

The Droves Solar Farm

Notice of Acceptance of an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008.

Regulation 9 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

Regulation 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

1. Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State has accepted an application (the “Application”) by The Droves Solar Farm Limited (Company registration number 14684480) of Unit 25.7 Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, England, SW6 6AW (the “Applicant”) for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) under the Planning Act 2008. The Application (Reference No. EN0110013) was submitted by the Applicant to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 19 November 2025 and was accepted for examination on 16 December 2025.

Summary of the Proposed Development

2. 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”).
3. The Droves Solar Farm (the “Proposed Development”) will consist of 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 Proposed Development to the National Grid Substation.
 - 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 Proposed Development to the National Grid
 - A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) 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.
4. 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.

5. A map showing the location of the Proposed Development can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110013>
6. Development consent is required to the extent that development is or forms part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) 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), the Proposed Development falls within the remit of the Secretary of State's decision-making powers.
7. The DCO, if granted, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily. The DCO would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Proposed Development, the temporary stopping up or management of the public rights of way, street works, removal of hedgerows and the application and disapplication of legislation.

Environmental Impact Assessment Development

8. Due to its nature and size, the Proposed Development is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the Proposed Development constitutes development for which an EIA is required. The Application is therefore accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Application form and accompanying documents

9. The Application form and its accompanying documents (including accompanying plans, maps, the Environmental Statement, and the draft Order (the "Application Documents")) can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on The Drovers Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website under the Documents tab until at least the end of the Relevant Representation period on 27 February 2026: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110013>. This link will also be available on the Applicant's project website: <https://drovessolarfarm.co.uk/>.
10. An electronic copy of the Application documents can be supplied free of charge on a USB memory stick. To request a USB, please email info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk, write to FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (free of charge; no need for a stamp) or telephone 0800 0129 154 (free of charge).
11. Application documents can be made available in hard copy format on request to the Applicant. Document requests can be made using the contact details at the bottom of this notice. Please note that reasonable printing costs may apply. Requests may be made for documents in bespoke or alternative formats (for example, in large print, audio or braille formats) or specific individual documents. Given the size and format of the Application documents, a full suite of documents to publication specifications will cost £5,000.

Making Representations

12. Becoming an Interested Party gives you the right to make representations about the Application to the Planning Inspectorate. Any person may register as an Interested Party by submitting a Relevant Representation on the Application during the representation period, which must be made directly to the Planning Inspectorate. Any representations (giving notice of any interest in, or objection to, the Application) must be made on the Planning Inspectorate's Registration and Relevant Representation Form. The Registration and Relevant Representation Form can be accessed and completed online from 20 January 2026 on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110013>.
13. If you require guidance, or other methods to obtain and complete a hard copy of the Planning Inspectorate's Registration and Relevant Representation Form, please telephone 0303 444 5000. Completed forms should be sent to The Planning Inspectorate, c/o QUADIENT, 69 Buckingham Avenue, Slough, SL1 4PN. The Application reference (EN0110013) should be quoted in any correspondence.
14. The government guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: How to register to have your say and make a relevant representation' provides further information and can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-how-to-register-to-have-your-say-and-make-a-relevant-representation>.
15. Please note that representations must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by 11:59pm on 27 February 2026.
16. It should be noted that personal data, such as the name of persons over 18, will be published alongside a representation. If you do not wish personal data to be made publicly available, you should state why when submitting the representation. If necessary, the Planning Inspectorate will publish the representations with your name and personal data redacted. Please note that all representations submitted will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website and will be subject to their privacy policy, found online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice/customer-privacy-notice>.

Contact us

17. Further information about the Application may be obtained from the Applicant through the contact details provided below.

info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk

FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM

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