.	12
Concern that the Proposed Development would impact on the local environment.	11
The Proposed Development is too large.	10
Concern that the Proposed Development would impact on local habitat and wildlife.	9
The Proposed Development would impact tenant farmers.	8
The Proposed Development would impact the UK's domestic food security.	7
Solar should be on roofs and brownfield sites instead of greenfield sites.	6
The consultation lacked information.	6

2.8.2. The Applicant has set out how it has responded to key topics raised in feedback to Phase One Consultation in **Appendix A-4: Summary of responses to Phase One Consultation and consideration by topic.**

- 2.8.3. Following Phase One Consultation, the Applicant refined its proposals, informed by the feedback received, alongside outputs of early environmental assessments and technical work.
- 2.8.4. The Applicant also received confirmation from National Grid that it was proposing to replace the East Claydon Substation.
- 2.8.5. Key changes made by the Applicant in response to feedback from Phase One Consultation were:
- A decrease in the Order Limits from 894ha to 771ha in part to increase the separation between the Proposed Development and Botolph Claydon. Some additional land was included to the east and west of the National Grid East Claydon Substation.
 - 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 from the proposed Site boundary 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 permissive pathway to open up access to Knowl Hill.
 - Refining the proposed locations of the BESS and Rosefield Substation from 8 potential fields to 4.
- 2.8.6. For more information about the design process and how the design developed following Phase One Consultation, see **Design Approach Document [EN010158/APP/5.8]**.
- 2.8.7. Feedback from Phase One additionally helped to inform the Applicant's approach to its Phase Two Consultation and identify further opportunities for community and stakeholder engagement. 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 the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan for Phase Two Consultation in response to concerns about the impact of construction traffic on local roads.

2.8.8. For more information, see **Chapters 3** and **4** of this Report.

3. Stakeholder and community engagement

3.1. Overview

- 3.1.1. This chapter provides an overview of the Applicant's engagement on the Proposed Development undertaken outside of formal consultation periods – from prior to its launch through to submission of the DCO application.
- 3.1.2. The Applicant's continuous programme of engagement has run in-parallel with, and complementary to, its formal phases of pre-application consultation. The distinction between consultation and engagement are as follows:
- Engagement relates to the discussions between the Applicant, community and stakeholders outside formal public consultation. Pre-application engagement undertaken by the Applicant is detailed in this Chapter of this Report.
 - Consultation relates to the formal stages of consultation, the detail of which is provided in **Chapters 2, 5, 6 and 7** of this Report.
- 3.1.3. Engagement with key stakeholders, including the host authority, near neighbours and community organisations has helped to inform the design of the Proposed Development and the Applicant's approach to assessing environmental effects. A summary of engagement by stakeholder type, and how engagement has influenced the Proposed Development is provided in sections 3.2 to 3.5.
- 3.1.4. A record of stakeholder meetings undertaken by the Applicant outside of formal stages of pre-application consultation can be found at **Appendices B-1.1: Summary of community engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation** and **B-2: Summary of stakeholder engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation** covering:
- Pre-Phase One Consultation – June 2023 to September 2023
 - Pre-Phase Two Consultation – November 2023 to September 2024
 - Post-Phase Two Consultation – December 2024 to May 2025
 - Post-Targeted Consultation – July 2025 to September 2025

3.2. Engagement with the community

- 3.2.1. The Applicant used a range of methods to engage with the local community and promote awareness of the Proposed Development outside of formal phases of pre-application consultation. This included ongoing meetings, updates to the Rosefield Solar Farm project website and engagement relating to on-site survey works, as well as maintaining its

communication channels (a Freephone, email address and Freepost address) throughout the pre-application consultation period.

- 3.2.2. The Applicant recognised that levels of potential impact, and interest in the Proposed Development, vary with distance to the proposed Site boundary. The Applicant sought to engage with those closest to the proposed Site boundary from the outset of its pre-application consultation and engagement activity. The Applicant also sought to engage with elected representatives, community organisations and the wider community outside of formal pre-application consultation.

Pre-Phase One Consultation – June 2023 to September 2023

- 3.2.3. Prior to launch of the proposals on Thursday 14 September 2023, the Applicant gave advance notice to properties closest to the proposed Site and tenants of the landowner by knocking on the doors of 43 properties on Wednesday 13 September 2023. The list of properties was compiled using desk-top research, Royal Mail postal data, and advice from the landowner.
- 3.2.4. The purpose of the door knocking was to discuss the proposals with residents and signpost how to get in touch with members of the project team. The Applicant spoke to residents of 16 properties in total, leaving a letter with the Applicant's contact details at the remaining properties.
- 3.2.5. In addition, the landowner contacted its tenants to provide advance notice of the launch of the Proposed Development and to provide contact details of the project team on Tuesday 12 September 2023.
- 3.2.6. The Applicant additionally notified the host authority about the proposals and offered to brief pre-brief both officers and members ahead of the project launch. The host authority officers confirmed they would brief members ahead of the launch.
- 3.2.7. Separately, the landowner met with representatives of Middle Claydon Parish Council, East and Botolph Claydon Parish Council and Steeple Claydon Parish Council on Tuesday 12 September 2023.
- 3.2.8. Meetings with the community and elected representatives undertaken by the Applicant prior to Phase One Consultation are tabulated in **Appendix B-1.1**. This includes two meetings prior to public launch, and three meetings between launch and the start of Phase One Consultation.
- 3.2.9. In response to feedback received at these meetings, a fifth public event was organised to specifically cater for those who work during normal working hours (9am-5pm). The project team also agreed to notify additional local parish councils about the Proposed Development where their administrative areas were near to the proposed Site boundary.

Pre-Phase Two Consultation – November 2023 to September 2024

- 3.2.10. Following Phase One Consultation, the Applicant maintained its communication channels, which included a Freephone, email address and Freepost address, and continued to respond to enquiries that it received.
- 3.2.11. Site visits were undertaken to inform the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment ('RVAA') at 10 properties in proximity to the proposed Site boundary in this period. The Chartered Landscape Architect undertaking these assessments was accompanied by members of the project team, including a representative from the Applicant.
- 3.2.12. The Applicant met with the following elected representatives, local businesses, community and government organisations between Phase One and Phase Two Consultation:
- Callum Anderson MP
 - Members of the Butterfly Conservation Trust
 - Landowners and tenants
- 3.2.13. The dates, organisations represented, and a summary of topics discussed is included in **Appendix B-1.1: Summary of community engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation**.
- 3.2.14. In addition, the Applicant published an 'On-site surveys' page (<https://rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk/on-site-surveys/>) on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website to keep the community informed about survey work taking place on and near to the Site.
- 3.2.15. Where survey work was expected to potentially be disruptive e.g. those works that had the potential to generate noise, the Applicant also wrote to nearby residents to give advance notice of works. This involved writing to 41 addresses to give advance notice of geophysical survey work.

Post-Phase Two Consultation – December 2024 to May 2025

- 3.2.16. Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant has continued to meet with elected representatives, community organisations and the wider community on request. The Applicant also maintained its communication channels, which included a Freephone, email address and Freepost address, and continued to respond to enquiries that it received.
- 3.2.17. Where survey work was expected to potentially be disruptive, the Applicant continued to notify residents closest to the area where those works were taking place. This included notifying residents closest to trial trenching by letters and email (where possible) on 15 January 2025.
- 3.2.18. On 20 May 2025, the Applicant sent a Community Update newsletter to all properties within the inner zone of consultation (described in **Chapter 5** of this Report) – totalling 2,993 addresses. The newsletter included the key

outcomes from Phase Two Consultation and an annotated illustrative masterplan which showed and described key updates made since Phase Two Consultation in response to feedback received. It also contained information about the targeted consultations (described in **Chapter 7** of this Report) covering some of the changes described in the newsletter and information about next steps of the DCO process. A copy of the newsletter is included in **Appendix B-1.2: Community Update newsletter (21 May 2025)**.

Post-targeted consultation: July 2025 to September 2025

- 3.2.19. Ahead of submission of the Application, the Applicant has continued to meet with elected representatives, community organisations and the wider community on request. The Applicant also maintained its communication channels, which included a Freephone, email address and Freepost address, and continued to respond to enquiries that it received.
- 3.2.20. The Applicant met with the following elected representatives, local businesses, community and government organisations following targeted consultation:
- Callum Anderson MP
 - Landowners and tenants

3.3. Stakeholder engagement

- 3.3.1. The Applicant has engaged with a range of prescribed and non-prescribed consultees throughout the pre-application stage of the Proposed Development. This included ongoing meetings with a number of stakeholders including the host authority, statutory undertakers, the National Trust, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. Information about how the Applicant identified relevant prescribed and non-prescribed consultees is contained within **Chapters 2, 5 and 7** of this Report.
- 3.3.2. A summary of the Applicant's approach to engagement with stakeholders (the host authority, other statutory consultees and the Planning Inspectorate) is provided below. A summary of meetings is provided in **Appendix B-2: Summary of stakeholder engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation**. Where engagement is relevant to EIA, further detail is provided in the appropriate chapter of the **Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapters 5-17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

Engagement with host authority

- 3.3.3. The Applicant built long-term working relationships with officers of the host authority. Prior to the public launch of the proposals, the Applicant notified the host authority and offered to brief officers on the Proposed

Development. The Applicant met with officers twice ahead of the project launch.

- 3.3.4. The Applicant entered into a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with the host authority through the pre-application period. This was to ensure engagement with specialist technical and planning officers was available during the pre-application stage of the Proposed Development.
- 3.3.5. As part of the PPA, the Applicant held regular meetings with officers from the host authority, scheduled monthly, from July 2024 to the submission of the Application. The primary purpose of the PPA meetings were to provide regular updates on the progress of the Proposed Development (including consultation and engagement activities), and to highlight any concerns to ensure these could be addressed proactively.
- 3.3.6. The Applicant expects to enter into further planning performance agreements at subsequent stages of the DCO process.
- 3.3.7. Engagement with the host authority has also informed the development of the EIA for the Proposed Development. Where meetings discussed EIA development, these are referenced within **Appendix B-2: Summary of stakeholder engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation** and covered in more detail within the relevant topic chapters of the **Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapters 5-17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

Engagement with statutory consultees

- 3.3.8. In identifying the relevant environmental bodies and organisations to engage with, the Applicant considered what environmental impacts may arise, statutory functions that may be impacted by the provisions within the **Draft DCO [EN010158/APP/3.1]**, future consents or licences that may be required, as well as guidance set out within the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eleven "Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process", which sets out expectations for working with such organisations.
- 3.3.9. The Applicant took a proactive approach to engagement with key technical stakeholders to help refine its proposals. This included ongoing meetings and site visits with a number of stakeholders outside of formal consultation periods, including the National Trust, Historic England and Natural England. The Applicant also shared its draft biodiversity report with Natural England ahead of the submission of the DCO Application for early review.
- 3.3.10. The Applicant also entered into a cost recovery agreement with Natural England and the Environment Agency to facilitate engagement with

specialist and technical officers during the pre-application stage of the Proposed Development.

