

Section 48 - Planning Act 2008 – Longfield Solar Farm

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order

Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Notice is hereby given that **Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd** of Alexander House, 1 Mandarin Road, Rainton Bridge Business Park, Houghton le Spring, DH4 5RA proposes to make an application (“the Application”) to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order. The Applicant intends to make the Application in Autumn 2021.

The Application is for the proposed **Longfield Solar Farm** at farmland **north east of Chelmsford, and north of the A12 between Boreham and Hatfield Peverel, Essex** (the “Site”). The Longfield Solar Farm will cover an area of approximately 459 hectares (ha).

The Scheme’s main proposals in summary are:

- construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of ground mounted PV Arrays, Solar Stations and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), along with various underground Distribution Cables;
- associated and/or ancillary works including a new substation, known as the Longfield Substation which will be connected to the PV Arrays and BESS via underground Distribution Cables. The Longfield Substation will then link into the existing Bulls Lodge Substation, operated by National Grid. The Scheme includes an extension to the existing Bulls Lodge Substation. Other works will include primary and secondary access tracks, and ancillary buildings such as offices. There will also be parts of the DCO Site used for landscape works which will include features such as biodiversity improvement measures and fencing;
- the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights and the taking of temporary possession of land;
- the overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land;
- the application and/or disapplication of legislation relating to the Longfield Solar Farm; and,
- such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development (“EIA development”), as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and an Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the Application. A Preliminary Environmental Information (“PEI”) Report forms part of the consultation material.

Consultation on the proposals will take place from **1 June 2021 to 13 July 2021**. The Applicant is making available a number of ways to find out more about the Scheme including:

- Viewing a virtual exhibition on the project website. The virtual exhibition will be accessible from 1 June 2021 to 13 July 2021 at: <https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/public-consultation/>
- Viewing a series of webinars we will give about our proposals online. These will include presentations on specific topics and offer the opportunity to ask questions. The dates of the webinars and details of how to register will be made available during the consultation period at: <https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/public-consultation/>
- Booking an appointment to talk about the proposals by Freephone using the contact details below. This will offer the opportunity to speak with members of our technical team about specific aspects of our proposals.

The Applicant will also publish consultation materials including a consultation booklet, the PEI Report, a Non-Technical Summary of the PEI Report and a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”). These will be available online free of charge from 1 June 2021 until 13 July 2021 at

www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/downloads. Details of each webinar and how to register to take part will be published on the same website.

Subject to any restrictions relating to the COVID 19 pandemic, we are intending to make copies of the consultation materials available for inspection free of charge during the consultation period at locations in the vicinity of the Scheme, listed below. Please visit www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/public-consultation to check the most up to date information on all locations and the arrangements in place for inspecting the documents. Alternatively, you can contact us on the details below.

Location
Hatfield Peverel Library, The St, Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford CM3 2DP
Witham Library, 18 Newland St, Witham CM8 2AQ
Chelmsford Library, Chelmsford County Hall, Market Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1QH

Copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd using the e-mail address, postal address or Freephone number provided below:

- **By post:** Longfield Solar Farm Consultation, FREEPOST reference RTRB-LUJJ-AGBY, c/o SEC Newgate, Sky Light City Tower, 50 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5DE
- **Online:** www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk
- **By email:** info@longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk
- **By Freephone:** 08081687925

Any enquiries relating to the consultation materials, documents, plans and maps can be made to the Applicant using the telephone number listed above.

Paper copies of the consultation booklet, response form and SoCC will be supplied free of charge. A USB of the consultation materials will be supplied free of charge. A charge of £0.35 per page will be applied for a paper copy of the PEI Report, including its Non-Technical Summary and Appendices.

Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between **1 June 2021 to 13 July 2021**. A consultation questionnaire is available as part of the consultation, and the consultation website will also allow the submission of electronic consultation responses. When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the scheme. Please supply any response to:

- **By post:** Longfield Solar Farm Consultation, FREEPOST reference RTRB-LUJJ-AGBY, c/o SEC Newgate UK, Sky Light City Tower, 50 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5DE
- **By email:** info@longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk
- **By Freephone:** 08081687925.

Responses must be received no later than 23.59 hours on 13 July 2021.

Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd will consider and have regard to all responses received by the above deadline when developing their Application for a Development Consent Order once consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the scheme, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.