

Rosefield Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 1
Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed
Development

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Rosefield Energyfarm Limited

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2. Location of the Proposed Development

2.1. Introduction

- 2.1.1. The Proposed Development is located within the administrative boundary of Buckinghamshire Council.
- 2.1.2. The location of the Proposed Development is shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.1: Location Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The Order Limits presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.2: Order Limits [EN010158/APP/6.3]** constitute the maximum extent of land that would be required to facilitate the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The land within the Order Limits comprises approximately 675 hectares (ha) of land and is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.
- 2.1.3. The Site comprises four parcels of land (Parcel 1, 1a, 2 and 3), the Interconnecting Cable Corridor, the Grid Connection Cable Corridor, the National Grid East Claydon Substation, and associated access. These parcels and cable corridors are outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.2: Order Limits [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and detailed further below within **Paragraph 2.3.3** of this chapter.
- 2.1.4. Further detail on the Proposed Development and the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning phases can be located in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.
- 2.1.5. This chapter is supported by the following figures presented in **ES Volume 3 [EN010158/APP/6.3]**:
- **Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations;**
 - **Figure 2.2: Existing Public Rights of Way;**
 - **Figure 2.3: Topography Plan;** and
 - **Figure 2.4: Field Numbering System.**

2.2. Settlements and infrastructure

- 2.2.1. The Site is located within the administrative boundary of Buckinghamshire Council. The settlements of Calvert, Middle Claydon, Botolph Claydon, East Claydon, Hogshaw and Quainton lie within 1.5km of parts of the Order Limits. Further afield (within 3km of the Order Limits) lie the settlements of Steeple Claydon, Edgcott, Shipton Lee, Granborough and Winslow.

- 2.2.2. National Grid East Claydon Substation is the closest major infrastructure, located within the Order Limits and adjacent to Parcel 3. Traversing from this substation are three overhead power lines (400 Kilovolt (kV) transmission line), carried by pylon structures, that run across Parcel 3 to the east and south.
- 2.2.3. A High Speed 2 (HS2) works area is located in close proximity to the western edge of Parcels 1 and 1a, and southern edge of Parcel 2. It is approximately 100m from Parcel 1 and 1a and less than 500m from Parcel 2. This section of HS2 is currently under construction. Permanent HS2 mitigation planting is located directly adjacent to the western edge of Parcel 1 and to the north and south of Parcel 1a, with a small section of mitigation planting intersecting Parcel 1a, as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.
- 2.2.4. The East West Rail railway line, which is currently under construction, is located approximately 850m north of Parcel 1 at its closest point and runs west to east.

2.3. Current terrain and land use

- 2.3.1. The land within the Order Limits predominantly consists of agricultural fields and pastureland interspersed with hedgerows, ditches, woodland blocks and farm access tracks. The hedgerows within the Site range from dense tall vegetation to sporadic shrubs and hedgerow trees. The fields are bordered by a mix of hedgerows, trees and ditches.
- 2.3.2. Parcels 1 and 1a are gently undulating with the highest point being Knowl Hill at around 116m above ordnance datum (AOD) as shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.3: Topography Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The rest of Parcel 1 is at an elevation of 80-90m AOD and Parcel 1a at an elevation of 79-84m AOD. Parcel 2 is located on a low ridge crest at 137m AOD and Parcel 3 is located on relatively flat ground at 90-94m AOD on the north east of the ridge. **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.3: Topography Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]** provides further detail on the topography of the Internal Access Corridors, Interconnecting Cable Corridors and Grid Connection Cable Corridor.
- 2.3.3. There is some variation in the features immediately surrounding and within the Site, as presented below. **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010158/APP/6.3]** illustrates the features within each Parcel and surrounding the Site. This is summarised below:
- **Parcel 1:** Parcel 1 is the western most parcel of the Site and measures 183ha. Parcel 1 is bordered by several woodland blocks including Shrubs Wood, Decoypond Wood and Sheephouse Wood. Calvert Road sits on the northern boundary of Parcel 1. Parcel 1 is located in close proximity to an active High Speed Rail (HS2) works area, which is

located approximately 100m from the western edge of Parcel 1. Permanent HS2 mitigation planting is located directly adjacent to the eastern edge of Parcel 1. The East West Rail (EWR) railway line, which is currently under construction, is located approximately 850m north of Parcel 1 at its closest point.