- 3.3.11. A summary of meetings held outside of formal consultation is provided in **Appendix B-2: Summary of stakeholder engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation**. Where engagement is relevant to EIA, more detail is provided within the relevant topic chapters of the **Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapters 5-17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

Engagement with the Planning Inspectorate

- 3.3.12. The Applicant held regular meetings with the Planning Inspectorate throughout the pre-application stage since its Inception Meeting on 9 August 2023. The purpose of these meetings was to provide updates on the Proposed Development and seek advice on aspects of the Application (detailed in **Appendix B-2: Summary of stakeholder engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation**).
- 3.3.13. A summary of the advice given by the Planning Inspectorate during the pre-application stage (“s51 advice”) and how the Applicant has had regard to it in preparing the Application is detailed in **Table 3-1** below.

Table 3-1: Summary of s51 advice given and regard had by the Applicant

Date	Advice	Regard had
9 August 2023	The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant provide as much information about the Proposed Development as possible and times as to when the statutory consultees need to be engaged during the pre-application period.	The Consultation Report [EN010158/APP/5.1] explains how the Applicant conducted a thorough programme of consultation and engagement to ensure consultees had enough information to comment on the Proposed Development.
9 August 2023	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to refer to previously issued scoping opinions for the solar sector to ensure that a robust justification is provided when proposing to scope out matters from the EIA.	The Applicant continued to review relevant scoping opinions and status of relevant applications throughout the pre-application stage.
22 May 2024	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to review transitional provisions in Regulation 4 of the MP Regulations 2024, together with the	The Applicant conducted Phase Two Consultation between 18 September – 5 December 2024 and therefore the Applicant

amendments to the APFP Regulations, and consider whether any new or different consultation bodies should be included in the consultations for the project, as the Regulation 11 list would not reflect the amendments to the APFP Regulations.

conducted the consultation in line with the amended APFP Regulations.

The Applicant reviewed the updated list of statutory bodies in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations and consulted all relevant statutory bodies or their successors where their statutory function was relevant to the Proposed Development. A full list of section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees consulted on the Proposed Development is available in **Appendix E-1: List of prescribed consultees consulted under section 42(1)(a) and (b) during Phase Two Consultation [EN010158/APP/5.2]**.

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 7 of the Consultation Report [EN010158/APP/5.1]**. A full list of section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees consulted as part of the targeted consultation is available in **Appendix K-1: List of prescribed consultees consulted during targeted consultations [EN010158/APP/5.2]**.

09 October 2024	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include what it had undertaken in the SoCC within the updated programme document.	The Applicant has maintained an updated Programme Document through the pre-application period, including information about its statutory Phase Two Consultation.
09 October 2024	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to update their Programme document to reflect their scheduled submission dates and the position on Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) and/or service level agreements (SLA) with Local Authorities. The Inspectorate also advised the Applicant to update the programme document with SoCGs with Natural England (NE) and the Environment Agency (EA).	<p>The Applicant established a PPA with Buckinghamshire Council, along with service level agreements with Natural England and Environment Agency. Detail of these agreements are provided in the Programme Document.</p> <p>As part of the Application, the Applicant submitted SoCGs with the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (EN010158/APP/5.11J). • United Kingdom Health Security Agency (EN010158/APP/5.12J). <p>The Programme Document has been updated to capture the status of the SoCGs.</p>
09 October 2024	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to make a public facing version of the Programme document available on its own project website. The Inspectorate confirmed it is not anticipating publishing a public facing version on the National Infrastructure project website. The Inspectorate explained the more information shown within the Programme document, the better advice the Inspectorate can provide.	Phase Two Consultation materials included information available in the Programme Document, including a timeline of the Proposed Development and a summary of its likely potential environmental effects. The Applicant also provided a Community Update newsletter in May to update on the changes and targeted submission.
09 October 2024	The Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful if the Applicant could set out whether the Programme Document has been	The Applicant has held regular meeting with the host authority and relevant statutory consultees. This has included

shared with the local authorities and statutory consultees as well as including an Issues Tracker in its next iteration. In addition, it advised the Applicant to provide an expected date for the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone, as well as details on any other relevant consents or licenses needed and any update or resolution of matters in its proposed activities in the 'main issues' table (such as its ongoing engagement and/or progress with SoCGs with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Buckinghamshire Council on biodiversity, flood risk, cultural heritage and cumulative issues respectively, where feasible).

putting a PPA in place with Buckinghamshire Council and service level agreements with Natural England and the Environment Agency. The Applicant has held regular meetings with the Planning Inspectorate to update on engagement, likely main issues and Adequacy of Consultation Milestone and maintained a Programme Document throughout the pre-application period.

22 May
2025

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to set out its mitigation strategy and commitments register clearly within its documentation, to assist with consultees' understanding of the applicant's measures likely to be required to ensure that good design objectives will be secured and implemented.

The Applicant has provided a **Commitments Register [EN010158/APP/6.4]** as part of its DCO Application which sets out our mitigation measures and their securing mechanisms. In addition, **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** sets out Design Commitments and Parameters for the detailed design of the Proposed Development. Design Commitments and Parameters are needed to secure elements of the design which are not covered by other Control Documents and to uphold the conclusions of the **Environmental Statement [EN010158/APP/6.1 – 6.4]**. This include commitments relating to the size, type and colour of elements of the Proposed Development, and inclusion of setbacks from sensitive receptors.

22 May 2025	The Inspectorate expressed its preference to delay the submission of the AoCM statement until the host authority (and any other relevant councils) have provided any views on the adequacy of consultation to date (given that the provision of any views or material from councils at the AoCM stage is an important part of assessing as to whether any further consultation is required before submitting the application for acceptance).	The Applicant shared a copy of the Adequacy of the Consultation Report (see Appendix M-1) with the host authority on 21 May 2025. A copy of the response provided by the host authority on 24 July 2025 which was appended to this Report (Appendix M-2). The Applicant submitted the final Report to the Planning Inspectorate following receipt of the host authority response in line with the advice given.
22 May 2025	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure it clearly explains how any modification to the Order Limits and/or mitigation undertaken as a result of the potential new SSSI designation is recorded in its application documents, as well as any additional consultation undertaken. The applicant should also proactively seek a Statement of Common Ground with Natural England on its assessment of the worst-case scenario under the Environmental Statement.	<p>The Applicant has considered the potential Bernwood SSSI designation in its assessments outlined in Environmental Statement [EN010158/APP/6.1-6.5].</p> <p>The Applicant engaged extensively with Natural England throughout the pre-application period, supported by a service-level agreement. A summary of engagement undertaken is provided in ES, Volume 2 Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN01058/APP/6/2].</p> <p>The Applicant will engage with Natural England over the course of the examination to develop a SoCG.</p>

3.4. Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

3.4.1. In 2024, the Government introduced a suite of new guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, of which the following is applicable to the preparation of this Consultation Report:

- 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).

- 3.4.2. Both the Guidance and the Prospectus introduced 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 SoCC have been met; and
 - Provides a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the application.
- 3.4.3. The purpose of the document was to enable the Planning Inspectorate and the host local authority 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.
- 3.4.4. The Applicant engaged with the host authority through its PPA meeting on 02 April to agree its approach to completing the AoCM. The Applicant additionally confirmed this approach with the Planning Inspectorate (see **Table 3-1**) on 22 May 2025.
- 3.4.5. To assist with the formal adequacy of consultation milestone at the acceptance stage of the DCO process, the Applicant ensured that where possible, the AoCM Report followed the structure of this Consultation Report. The AoCM Report did not include:
- Detailed information about non-statutory consultation and engagement, given the focus of the milestone is to demonstrate how the Applicant has fulfilled its statutory requirements.
 - Sample consultation materials in an effort to reduce the size of the AoCM Report (noting these were available on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website and that the Applicant was able to 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 were still ongoing. The Applicant included a summary of key changes made to the design of the Proposed Development since Phase Two Consultation within the Report and appended the Community Update newsletter.
- 3.4.6. The Applicant shared a copy of this Report (see **Appendix M-1**) with the host authority on 21 May 2025. A copy of the response provided by the host authority on 24 July 2025 which was appended to this Report (**Appendix M-2**). The Applicant submitted the final AoCM Report to the Planning Inspectorate ahead of submission of the DCO Application.

3.5. Future engagement

- 3.5.1. Prior to submission, the Applicant has engaged with the following organisations to develop Draft Statements of Common Ground that have been submitted as part of the Application:
- Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority **[EN010158/APP/5.11]**.
 - United Kingdom Health Security Agency **[EN010158/APP/5.12]**.
- 3.5.2. The Applicant agreed with the host authority prior to submission of the Application that a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) would be prepared and agreed during examination to allow the host authority to review the contents of the Application.
- 3.5.3. The Applicant also intends to engage with organisations over the course of the examination to develop SoCGs including Natural England, Historic England, National Trust and Anglian Water. Alongside this, the Applicant will produce a Statement of Commonality to outline the position between the Applicant and relevant statutory consultees and Interested Parties in relation to the Proposed Development. It will be updated throughout the course of the Examination.

4. Approach to statutory consultation and development of the SoCC

4.1. Purpose of statutory consultation

- 4.1.1. Following Phase One Consultation, and in parallel with its programme of ongoing stakeholder engagement, the Applicant continued to develop its proposals for the Proposed Development.
- 4.1.2. The Applicant undertook statutory consultation ('Phase Two Consultation') on its updated proposals between 18 September 2024 – 5 December 2024 in accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 (see **Chapters 5 and 6**). Two targeted consultations on proposed changes to the Proposed Development were undertaken concurrently between 21 May 2025 – 16 July 2025 (see **Chapter 7**).

4.2. Objectives for statutory consultation

- 4.2.1. 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.

4.3. Legal requirements for statutory consultation

- 4.3.1. 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")
 - Infrastructure Planning: (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017("EIA Regulations")

- 4.3.2. 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.
- 4.3.3. 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 **Appendices L-1: Compliance with PA 2008: Guidance on the pre-application stage for NSIPs, April 2024** and **L-2: Compliance with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, August 2024**. More details about how the Applicant has carried out its Phase Two Consultation is presented in **Chapter 5** of this Report.

4.4. EIA Scoping

- 4.4.1. 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.
- 4.4.2. The EIA Scoping Report was developed following consultation with a number of statutory consultees. Meetings that took place as part of this process are set out in more detail in the relevant topic chapters of the **Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapters 5-17 [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.
- 4.4.3. Following consultation with statutory bodies, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) adopted a Scoping Opinion (see **Environmental Statement Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**) on 21 December 2023. The Environmental Statement is based on the Scoping Opinion.
- 4.4.4. Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion and the Applicant's response are set out in the **Environmental Statement Volume 4, Appendix 5.3: EIA Scoping Opinion Response Matrix [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. All issues have been considered during the EIA process.
- 4.4.5. Following the 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). Owing to the size of the PEIR, **Appendix I-1** includes the Main Report of the PEIR (Volume 1) and the

Non-Technical Summary (Volume 5). Volumes 2, 3 and 4 can be viewed on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website:

<https://rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk/peir/>.

