

**SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008**  
**Regulation 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.**

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station, with a generating capacity of more than 50 megawatts and associated infrastructure on land north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk.

1. Notice is hereby given that The Drovers Solar Farm Limited ("the Applicant") (Company registration number 14684480) of Unit 25.7 Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, England SW6 6AW, proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order for The Drovers Solar Farm ("the Application").
2. The Drovers Solar Farm will cover a combined area of approximately 825 hectares of land ("the Site"). The Site is located south of South Acre, West Acre and Castle Acre. River Road bisects the Site, routing in a general south-northwest direction. West Acre Road and Narford Lane border the Site along the southern and south-western boundary. The Site's north-eastern boundary routes parallel to the south of South Acre Road to the junction to the A1065. Castle Acre Road (merging into the A1065) runs in a general north-south direction routing parallel along the eastern boundary of the Site.
3. The Drovers Solar Farm will consist of:
  - a) The solar array sites, which will include solar panels, conversion units and inverters.
  - b) A Customer Substation, which comprises electrical infrastructure such as transformers, switchgear and metering equipment required to facilitate the export of electricity up to 400kV (kilovolt) from The Drovers Solar Farm to the National Grid Substation.
  - c) A 400kV National Grid Substation operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission and associated electrical infrastructure and other ancillary works required to facilitate the export of electricity from The Drovers Solar Farm to the National Grid.
  - d) A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) area.
  - e) Associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures and other ancillary works, for example, enclosures and fencing, security, drainage, earthworks, highways and access works, mitigation and enhancement measures, temporary works compounds and work sites.
  - f) Cable Route Corridor – underground cabling connecting the solar array sites and Conversion Units to the BESS and the Customer Substation.
  - g) Grid Connection Corridor - cabling connecting the Customer Substation to the National Grid Substation point of connection to transfer the energy generated to the national grid system, which may be underground or via overhead lines.
  - h) Grid Connection Infrastructure - Underground and/or overhead lines, including the construction of new pylons between the National Grid Substation and the point of connection.
4. The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:
  - Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the solar PV electricity generating station and associated development including grid connection and energy storage facility;
  - Compulsory acquisition of land, including interests in land, rights over land and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and powers for the temporary use of land;
  - The application, modification and/or disapplication of legislation including legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant; and
  - Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.
5. The Drovers Solar Farm is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The Environmental Statement will provide a detailed description of The Drovers Solar Farm and assess its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about The Drovers Solar Farm's likely significant environmental effects is set out for consultation in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (the PEIR) and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary (NTS).

**Statutory consultation**

6. The Applicant is undertaking a statutory consultation on the proposals for The Drovers Solar Farm between Wednesday 21 May 2025 and Wednesday 9 July 2025.
7. A copy of the PEIR, together with the PEIR NTS, the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and other consultation documents, plans and maps explaining the consultation process and details of the nature and location of The Drovers Solar Farm can be found on the Applicant's website in the documents library at [www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk). These documents will be free to read, download and print from **Wednesday 21 May 2025 to Wednesday 9 July 2025**.
8. Hard copies of the PEIR, PEIR NTS, SoCC, maps and plans will be available for inspection free of charge from Wednesday 21 May 2025 and Wednesday 9 July 2025 at the information point below. Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form will be available to take away free of charge from the information point below.
9. Electronic copies of the SoCC, PEIR and NTS can also be viewed on the library's computer. While access to the computer at the library is free, a membership for the library may be required. We recommend contacting the library to check the opening times prior to visiting.

Venue	Address	Opening times	Contact details
Swaffham Library	Swaffham Library, The Pightle, Swaffham, PE37 7DF	<p>During staffed hours, a membership is not required to access the library.</p> <p><b>Staffed hours:</b>                      Tuesday and Thursday 10am-7pm                      Friday 1 pm-7pm                      Saturday 10am-4pm</p> <p>During open access hours, a membership is required to access the library.</p> <p><b>Open access hours:</b>                      Monday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access                      Tuesday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access                      Wednesday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access                      Thursday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access                      Friday: 8am to 1pm - Open Library access                      Saturday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access                      Sunday: 10am to 4pm - Open Library access</p> <p><i>Please note: Membership is free, and we recommend getting in touch with the library for more details.</i></p>	Email: <a href="mailto:libraries@norfolk.gov.uk">libraries@norfolk.gov.uk</a> Phone: 01760 721513

10. The Applicant will host public information events to provide interested parties with the opportunity to view the consultation materials as well as speak with members of the project team. The details of the events can be found below.
11. These consultation events offer an opportunity to find out more about The Drovers Solar Farm. Attendees do not need to register in advance to attend an in-person consultation event.

Venue	Date and Time
<b>Sporle Community Centre</b> 78 The Street, Sporle, King's Lynn, PE32 2DR	Saturday 31 May 2025 <b>11:00- 17:00</b>
<b>Narborough Community Centre</b> Chalk Lane, Narborough, PE32 1SR	Monday 2 June 2025 <b>10:00- 14:00</b>
<b>Swaffham Assembly Rooms</b> 1 Market Place, Swaffham, PE37 7AB	Wednesday 11 June 2025 <b>12:00- 19:00</b>
<b>Westacre Theatre</b> River Road, West Acre, King's Lynn, PE32 1UD	Friday 20 June 2025 <b>10:00- 14:00</b>

12. The Applicant will also host two webinars for interested parties to join via telephone or online via Livestorm, a conferencing platform.

Date	Time
Thursday 5 June 2025	12:30- 13:30
Wednesday 25 June 2025	18:30- 19:30

13. We will require attendees to register for these online events in advance via a registration form. The link to the registration form will be available on The Drovers Solar Farm website, which will also provide joining instructions.
14. For further information or queries, please call **FREEPHONE 0800 0129 154** (free of charge); write by letter to **FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM** (no stamp or further details required); email [info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk) or visit [www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk).

**To obtain hard copies of the consultation documents**

15. Hard copies of all other consultation materials, including the PEIR, may be requested during the consultation period by contacting the Applicant on **FREEPHONE 0800 0129 154** or by email to [info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk).
16. Requests for consultation materials in an alternative format such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments or in an alternative language for those who do not speak English as their first language will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Requests for multiple copies of these documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis and a reasonable charge may apply to cover printing and postage costs.
17. A printed hard copy of the PEIR will cost £750 (which includes printing and postage costs).

**Have your say**

18. Feedback can be provided through the Consultation Feedback Form on the Applicant's website at [www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk). Hardcopy feedback forms will also be available at the information point detailed above and at the in-person consultation events.
19. The Consultation Feedback Form, responses to the consultation or other representations in respect of The Drovers Solar Farm can also be sent to the Applicant by email to [info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk) or by post to **FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM** (no stamp or further details required).
20. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must be received by the Applicant on or before 23:59 on Wednesday 9 July 2025.

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses to consultation and publicity when developing its DCO application. Individual responses may be made publicly available, or made available to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and data protection legislation.

Respondents do not have to provide any personal information, but this information will help the Applicant to understand the range of responses and enable the Applicant to send you further information relating to The Drovers Solar Farm. Personal information will be kept confidential where possible. Please refer to our Privacy Notice for more details on The Drovers Solar Farm website: [www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk)