

NOTICE OF HEARINGS - SECTIONS 91 AND 93 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND RULE 13(6) INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

The Drovers Solar Farm Development Consent Order

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN0110013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, at the dates, times and locations set out below, the following Hearings will be held by the Examining Authority (on behalf of the Secretary of State) for the examination of the application for The Drovers Solar Farm made by The Drovers Solar Farm Limited (company number 14684480) of Unit 25.7 Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, England, SW6 6AW (the “Applicant”) for a Development Consent Order under Sections 14(1)(a), 15(2) and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the “Application”).

The Application is for development consent to construct, operate and maintain, and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station, with a generating capacity of more than 50 megawatts (“MW”) (AC) and associated infrastructure on land within the administrative areas of Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council.

The Application (Reference No. EN0110013) was submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 19 November 2025 and was accepted on 16 December 2025.

The Examining Authority issued the Rule 6 Letter dated 8 April 2026 that contains a draft timetable for the examination of the Application. Within the letter, the Examining Authority also gave notice of the Preliminary Meeting, Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) and Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) detailed in the table below.

Date	Hearing	Time	Venue
6 May 2026	Preliminary Meeting	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9.15am Virtual registration from: 9.30am (online) process Event start: 10.00am	Blended event at: The Duke’s Head Hotel Tuesday Market Place Kings Lynn PE30 1JS and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Date	Hearing	Time	Venue
6 May 2026	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Registration and seating available at venue from: 1.30pm Virtual (online) registration process from: 1.45pm Event start: 2.00pm	Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
7 May 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1): Strategic matters associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need, site selection and alternatives • Grid connection • Cumulative effects Aviation • Landscape and visual • Cultural heritage • Flood risk and water resources 	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9.30am Virtual registration process from: 09.45am Event start: 10.00am	

Details regarding attending and speaking at the Hearings are set out in the Examining Authority's Rule 6 Letter available via The Drovers Solar Farm project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110013>

If you wish to attend and/or participate in the above Preliminary Meeting or Hearings, you must register by completing the Planning Inspectorate's [Event Participation Form](#) on the

Planning Inspectorate's project webpage by **22 April 2026**. The physical venue referred to above will also be open to the public.

If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting or Hearings then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. Watch a livestream of the event – a link to the livestream will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. Watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue, the Examining Authority requests that you register your attendance to observe only by **22 April 2026** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **22 April 2026**.

If you require assistance to register your attendance either virtually or in person, please contact the Planning Inspectorate by calling 0303 444 5000 or by email thedrovessolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk and quote the Application's reference number: EN0110013

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online livestream of the event and the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage. A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the venue. Please contact the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the project page of our website after the event.

Virtual Registration

All virtual participants will be required to take part in a registration process before each Hearing. This will be held with the Planning Inspectorate before the start of the Preliminary Meeting or Hearings. This gives time for the Planning Inspectorate to admit everyone to the Hearings.

Cancellation Of Hearing

If the Preliminary Meeting or Hearings are no longer required, then notification that a particular date is no longer required will be published as soon as practicable on the Planning

Inspectorate's project webpage, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel them.

Any Hearings further to that listed will be advertised by one or more further notices. In accordance with Rule 13(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, as amended, the Planning Inspectorate will also notify interested parties (and where relevant, affected persons) of the date, time and place fixed for each hearing.

Further information regarding the Hearings, the examination of the Application, the full timetable, how and when to register to speak at the Hearings, and how and when to make written submissions will also be available on The Drovers Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's website (link above), or by contacting the Planning Inspectorate (details above).

SUMMARY OF THE SCHEME

The Application is for development consent to construct, operate and maintain, and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station, with a generating capacity of more than 50MW (AC) and associated infrastructure on land within the administrative areas of Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council ("the Site").

The Drovers Solar Farm (the "Scheme") will comprise the following:

- The Site, containing solar PV panels, conversion units and inverters.
- 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 Scheme to the National Grid Substation.
- A 400kV National Grid Substation operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc and associated electrical infrastructure and other ancillary works required to facilitate the export of electricity from the Scheme to the National Grid.
- A Battery Energy Storage System area.
- 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.
- Grid Connection Infrastructure – Underground and/or overhead lines, including the construction of new pylons between the National Grid Substation and the point of connection.

The Order limits are situated to the north of Swaffham, to the south-east of King's Lynn, and to the south of the settlements of Castle Acre, South Acre, and West Acre, in the county of Norfolk.

A map showing the location of the Scheme can be viewed on the National Infrastructure Planning website under the documents tab and at the following link: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN0110013-000062-2.1%20Location%20Plan.pdf>

Development consent is required for the Scheme as it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008, as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity greater than 50 MW (AC). It is for this reason that the Scheme falls within the remit of the Secretary of State for decision-making.

The Development Consent Order would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily, as needed to implement the Scheme. The Development Consent Order would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Scheme, the temporary stopping up or management of the public rights of way, street works, removal of hedgerows and the application and disapplication of certain legislation.

APPLICATION FORM AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS

The application form and the accompanying documents, plans and Environmental Statement (ES) and non-technical summary of the ES ("Application Documents") can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on The Droves Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website under the documents tab: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110013>

The Application Documents will be available to view online at least until the Secretary of State makes their decision whether or not to grant the Development Consent Order for the Scheme.

The locations listed below have public internet access, through which the Application Documents can be accessed on the Planning Inspectorate's website free of charge. Please check directly with the facilities to confirm their opening hours, as well as any bookings or registrations that might be required to access the documents digitally through the computers available at the respective locations.

Location	Address	Opening times
Swaffham Library	Swaffham Library, The Pightle, Swaffham PE37 7DF	<p>Monday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access</p> <p>Tuesday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access (note library is staffed from 10am to 7pm)</p> <p>Wednesday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access</p> <p>Thursday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access (note library is staffed from 10am to 7pm)</p> <p>Friday: 8am to 1pm - Open Library access (note library is staffed from 1pm to 7pm)</p> <p>Saturday: 8 to 10am - Open Library access (note library is staffed from 10am to 4pm)</p> <p>Sunday: 10am to 4pm - Open Library access</p>

If you require a copy of the Application Documents to be supplied on a USB stick, this can be provided free of charge (one device per household). Please use the contact details for the Applicant below to request for this to be provided.

The Application Documents can be supplied in hard copy format on request at a cost of £5,000 For any bespoke or hard copy document requests (for example in large print, audio or braille formats), please contact the Applicant using the contact details in this notice. Copies of individual documents are also available on request from the Applicant using the contact details below, and a reasonable copying charge may apply.

APPLICANT CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions about the Application Documents you can contact the Applicant using the details provided below:

- info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk
- FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM
- 0800 0129 154



The Planning Inspectorate can also be contacted by telephone on 0303 444 5000 or email thedrovesolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Latest details can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website. Please quote the Application reference number EN0110013 in any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate about this Development Consent Order.

The Drovers Solar Farm