- 4.4.6. 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.
- 4.4.7. The Applicant was not notified of any additional consultation bodies under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.
- 4.4.8. A copy of the Scoping Report is available in the **Environmental Statement Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

4.5. Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- 4.5.1. As prescribed by section 47(1) of the PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a SoCC (see **Appendix D-1: Final SoCC**) 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.

4.6. Development of the SoCC

- 4.6.1. 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 authority to date and feedback from Phase One Consultation.
- 4.6.2. 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 (PPA) with the host authority. This included a timetable for engagement which listed the provision for an early review of the SoCC ahead of formal consultation.
- 4.6.3. On 12 April 2024, the Applicant shared a draft SoCC (see **Appendix C-1: Informal consultation on the draft SoCC**) 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.
- 4.6.4. 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.

4.7. Formal consultation on the draft SoCC

- 4.7.1. The Applicant formally consulted the host authority on the draft SoCC from Friday 12 July 2024 to 11:59pm on Friday 9 August 2024, in accordance with sections 47(2) and (3) of the PA 2008.
- 4.7.2. The Applicant's covering letter and a copy of the draft SoCC issued to the host authority is included at **Appendix C-3: Formal consultation on the draft SoCC**. The Applicant received responses to the draft SoCC from the host authority on Thursday 8 August 2024.
- 4.7.3. 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.
- 4.7.4. 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 **Appendices C-2: Regard had to host authority informal feedback on draft SoCC** and **C-4: Regard had to host authority formal feedback on draft SoCC**.
- 4.7.5. Key changes made in response to feedback from the host authority 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.
- 4.7.6. 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 agreed these were acceptable as alternate locations prior to the start of the consultation and the Applicant amended the SoCC to reflect this change.

4.8. Publication of the SoCC

- 4.8.1. The SoCC was published on 04 September 2024 (see **Appendix D-1: Final SoCC**) 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 project website (**Appendix D-3: Screenshot of Rosefield Solar Farm project website with availability of the SoCC**) and by depositing a printed copy at each location listed in **Table 4-1**. Hard copies of the SoCC were available to inspect at these locations between 04 September 2024 and 05 December 2024.
- 4.8.2. 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. Two requests for a hard copy of the SoCC were received and fulfilled.

Table 4-1: 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

- 4.8.3. 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.
- 4.8.4. The Applicant published the Section 47 notice in both The Bucks Herald and Winslow Advertiser on Wednesday 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 5**). A copy of these notices as published, which confirms the name of the publication and the date these were published, is provided in **Appendix D-2: Section 47 notice**.
- 4.8.5. The publication of the SoCC ran in parallel with the launch of the Applicant's Phase Two Consultation (which commenced 14 days later on Wednesday 18 September 2024). This involved:

- Sending a newsletter to 2,993 addresses within the inner zone of consultation (see Figure 3-3) on Wednesday 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. A copy of this newsletter is included in **Appendix G-2.1: Phase Two Consultation newsletter**.
- Issuing a press release (**Appendix G-2.6: Phase Two Consultation advertising**) to approximately 29 journalists and media outlets on Wednesday 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.
- 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 availability of the SoCC and 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 (**Appendix G-3: Screenshots of Phase Two Consultation website and virtual exhibition**). 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.
- Sharing a post on the launch of the consultation period on the EDF Renewables UK (which forms part of the Applicant Rosefield Energyfarm Limited) LinkedIn account (c. 93,000 followers), which received 7,406 impressions (**Appendix G-2.6: Phase Two Consultation advertising**).
- 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 (**Appendix G-2.6: Phase Two Consultation advertising**).

4.8.6. 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 D-4: Compliance with the SoCC**. Details of activity carried out as part of the consultation can be found in **Chapter 5** of this Report.

- 4.8.7. 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.
- 4.8.8. 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 D-1.2: Amended title page published on 10 October 2024 and screenshot showing update to Rosefield Solar Farm website** and in **Figure 5-5** 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 D-1.2: Amended title page published on 10 October 2024 and screenshot showing update to Rosefield Solar Farm website**).
 - Informing the host authority of the error and the actions taken to address this to ensure it was content with the measures undertaken.

5. Phase Two Consultation 2024

5.1. Overview

- 5.1.1. 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.
- 5.1.2. 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 project 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.
- 5.1.3. The purpose of the consultation was to seek feedback on the updated plans and proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm, including the PEIR.
- 5.1.4. 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.
- 5.1.5. A detailed description of the activity carried out in support of the consultation is provided below, along with a summary of the feedback received. Key themes from consultation, along with how the Applicant has had regard and responded to the feedback received are provided at **Appendices J-1: Summary of s42(1)(a), (b) and (d) responses to Phase Two Consultation and consideration by topic** and **J-2:**

Summary of s47 responses to Phase Two Consultation and consideration by topic.

5.2. Scope of Phase Two Consultation and consultation period

- 5.2.1. 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. This was extended from the eight-week consultation period (18 September – 14 November 2024) outlined in the SoCC for the reasons described in paragraphs 5.2.2 to 5.2.4.
- 5.2.2. 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.
- 5.2.3. Due to the minor nature of the omitted material, it was not believed that the 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.
- 5.2.4. 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 (see **Appendix G-3.2: Screenshots of Phase Two Consultation website (7 November 2024)**).
 - Adding clarification notes under the PEIR on the Rosefield Solar Farm website and under each figure to ensure the additional information was clearly signposted (see **Appendix G-3.2: Screenshots of Phase Two Consultation website (7 November 2024)**).
 - 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).

5.2.5. 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.

5.2.6. Information on the Proposed Development and preliminary environmental assessment was published for consultation in a range of different materials and formats. These are listed below and provided in **Appendices G-2: Phase Two Consultation materials and advertising, G-3: Screenshots of Phase Two Consultation website and virtual exhibition and I-1: Preliminary Environmental Information Report:**

- Phase Two Consultation booklet (**Appendix G-2.2**): 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 (**Appendix G-2.3**): 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 (**Appendix G-2.4**): the main mechanism for collecting feedback.
- Phase Two Consultation exhibition banners (**Appendix G-2.5**): an accessible summary of the Proposed Development, EIA process, the

consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps.

- Virtual exhibition (**Appendix G-3**): 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 (**Appendix I-1**): 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.

5.3. Responding to Phase Two Consultation

5.3.1. 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 (no stamp required): Rosefield Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL
- Returning a completed questionnaire at the public events.

5.3.2. Printed copies of the questionnaire were made available at deposit points around the area (see **Table 5-2**), at the public events and were posted on request. The consultation questionnaire could also be downloaded on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website. Two boxes of the consultation questionnaire were given to a member of the community on request to hand out to residents.

5.3.3. The feedback questionnaire comprised six freeform questions. Question 1 invited respondents to provide general comments about the updated proposals.

5.3.4. Questions 2 and 3 asked respondents to share their thoughts on the environmental enhancements and new permissive pathways proposed as part of the Proposed Development.

5.3.5. Question 4 asked respondents to share any comments on the Applicant's approach to assessing potential environmental effects.

- 5.3.6. Question 5 invited respondents to provide feedback on its approach to building the Proposed Development, including on the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.
- 5.3.7. Finally, Question 6 gave respondents the opportunity to leave any further comments or suggestions.
- 5.4. Consultation with statutory consultees and notification to the Secretary of State (section 42 and section 46)

Section 42

- 5.4.1. Consultation letters were delivered between 13 - 18 September 2024 to statutory consultees identified by the Applicant (see **Appendix F-1: Sample letters sent to consultees under s42(1)(a), (b) and (d) and non-prescribed consultees**). 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).
- 5.4.2. 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 E-1: List of prescribed consultees consulted under section 42(1)(a) and (b) during Phase Two Consultation**. A full list of persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 is included in the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]** submitted with the Application.

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

- 5.4.3. 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 (see **Environmental Statement Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**) dated 21 December 2023.
- 5.4.4. 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

5.4.5. 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 5-1**. The administrative boundaries of the local authorities are shown in **Figure 5-1** and **Figure 5-2**. 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' 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))

5.4.6. 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 for the purposes of identifying category 'D' authorities.

Table 5-1: 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 5-1: Administrative boundaries of A and B category local authorities with the indicative location of the Proposed Development shown in red

