

Application by The Drovers Solar Farm Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for The Drovers Solar Farm

Agenda for compulsory acquisition hearing 1 (CAH1):

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Compulsory acquisition hearing 1 (CAH1)	Wednesday 9 September 2026 Hearing starts at 2.15pm Registration and seating available at venue from 1.45pm and virtual Registration Process from 1.45pm	The Duke's Head Hotel 5-6 Tuesday Market Place Kings Lynn PE30 1JS and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda items

1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing
2. Purpose of the hearing
3. Main Issues

Item 3a	The applicant's case for Compulsory Acquisition (CA) and Temporary Possession (TP) The applicant will be asked to present and justify its case for CA and TP by addressing the following points: 1. Identification of the powers sought and their purposes. 2. Relevant draft Development Consent Order provisions. 3. How the relevant statutory and policy tests under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) (including s122, s123, s127 and s138) and Department for Communities and Local Government guidance related to compulsory acquisition would be met. 4. The applicant's strategy / criteria for determining whether to seek powers for CA of land, CA of rights or TP of land. 5. Consideration of alternatives to CA / TP. 6. Human rights considerations. The Examining Authority (ExA) may then ask specific questions in relation to these matters.
Item 3b	Site Specific Matters

	• The applicant will be asked to provide an update on the progress of negotiations with Affected Persons (AP) and the timetable for their conclusion. • Any participating APs will be asked to briefly set out any outstanding concerns in relation to CA / TP for the land in which they have an interest that have not been addressed by the applicant. • The ExA will ask questions of the applicant and APs about negotiations and matters arising from written and oral submissions relating to land rights, unless objections have been withdrawn.
Item 3c	Statutory Undertakers • The applicant will be asked to: - Summarise any outstanding matters arising from representations by Statutory Undertakers. - Summarise whether the relevant tests for the exercise of power pursuant to s127 and s128 of PA2008 would be met in the event that agreement is not reached with all statutory undertakers. • Any Statutory Undertaker or other relevant body in attendance and wishing to speak in relation to an objection or issue raised that is relevant to the effects of the proposed development on its undertaking, apparatus or land will be invited to put oral submissions to the ExA. • The ExA may ask questions of the Statutory Undertaker or other relevant body, and the applicant, about matters arising from written and oral submissions • The ExA may also ask questions in relation to the protective provisions.
Item 3d	Funding The ExA will ask the applicant to summarise, and advise of any updates to, the Funding Statement.

4. Other matters

5. Close of hearing

Purpose of CAH

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend the CAH:

- Defence Infrastructure Organisation
- National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
- National Highways
- Norfolk County Council

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the case team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Timing

The ExA will keep to the agenda as much as possible. The hearing is not expected to go beyond 3.45pm.

Anyone who is not able to provide all their oral submissions by the close of the hearing should follow it up in writing.

Registration process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the hearing to start on time at **2.15pm** those attending virtually should join promptly at **1.45pm** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

Procedure at CAH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.