



## Adequacy of Consultation Representation Proforma

Under *Section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)* the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, must take any adequacy of consultation representation (AoCR) received from a local authority consultee into account when deciding whether to accept an application for development consent, and this will be published should the application be accepted for examination.

An AoCR is defined in s55(5) in PA2008 as “a representation about whether the applicant complied, in relation to that proposed application, with the applicant’s duties under sections 42, 47 and 48”.

<b>Project name</b>	Meridian Solar Farm
<b>Date of request</b>	23 March 2026
<b>Deadline for AOCR</b>	06 April 2026
<b>Return to</b>	meridiansolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Please complete the proforma outlining your AoCR on the above NSIP.

<b>Local Authority</b>	South Holland District Council
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In the opinion of the local authority, has the applicant complied with the legislative requirements listed below?

*Please note that this is specifically about the statutory consultation(s) undertaken.*

<b>Assessment of Compliance - Required</b>	
<b>S42 Duty to consult</b>	Yes
<b>S47 Duty to consult local authority</b>	Yes
<b>S48 Duty to publicise</b>	Yes

If you would like to give more detail on any of the above, please do so below.

*Please keep it as succinct as possible and refer to facts and evidence related to consultation, rather than the merits of the application.*



Additional comments - <i>Not compulsory</i>	
<b>S42 Duty to consult</b>	
<b>S47 Duty to consult local authority</b>	Whilst we acknowledge that Meridian has consulted the council in accordance with the legislation there are concerns over the time provided for feedback as well as some members (councillors) who were not consulted at all. Furthermore, during one stakeholder session members felt that their concerns over the level of consultation were simply not listed to.
<b>S48 Duty to publicise</b>	Whilst the regulations appear to have been met we are concerned that residents were not comprehensively engaged with during later targeted consultations.
<b>Any other comments</b>	<p>During stage two statutory consultation they have stated that they met regularly with members (councillors) from South Holland however members do not agree to this assertion. Furthermore, members feel that their concerns and comments made were not listened to.</p> <p>In particular Councillor Eldridge has been consistent in her concerns and this is an extract of her response to the targeted consultation in February 2026 which summarises such concerns:</p> <p><i>“I am concerned that as this has been considered to be a “targeted” consultation, vast numbers of residents and stakeholders who have an interest in this project have not been given the opportunity to engage in this part of the process. I was both surprised and disappointed to hear that the Meridian Action Group (MAG), had not even been made aware of this new consultation by Meridian.</i></p> <p><i>Councillors were not made aware of this targeted consultation until 19th January, 11 days after the consultation had begun. As this consultation period runs from 8th January – 5th February, this is already a short time-frame. In addition to this, those that may have been notified about this consultation had a further reduced window due to a complete broadband outage in the area due to cable theft for a 5-day period. Meaningful public consultation must be inclusive, proportionate to the scale of change, and accessible.</i></p> <p><i>Limiting engagement at this stage undermines confidence in the process and risks prejudicing community trust.”</i></p>