- **Parcel 1a:** Parcel 1a is the smallest parcel (17ha) and is located to the south east of Parcel 1. Parcel 1a is bordered by Sheephouse Wood to the north west, Romer Wood and Greatsea Wood to the east, Muxwell Brook to the north and by hedgerows to the south. Parcel 1a is located less than 500m east of the active HS2 works area. Permanent HS2 mitigation planting is located directly adjacent to the north and south, with a small section of mitigation planting intersecting the Parcel.
- **Parcel 2:** Parcel 2 is located approximately 1km east of Parcel 1a and is 203.5ha. Parcel 2 is bordered by Runt's Wood to the west, Finemere Wood to the south and the residential settlement of Botolph Claydon directly to the north.
- **Parcel 3:** Parcel 3 is the northern most parcel of land within the Site and is 50.6ha. Adjacent to Parcel 3 lies the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation which would be the point of grid connection for Rosefield Solar Farm.
- **Interconnecting Cable Corridor:** The cabling that is required to connect the Solar PV development from each parcel to the Satellite Collector Compound(s), BESS, Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation. The Interconnecting Cable Corridor between Parcel 1 and 2 passes adjacent to Home Wood and is approximately 462ha.
- **Grid Connection Cable Corridor:** The Grid Connection Cable Corridor would connect the Rosefield Substation (located in Parcel 3) to the National Grid East Claydon Substation via 400kV cabling which would run underground and would be located to the north of Parcel 3. This would be approximately 77.99ha.
- **Internal Access Corridors:** The Internal Access Corridors are the areas within the Order Limits that connect the Parcels to allow for the movement of vehicles during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases. The Internal Access Corridor between Parcel 1 and 2 is adjacent to Home Wood and links Field B23 (South) with Fields D3 (South) and D12. The Internal Access Corridor between Parcel 1 and 1a passes through Romer Wood, using the existing HS2 access track, and adjacent to Sheephouse Wood.
- **Abnormal Indivisible Load Access Corridor:** The AIL Access Corridor includes a single access point off East Claydon Road and into the north of Parcel 3 and is approximately 6ha. It would require a crossing over Claydon Brook.

- 2.3.4. Each aspect contains several fields. Each field has been given a unique reference (e.g. Field B1) as shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.4: Field Numbering System [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

2.4. Access

- 2.4.1. Parcels 1 and 2 are bordered to the north by Calvert Road which provides direct access to Botolph Claydon and Calvert. East Claydon Road, which lies to the north of Parcel 3, provides direct access to the National Grid East Claydon Substation and the settlement of East Claydon.

- 2.4.2. Parcel 1a is bounded by Sheephouse Wood, Romer Wood, Greatsea Wood and Muxwell Brook and is only accessible via a public right of way (PRoW) heading south from Knowl Hill.

- 2.4.3. There is an extensive network of public rights of way (PRoW) within and adjacent to the Site, which provide links to the surrounding settlements as shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and **Figure 2.2: Public Rights of Way [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The following PRoW identified below and displayed in **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.2: Public Rights of Way [EN010158/APP/6.3]** lie within or intersect the Site:

- Public rights of way (SCL/12/1, SCL/12/2, SCL/13/1, SCL/13/2) extend within the western extents of Parcel 1, in Fields B1 and B4 to B7;
- Public rights of way (MCL/17/1, MCL/18/1, MCL/18/2 and MCL/20/2) are located south of Knowlhill Farm outside of the area of Solar PV development and run south into and around Parcel 1a through the Internal Access Corridor;
- Public rights of way (MCL/15/1, MCL/16/1, and ECL/9/1) traverse through the Interconnecting Cable Corridor and Internal Access Corridor between Parcels 1 and 2.
- Public rights of way (ECL/7/1, ECL/9/2 and ECL/10/1) extend south from Botolph Claydon to within the northern extent of Parcel 2, and continue as public rights of way (ECL/8/1, ECL/8/2, ECL/7/2, ECL/10/2, ECL/10/3, ECL/10/4, ECL/10/5, QUA/38/1, QUA/39/1, QUA/40/1, QUA/40/2, QUA/40/3, QUA/41/1, and QUA/42/2) through and along the boundary of Parcel 2;
- Public rights of way (ECL/11/1, ECL/11/2, ECL/11/3, ECL/11/4) extend from Botolph Claydon to East Claydon following the route of Botyl Road then forking off-road close to the property Ivy Nook. ECL/11/1 extends to the west of Parcel 3;
- Public rights of way (ECL/6/1 and ECL/5/1) cross through the Interconnecting Cable Corridor and Internal Access Corridor between Parcel 2 and 3;

- Public rights of way (ECL/4/2) traverses east to west across Parcel 3;
- Public rights of way (ECL/3/1, ECL/3A/1, ECL/3/2, and ECL/4/1) are located within the Grid Connection Corridor; and
- Public rights of way (QUA/24/1, QUA/22A/1, and QUA/23/1) cross Snake Lane/Fidlers Field.

