



# **Oaklands Farm Solar Park**

## **Consultation Report**

**Appendix 11.11 - Press Release Regarding SoCC Publication and  
Statutory Consultation**

**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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# 1. Press release regarding SoCC publication

## Press Statement

6th April 2022

### BayWa r.e. publishes Statement of Community Consultation for Oaklands Farm Solar, South Derbyshire

Oaklands Farm Solar Limited has confirmed publication of its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for its proposals for a new large scale solar scheme in South Derbyshire.

The proposals comprise a solar park covering two separate parcels of land located west of the village of Rosliston, and east of Walton-on-Trent. The generating capacity of the project, at this stage is expected to deliver in the region of 160 MW to the electricity grid, which is the equivalent amount required to power nearly all homes in South Derbyshire<sup>1</sup>.

The SoCC, which has been published online and is available to view at various locations around the proposed site, sets out how, when and where local communities can participate in the statutory consultation on the plans, prior to an application being submitted.

Oaklands Solar Farm Project Manager, Ashley McInnes, said:

*"We have been working hard to review and assess the results of surveys and feedback from consultees since we first announced the project in 2021. We're excited to now begin the statutory consultation process and I look forward to engaging with the local community through over the coming weeks."*

*"The SoCC confirms the start and end date of the consultation, which will take place from 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Public exhibitions will take place in early May, with a full online virtual exhibition available for viewing during that period."*

He went on to say:

*"Wherever possible, we've been looking at how we can best align this project with existing and emerging carbon reduction targets at a national level, as well as seeking opportunities to contribute to the climate agenda, community benefit and supply chain at a local level and it would be great to hear local views on this specifically."*

The SoCC is available to view on the project website: <https://www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/solar/oaklands-solar-farm> and at the following locations (subject to opening times, please check online before you travel):

- Swadlincote Library and Information Centre (DE11 0AD)
- Barton Under Needwood Community Library (DE13 8AX)
- Burton Library (DE14 1AH)

Copies may also be requested directly from BayWa, via the following methods:

- **Email** – [info.oaklands-solarfarm@baywa-re.co.uk](mailto:info.oaklands-solarfarm@baywa-re.co.uk)
- **Freepost** – FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION (no further address or stamp required)
- **Freephone** - **0800 699 0081** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays)

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<sup>1</sup> 42,210 properties in S Derbyshire as of July 2019 -Ref: South Derbyshire Housing Stock Condition Report 2019

Following the start of the statutory consultation period on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022, all information relating to the proposals will be available to view online via a virtual exhibition, at deposit locations around the site, and at public events being undertaken by the developer. The consultation period closes at 11.59pm on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Consultation events will take place at the following locations:

<b>Walton-on-Trent Village Hall</b> 34 Main St, Walton-on-Trent, Swadlincote, DE12 8LZ	<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> <b>1pm to 7pm</b>
<b>Rosliston &amp; Cauldwell Village Hall</b> Main Street, Rosliston, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 8JW	<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> <b>12noon to 4pm</b>

Feedback forms will also be available online and in hard copy at events or upon request during the consultation period.

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 will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will make the decision on whether to grant or to refuse development consent.

**ENDS**

For further information, please contact Will Morgan – [REDACTED]@thirty47.co.uk or call [REDACTED]

#### **NOTES TO EDITOR:**

- BayWa r.e. is a global developer of large-scale renewable energy projects. The company has delivered 142 utility-scale solar projects worldwide totalling approximately 2000MW, including 31 solar projects in the UK totalling approximately 536MW. The Applicant has previously developed Vine Farm, a 46MW solar park in Cambridge, as well as Bann Road, a 45MW solar park in Northern Ireland. Further information about BayWa can be found here: <https://www.baywa-re.com/en/>
- Further information about the Planning Act 2008 pre-application planning process can be found here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>
- The solar farm will comprise rows of solar panels mounted on metal frames (tables) secured into the ground via simple piled metal stanchions approximately 2.5m – 3m high. The layout will be designed to protect existing public footpaths and landscaping measures will include enhancing and improving the network of hedgerows around and within the site, and screening the site from external views.
- The development company, Oaklands Farm Solar Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of BayWa r.e. UK Ltd (BayWa), which is a global developer of large-scale renewable energy projects. The company has delivered 625 solar projects worldwide totalling approximately 1900MW, including 31 solar projects in the UK totalling approximately 536MW.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Request has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the project. This Scoping Request seeks to ascertain the parameters within which BayWa will undertake environmental and technical assessments and surveys as it develops its proposals.