



The countryside charity
Norfolk

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Working locally and nationally to promote, protect and enhance a beautiful and thriving countryside for everyone's benefit.

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News update – Solar Alliance

We are writing to you to provide an update on the progress of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) solar farm proposals affecting Norfolk and to outline the current position of the CPRE Norfolk Alliance.

As you know, several very large-scale solar schemes are now moving through the NSIP process. These proposals, by virtue of their size, are determined at national level by the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State rather than by local planning authorities. This significantly changes how communities must engage and how objections and evidence must be presented.

Current Position of the Schemes

The solar farm schemes in Norfolk are now at different stages of the NSIP process:

High Grove Solar Farm Pre-application / Statutory consultation completed

High Grove has been granted a Gate 2 Phase 2 grid connection for some time between 2031 and 2035 and in order to consider the implications of this for the project's timeline submission of the DCO application will now be deferred from Spring 2026 to a later date.

East Pye Solar Farm Pre-application / Statutory consultation completed

It is expected that East Solar Farm will submit its formal NSIP Application in early 2026.

The Drove Solar Farm Pre-examination / Registering to have your say

Tasway Solar Farm Pre-application / Paused

Why Action Is Needed Now

The progress of the solar farm proposals means the focus is now shifting from general awareness to the preparation of robust, evidence-based submissions that can carry weight within the NSIP examination process.

The Droves Solar Farm is now in the critical NSIP Examination phase, where submissions and evidence shape the Inspectorate's assessment. This is a very different system to local planning: national level decision-making means voices must be registered early and formally to influence outcomes.

At this point, individuals and organisations can register as Interested Parties and submit relevant representations. Registration is essential to participate meaningfully in the Examination and have views formally considered by the Examining Authority. CPRE Norfolk has prepared and submitted its representation which you can find on our website

<https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/resources/the-droves-solar-farm-registration-of-interest/>

We hope you will find the following useful when drafting your own response to 'Register to have your say' in The Drove Solar Farm NSIP examination. The deadline for the registration is 27 February.

Without timely registration and submissions, organisations and community groups will have limited formal influence on the Inspectorate's evaluation and the Secretary of State's eventual decision. Prepare for later stages including written representations, hearings and potential open floor or issue specific hearings once the Examination timetable is set.

What Happens Next

Over the coming months, there will be important opportunities for:

- Registration as an Interested Party in relevant examinations
- Submission of Written Representations
- Participation in hearings where appropriate.

We will circulate guidance and template materials to help members and local groups prepare effective submissions when these stages are reached.

The Alliance remains committed to supporting renewable energy that is appropriately located and scaled, while opposing industrialisation of the Norfolk countryside through poorly sited mega solar developments.

Thank you for your continued work and collaboration. Further updates will follow as schemes progress into formal examination.

Best wishes,

Barbara Adamski, CPRE Norfolk