

**APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR THE PROPOSED  
SPRINGWELL SOLAR FARM (APPLICATION REFERENCE: EN010149)**

**NOTIFICATION OF PRELIMINARY MEETING, ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARINGS, OPEN-  
FLOOR HEARINGS AND COMPULSORY ACQUISITION HEARINGS UNDER  
SECTIONS 91, 92, 93 and 94 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND RULE 13(6)  
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010 (AS  
AMENDED)**

Notice is hereby given that, at the dates, times and locations set out below, the following Hearings will be held by the Examining Authority (on behalf of the Secretary of State (the 'Secretary of State')) for the examination of the application made by Springwell Energyfarm Ltd (company number 13484004) of Alexander House, 1 Mandarin Road, Rainton Bridge Business Park, Houghton le Spring, DH4 5RA ("the Applicant") for a Development Consent Order under Sections 14(1)(a), 15(2) and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Application").

The Application is for development consent for the proposed Springwell Solar Farm ("the Proposed Development") which is a renewable energy project situated within the administrative areas of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council.

The Application (Reference No. EN010149) was submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 20 November 2024 and was accepted for examination on 18 December 2024. The Examining Authority was appointed on 05 February 2025 to examine the Application and the Examination will begin from the close of the Preliminary Meeting on Wednesday 07 May 2025.

<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>Preliminary Meeting</b>	Wednesday 7 May 2025 (AM)	Registration and seating are available from: 09:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 09:30 Meeting starts: 10:00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR.  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams.
<b>Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)</b>	Wednesday 7 May 2025 (PM)	Registration and seating are available from: 13:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 13:30 Hearing starts: 14:00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR.  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams.
<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1)</b> into the Proposed Development and related Environmental Matters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Air Quality, inc BESS Plume Assessment;</li><li>• Alternatives and Site Selection;</li></ul>	Thursday 8 May 2025	Registration and seating are available from: 09:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR.  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumulative Effects;</li> <li>• Cultural Heritage, inc extent of assessment work;</li> <li>• Grid Connection;</li> <li>• Landscape and Visual Effects;</li> <li>• Traffic and Transport, inc proposed junction improvements and site accesses;</li> <li>• Water Environment, inc sequential test.</li> </ul>			
<b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)</b>	Friday 9 May 2025 (AM)	Registration and seating are available from: 09:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR.  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams.

Details regarding attending and speaking at the Hearings are set out in the Examining Authority's Rule 6 notification available via the Springwell Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010149>.

Interested Parties wishing to speak at the Hearings listed above should notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing via the website link above by Tuesday 22 April 2025. If you require assistance to register your attendance, please contact the Planning Inspectorate by calling 0303 444 5000 or by email [springwellsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:springwellsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) and quote the Application's reference number: EN010149.

The Hearings will also be held as virtual events, and it will be possible to join them via any standard internet browser or alternatively by telephone dial-in. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.

Please note that Hearings will be recorded, and the recordings will be published on the Springwell Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's website as soon as practicable after each Hearing has taken place.

Further information regarding the Hearings, the examination of the Application, the full timetable, how and when to register to speak at the Hearings, and how and when to make written submissions will also be available on the Springwell Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's website (link above), or by contacting the Planning Inspectorate (details above).

### **Summary of the Proposed Development**

The Proposed Development is located at land north of Sleaford, **close to the settlements of Blankney, Scopwick, Kirkby Green and Ashby de la Launde**, within the

administrative boundaries of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The Proposed Development would cover an area of approximately 1280 ha ("the Order Limits"). A map showing the location of the Proposed Development can be viewed on the National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010149/EN010149-000153-2.1%20Location,%20Order%20Limits%20Grid%20Coordinate%20Plans.pdf>

The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays and battery storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the proposed National Grid Navenby Substation. The agreed grid connection for the Proposed Development would allow the export and import of up to 800 megawatts ('MW') of electricity to the National Electricity Transmission System.

The Application is required because the Project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project pursuant to sub 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 MW. As such, the decision whether to grant development consent will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'Secretary of State').

The DCO, if granted, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily. The DCO would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Proposed Development, the temporary closure and creation and enhancement of public rights of ways, street works, removal of hedgerows, and the application, disapplication and modification of legislation.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

The Proposed Development is Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and accordingly an Environmental Statement (ES) accompanies the Application.

### **Application form and accompanying documents:**

The Application form and the accompanying documents, plans and maps, including the ES, non-technical summary of the ES, and draft DCO are available to view electronically and download, free of charge, under the 'Documents' tab on the Springwell Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010149/documents>.

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

If you require an electronic copy of the Application documents to be supplied on a USB stick, this can be provided free of charge (one device per household or business). Please use the contact details for the Applicant in this notice to request a USB stick. You can also contact the Applicant using these contact details if you have any enquiries in relation to the Application form and its accompanying documents, plans and maps.

The Application documents can be made available in hard copy format subject to a fee of:

- Consultation Report, Planning Statement and Statement of Need - £750;

- Environmental Statement Report Volumes 1-3 - £1,500; and
- Total cost for all documents (including files, covers and spines) - £5,000.

The Applicant will also consider any reasonable requests for bespoke or hard copy documents, and will accommodate such requests where it is feasible to do so and for which a reasonable charge may apply. In relation to any request, please contact the Applicant using the contact details in this notice.

### **Applicant's contact details**

For further information about the Application, or to request copies of documents, the Applicant can be contacted by using the following details:

Freephone: 0800 038 3486 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

Email: [info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk)

Freepost: Springwell Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL

Any details you provide to the Applicant via telephone or e-mail will be subject to its privacy policy linked here: <https://www.edf-re.uk/privacy-policy/> and will be treated confidentially and processed and handled in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation.

**Springwell Energyfarm Ltd**