

Rosefield Solar Farm

Draft Statement of Common Ground –
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes
Fire Authority

EN010158/APP/5.11_22
~~September 2025~~ April 2026
Rosefield Solar Farm Ltd
Planning Act 2008

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



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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1. This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') has been prepared on behalf of Rosefield Energyfarm Limited ('the Applicant') in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the construction, operation and decommissioning of Rosefield Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2. Rosefield Solar Farm (the Proposed Development) is a proposed new solar farm and battery storage facility located in Buckinghamshire. The proposals also include infrastructure to connect the Proposed Development to the National Grid East Claydon Substation, as well as any necessary supporting site infrastructure and environmental mitigation, including landscaping and ecological planting.
- 1.1.3. The SoCG is being submitted to the Examining Authority as an agreed draft between both parties. It will be amended as the examination progresses in order to enable a final version to be submitted to the Examining Authority.

1.1.3-1.1.4. [The SoCG has been updated following a discussion with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority \(BMKFA\) in April 2026 to reflect the position against the items within the tracker. All items have now been discussed and the position 'Agreed and Ongoing'.](#)

1.2. Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1. This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA).
- 1.2.2. BMKFA is a non-statutory stakeholder defined for the Rosefield Solar Farm Development Consent Order application.
- Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service serves the area covered by Buckinghamshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council. BMKFA is responsible for making decisions on policy, finance, and resources.
- 1.2.3. Collectively, the Applicant and BMKFA are referred to as 'the parties'.

1.3. Purpose of this Document

- 1.3.1. This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') is being submitted to the Examining Authority as an agreed draft between both parties. This SoCG is a 'live' document and will be amended as the examination progresses in order to enable a final version to be submitted to the Examining Authority.

- 1.3.2. The SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('DLUHC Guidance').
- 1.3.3. Paragraph 007 of the DLUHC Guidance comments that:
- "A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree, or indeed disagree. A SoCG helps to ensure that the evidence at the examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties and therefore makes best use of the lines of questioning pursued by the Examining Authority".*
- 1.3.4. The aim of this SoCG is, therefore, to provide a clear position of the progress and agreement met or not yet met between BMKFA and the Applicant on matters relating to the DCO Application.
- 1.3.5. The document will be updated as more information becomes available and as a result of ongoing discussions between the Applicant and BMKFA.
- 1.3.6. The SoCG is intended to provide information for the examination process, facilitate a smooth and efficient examination, and manage the amount of material that needs to be submitted.
- 1.3.7. This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents will be available on the Planning Inspectorate website after submission of the DCO application.
- 1.3.8. Once finalised, the SoCG will be submitted to the Examining Authority concerning the DCO Application under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for an order granting development consent for the construction of the Proposed Development.

1.4. Terminology

- 1.4.1. This SoCG summarises the main topics covered and the status of the matter. The colour coding system used within the table in Section 4 has been outlined below.

Cell

Status



Agreed - indicates where an issue has been resolved.

Under Discussion - indicates where points continue to be the subject of on-going discussions between parties.



Not Agreed - indicates a position where both parties have reached a final position that a matter cannot be agreed between them.

2. Proposed Development Description

- 2.1.1. 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.
- 2.1.2. The principal components of the Proposed Development include:
- Solar PV development consisting of:
 - Ground mounted Solar PV generating station. The generating station would include Solar PV modules and mounting structures; and
 - Balance of Solar System (BoSS) which comprises: Inverters; Transformers; Switchgear; Combiner Boxes; acoustic barriers and cabling.
 - A project substation (the 'Rosefield Substation') compound comprising: Transformers; Switchgear; reactive power compensation bays; disconnectors; circuit breakers; busbars; control equipment; lightning surge arrestors; building(s) including office, control, functions, material storage, material laydown areas and welfare facilities; firewalls; fencing and acoustic barriers; a security cabin; parking as well as wider monitoring, maintenance and emergency equipment;
 - A Main Collector Compound and two Satellite Collector Compounds comprising: Switchgear; Transformers; ancillary equipment; operation and maintenance and welfare facilities; material storage; material laydown areas; fencing and acoustic barriers; and security cabins;
 - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound comprising: batteries and associated Inverters; Transformers; Switchgear, ancillary equipment and their containers; office, control and welfare buildings; fencing and acoustic barriers; monitoring, maintenance and emergency systems; air conditioning; electrical cables; fire safety infrastructure; operation (including maintenance) security facilities; material storage; and material laydown areas;
 - Interconnecting Cabling Corridor(s) to connect the Solar PV modules and the BESS to the Satellite and Main Collector Compounds to the Rosefield Substation;
 - A Grid Connection Cable Corridor to connect the Rosefield Substation to the National Grid East Claydon Substation via 400kV cabling;
 - Ancillary infrastructure works comprising: boundary treatment; security equipment; lighting; fencing; landscaping; internal access tracks; works to facilitate vehicular access; earthing devices; earthworks; surface water management; utility connections and diversions; and any other works identified as necessary to enable the Proposed Development;