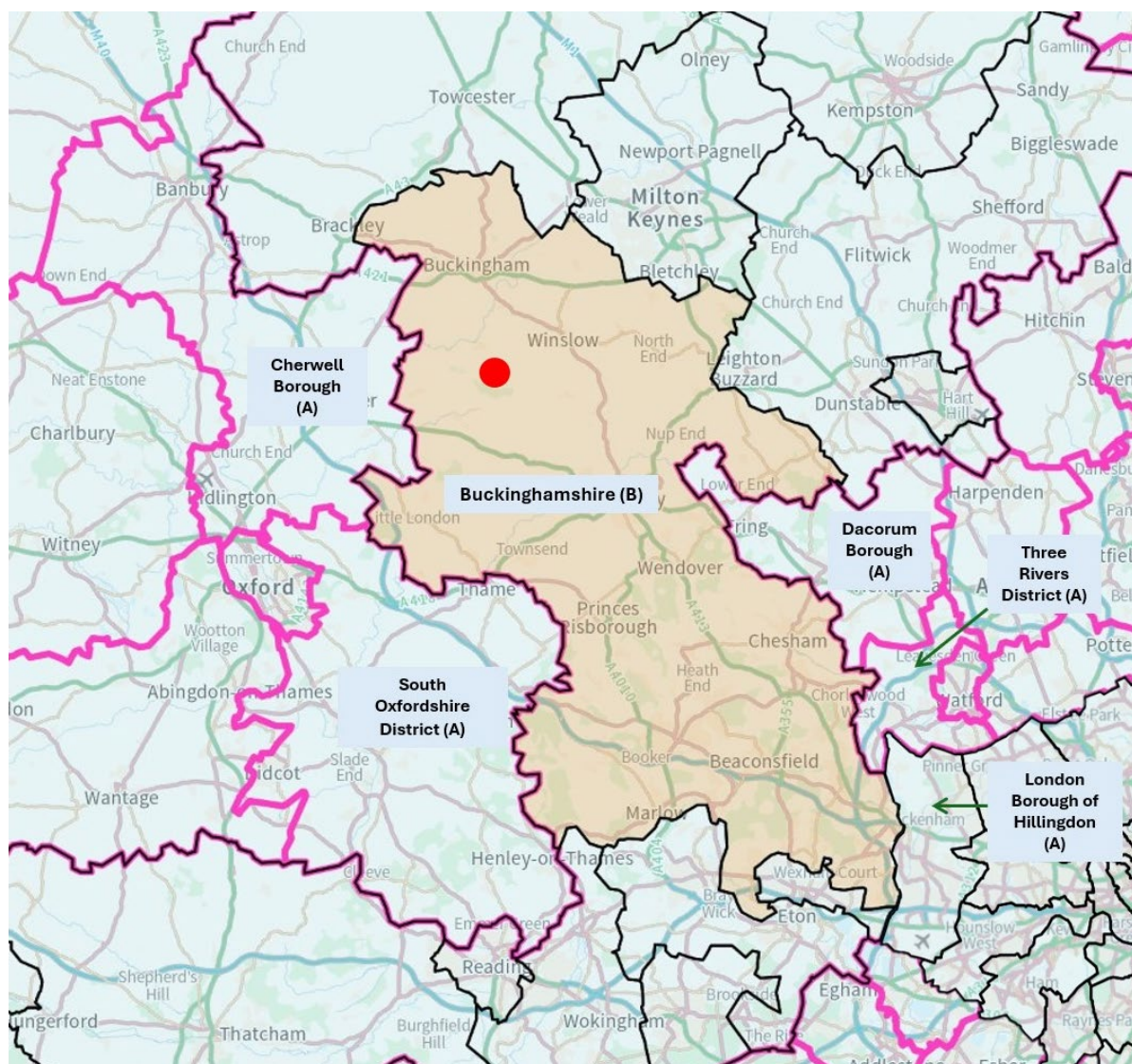
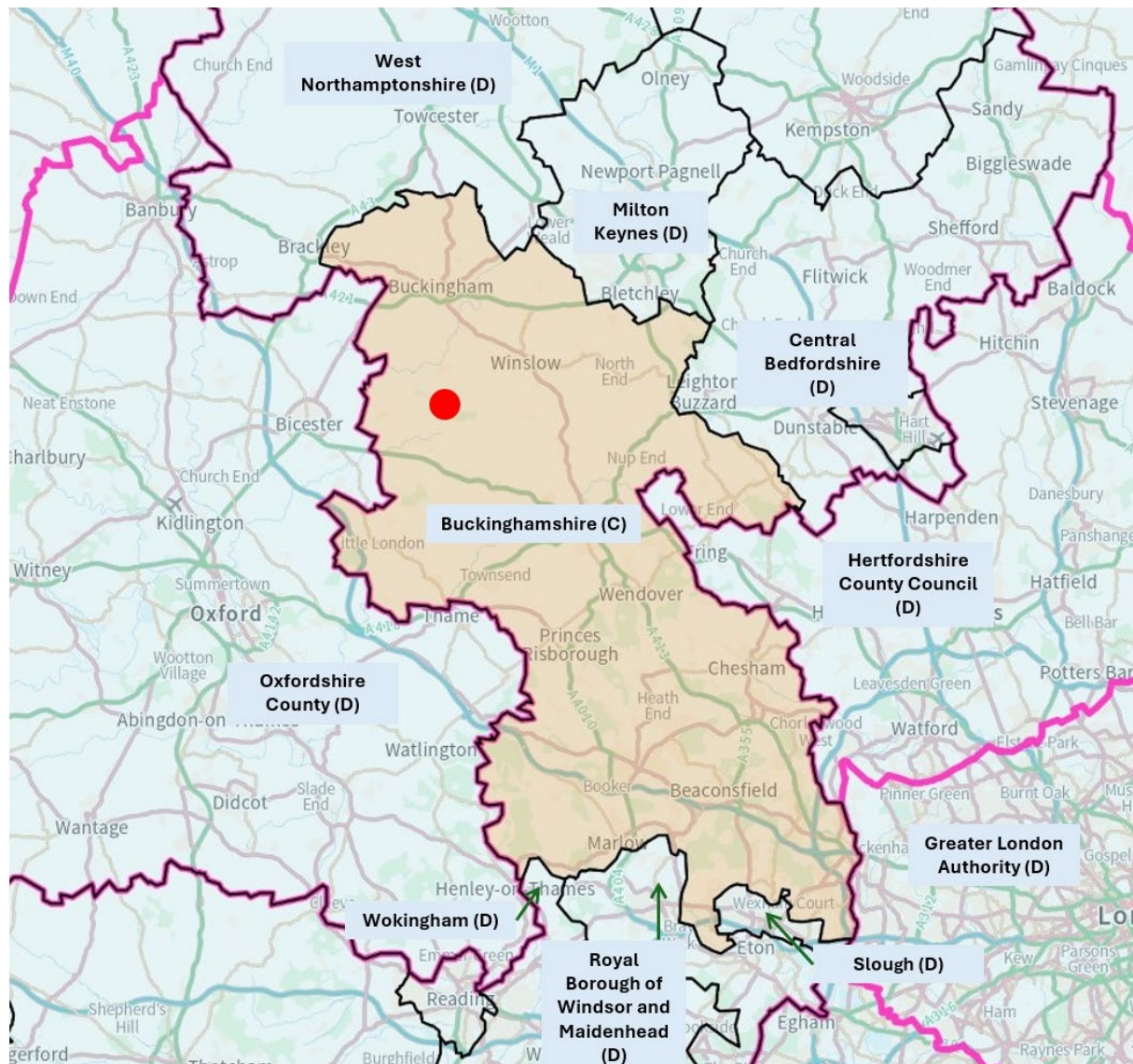


Figure 5-2: Administrative boundaries of C and D category local authorities with the indicative location of the Proposed Development shown in red



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

5.4.7. 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

5.4.8. 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.

5.4.9. 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 and is set out in more detail in the **Statement of Reasons [EN010158/APP/4.1]**:

- 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 5.4.8. 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.
- 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.

- Land Interest Questionnaires (“LIQs”): HMLR Register information was further verified using LIQs. These were issued to all identified land interests, both within the proposed Site boundary and those identified outside the proposed Site boundary 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.

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.

- 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.

- 5.4.10. The Applicant consulted with all parties identified under s42(1)(d) and s44 of the PA 2008 at the time of Phase Two Consultation. For Phase Two Consultation, there were 45 Category 1 and 2 consultees. No consultees were categorised as solely Category 3 interests. Sample letters sent to land interest is included in **Appendix F.1: Sample letters sent to consultees under s42(1)(a), (b) and (d) and non-prescribed consultees**.
- 5.4.11. 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.
- 5.4.12. 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 land - The National Trust and The Freshwater Habitats Trust. The National Trust was contacted on 16 October 2024 by phone and notified by email (noting it was initially classed as a non-prescribed consultee and was therefore sent information about the consultation on 04 September 2024, alongside a number of meetings with this consultee undertaken prior to and during Phase Two Consultation). The Freshwater Habitats Trust was notified on 08 October 2024.

- 5.4.13. Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant continued to refine its proposals for the Proposed Development and carry out the above diligent inquiry process, which removed 10 Category 1 and 2 persons consulted at Phase Two Consultation.
- 5.4.14. Through the diligent inquiry process undertaken as part of targeted consultation (see **Chapter 7**) the Applicant identified one land interest that had not been consulted at Phase Two Consultation and was not subject to the targeted consultation. The Applicant therefore wrote to the new land interest to consult the land interest under section 42(1)(d) on the Proposed Development (including the PEIR) as presented at Phase Two Consultation between 21 May and 16 July 2025. The letter offered a briefing on the Proposed Development and signposted to the Phase Two Consultation questionnaire should the consultee wish to provide their comments on the Proposed Development using this method.
- 5.4.15. As part of the feedback received to targeted consultation, the Applicant became aware that there were new occupiers of a property where the previous owner had been consulted under section 42(1)(d) on the Proposed Development. The Applicant therefore wrote to the new land interest to consult the land interest under section 42(1)(d) on the Proposed Development (including the PEIR) as presented at Phase Two Consultation between 26 June and 30 July 2025. The letter offered a briefing on the Proposed Development and signposted to the Phase Two Consultation questionnaire should the consultee wish to provide their comments on the Proposed Development using this method. The Applicant also posted an LIQ on 24 June 2025 to the new occupiers.
- 5.4.16. 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 38 persons and organisations falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 is included in the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]** submitted with the Application. This includes 35 persons and organisations identified at Phase Two Consultation, 1 identified following Phase Two Consultation and 2 identified as part of targeted consultation activity.
- 5.4.17. Two small parcels of the land within the Order Limits (plots 2/3, 2/5, 1/7, 1/3, 1/2) are covered by The Secretary of State for Transport's HS2's Safeguarding Directions 2018 under articles 18(4), 31(1) and 34(8) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (HS2 Safeguarding). This land is also the subject of a private agreement between the Claydon Estate, The Department for Transport and HS2 regarding the effect of the Direction. However, given the requirements under the Direction, the Applicant is in the process of consulting with High Speed Two (HS2) Limited in relation to the effect of

the Direction and will provide an update to the Planning Inspectorate or during the course of the Examination (should the application be accepted).

Notification to the Secretary of State (section 46)

- 5.4.18. In accordance with s46 of the PA 2008, the Applicant wrote to the Secretary of State on Monday 16 September 2024 in advance of s42 consultation commencing on Wednesday 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 G-1.1: Section 46 Notification**.
- 5.4.19. 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.
- 5.4.20. The Applicant received an acknowledgement of receipt of information concerning the proposed application from the Planning Inspectorate on Wednesday 18 September 2024. A copy of this letter is provided in **Appendix G-1.2: Acknowledgement of receipt of s46 notification**.

5.5. Consultation with the local community (section 47)

- 5.5.1. The Applicant consulted with the local community in accordance with the SoCC provided in **Appendix D-1: Final SoCC**, 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

- 5.5.2. 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.
- 5.5.3. 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.

- 5.5.4. 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.
- 5.5.5. A map of this zone in relation to the proposed Site boundary is shown in **Figure 5-3**. The inner zone encompassed 2,993 addresses.
- 5.5.6. 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 5-4**.

