

The Droves Solar Farm



Newsletter

The Droves Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Island Green Power (IGP) is bringing forward proposed plans for a solar farm with battery energy storage located on land north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk.

If consented, The Droves Solar Farm ("the Project") could generate approximately 500 MWac (Megawatt Alternating Current) of renewable energy, enough to power approximately 115,000 homes, annually. The battery energy storage component would store surplus energy and supply it to the national grid when needed. The Applicant for The Droves Solar Farm will be The Droves Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of IGP.

This newsletter explains how we will consult and gain feedback on our proposals for The Droves Solar Farm.

The consultation process

We will launch a seven-week statutory consultation that starts on **21 May and runs until 9 July 2025**. During this period, we encourage you to share your feedback on our design proposals, including our preliminary environmental assessments and measures being taken to reduce the Project's impact.

This feedback is important to us and will be used to shape our final designs. This newsletter provides more information about the consultation, upcoming events, and how to take part. If you have any further queries, please contact us using the details provided on this page.

The planning process

As the proposed generation capacity for The Droves Solar Farm is anticipated to be 500 MWac, it exceeds the 50 MW threshold to be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The consenting regime for NSIPs comes under the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") and requires The Droves Solar Farm Limited to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Unlike planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA), DCO applications must be submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) through the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). We are therefore required to apply to the SoS for a DCO, in accordance with the Act. The application will be examined by an independent Examining Authority appointed by PINS, who would then make a recommendation on the application to the SoS. The SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) makes the final decision on a DCO application.

How to contact us

@ Email us at:
info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk

📞 Community Relations Freephone:
0800 0129 154 (Our phone lines are monitored 09:00–17:30 Monday to Friday, with an answerphone facility available outside of these hours)

About The Droves Solar Farm

The Droves Solar Farm would cover approximately 825 hectares of land, situated north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk.

As we are still in the early stages of design, survey work is ongoing to determine the exact areas within the Site that will be allocated for environmental mitigation, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, and associated development.

If consented, the Project would generate approximately 500 MWac of renewable energy, providing enough electricity to power approximately 115,000 homes annually. The battery storage component would store surplus energy and supply it to the national grid when needed.

Our vision for The Droves Solar Farm

Our vision is for The Droves Solar Farm to support the UK's transition to decarbonised, low-cost renewable energy while leaving a positive legacy for the people of Breckland and its natural environment.

IGP has developed the following Design Principles. These Design Principles are being used by the The Droves Solar Farm team to help guide the Project.

The Droves Solar Farm will:



Maximise its clean energy generation potential, contribute to energy security and help deliver the UK's 2050 net zero targets, by providing secure, reliable, affordable and home-grown energy.



Make a positive contribution to the local environment, by creating new habitats and delivering measurable biodiversity net gain throughout operation.



Provide additional benefits in consultation with the local community, minimise disruption to Public Rights of Way during all phases, and improve local walking routes and paths where possible.



Reduce potential environmental impacts and control any adverse effects during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning.



Maximise operational efficiency, ensuring consistent energy output and minimal losses through advanced, ethically sourced technologies and an optimised site layout.



Be temporary and fully reversed, if necessary, with minimal impact to the environment, allowing for the delivery of sustainable energy.



Be functional, adaptable and resilient, with the flexibility to incorporate innovative technologies and respond to climate change.



Minimise impacts on versatile and high-quality land, while considering the surrounding landscape and protecting local heritage sites.

Who is Island Green Power?

Established in 2013, Island Green Power (IGP) is a leading developer of utility-scale solar projects and battery energy systems. IGP delivers renewable energy solutions that create lasting value for the communities it serves, protecting the environment while fostering economic growth and energy independence.

IGP operates in the UK, Spain, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. Since launch, it has successfully delivered more than 34 solar projects worldwide that have generated more than 2 GW of energy capacity. This includes 20 solar projects in the UK and Republic of Ireland. These range in size from below 5 MW to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects such as Cottam Solar Project, currently the UK's largest consented solar project. Cottam Solar Project will generate 600 MW of clean, renewable and secure electricity and includes 600 MW of Battery Storage that will store then release energy as needed.

Our early-stage consultation

In September and October 2024, we held a series of workshops with technical specialists, councillors and community stakeholders, to better understand the local area and what is important to the community.

Each session included an introductory presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session, and an interactive 'masterplanning' session, where attendees could provide local insight and work with the project team to share feedback. This format allowed attendees to actively participate in the early-stage design process.

A report summarising the feedback received was published in December 2024. The report included the information presented and key themes from the comments received. It also set out how this feedback will be factored into the masterplanning process for The Drovers Solar Farm. This report was shared with key stakeholders and community groups, and has been made publicly available on our website.

