

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION
FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE (ON
BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR BUSINESS ENERGY AND
INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY) UNDER SECTION 56 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008**

LONGFIELD SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

REGULATION 9 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE)
REGULATIONS 2009
REGULATION 16 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”) has accepted an application by Longfield Solar Energy Farm Limited (company number 11618210) of Alexander House 1 Mandarin Road, Rainton Bridge Business Park, Houghton Le Spring, Sunderland, England, DH4 5RA (“the Applicant”) for a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008 (“the Application”). The Application (Reference No. EN010118) was submitted by the Applicant to the Secretary of State c/o the Planning Inspectorate on 28 February 2022 and was accepted on 28 March 2022.

Summary of 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 Peverel. 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 (“the 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/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 Development:

The proposed works are environmental impact assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and accordingly an Environmental Statement accompanies the Application.

Application form and accompanying documents:

The application form and the accompanying documents, plans and environmental statement (ES) and Non-technical Summary (NTS) (“Application Documents”) can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Longfield Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website under the documents tab: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/longfield-solar-farm/>

The Application Documents will be available to view online at least until the Secretary of State makes their decision whether or not to grant the Development Consent Order.

If you require a copy of the Application Documents to be supplied on a USB stick, this can be provided free of charge (one USB stick per household). Please use the contact details for the Applicant below to request for this to be provided.

It is intended that, subject to access limitations or social distancing imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or any other reason, the Application Documents will be available via the Longfield Solar Farm page on the National Infrastructure Planning website (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/longfield-solar-farm/>) accessed via computer or tablet and in hard copy from 14 April 2022 at the following Community Access Points:

Location	The documents will be available for viewing at the following times:
Boreham Village Hall, Main Road Boreham CM3 3JD	Opening times may vary, please contact venue to arrange access. Monday: 9am-12pm Tuesday: 9am-12pm Wednesday: 9am-12pm Thursday: 9am-12pm Friday: 9am-12pm Saturday: CLOSED Sunday: CLOSED
All Saints Church, Church Road Terling CM3 2PQ	Monday: 9am-4pm Tuesday: 9am-4pm Wednesday: 9am-4pm Thursday: 9am-4pm Friday: 9am-4pm Saturday: 9am-4pm Sunday: 9am-4pm
Hatfield Peverel Library, The Street Hatfield Peverel CM3 2DP	Monday: CLOSED Tuesday: 2pm-7pm Wednesday: 9am-1pm Thursday: CLOSED Friday: CLOSED Saturday: 9am-5pm Sunday: CLOSED

If you have any questions about the Application Documents, you can email info@longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk, write to Longfield Solar Farm Project, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL, or contact the Applicant by telephone on 0800 0194 576.

The Application Documents can be supplied in hard copy format on request at a cost of:

- Consultation Report, Planning Statement and Statement of Need - £537.42;
- Environmental Statement Report Volumes 1-3 - £1,259.38; and
- Total cost for all documents (including files, covers and spines) - £4,570.44.

For any bespoke document reproduction please contact us and we will provide the cost.

Representations:

The period in which relevant representations are invited to be made to the Planning Inspectorate is between Thursday 14 April 2022 and Thursday 02 June 2022. Any representations (giving notice of any interest in, or objection to, the Application) **must** be made on the Planning Inspectorate's Registration and Relevant Representation Form which can be accessed and completed online by following the relevant link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/longfield-solar-farm/?ipcsection=docs>

If you require guidance on, or other methods of, obtaining and completing a Planning Inspectorate Registration and Relevant Representation Form, please telephone the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000 or e-mail LongfieldSolarFarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notice 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination, provides further guidance on how to register and make a relevant representation and can be accessed via the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-2-how-to-register-to-participate-in-an-examination/>

Please note that representations must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by **midnight on Thursday 02 June 2022**.

Representations will be made public and will be subject to the Planning Inspectorate's privacy policy at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices/customer-privacy-notice>