

Rosefield Solar Farm development application

Closing statement by Tom Morrison 11 August 2026

This short statement is confined to the effect that Rosefield Solar Farm development, if approved, would have on the landscape and the view from the top of Hogshaw Hill, 370 feet asl, on the Great Ouse:Thames watershed divide, looking north from our farm, Hogshaw Hill Farm. See photo below.



We had hoped that the inspectors, whose time is limited and does not allow visiting all properties that claim that their views would be impaired, would take up my earlier advice and get a bird's eye view that encompasses, from one location, all of this very large development proposal.

Perhaps they did visit, but if so, I wasn't aware. Not that they needed permission to do so because the drive up to the farm and the track across the hill constitute a public right of way. The ROW is ancient, linking Hogshaw with Quainton, and is very popular with walkers, bikers, joggers and horse riders.

Perhaps they didn't visit because Hogshaw Hill Farm, although it shares a common boundary with Preston Farms, is outside the proposed development area. Nevertheless, a visit here would have impressed on the inspectors that this is yet another example of how the negative effects of this proposed development would be felt far and wide and would not simply be confined to Rosefield's development.

Please look again at the photo above. There is the green foreground; then there is a lighter area in the middle distance; then the rest goes on to the horizon. If Rosefield Solar Farm development goes ahead, then only the green foreground would not be covered in solar panels.

As I write, text messages are pinging on my phone from people in Hogshaw and beyond saying that they'll be gathering on the hill tomorrow evening to watch the solar eclipse. (Of course they know they don't need my permission to be there, it's their ancient right, but they tell me anyway.) They'll be looking north-west – just where the solar panels might be in a few years time.

The thought makes me very sad indeed.