



RESPONSE BY GRANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL TO ROSEFIELD SOLAR FARM PHASE ONE CONSULTATION

9th November 2023

Please find below, responses to the questions raised.

Early Plans

At this stage of the process, we have developed principles which will guide the design of Rosefield Solar Farm

Q1. *Do you have any comments on our early plans and proposals for:*

- a. The potential locations of the solar energy generation element of Rosefield Solar Energy Farm? (Please specify the proposals to which your comments refer).*

The proposed Rosefield Solar Farm is not within Granborough Parish, but Granborough immediately abuts the proposed site to the east and is adjacent to the East Claydon Substation. GPC is strongly against the size and extent of the overall proposal. GPC is not opposed to solar farms but considers the extent of this proposal to be so extensive in its size with the consequent loss of farming/agricultural land and the displacement of existing tenants, to be unacceptable to the local communities which it will impact upon. In the light of this it is not possible to comment on specific areas, except for the area of proposed solar farm surrounding part of the village of Botolph Claydon. GPC considers the buffer zone shown in these early proposals to be wholly inadequate. Even with the provision of landscaping and/or ecological enhancement this part of Botolph Claydon will become enclosed by the farm and the panels, whereas of now it backs onto relatively open countryside.

- b. The potential areas we are considering for the battery storage element of Rosefield Solar Farm? (Please specify the proposals to which your comments refer).*

GPC fails to understand why battery storage has been included within this proposal, as it is not normally an element of solar farms and is not an integral part of the supply of electricity generated by the farm, to allow it to be supplied to the grid. GPC is opposed to the inclusion of all elements of battery storage.

The following comments are made in the light of the above view.

1. Area adjacent to the Claydon Road.

Although this is indicted as a possible site, from the information that GPC has obtained relating to other schemes it is economically preferable to site battery storage as near as possible to a suitable electricity substation. GPC does not believe this to be a logical site, but if it is for serious consideration then so too should all other areas shown as being potential solar development.

2. Area adjacent to the East Claydon Substation.

Based on the comments above GPC believes that this will be the preferred location for battery storage should the final proposal include such an element. GPC is strongly opposed to this location in light of the advanced proposal by Statera to site one of the largest battery storage units in Europe immediately adjacent to the substation, but wholly within Granborough Parish. GPC believes the combination of the two proposals immediately adjacent to the substation could potentially create one of the largest battery storage facilities in the world.

The Rosefield farm element will directly adjoin the Statera development and will be visible from parts of Granborough Village. GPC is particularly concerned that the proximity of two huge battery storage facilities adjacent to one another, but of different/separate design etc. and different management, presents an unacceptable risk to the local community should there be a fire within one or other elements and there being inadequate safety measures in place including adequate supplies of water to control a fire, and hence present danger to local residents due to toxic materials within the plume.

GPC believes there should be no battery storage element to the Rosefield proposal.

c. Any other elements of the Rosefield Solar Farm?

Whilst it is understood that the proposals are at an early stage, GPC is very concerned that no information is available as to what the impact is on the East Claydon Substation in respect of its capacity to handle the input of energy from the solar generation element or the potential abstraction and input of power from a battery storage facility. This is crucial information in light of the Statera proposal which, if approved is likely to be in operation in advance of Rosefield farm.

Will the substation need to expand both in capacity and size as it already an intrusive structure in the landscape? When will indicative proposals if required be made public?

Enhancing the local environment

Our early design shows the areas we are considering for landscape and ecological enhancement. We are also considering ways that we could improve the existing footpath network.

Q2 *Are there any landscape or ecological enhancement you think we should include as part of the proposals?*

GPC recognises that should this scheme be implemented then landscape and ecological enhancement will be essential, but it is of the view that no amount of enhancement will compensate for the destruction of the natural farmed environment and ecological damage caused by the proposal of such massive scale. The adverse consequences of this will be apparent well beyond the boundaries of the proposed site.

Q3 *Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve the current network of Public Rights of Way to create a better experience for users? Please specify the locations of the Public Rights of Way to which your comments refer.*

GPC has insufficient knowledge of the adequacy or otherwise of the existing footpath network to comment.

Q4: *Do you have any further information about the area and local environment which you think we should take into account?*

GPC has insufficient knowledge of the adequacy or otherwise of the existing footpath network to comment.

Communities

We recognise that the construction and operation of solar farms can affect communities around them. Wherever we operate, we also give something back to the local community. All our onshore wind and solar sites in the UK have a dedicated community fund to spend on improvements in the local area.

Q5: *Do you have any ideas you would like to share about how Rosefield Solar Farm could support community initiatives.*

As it is unclear as to whether an adjoining community (i.e., Granborough) would be included in any such community fund, it is unable to comment on this question, except to ask will the fund also recognise the Battery storage element as this is not mentioned in the above introduction which only mentions wind and solar sites?

Q6 *Are you aware of any existing community funds or organisations which might be interested in partnering with Rosefield Solar Farm?*

At this early stage of the process GPC has no knowledge of such funds or organisations.

Q7 *Please leave any further comments or suggestions you have. Including any areas that you would like to know more about.*

No additional comments at this time.