



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”.

Project name	Whitestone Solar Farm
Date of request	11 June 2026
Deadline for AOCR	25 June 2026
Return to	whitestonesolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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

Local Authority	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough 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.

Assessment of Compliance - Required	
S42 Duty to consult	No
S47 Duty to consult local authority	Yes
S48 Duty to publicise	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>	
S42 Duty to consult	RMBC acknowledges that the Applicant has undertaken a programme of consultation activities, including the distribution of leaflets, in-person engagement events, the use of online consultation tools, and the implementation of accessibility measures. On this basis, the Council considers that the Applicant has complied with the procedural requirements set out within the agreed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). Notwithstanding the above, the Council notes that significant concerns have been raised by a number of Parish Councils, Ward Councillors, local residents and MP's. These concerns suggest that the quality and effectiveness of the consultation has been perceived by these stakeholders as insufficient. The relevant representations from affected Parish Councils are appended for consideration. Furthermore, whilst the Council recognises that the Applicant has sought to discharge its statutory obligations under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, it has been made aware of an apparent failure to serve the requisite notice on the occupiers of Springvale Farm, Springvale House, Morthen House, and New Sycamore Farm. In the absence of evidence demonstrating that such service has been lawfully affected, the Council's position is that the statutory consultation requirements may not have been fully satisfied. Representations in respect of this matter are likewise appended to this submission.
S47 Duty to consult local authority	No additional comments
S48 Duty to publicise	No additional comments
Any other comments	No additional comments