



Oaklands Farm Solar Park

Consultation Report

Appendix 8.9 - Informal Consultation Newsletter Covering Letter
for Hard-to-reach Stakeholders

January 2024

Applicant: Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd

Document Reference: EN010122/APP/5.2

Date: January 2024

Pursuant to: APFP Regulation: 5(2)(q)

Author: Thirty4/7 Communications Ltd

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Contact person	Email	Phone	Date
Ashley McInnes	info.oaklands-solarfarm@baywa-re.co.uk	0800 699 0081	10/01/2022

Dear Stakeholder

RE: Proposed Oaklands Farm Solar, South Derbyshire

I am writing in relation to the above solar farm proposal to provide a brief introduction to the project and share a copy of a leaflet that is being distributed within the local vicinity.

This leaflet is being distributed as part of our early informal consultation, prior to the formal, statutory, consultation which will take place later in 2022. Further details about this formal consultation process will be communicated in the coming months. In the meantime, we would welcome your questions and comments on the initial plans which we would aim to take into account as the project develops.

As a local organisation representing seldom heard groups (such as younger people/ those in care/ the elderly), we wanted to provide you with a copy of this leaflet, and seek your thoughts on:

- a) Whether you, or those you work with/represent, would like to provide any feedback on the plans. We'd be happy to provide further information, or discuss this with you directly; and
- b) Whether you had any suggestions or preferences regarding how we communicate or engage with you to ensure that this consultation process is inclusive and accessible to all parts of the local community.

Further detailed information about the proposals can be found on the project website <https://www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/solar/oaklands-solar-farm>.

Should you wish to discuss this project in further detail, or have any early feedback on our approach to ensuring that all members of the local community can access this consultation, please contact us via info.oaklands-solarfarm@baywa-re.co.uk.¹

Yours sincerely

Ashley McInnes

Ashley McInnes
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¹ The consultation process is being managed by Thirty4/7 Communication Ltd. BayWa r.e and Thirty4/7 Communications will only share your personal data within the project team, and in certain circumstances, specific project consultants for planning evaluation purposes only. Your identifiable, personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your consent and will be stored in line with the GDPR. Please let us know your communication preferences or ask us any questions about how we treat your data.

Additional information:

Project Description

The proposals comprise a solar park covering two separate parcels of land, connected by an underground cable. The generating capacity of the project at this stage is expected to be around 160 MW.

The project will connect to the national grid via a partly overhead and partly underground cable to the existing National Grid Drakelow Substation located to the north of the site.

The solar farm will comprise of rows of solar panels mounted on metal frames (tables) secured into the ground via simple piled metal stanchions approximately 2.7m high. The layout will be designed to protect existing public footpaths as well as integrating landscaping measures such as enhancing and improving the network of hedgerows around and within the site in order to screen the site from external views.

The Planning Process

Due to the nature of the proposed Project, an application to the Planning Inspectorate will be submitted under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) regime (Planning Act 2008) in late 2022.

Following submission, the Planning Inspectorate will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will then make the decision on whether to grant or to refuse development consent.

Further information about the process can be found here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

The Consultation Process

Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd is committed to effective public engagement and are taking a pro-active role in undertaking pre-application consultation on the proposed project. We will be undertaking both informal and formal consultation over the course of the pre-application period across this year and early 2022. We are required to report on all consultation undertaken and the feedback received as part of the NSIP planning application process.