2.4.4. Further information related to access is presented within **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Traffic and Transport [EN010158/APP/6.2]** and the **Outline Rights of Way and Access Strategy [EN010158/APP/7.8]**.

2.5. Environmental Designations

2.5.1. The Site itself does not overlap any environmental designations, except for the where the Order Limits encroach into Romer Wood and Greatsea Wood (further detail below) and Quanton-Wing Hills Area of Attractive Landscape which sits in the southern part of Parcel 2. There are numerous environmental designations within its vicinity, as illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

Biodiversity

2.5.2. There are no international statutory designations within 10km of the Site.

2.5.3. There are three statutory nationally designated sites within 2km of the Site. These are Sheephouse Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (adjacent to Parcel 1 and Parcel 1a), Finemere Wood SSSI (adjacent to Parcel 2), and Grendon and Doddershall Woods SSSI (approximately 1.36km southwest of Parcel 1a).

2.5.4. There are 31 non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the Site, namely 19 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), seven Biological Notification Sites (BNS), two Wildlife Trust Reserves (WTR) and three Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA). There are 52 areas of ancient woodland within 2km of the Site, of which, 33 are areas of ancient semi-natural woodland and 19 are areas of replanted ancient woodland. The closest areas of ancient woodland are both ancient semi-natural woodland and replanted ancient woodland that are located within the Order Limits, these are Romer Wood and Greatsea Wood, as shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

2.5.5. See **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010158/APP/6.2]** for further details.

Historic environment

2.5.6. There are no designated cultural heritage assets located within the Site.

- 2.5.7. The Site is situated adjacent to two Conservation Areas: Botolph Claydon and Middle Claydon. Botolph Claydon Conservation Area lies north of Parcel 2 and Middle Claydon lies to the north of Parcel 1.
- 2.5.8. There are six Scheduled Monuments within 5km of the Site. Five of these are medieval in date and comprise a preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers, associated fishponds and the medieval settlement of Hogshaw, two deserted medieval villages, a medieval standing Cross, and a medieval moated site. One is an Norbury Iron Age univallate hillfort.
- 2.5.9. Within 5km of the Site, there are four Registered Parks and Gardens (two Grade I and two Grade II), 14 Conservation Areas (including Botolph Claydon and Middle Claydon Conservation Areas), nine Grade I Listed Buildings, 30 Grade II* Listed Buildings, and 469 Grade II Listed Buildings.
- 2.5.10. See **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010158/APP/6.2]** for further details.

Water resources

- 2.5.11. The Site lies across the Anglian River Basin District and the Thames River Basin District. The northern part of the Site is located within the Great Ouse Upper Operational Catchment and is split between the Claydon Brook Tributary (to the north east) and Padbury Brook (The Twins) (to the north west) water body catchments. The southern part is located within the Ray and tributaries north east of Grendon Underwood water body catchment which is within the Oxon Ray Operational Catchment.
- 2.5.12. There are no Main Rivers located within the Site. The closest Main River, River Ray, is located approximately 200m south of Parcel 2.
- 2.5.13. There are several minor unnamed ordinary watercourses and drainage ditches located across the Site. There are two named ordinary watercourses, one directly north of Parcel 1a (Muxwell Brook) and another directly east of Parcel 3 (Claydon Brook).
- 2.5.14. As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 2.1: Environmental Considerations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, the Site is predominately located within Flood Zone 1. There is a small area of Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 located at the northern extent of the Order Limits and an area surrounding the Muxwell Brook in the south western area of the Site.
- 2.5.15. The Site is not located within a Source Protection Zone; however it is located within a Drinking Water Safeguarding Zone for surface water and two Drinking Water Protected Areas.
- 2.5.16. See **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Water [EN010158/APP/6.2]** for further details.



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