Figure 5-3: Inner consultation zone (blue) in relation to the proposed Site boundary (red)

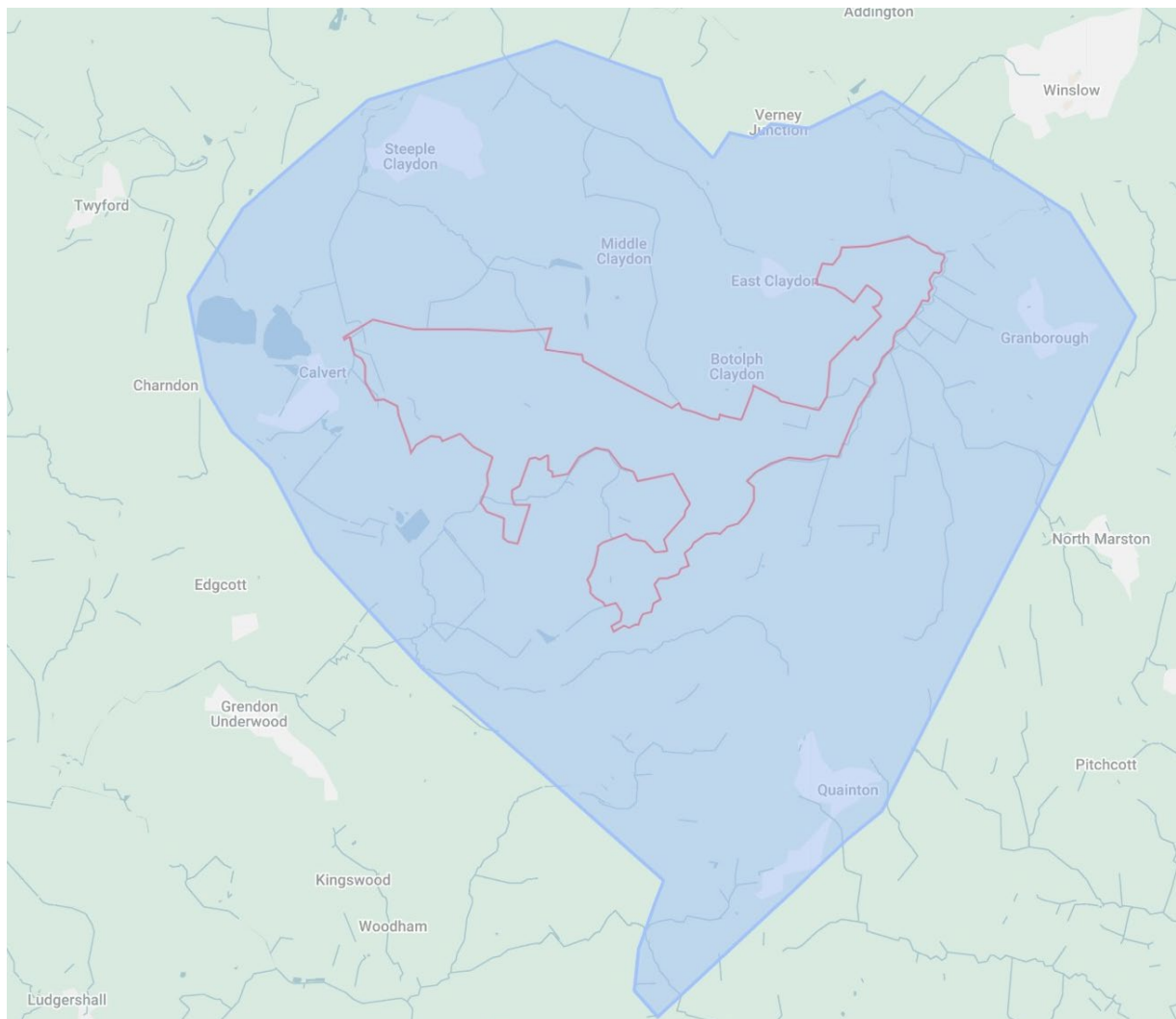
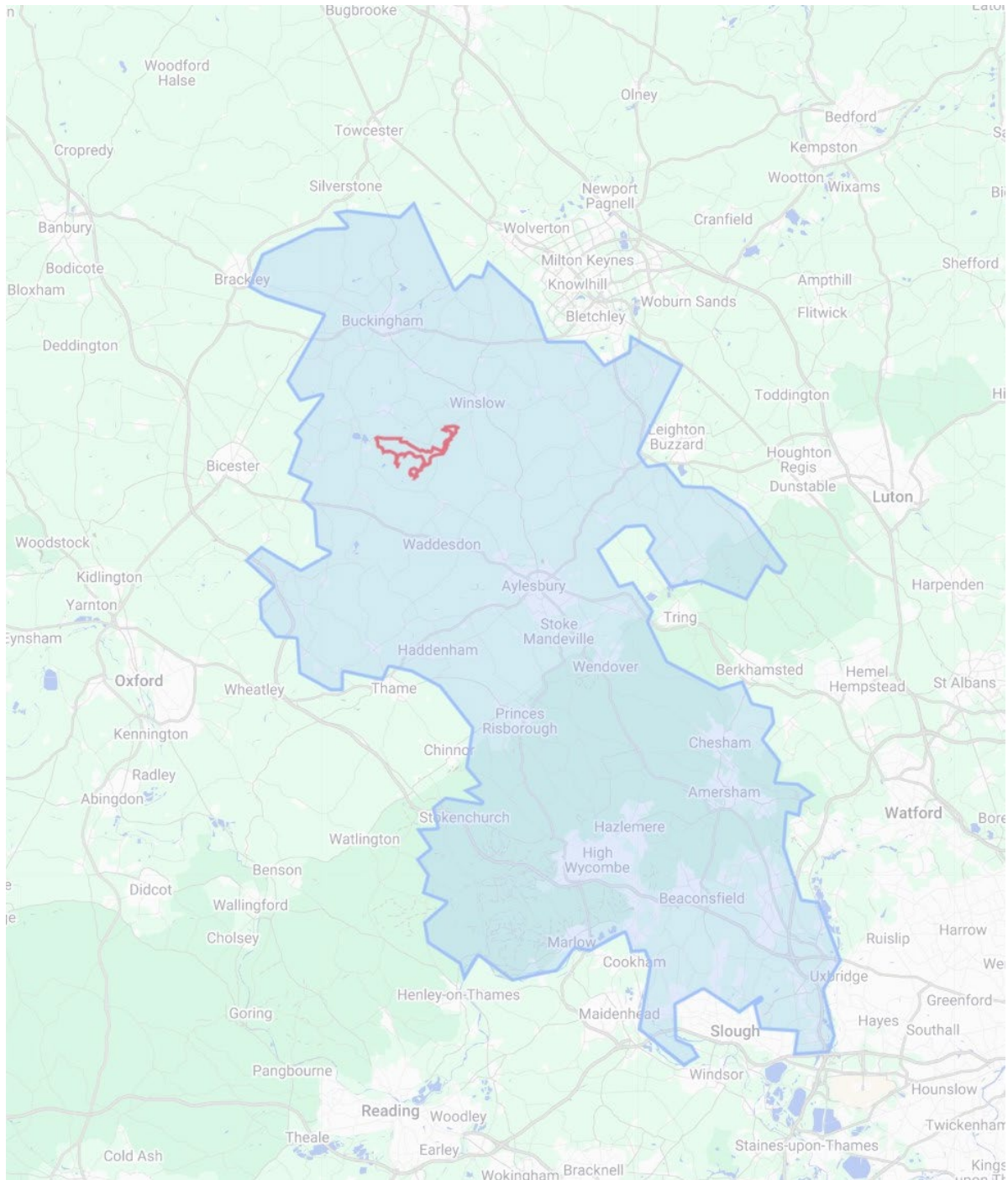


Figure 5-4: Map of the outer consultation zone (blue) in relation to the proposed Site boundary (red)



- 5.5.7. 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. This 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. A list of all non-prescribed consultees is included in **Appendix H-1: List of non-prescribed consultees and community organisations consulted during Phase Two Consultation.**

Availability of consultation materials

- 5.5.8. Consultation materials were available to inspect in printed form throughout the consultation period at two deposit locations, listed in **Table 5-2**. The SoCC was available to inspect at each location from Wednesday 04 September 2024, with the remaining consultation materials available from the beginning of the consultation period on Wednesday 18 September 2024. 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.
- 5.5.9. Where information was updated during Phase Two Consultation (as described in sections 4.8.7 - 4.8.8 and 5.2.2 - 5.2.4), the deposit point was either updated by the Applicant or the materials were sent to the deposit points by post to update. Regular checks (phone calls, emails and physical checks) were made of the deposit points to ensure materials remained available and had been updated where applicable. An example of the deposit point at Winslow Community Library clearly showing the materials available is provided in **Figure 5-5**.

Table 5-2: Location of deposit points

Location	Opening times
East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall Botly 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: 1pm – 5pm Saturday: 9.30am – 1pm

- 5.5.10. All consultation materials were available to view and download from Wednesday 18 September 2024 from the Rosefield Solar Farm project 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.
- 5.5.11. 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.
- 5.5.12. 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.
- 5.5.13. 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 5-5: Consultation materials available at Winslow Community Library



5.6. Consultation materials and activities

Consultation newsletter

- 5.6.1. As described in paragraph 4.8.5, the launch of the Applicant's Phase Two Consultation ran in parallel with the publication of the SoCC. On 04 September 2024, a newsletter (**Appendix G-2.1**) 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.

- 5.6.2. 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 project website or contacting the Applicant using its communications channels), and how to respond to the consultation.

Rosefield Solar Farm project website and virtual exhibition

- 5.6.3. The Rosefield Solar Farm project 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. Screenshots of the website and virtual exhibition are included at **Appendix G-3: Screenshot of Phase Two Consultation website and virtual exhibition**.
- 5.6.4. 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
- 5.6.5. 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.
- 5.6.6. 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.
- 5.6.7. 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 project 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.

Public events

- 5.6.8. 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.
- 5.6.9. 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.
- 5.6.10. 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.
- 5.6.11. 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 Substation.
- 5.6.12. The locations, times and attendance figures for the exhibitions are included in **Table 5-3**. In total, 239 people attended the five events.

Table 5-3: Public events held and attendance

Locations	Date	Attendance
Calvert Green Village Hall and Brickworx Bar, Cotswolds Way, Calvert MK18 2FJ	Thursday 3 October 2024 (2pm-6pm)	34
East and Botolph Claydon Village Hall Botyl Road, Botolph Claydon MK18 2LR	Friday 4 October 2024 (4pm-8pm)	112
Quainton Memorial Hall Station Rd, Quainton, Aylesbury HP22 4BW	Saturday 5 October 2024 (10am-2pm)	27
Steeple Claydon Village Hall 48 Queen Catherine Rd, Steeple Claydon MK18 2PY	Friday 18 October 2024 (3.30pm-8pm)	43
Quainton Memorial Hall Station Rd, Quainton, Aylesbury HP22 4BW	Saturday 19 October 2024 (10am-2pm)	23

Stakeholder meetings

- 5.6.13. The Applicant also held 24 meetings with stakeholders on request 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.

Table 5-4: Stakeholder meetings held during Phase Two Consultation

Stakeholder	Summary of meeting	Date
Tenant A	Briefing on the updated proposals for Phase Two Consultation.	16 September 2024
Tenant C	Briefing on the updated proposals for Phase Two Consultation.	26 September 2024
Buckinghamshire Council	Water topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water)	26 September 2024

[EN010158/APP/6.2] for more details).