- Green and blue infrastructure, recreation and amenity works comprising landscaping; habitat management; biodiversity enhancement; the creation of three permissive footpaths; and works to permanently divert four PRow Footpaths in five instances;
- Site-wide operational monitoring and security equipment; and
- Highways infrastructure improvements and safety works comprising: minor junction improvement works; road widening; passing places; and works to facilitate vehicular access to the Site.

3. Record of Engagement

3.1. Record of Engagement

3.1.1. The parties have been engaged in consultation throughout the early stages of the project. Table 1 shows a summary of key engagement that has taken place between the Applicant and BMKFA in relation to the Application.

Table 1 - Record of Engagement

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
7 November 2023	Introduction Meeting on Teams	The Applicant presented slide pack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed points of contact • Risk identification and mitigation discussed • Return with concept design specifics in 2024 • Lessons learnt from fire authority to be shared
22 October 2024	Written feedback received from BMKFA	Request for emergency response plan. Request for outline battery safety management plan. Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) [EN010158/APP/7.9]
4 December 2024	Teams Meeting	Updates to project given - discussions from phase two consultation feedback
19 August 2025	Teams meeting – Pre DCO submission.	Review of project updates, discussion around draft oBSMP and plume assessment documents. Programme for SoCG.
16th April 2026	Teams Meeting – Pre SOCG update	Review updates to project, discussion around SOCG.

4. Current Position

- 4.1.1. The following tables set out the position of the Applicant and BMKFA following a series of meetings and discussions with respect to the key areas of the Proposed Development. This includes matters where discussions are ongoing.
- 4.1.2. As noted above, this is a 'live' document, ~~and some aspects have yet to be agreed upon between both parties.~~ The intention is to provide a final signed position in subsequent versions of the SoCG, addressing and identifying where changes have been made, and ultimately, documenting agreement by both parties on relevant points

Table 2 –Position of the Applicant and BMKFA

Ref	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
1	National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) Guidance for design of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) sites	BMKFA continues to assess the project proposals referencing the relevant NFCC benchmarking and national guidance for the BESS infrastructure.	The Applicant confirms that the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Grid- Scale Battery Energy Storage System Planning guidance-Guidance for FRS (2026) is being used as a fundamental input to develop the design from the start. It will continue to be an input throughout the Applicant design stages into construction and operation (including maintenance) phases.	Agreed / Ongoing Agreed and Ongoing
2	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Safety Standards and Chemistry Type	What standards are applied and what type of BESS being installed.	The Applicant confirms NFPA 855 is being considered in the design. Strict testing regimes for BESS are being applied to reduce the risk of thermal runaway including UL9540A alongside other mitigation measures as set out and secured in the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010158/APP/7.9.3] [REP1-092] Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) [EN010158/APP/7.9] . Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) Li-ion batteries are being proposed due to their better safety credentials over the Nickel Manganese Cobalt (NMC) battery type.	Agreed and Ongoing

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 3 | Emergency Response Plan | Prior to installation of the BESS, the Applicant will provide an Emergency Response plan. | The Applicant confirms that an Emergency Response Plan will be prepared in consultation with the BMKFA prior to installation of system. This is secured in the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) [EN010158/APP/7.9.3] . |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|---|

Agreed/~~Ongoing~~ and ~~Ongoing~~

5. Signatures

This statement of Common Ground is agreed upon:

On behalf of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Name:

Signature:

Date:

On behalf of the Applicant

Name: Lynsey Gray

Signature: #

Date:





rosefieldsolarfarm.co.uk