

Mr Richard Morgan –  
Lead Member of the  
Examining Authority

**Our ref:** OR-0004899/01

**Your ref:** EN010158

**Interested Party ref:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 26 May 2026

Planning Inspectorate  
[via PINS portal]

Dear Sir,

## **Rosefield Solar Farm – Development Consent Order (DCO) Application**

### **Examination Deadline 3 (27 May 2026)**

#### **Environment Agency Response**

This letter constitutes the Environment Agency's Deadline 3 response to the above mentioned DCO application.

#### Comments on further information received at Deadline 2

We have reviewed the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 2 and updated our comments on matters raised in the draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG). We provide our updated position on such matters in Appendix 1 (overall position) and Appendix 2 (position on individual issues).

We are satisfied with the Applicant's continued engagement with us, and we understand it is likely that all matters currently 'under discussion' in the draft SoCG will be resolved by the close of the examination.

We hold the view that agreement on one issue in the draft SoCG is unlikely to be reached by the end of the examination. This issue regards the use of the word 'substantially' in the DCO Requirements where the Environment Agency is listed as a consultee. Our position is stated in the draft SoCG as 'not agreed'. We previously provided our position on this matter, which still stands, in our response submitted at Deadline 2.

Written summary of oral submissions made at issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1)

Below we provide a written summary of our oral responses to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) queries for each agenda item within our remit at ISH1.

- a) Geomorphology
  - All issues relating to geomorphology are resolved following the updated documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 2.
- b) Biodiversity
  - All issues relating to biodiversity are resolved following the updated documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 2.
  - (i) Impact of the proposed bridge on riparian ecological features
    - 6.2.3 Environmental Statement Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [REP2-035] was updated by the Applicant at Deadline 2 to include the impact of the clear span abnormal indivisible load (AIL) bridge on ecological features. This has addressed our concerns, and this matter is resolved.
- c) Water quality and waste management
  - The updated documents submitted at Deadline 2 have resolved several issues relating to water quality. Following Deadline 2, the Applicant has proactively engaged with us regarding the issues 'under discussion' in the draft SoCG. We expect that the document updates the Applicant has proposed for Deadline 3 will resolve the remaining issues.
- d) Flood risk
  - (i) Flood risk
    - The updated documents submitted at Deadline 2 have resolved some issues relating to flood risk. Following Deadline 2, the Applicant has proactively engaged with us regarding the issues 'under discussion' in the draft SoCG. We expect that the document updates the Applicant has proposed for Deadline 3 will resolve the remaining issues.
  - (ii) Floodplain compensation
    - The Applicant has proposed to submit an updated Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) at Deadline 3 to state that the Environment Agency will be consulted on flood compensation at the detailed design stage. The Applicant also intends to update the wording around net loss in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). We anticipate that these updates should resolve our concerns regarding floodplain compensation.

We await the release of the hearing action points. We will respond to those addressed to the Environment Agency at the following examination deadline.

We trust this advice is useful.

Yours sincerely,

**[REDACTED]**

**Planning Advisor – National Infrastructure Team**

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**Appendix 1 – Summary of overall Environment Agency position on issues raised in our Relevant Representations**

Key:

Green	Agreed / resolved
Yellow	Working on a solution / under discussion
Red	Not agreed

Subject	Work package	Baseline assessment/ scope / surveys	Impact	Solution	Requirement	Status	EA Relevant Representation Issue ID
Flood Risk & Flood Modelling	Assessment of Flood Risk (ES and FRA)						EA02, EA03, EA04, EA05, EA06, EA07, EA08, EA09, EA10
Groundwater & Contaminated Land	Environmental Statement						EA11, EA12, EA13, EA14, EA15, EA16, EA17, EA18, EA19
	Commitments Register						EA11, EA20
	Construction Environmental Management Plan						EA21, EA22, EA23
	Operational Environmental Management Plan						EA11, EA21, EA23
	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan						EA11, EA12, EA21, EA23
	Battery Safety Management Plan						EA11, EA23
Biodiversity & Geomorphology	Drainage Strategy						EA11, EA13
	Environmental Statement						EA24, EA25, EA26
	Landscape Ecological Management Plan						EA24, EA25
Water Quality	Construction Environmental Management Plan						EA25
	Development Consent Order						EA01
	Environmental Statement						EA27, EA28, EA29, EA31, EA32, EA34, EA35, EA36, EA37, EA38, EA41, EA42
	Construction Environmental Management Plan						EA28, EA30, EA31, EA32, EA33
	Operational Environmental Management Plan						EA30, EA31, EA33, EA37, EA38, EA39, EA40
	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan						EA30, EA31, EA33, EA39, EA40
	Battery Safety Management Plan						EA37, EA38

**Appendix 2 – Environment Agency position on individual issue IDs as raised in our Relevant Representations**

Key:

	Agreed / resolved
	Working on a solution / under discussion
	Not agreed*

Issue ID	RAG status
EA01	
EA02	
EA03	
EA04	
EA05	
EA06	
EA07	
EA08	
EA09	
EA10	
EA11	
EA12	
EA13	
EA14	
EA15	
EA16	
EA17	
EA18	
EA19	
EA20	
EA21	
EA22	
EA23	
EA24	
EA25	
EA26	
EA27	
EA28	
EA29	
EA30	

EA31	Green
EA32	Yellow
EA33	Green
EA34	Green
EA35	Green
EA36	Yellow
EA37	Yellow
EA38	Green
EA39	Green
EA40	Green
EA41	Green
EA42	Green

\*The issue regarding the use of 'substantially' in DCO Requirements was raised following our Relevant Representations; therefore, it is not listed above. This is the only issue in the draft SoCG which is 'not agreed'.