Historic England	Approach to assessment of Claydon House and enhancements and design.	2 October 2024
PPA meeting	Regular PPA meeting with host authority officers. Topics included information about the launch of Phase Two Consultation.	02 October 2024
Buckinghamshire Council members	Briefing on the Phase Two Consultation and updated plans for the Proposed Development.	02 October 2024
Members of the Butterfly Conservation Trust	In-person meeting (during public event) to discuss the Applicant's approach to ecological enhancement and mitigation.	03 October 2024
Ministry of Justice	In-person meeting (during public event) to discuss approach to inter-project effects and the Grendon Underwood Prison expansion.	03 October 2024
Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board	In-person meeting (during public event) to discuss the Applicant's approach to environmental assessments with reference to Claydon Brook.	03 October 2024
PINS	Regular update meeting (see Table 3-1)	09 October 2024
Milton Keynes College	Meeting to provide an introduction to the proposals and the Applicant's approach to skills, employment and training.	09 October 2024
National Trust	Briefing on Phase Two Consultation and assessment. Feedback on the design (including location of collector compound).	15 October 2024

National Trust and Historic England	Presentation of the 3D visualisation to collect feedback on mitigation planting for Knowl Hill.	23 October 2024
National Highways	Meeting to discuss the Applicant's approach to environmental assessment and content of the PEIR.	31 October 2024
PPA meeting	Regular PPA meeting with host authority officers. Topics included information about the additional information published as part of the PEIR and the Applicant's approach to notifying consultees.	06 November 2024
National Infrastructure Commission	A briefing on the Proposed Development and the Applicant's approach to design.	06 November 2024
Local residents	Site visit with residents with an interest in butterfly conservation.	13 November 2024
PPA Meeting	Regular PPA meeting with host authority officers. Topics included information about feedback from Phase Two Consultation.	13 November 2024
Natural England	Engagement on survey work and bat activity report.	11 November 2024
National Grid	Regular technical coordination meeting.	22 November 2024
Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board	Meeting to discuss feedback received to Phase Two Consultation and approach to assessment.	25 November 2024
National Trust	Meeting to discuss viewpoints from Claydon House	28 November 2024
National Grid	Regular technical coordination meeting.	02 December 2024

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority	Meeting to discuss feedback received to Phase Two Consultation and approach to assessment.	04 December 2024
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- 5.6.14. The Applicant was also pleased to meet with elected representatives at parish, unitary and parliamentary levels at the public events, including the Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, relevant Cabinet members at Buckinghamshire Council ward members and Greg Smith MP.
- 5.6.15. 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

- 5.6.16. 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 in-person 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 project 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.

- 5.6.17. In addition, the Applicant wrote to 59 gateway organisations and 11 education providers on 04 September 2024 and 18 September 2024, to inform them 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

- 5.6.18. 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).
- 5.6.19. 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.

5.7. Publicising the consultation

- 5.7.1. 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

- 5.7.2. The Applicant published notices containing the prescribed details in the newspapers and on the dates set out in **Table 5-5** pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008 and regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations.

Table 5-5: 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

- 5.7.3. A copy of the notices as published is provided at **Copies of Newspaper Notices [EN010158/APP/1.7]**. A screenshot showing this on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website, is provided in **Appendix G-3: Screenshot of the Phase Two Consultation website and virtual exhibition**.

- 5.7.4. 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

- 5.7.5. 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 5-3 and 5-4**) 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.
- 5.7.6. 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 4.8.5. Examples of the adverts are available in **Appendix G-2.6: Phase Two Consultation advertising**.
- 5.7.7. 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).
- 5.7.8. While the Applicant did not insert advertisements within any local newsletters, The Claydons Magazine included information about the consultation in its September 2024, October 2024 and November 2024 issues.
- 5.7.9. A media release (in addition to one published at launch on 04 September 2024) was issued to approximately 29 journalists and media outlets on Wednesday 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.
- 5.7.10. 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.
- 5.7.11. 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).

- 5.7.12. 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.

5.8. Outcomes of Phase Two Consultation

- 5.8.1. The Applicant received 179 responses to Phase Two Consultation. Chapter 6 of this Report provides an overview of responses received from consultees under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008, and how the Applicant has had regard and responded to feedback received.

6. Responses to Phase Two Consultation

6.1. Overview

- 6.1.1. A total of 179 “relevant responses” for the purposes of s49 of the PA 2008 were received in response to Phase Two Consultation¹. **Table 6-1** includes a breakdown of responses by response type; **Table 6-2** shows responses by stakeholder type and **Table 6-3** shows the number of responses to each of the questions in the consultation questionnaire.
- 6.1.2. As with Phase One Consultation, freeform emails were preferred above the other methods of providing feedback, accounting for 88% of total responses received.

Table 6-1: Number of responses received by method

Method of response submission	Total
Email	159
Online questionnaire	18
Hard-copy (returned at the event or by Freepost)	2

Table 6-2: Number of responses received by stakeholder type²

Method of response submission	Total
Section 42(1)(a) or (b)	36
Section 42(1)(d)	8
Section 47	135

¹ 186 responses were recorded within the Adequacy of Consultation Report (**Appendix M-1**), based on preliminary analysis of the responses received. The Applicant has since completed formal feedback analysis of the responses which has removed duplicated submissions (e.g. where identical responses have been submitted through multiple methods or where multiple responses made by one individual have been consolidated into a single response). Categorisation by stakeholder type has also been undertaken since the Adequacy of Consultation Report.

² There are some instances where consultee types overlap - these have only been counted once (e.g. where a consultee is prescribed under S42(1)(a) and has been identified as a land interest under S42(1)(d)).

Table 6-3: Responses by question in the consultation questionnaire

Question	Number of responses
Question 1: Do you have any comments on the updated proposals for Rosefield Solar Farm?	15
Question 2: Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposed footpath enhancements?	11
Question 3: Do you have any comments on our environmental and landscaping proposals or suggestions for how we could further enhance the natural habitat within the site?	16
Question 4: Do you have any comments on our ongoing assessment of potential environmental effects?	12
Question 5: Do you have any comments on our approach to moving materials and construction workers, including on our outline Construction Traffic Management Plan?	15
Question 6: Please leave any further comments or suggestions you have on our updated proposals.	15

- 6.1.3. 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.

6.2. Responses received to section 42 consultation

- 6.2.1. The Applicant received 36 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.
- 6.2.2. These respondents included:
- Anglian Water
 - Buckinghamshire Council
 - Bucks and Milton Keynes Fire Authority
 - Calvert Green Parish Council
 - East Claydon Parish Council
 - Historic England
 - National Highways
 - National Trust
 - Natural England
 - NGET
 - Steeple Claydon Parish Council
- 6.2.3. The Applicant received responses from Natural England and Quainton Parish Council on 06 December 2024, and National Highways on 19 December 2024. Milton Keynes City Council responded on 31 January 2025. All were accepted by the Applicant.
- 6.2.4. The Applicant received 8 responses to Phase Two Consultation from consultees who were identified as consultees under s42(1)(d). 7 chose to send written responses via email, with one person opting to use the online questionnaire. A further four organisations categorised under sections 42(1)(a), (b) and (d) also responded to the consultation but have been captured under section 42(1)(a) and (b) to avoid duplication.
- 6.2.5. **Appendix J-1: Summary of s42(1)(a), (b) and (d) responses to Phase Two Consultation and consideration by topic** 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.

6.3. Responses received to section 47 consultation

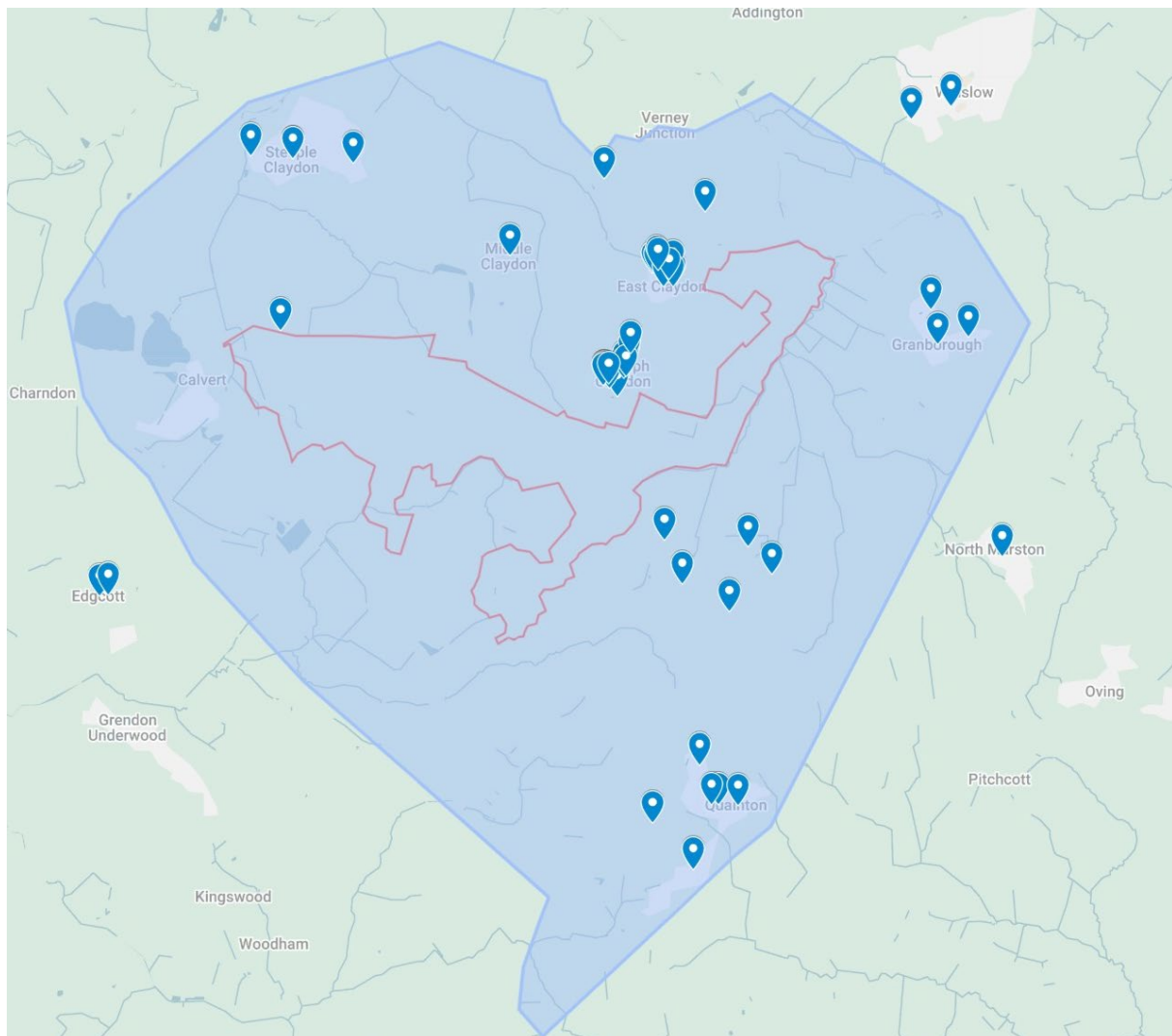
- 6.3.1. This section sets out “relevant responses” for the purposes of s49 of the PA 2008 received from the local community, including a summary of the most common topics raised in feedback received.

- 6.3.2. The Applicant received 135 responses 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 5.3.
- 6.3.3. A total of 88 respondents provided a postcode as part of their consultation response, and responses received by village are shown in **Table 6-4**. All postcodes have been mapped in **Figure 6-1**.
- 6.3.4. Almost a third (32%) of respondents who provided a postcode were from Botolph Claydon, followed by 20% of respondents from East Claydon.

Table 6-4: Responses received by village

Village	Total
Botolph Claydon	28
East Claydon	18
Steeple Claydon	8
Quainton	6
Granborough	5
Hogshaw	5
Winslow	4
Other	14

Figure 6-1: Geographical location of responses (blue pins) which provided a postcode in relation to the proposed Site boundary (red)



- 6.3.5. **Table 6-5** sets out most common themes in responses that did not follow the questionnaire format. **Tables 6-6 to 6-11** summarise the most common themes raised in response to each question received via the consultation questionnaire, and the frequency with which they were raised.
- 6.3.6. **Appendix J-2: Summary of s47 responses from Phase Two Consultation and consideration by topic** summarises 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.

