



Norfolk County Council

Response to Procedural Deadline A Submissions

The Drovers Solar Farm

(EN0110013)

Procedural Deadline A – 22 April 2026

1. This submission sets out Norfolk County Council's (NCC's) response to Procedural Deadline A of The Drovers Solar Farm Development Consent Order application. It responds to relevant points set out in Annex E of the Rule 6 letter issued by the Examining Authority (ExA) of 8th April 2026, relating to the examination procedure, including the draft examination timetable
2. Specifically, it sets NCC's comments in relation to the proposed location of the Examination hearings, and the proposed date of Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1).

Proposed Location of the Examination Hearings

3. NCC would like to express its disappointment that the proposed location of the Examination hearings is in King's Lynn, and that a venue closer to the application site has not been proposed, which would have been easier and more convenient for local residents and the local community to attend. The proposed location of the Examination hearings at The Duke's Head Hotel in King's Lynn will involve a round trip of approximately 25 miles (40km) for local residents, which cannot be considered to be convenient and maybe prejudicial to the ability of local residents to attend hearings. NCC would ask that ExA considers holding at least one of the Open Floor Hearings at a venue closer to the application site, such as in Swaffham.

Local Government Elections and Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)

4. NCC would draw the ExA's attention to the fact that there are elections to Norfolk County Council (NCC) taking place on Thursday 7th May 2026, i.e. the day after OFH1 (and on the day of Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)). The timing is very unfortunate because it makes it very unlikely that any elected representatives or prospective elected representatives of the local community will be able to attend either OFH1 or ISH1. NCC would accordingly ask the ExA to ensure that there is at least one additional Open Floor Hearing at which there is opportunity of local elected County Council representatives to speak at the Examination, and, as set out above that this takes place at venue local to the application site.