We also submitted our Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report to the PINS, in November 2024. This report forms part of the process used to evaluate the potential environmental effects of a project before it proceeds; it identifies and assesses measures to reduce any significant impacts on the environment.

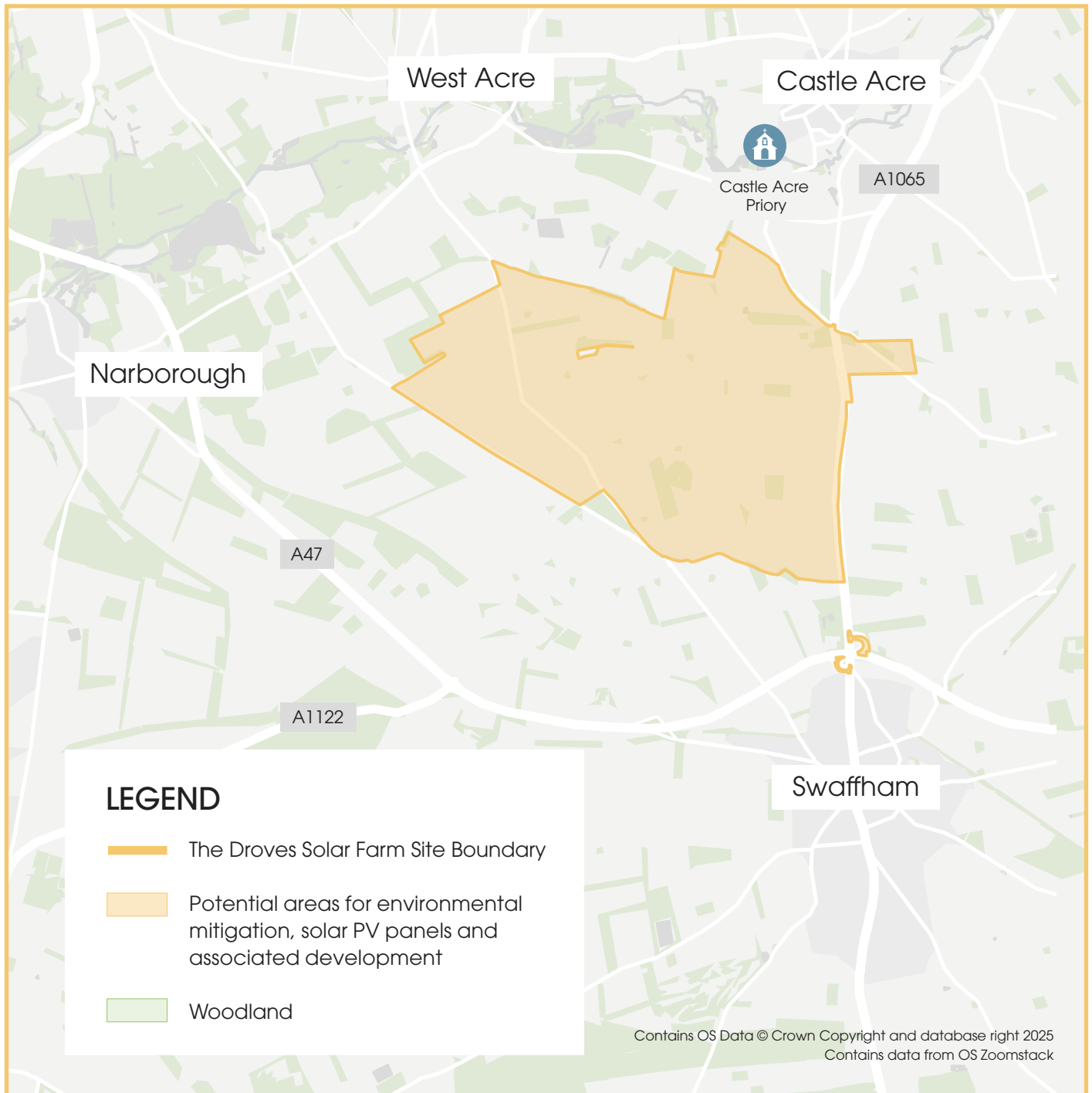


The location of our proposals

The Droves Solar Farm would be located on land north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk.

Throughout the consultation period, an Indicative Masterplan will be available to view on our Project website and in our Consultation Information Booklet. The booklet can be found on our website www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk and in print at our Local Information Point. (See page 6 for details).

The Indicative Masterplan provides more detail on the Project, including the areas currently under consideration for solar PV panels, associated infrastructure and mitigation and enhancement measures.



Statutory consultation

We are now inviting you to take part in our statutory consultation which will take place between **21 May and 9 July 2025**.

As part of this consultation, we are providing updated information, including our Indicative Masterplan for the Site, a Project description, and a summary of key environmental topics in the Consultation Information Booklet.