Table 6-5: Most common themes raised in freeform responses

Theme	Frequency
There would be a negative visual impact from the Proposed Development.	67
There would be a negative impact on the local road network from construction traffic.	66
Local roads could be damaged by construction traffic from the Proposed Development.	65
More consideration should be given to the potential cumulative effects from other developments in the local area.	63
There is a potential effect on tenant farmers from the Proposed Development.	63
General statement of opposition.	55
The TEC Register has more solar capacity than required and therefore the Proposed Development should be cancelled.	53
The Proposed Development is too large.	45
Concern about the loss of agricultural land.	44
Solar panels should not be sited on greenfield land and should be elsewhere, including: brownfield sites, warehouses, car parks and rooftops.	36
Concern about fire safety risk from elements of the Proposed Development.	35
The proposed site access points are dangerous.	33
There is a potential effect on local businesses from the Proposed Development.	33
The proposed site is unsuitable for the Proposed Development.	32
The proposed mitigation would be insufficient to screen the Proposed Development.	30
There has been no noise assessment.	29
There is too much optionality in the Proposed Development which means the consultation process is flawed.	29

Request for more information on battery storage element of the Proposed Development and how this would be managed.	28
The local area has had its fair share of development.	27

Table 6-6: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 1

Theme	Frequency
General statement of opposition.	10
Opposition to the use of agricultural land.	4
The Proposed Development is too large.	3
There would be an impact on the local environment.	3
The proposed Site is not a suitable location for the Proposed Development.	3
There could be an impact on the local community.	2
The local area is currently used for recreation and this could be reduced by the Proposed Development.	2
The Proposed Development should be sited on brownfield land.	2
Comments that solar technology is inefficient.	2
HS2 has had an impact on ecology in the local area and this could be heightened by the Proposed Development.	2
Concern about the cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in combination with other proposed developments in the area.	2
The land would not be able to be returned to agriculture.	2

Table 6-7: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 2

Theme	Frequency
The enhancements to the footpath network do not outweigh the effects of the Proposed Development.	4
Concern that existing footpaths could be ruined by the Proposed Development.	2
Walkers would not use the new footpaths as the routes go through the Proposed Development.	2

Table 6-8: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 3

Theme	Frequency
The Proposed Development should not be built.	3
There would be an impact on the local environment.	2
The assessment period does not factor in changes to the baseline once the Proposed Development would be implemented and this would take time to adjust.	2
The Proposed Development would not enhance existing habitats.	2
Not enough archaeological surveys have been undertaken to understand the effects of the Proposed Development.	2
The Proposed Development is too large.	2
The proposed landscaping would not effectively screen the Proposed Development.	2
New planting should be mature so that it can be effective.	2

Table 6-9: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 4

Theme	Frequency
Comment that wildlife would be displaced during the construction phase.	2
There would be an impact on the local environment.	2
Concern about noise during operation.	2
Environmental assessments have not considered how wildlife would behave after existing habitats have been altered by the Proposed Development.	2

Table 6-10: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 5

Theme	Frequency
The area has already been damaged by other developments and this will be exacerbated by the Proposed Development	6
There would be travel disruption for local residents during construction.	5

Local roads are not suitable for accommodating HGVs.	3
There would be damage to the local road network during construction.	2
Properties along the access route would be impacted.	2
More information about how traffic management measures would be enforced is needed.	3

Table 6-11: Most common themes raised by respondents in response to Question 6

Theme	Frequency
Any benefit to the local community would not outweigh the effects of the Proposed Development	4
There would be no benefit from the Proposed Development to the local community.	3
The Proposed Development should not be built.	2

6.4. Responses received to section 48 consultation

- 6.4.1. The Applicant sought responses from s48 consultees (see section 5.7). None of the consultation responses specified that they had submitted under s48.

6.5. Changes to the Proposed Development following Phase Two Consultation

- 6.5.1. 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 in Parcel 1 to reduce effects on a residential property.
 - Removal of proposed solar development from parts of two fields in Parcel 1 to reduce effects on a residential property.
 - Removal of proposed solar development from parts of two fields in Parcel 1 to reduce potential effects on the setting and significance of Claydon House and Claydon Park.
 - Narrowing down the proposed locations of the BESS, Collector Compounds and Rosefield Substation to provide greater certainty regarding the proposed location of these elements, including:
 - Removal of the potential for the Rosefield Substation and battery storage to be located in Field E23. Field E23 is now proposed for

solar only, with a commitment in the **Design Approach Document [EN010158/APP/5.8]** that this field would be designed to incorporate movement corridors for livestock owned by TCS Biosciences to cross the field to access adjacent grazing fields.

- Removal of option to locate a Satellite Collector Compound in Parcel 1 adjacent to Sheephouse Wood.
- Reduction of the siting zone for the Satellite Collector Compound and Satellite Collector Compound Transformer in Parcel 1 to reduce impact on heritage assets.
- Increasing proposed offsets in ecologically sensitive locations, including:
 - Width of offset between Finemere Wood and Runt's Wood increased to 30m from 20m, to enhance connectivity for bats.
 - Width of offset along hedgerows between Shrubs Wood, Sheephouse Wood and Decoypond Wood increased to 15m from 10m, to enhance important bat corridors.
 - Offsets increased to 50m from Shrubs Wood, Sheephouse Wood, Decoypond Wood and Runt's Wood for construction compound locations.
- New permissive walking route proposed to connect to the HS2 footway to Steeple Claydon and future HS2 footway to Calvert Green.
- New permissive walking route to connect Splash Lane and Bernwood Jubilee Way
- Extension of the proposed permissive walking route which would connect Knowl Hill to Calvert Road.
- Refinement of plans for green and blue infrastructure which include c. 4km of proposed new hedgerow and over 8.5ha of proposed new native woodland, including:
 - New hedgerow planting proposed along the parts of the Bernwood Jubilee Way within the proposed Site boundary.
 - Reinforcement of avenue of poplars on Three Points Lane.
 - New hedgerow planting to the access to Pond Farm.
 - New hedgerow and native woodland (Fields D12, D13 and D23 (South)) to screen views of Solar PV modules from Splash Lane.
 - Creation of a substantial woodland tree buffer is proposed to the eastern boundary of Fields B8,9,19 and 26 to screen views from Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park.
 - Creation of a substantial woodland tree buffer is proposed to the western boundary of Fields E11, E20, E22 and E23 to screen views from East Claydon and Botolph Claydon.

- Reduction of the proposed maximum hedgerow height from 4m to between 3-3.5m.
- Option for the southern cable route to connect Parcels 1 and 2 removed.
- Restriction on noisier activities during the construction phase between 07:00 to 08:00 and 18:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday and 07:00 to 08:00 on Saturdays.

6.5.2. For more information about the changes made following Phase Two Consultation, see **Design Approach Document [EN010158/APP/5.8]**.

6.5.3. In addition, feedback from Phase Two Consultation led to several changes being made to the approach to EIA. Key changes are summarised below and detailed within **Appendices J-1: Summary of s42(1)(a), (b) and (d) responses to Phase Two Consultation and consideration by topic** and **J-2: Summary of s47 responses from Phase Two Consultation and consideration by topic**:

- Splitting the land and groundwater assessment and the soil assessment into two separate chapters in the ES (**ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land and Groundwater [EN010158APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Soil [EN010158APP/6.2]**) to reduce confusion.
- Adding six additional viewpoints requested by stakeholders including The Mushroom Shelter, Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park, Permissive footpath to Steeple Claydon and Permissive footpath to Runts Wood.
- Adding details of associated infrastructure including satellite collector compounds, fencing, tracks, CCTV and other infrastructure that would have a bearing on visual impact to the photomontages provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6 - LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.
- Adding in receptors to the noise impact assessment, including PROW users and East Claydon.
- Included a comparison of operational emissions from the Proposed Development to the average UK grid factor in 2024 This demonstrates that the Proposed Development is approximately 6.5 times more efficient than the current UK grid.
- Inclusion of Bicester Aerodrome, Pear Tree Farm and Field Farm Airstrip in the Glint and Glare Assessment.
- Increasing the population study area from 500m to include community-level areas based on administrative (parish) boundaries as part of its population assessment.

6.5.4. The Applicant has set out how it has approached the EIA in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

7. Additional targeted consultations

7.1. Purpose of consultations

- 7.1.1. Feedback received from Phase Two Consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessment and technical work, resulted in a number of changes to the proposals.
- 7.1.2. Where these changes required minor additions to the proposed Order Limits, or it was considered useful to gain feedback on the changes ahead of the submission of the Application, the Applicant commenced targeted statutory consultation with relevant prescribed and non-prescribed consultees and affected land interests.
- 7.1.3. The Applicant undertook targeted consultation on two sets of proposed changes (together: 'the proposed changes') concurrently between 21 May – 16 July 2025 (56 days). The consultation period and timing of the consultation was selected as a result of discussions with the host authority.
- 7.1.4. 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

- 7.1.5. 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 required an amendment to the proposed Site boundary and was therefore subject to targeted consultation. The inclusion of the track within the Order Limits 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

- 7.1.6. 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.
- 7.1.7. Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant identified a single preferred layout for these elements, described below with reference to field numbers shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.4: Field Numbering System [EN010158/APP/6.3]**:
 - 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 was 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 was discounted as a potential location, while Field E11 is being considered alongside Fields E20, E21 or E22 in Parcel 3.

- 7.1.8. Neither of the proposed changes were considered to materially affect the outcomes of the environmental assessments described in the PEIR published as part of Phase Two Consultation.

7.2. Identification of consultees

- 7.2.1. The Applicant consulted with relevant prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a) and (b) and non-prescribed consultees on a precautionary basis. This included the host local authority, 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 High Speed 2 ('HS2'), and those likely to have an interest in the proposed layout changes such as Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority). In compiling the list of prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, the Applicant took into account the limited nature of the proposed changes.
- 7.2.2. Following updated environmental information (see paragraph 7.3.4 below), the Applicant wrote to Historic England on Friday 30 May 2025 on a precautionary basis to consult it on Change 2 between 02 June 2025 and 16 July 2025 (44 days).
- 7.2.3. The Applicant also consulted 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 paragraph 5.4.9 to ensure that any additional land interests were consulted. The process identified 21 land interests who had previously been consulted on the Proposed Development as prescribed by section 42(1)(d), and 1 land interest (the Forestry Commission) who had not previously been consulted under section 42(1)(d), but had been consulted previously under section 42(1)(a). No category 3 persons were identified.
- 7.2.4. As outlined in paragraph 5.4.15, in the feedback received to targeted consultation, the Applicant became aware that there were new occupiers of a property where the previous owner had been consulted under section 42(1)(d) on the Proposed Development as part of the targeted consultation

on the proposed layout changes. The Applicant therefore consulted the new land interest under section 42(1)(d) on the Proposed Development (including the PEIR) as presented at Phase Two Consultation, as well as the proposed layout changes, between 26 June and 30 July 2025. A letter, sent on 24 June 2025, offered a briefing on the Proposed Development and signposted to the Phase Two Consultation questionnaire should the consultee wish to provide their comments on the Proposed Development using this method. The Applicant also posted an LIQ on 24 June 2025 to the new occupiers.

