

**LONGFIELD SOLAR FARM - NOTICE OF HEARINGS (APPLICATION REFERENCE:
EN010118)**

**Notice under Sections 91, 92 and 93 of the Planning Act 2008 and Rule 13(6) of the
Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

An application for an order granting development consent has been made under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 by Longfield Solar Energy Farm Limited (company number 11618210) ('**Applicant**'), whose registered office is at Alexander House 1 Mandarin Road, Rainton Bridge Business Park, Houghton Le Spring, Sunderland, England, DH4 5RA, to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) ('**Application**'). The Application was made on 28 February 2022 and accepted for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 28 March 2022 (Application Reference: EN010118). An Examining Authority was appointed on 9 May 2022 to examine the Application and the Examination is due to close by 18 January 2023. After the Examination has closed, the Examining Authority will submit a report to the Secretary of State who will then make the decision on whether or not to grant the development consent order.

The Project

The proposed Longfield Solar Farm is located in the districts of Chelmsford and Braintree in Essex on farmland north east of Chelmsford and north of the A12 between Boreham and Hatfield. The Application is for development consent for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), an energy storage facility and an export/import connection to the National Grid, via an extension of the existing Bulls Lodge Substation. These elements taken together constitute Longfield Solar Farm ('**Scheme**').

A map showing the location of the Scheme can be viewed on the National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010118/EN010118-000227-6.3_Figure%201-2_Order%20Limits.pdf

Development consent is required to the extent that development is or forms part of a nationally significant infrastructure project pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008, as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). It is for this reason that the project falls within the remit of the Secretary of State's decision making powers.

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. The Development Consent Order would also authorise the construction of temporary and permanent accesses to the Scheme, the temporary stopping up or diversion of public rights of way, street works and highway works, and the application and disapplication of certain legislation.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Scheme is an EIA development, as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement was submitted with the Application (Examination Library refs. APP-032 to APP-198) pursuant to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

Hearings

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Sections 91, 92 and 93 of the Planning Act 2008 and Rule 13(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 that hearings are due to be held by the Examining Authority for the Examination of the Application at the dates and times set out in the table below:

Date	Hearing	Time	Venue
Tuesday 27 September 2022	Issue Specific Hearing 1 on the Draft Development Consent Order	Arrangements conference start: 09:30 Event start: 10:00	By Virtual Means (see below)
Wednesday 28 September 2022	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1	Arrangements conference start: 09:30 Event start: 10:00	
Thursday 29 September 2022	Issue Specific Hearing 2 on Environmental Matters	Arrangements conference start: 09:30 Event start: 10:00	
Friday 30 September 2022	Open Floor Hearing 1	Arrangements conference start: 09:30 Event start: 10:00	

These hearings will be held by virtual means, through Microsoft Teams. The hearings will be Livestreamed and recorded. As soon as practicable after each hearing closes, the recordings will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's project page at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/longfield-solar-farm/?ipcsection=overview>

The Planning Inspectorate's Rule 8(3) letter dated 26 July 2022 provides further information about the Examination and is available to download here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010118/EN010118-000470-Rule%208%20letter%20-%2026%20July.pdf>

Further information about hearings is included in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notes which can be found here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

Requests to appear at hearings

If you wish to participate in any of the above hearings you must let the Planning Inspectorate's case team know by emailing the Project mailbox longfieldsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk no later than 15 September 2022.

People who have not made a request to speak will still be able to access the Livestream and/or the recording of the hearings.

Copies of the Application Documents

The Application form and its accompanying documents, drawings, plans and maps are available for inspection free of charge on the webpage relating to the Application on the Planning Inspectorate's website under the 'Documents' tab: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/longfield-solar-farm/?ipcsection=docs>

These documents will be available to view on the website for at least the duration of the Examination, which is due to be completed by no later than 18 January 2023.

Copies of these documents can be sent to you upon request on a USB stick (free of charge) or in hard copy (but the full suite of documents comes at a print cost of £4,570 plus VAT). To make a request, please use the Applicant's contact details below.

Documents can also be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations set out at Annex F of the Planning Inspectorate's Rule 4, 6 and 13 letter dated 20 June 2022, which can be viewed on the webpage relating to the Application via the link below:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010118/EN010118-000409-Longfield%20Rule%206%20letter.pdf>

Enquiries

Any enquiries about the Application, the hearings, how to take part in the Examination and any other matters covered in this notice may be raised with the Planning Inspectorate (0303 444 5000 or email longfieldsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) or the Applicant (Freephone 0800 0194 576 (09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday) or email info@longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk).

Any details you provide to the Applicant via the telephone or email will be subject to the Applicant's privacy policy, which is available to view at: www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk

In any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the Application, please quote the Application Reference (EN010118) and, where relevant, your unique reference number provided by the Planning Inspectorate.

Longfield Solar Energy Farm Limited