



# Planning Inspectorate

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To: All interested parties

Our Ref: EN0110013

Date: 03 July 2026

## Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rules 13 and 16

### Application by the Drovess Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Drovess Solar Farm

#### Notification of hearings and an accompanied site inspection

The examination timetable at annex A of the Examining Authority’s (ExA) [rule 8 letter](#), dated 13 May 2026, included reserved dates for hearings and an accompanied site inspection (ASI).

I am now writing to advise you that the following hearings and an ASI will be held under Rules 13 and 16 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
<b>Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)</b>	Tuesday 8 September 2026	Registration and seating available from: 09.30am	All hearings will be blended events at:
Item 1 – draft Development Consent Order (DCO)		Virtual registration process from: 09.30am	The Duke’s Head Hotel Tuesday Market Place Kings Lynn PE30 1JS
Item 2 - Aviation		Event start: 10.00am	
Item 3 – Biodiversity			and
Item 4 – Noise & vibration			By virtual means using Microsoft Teams
Item 5 – Transport & Access			
Item 6 - Land and soil			Full instructions on how to join online or

			by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
<b>ISH3</b>  Item 7 - Landscape and visual  Item 8 – Flood risk, hydrology and water resources  Item 9 - Population	Wednesday 9 September 2026  Friday 11 September may be used if necessary	Registration and seating available from: 09.30am  Virtual registration process from: 09.30am  Event start: 10.00am	All hearings will be blended events at:  The Duke's Head Hotel Tuesday Market Place Kings Lynn PE30 1JS  and  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams  Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
<b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)</b>	Wednesday 9 September 2026	Registration and seating available from: 13.45pm  Virtual registration process from: 13.45pm  Event start: 14.15pm	All hearings will be blended events at:  The Duke's Head Hotel Tuesday Market Place Kings Lynn PE30 1JS  and  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams  Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
<b>Open Flooring Hearing 2 (OFH2)</b>	Wednesday 9 September 2026	Registration and seating available from: 15.30pm	All hearings will be blended events at:

		<p>Virtual registration process from: 15.30pm</p> <p>Event start: 16.00pm</p>	<p>The Duke's Head Hotel Tuesday Market Place Kings Lynn PE30 1JS</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>
<p><b>NOTE:</b> If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the <a href="#">project webpage</a> of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel.</p>			

### Applicant's notification duties

The applicant is reminded of its duty to notify and publicise hearings under rule 13(6) and 13(7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

### Purpose of hearings

Please refer to The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for information about the purpose of open floor, issue specific and compulsory acquisition hearings.

### Registration and requests to participate in hearings

**Please register using the [event participation form](#) by 1 September 2026 if you intend to participate in the hearings and provide all the information requested. If you have any difficulty completing the form please contact the case team.**

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online live stream of the event and the recording of the event which will get published on the [project webpage](#). A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the event. Please contact the 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 webpage](#) after the event.

Any request to participate in a hearing should include the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from The Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- for compulsory acquisition hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the book of reference and the land plans; and
- the examination library reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Joining instructions for hearings will be issued by the case team via email shortly before the hearing dates.

**Please contact the case team if you require any support or assistance to attend any hearing, either virtually or in person.**

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings then you can 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 I request that you register your attendance to observe only by **1 September 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 **1 September 2026**.

## Attendees

I would find it helpful if the following parties could attend for their respective subjects:

- Applicant (All ISH items)
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (All ISH items)
- Breckland District Council (All ISH items)
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (ISH2, Item 2 - Aviation)
- Environment Agency (ISH2, Items 1 – draft DCO and 8 – Flood risk, hydrology and water resources)
- Historic England (ISH2, Item 7 - Landscape and visual)
- Natural England (ISH2, Item 3 - Biodiversity)
- National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (ISH2, Item 1 – draft DCO)
- National Highways (ISH2, Items 1 – draft DCO and 5 – Transport and Access)
- Norfolk County Council (All ISH items)

- Norfolk County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (ISH, Item 8 – Flood risk, hydrology and water resources)

## Hearing agendas

The agenda and any detailed arrangements for the hearings will be published on the [project webpage](#) at least five working days before the hearings. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at my discretion. There may not be an agenda for an open floor hearing.