We have also provided a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR, which describe the initial results of the environmental surveys that were undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

The PEIR and NTS are designed to help you understand the potential environmental effects of The Drovers Solar Farm and the mitigation measures proposed.

We recommend viewing our detailed plans in the PEIR and NTS alongside the Consultation Information Booklet.

In preparation for the statutory consultation, we also prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which sets out how we intend to consult on proposals during the development of the Project. The draft statement was shared with local planning authorities and they provided feedback.

All these documents will be available on our website throughout statutory consultation: **www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk**.

Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback Form will also be available at our consultation events, local information point and can be provided on request.

Have your say

Your feedback is important to us and will be used to help us develop and refine our proposals. You can share your feedback in the following ways:



Visit our website to access the latest information, including all statutory consultation documents, and complete our Feedback Form online at: **www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk**.



Attend our consultation events to meet the project team, learn about our plans, and complete a Feedback Form. Return the completed form to: **FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM**.



Visit one of our local information point to view hard copies of the consultation materials and pick up a Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback Form.



Contact us via phone, post or email, to request a form, share feedback, or ask questions about the consultation. If you require materials in an alternative format (for example, large print or braille) please let us know.

Our events

We are holding a series of events as part of our statutory consultation where people can view and discuss our plans for The Drovers Solar Farm with members of the project team.

We encourage anyone with an interest in our Project to attend these events. We are also holding webinar events for those unable to attend in person.

The statutory consultation events will be held at the following times and locations:

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

Online webinars:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 5 June	12:30–13:30	Online
Wednesday 25 June	18:30–19:30	Online

You can register for our webinars in advance by visiting our website: www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk

Local information point

Visit our local information point, where you can view (but not take away) a hard copy of the PEIR, NTS and SoCC. You can also collect a Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback Form.

Venue	Materials available to take away	Reference materials
Swaffham Library, The Pightle, Swaffham PE37 7DF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation Information Booklet• Feedback Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PEIR• NTS• SoCC

We recommend contacting the library before visiting to check how they can assist you.

Community collection points

Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback Form can also be collected from the following locations. Please note that these locations hold reference copies of the NTS and SoCC, but not the PEIR.

Venue	Materials available to take away	Reference materials
Narborough Community Centre Chalk Lane, Narborough, PE32 1SR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation Information Booklet• Feedback Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NTS• SoCC
Westacre Theatre River Road, West Acre, PE32 1UD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation Information Booklet• Feedback Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NTS• SoCC

We recommend contacting these venues before travelling to confirm their opening times and availability of materials.

Navigating our consultation documents

We are following a consultation process on the development of our proposals for The Drovers Solar Farm, which has been designed in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. To help you find out more and get support on how to provide feedback, we have prepared a range of documents and materials that explain our proposals in more detail.

All consultation materials will be available to view and download free of charge on our website throughout the statutory consultation period:
www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk/#documents

Document guide

Consultation Information Booklet -

This document provides detailed information about the Project, the planning process, how our plans have evolved, and a map of the proposed Site. This booklet will be available on our website, local information point and in hard copy at our events.

Feedback Form - You can complete this questionnaire to ensure your feedback will be reviewed. This can be completed on our website. You can also collect it from our events or local information point, or by request over email, post or the phone.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) - The SoCC sets out how we intend to consult people ahead of our application for development consent for the Project. The SoCC can be found on our website, at our local information point, or in hard copy at our events.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) -

This is a technical report which outlines the impacts we believe the Project could have on the environment and what measures we are proposing to mitigate these. This includes the main report, figures, maps and plans. It can be accessed on our website, or as a reference copy at our local information point and events.

Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR - This summary of the PEIR is available to view on our website, at our local information point and at our consultation events.

Maps and plans - A series of maps and plans for the Project will also be available on our website and at our consultation events.

Timeline

End
of Q4
2025

Submission of
DCO to PINS
for public
examination

Q1
2026

Pre-
examination

Q2
2026

Start of
examination

Q4
2026

End of
examination

Q1
2027

Recommendation
by PINS (three
months after
examination)

Q2
2027

Decision by
Secretary of State
(three months after
recommendation)

2033

Connection
to grid

2031

Start of
construction

How to contact us

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to be kept up to date on the Project, please contact our Community Relations Team using the details below.



Email us at: info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk



Community Relations Freephone: 0800 0129 154

(Our phone lines are monitored 09:00–17:30 Monday to Friday, with an answerphone facility available outside of these hours)

Our communication lines will remain open during working hours (Monday–Friday 09:00–17:30) throughout the statutory consultation period, between 21 May and 9 July 2025.

It is important to complete the Feedback Form before the deadline.

More information



Scan the QR code to learn more about The Droves Solar Farm.

You can find the Feedback Form and our other documents on our website: www.drovessolarfarm.co.uk