- 7.2.5. Following targeted consultation, the Applicant continued to refine its proposals for the Proposed Development, which removed 10 Category 1 & 2 persons identified at targeted consultation.
- 7.2.6. A full list of the 38 persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 is included within the **Book of Reference [EN010158/APP/4.3]** submitted with the Application. This includes 2 persons identified through targeted consultation activity.
- 7.2.7. In line with its commitments in 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.

A full list of prescribed and non-prescribed consultees consulted on the proposed changes is provided at **Appendix K-1: List of prescribed consultees consulted during targeted consultation** (sorted by each targeted consultation).

7.3. Consultation activities

- 7.3.1. The Applicant wrote by recorded delivery on Monday 19 May 2025 to all consultees to notify them of the changes and invite comment for a 56-day period between 21 May 2025 (the day after the letters landed) and 16 July 2025. Sample letters to land interests and prescribed consultees for each consultation are included in **Appendix K-2: Materials for targeted consultations on proposed additional land and proposed layout changes**. Land interests received land interest plans relevant to the nature of their interest (see **Appendices K-2.1d** and **K-2.2e: Example land interest plan**).
- 7.3.2. The plans included within the letters differed for each targeted consultation:
- Change 1: All consultees a plan showing the proposed Site boundary with the proposed additional land shown in blue (**Appendix K-2.1c**:

Plans showing proposed additional land in relation to the Order Limits)

- Change 2: All consultees received a plan showing the updated layout within Parcel 3, with an extract of the previous proposed layout in this area for comparison (presented at Phase Two Consultation) on the same page (**Appendix K-2.2d: Plan showing comparison of zonal masterplan**).

7.3.3. With respect to Change 2, the Applicant prepared an Addendum to the PEIR to identify 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 project website.

7.3.4. Following publication of the Addendum, results from trial trenching undertaken in the area subject to the targeted consultation affected the Applicant's understanding of the potential environmental effects on buried archaeology. While the Addendum (like the PEIR) represented a snapshot of ongoing environmental survey work, the Applicant felt it was important to publish this information in advance of the Environmental Statement so that it could be considered as part of the consultation. On a precautionary basis, the Applicant therefore:

- Updated the title page of the original Addendum on Friday 23 May 2025 notifying readers that the Addendum was to be updated and inviting anyone interested to email the Applicant to receive a notification when the revised version was published. No requests for notification were received.
- Writing to consultees on 30 May 2025 who were considered to have a potential interest in cultural heritage. These were all parish councils, the host authority, Natural England, the Environment Agency and BBOWT (noting that Historic England received notification of consultation on Monday 02 June 2025 as a result of the update, it not having been originally notified of the consultation as no heritage assets were considered to be affected).
- Published the updated Addendum (marked 'Revision 1') on 02 June (see **Appendix K-2.2f: PEIR Addendum (Revision 1) published on 02 June 2025**) on the website.

7.3.5. 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.

- 7.3.6. 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.
- 7.3.7. Noting that there could be wider community interest in the proposed changes, the Applicant published a post on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website which provided a written summary of the proposed changes and targeted consultation activity, including links to the plans provided for each consultation. A screenshot of this post on the Rosefield Solar Farm project website is included in **Appendix K-4: Screenshots of updates to Rosefield Solar Farm website at targeted consultation and blog post.**
- 7.3.8. As outlined in Chapter 3, the Applicant additionally issued a Community Update newsletter (**Appendix B-1.2: Community Update newsletter (21 May 2025)**) 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 since Phase Two Consultation and noted that targeted consultation activity was ongoing on some of these changes.
- 7.3.9. The Applicant wrote to host and neighbouring parish councillors, ward members and MPs representing the areas in which the Proposed Development, to provide an update on the Proposed Development and targeted consultation activity.
- 7.3.10. 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.
- 7.3.11. The Applicant also held 9 meetings with stakeholders on request during the consultation period. This included a briefing for officers of Buckinghamshire Council, as well as meetings with East Claydon Parish Council and Middle Claydon Parish Council.

Table 7-1: Stakeholder meetings held during targeted consultation period

Stakeholder	Summary of meeting	Date
Tenant A	Briefing on the proposed layout changes and project update.	21 May 2025
Buckinghamshire Council	Regular PPA meeting covering Planning and Communications.	04 June 2025
National Grid	Technical coordination meeting	06 June 2025

National Grid	Land, Planning and Communications call.	11 June 2025
Buckinghamshire Council	Briefing for planning officers on changes subject to targeted consultation.	12 June 2025
Buckinghamshire Council	Regular PPA meeting covering Planning and Communications.	02 July 2025
East Claydon Parish Council	Briefing on the proposed changes made since Phase Two Consultation, targeted consultation, and next steps.	04 July 2025
Middle Claydon Parish Council	Briefing on the proposed changes made since Phase Two Consultation, targeted consultation, and next steps.	04 July 2025
National Grid	Land, Planning and Communications call.	09 July 2025
Natural England	Meeting to discuss	

7.4. Responses received to targeted consultations

- 7.4.1. The Applicant received 13 responses to the targeted consultations. Given the concurrent nature of the targeted consultation periods and overlapping consultees, many respondents chose to provide comments on both of the changes in a single response. Five respondents chose to do this, with the remaining consultees provided comments on a specific set of changes. Seven consultees provided comments solely on Change 2, with one respondent providing comments solely on Change 1.
- 7.4.2. Four consultees under s42(1)(a) and (b) provided comments on Change 1, including Buckinghamshire Council and East Claydon Parish Council. One response was collected on behalf of three s42(1)(d) consultees, who were considered existing land interests.
- 7.4.3. Key issues raised through the consultation included:
- Ecological surveys need to be undertaken.
 - Cumulative effects with HS2 due to use of track.
 - Need to ensure PRow are not diverted wherever possible.

- 7.4.4. Nine consultees under s42(1)(a) and (b) provided comments on Change 2, including the Health and Safety Executive, Buckinghamshire Council, East Claydon Parish Council, NGET, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority and Historic England. Two responses were collected from s42(1)(d) consultees, both of which existing land interests.
- 7.4.5. Key issues raised through the consultation included:
- The Proposed Development is reliant on construction and operation of the replacement East Claydon National Grid Substation.
 - Cumulative effects of other developments in the local area.
 - Fire safety issues with the BESS element of the Proposed Development.
 - Importance of archaeological remains in Parcel 3 (of which through further assessment and discussions with the host authority and relevant stakeholders it was confirmed that the potential effects on below-ground assets in Parcel 3 are classed as not significant).
 - Visual effects from siting of the BESS and Rosefield Substation.
 - Potential effect of removing hedgerow between E11 and E20.
- 7.4.6. In addition, a response was received by a non-prescribed consultee, which discussed the Proposed Development generally.
- 7.4.7. A summary of issues raised by topic and the regard had to the feedback by the Applicant to each consultation is included in **Appendix K-3: Summary of responses to targeted consultations and consideration by topic.**

7.5. [Changes to the Proposed Development following targeted consultations](#)

- 7.5.1. In response to the feedback received, the following changes were introduced:
- An existing farm track was incorporated in the Order Limits to provide access to the area proposed for landscaping and environmental enhancements in Parcel 1a.
 - The siting zone for the Rosefield Substation was confirmed as within Fields E11 and E20 in Parcel 3.
 - The siting zone for the BESS was confirmed as within Fields D8 and D9 in Parcel 2.
 - The siting zone for the Main Collector Compound was confirmed as within Field E11 is being considered alongside Fields E20, E21 or E22 in Parcel 3.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1.1. This Report forms part of the Application for the Proposed Development and is submitted in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. It describes the pre-application consultation and engagement undertaken by the Applicant, summarises the responses received, and explains how the Applicant has had regard to them to develop its proposals.
- 8.1.2. It also demonstrates how 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) and that the Applicant has complied with guidance on the pre-application process and compiling the consultation report (see **Appendices L-1: Compliance with PA 2008: Guidance on the pre-application stage for NSIPs, April 2024** and **L-2: Compliance with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, August 2024**).
- 8.1.3. Feedback from consultation and engagement was integral to developing the design of the Proposed Development, helping to shape the Applicant's proposals from the outset. At each phase of consultation, the Applicant sought to involve and engage a wide range of stakeholders and the local community.
- 8.1.4. Phase One Consultation set out the Applicant's early plans and proposals for the Proposed Development, including potential locations for different elements of the proposals.
- 8.1.5. Following Phase One Consultation, the Applicant made the following key changes to the Proposed Development including:
- Reducing the area proposed for Solar PV development by 40% to 689 acres (from 1,108 acres identified as potentially suitable for Solar PV development).
 - Refining the proposed locations of the BESS and Rosefield Substation from 8 potential fields to 4.
 - Refining plans for proposed footpaths, including introducing new proposed routes, including a 1.9km footpath to open up public access to Knowl Hill.
- 8.1.6. Phase Two Consultation sought feedback on the Applicant's updated plans and proposals for the Proposed Development, along with the PEIR which contained 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.

- 8.1.7. Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant made the following key changes to the Proposed Development including:
- Further removal of Solar PV development around residential properties at Calvert Cottages and Catherine Cottages;
 - Further removal of Solar PV development from higher ground around Knowl Hill;
 - Refinement of cable corridors to give increased certainty on their location;
 - Refinement of single siting zones for the Rosefield Substation, Satellite Collector Compound and the BESS;
 - Additional permissive footpath links to tie into the current rights of way network; and
 - Refinement of the green and blue infrastructure proposals which include c. 4km of proposed new hedgerow and over 8.5ha of proposed new native woodland, to provide greater detail on the locations of proposed planting.
- 8.1.8. The Applicant also carried out an additional targeted consultation on two sets of proposed changes to the Proposed Development presented at Phase Two Consultation.
- 8.1.9. Following the targeted consultations, the Applicant made the following key changes to the Proposed Development including:
- An existing farm track was incorporated in the Order Limits to provide access to the area proposed for landscaping and environmental enhancements in Parcel 1a.
 - The siting zone for the Rosefield Substation was confirmed as within Fields E11 and E20 in Parcel 3.
 - The siting zone for the BESS was confirmed as within Fields D8 and D9 in Parcel 2.
 - The siting zone for the Main Collector Compound was confirmed as within Field E11 is being considered alongside Fields E20, E21 or E22 in Parcel 3.
- 8.1.10. Formal stages of pre-application consultation were complemented by a continuous programme of engagement with stakeholders, including the host authority, prescribed consultees, near neighbours and the local community. In doing so, the Applicant has sought to exceed the minimum requirements set out in the PA 2008 and in the Applicant's SoCC. 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.



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