## Procedure at hearings and post hearing submissions

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Participation in a hearing will be subject to the ExA's powers of control. It is for the ExA to determine how the hearing will be conducted, including the time allowed at the hearing for the making of a person's representations. The hearing will be managed in the interests of ensuring fair access to the hearing for all parties, and to ensure that the submissions of all invited persons are fully heard within the allotted time. For issue specific hearings interested parties (IPs) may be invited to make oral representations at the hearing on the specific issues being examined at the hearing as set out in the agenda.

All hearings are recorded. The recordings and transcripts will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the examination to find out what has been discussed at a hearing. It is therefore important to note that anyone speaking at the hearing will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or groups that they represent, **each time they speak** to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the hearing is clear who was speaking.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. Please refer to our ['Privacy Notice'](#) for further information. Participants must do their best to avoid making public any information which they would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the case team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain. The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and transcripts and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the development consent order (DCO). If you actively participate in the hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording and transcript will be made available in the public domain.

The evidence presented orally at hearings should be included in post hearing submissions and submitted at the relevant deadline in the [examination timetable](#).

## Notification of accompanied site inspection

The ExA gives notice of an accompanied site inspection (ASI) on the following date:

Event	Date	Time	Meeting Place
ASI	Thursday 10 September 2026	Meeting time for safety briefing from the applicant and introduction by the ExA: 09:15  Departure time: 09:30	Hall Farm, Narford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JA

Please note that the ExA's inspection of sites is **not** an opportunity to provide any oral representations on the project or discuss evidence. It is an opportunity for the ExA to look at the physical features that can be seen on, or from, the sites. Participants may be invited by the ExA to point out specific features or sites of interest.

### Joining the ASI

Please register using the [event participation form](#) by 1 September 2026 if you wish to attend the ASI. Please provide all the information requested so that we can contact you should the ASI run late or need to be cancelled with minimal notice.

Please also let us know of any mobility needs that may affect transportation.

Participants are asked to assemble promptly as the ExA will not wait for parties who are not present at the start time.

For logistical and safety reasons, capacity on the transport that will be used for the ASI may be limited. Priority will be afforded to the Planning Inspectorate staff, the applicant, local authorities and relevant statutory parties. In the case of a large number of attendees any interested parties who express a wish to attend the ASI for its duration may be contacted by the case team to discuss the option of meeting the ExA at relevant locations in the itinerary instead.

### Clothing

The inspection is likely to include some walking on uneven or wet ground. The Planning Inspectorate therefore advises attendees to wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather and sturdy footwear. At times during the ASI it will be necessary to wear a high visibility vest or coat. Attendees who have their own high visibility vest or jacket should bring it with them. For anyone who does not have either a high visibility vest or coat, the applicant will provide a vest for use during the course of the ASI.

### Sites on private land

Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it; householders, occupiers and landowners may refuse to allow some persons accompanying the ExA onto their land. Under those circumstances, the ExA will decide whether or not to proceed with that part of the inspection and may ask those refused access to wait outside.

### Refreshments and rest breaks

Please note refreshments will not be provided. Rest breaks will be scheduled where possible.

## **Cancellations**

Please note that in the unlikely event that the ASI is cancelled the case team shall endeavour to contact attendees beforehand, but we ask that you regularly check the [project webpage](#).

Further information about site inspections can be found in The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: ['The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say'](#).

The applicant provided a [proposed itinerary](#) at Deadline 1 on 2 June 2026. The final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the [project webpage](#) approximately one week in advance.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case team mailto: [thedrovessolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:thedrovessolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

*Anthony Johnson*

## **Examining Authority**

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our ['Privacy Notice'](#) before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.