



Oaklands Farm Solar Park Consultation Report

Appendix 11.13 - Press Release Regarding Launch of Statutory
Consultation

January 2024

Applicant: Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd

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Contents

1. Press release regarding start of statutory consultation	3
2. Press coverage (Staffordshire Live – 22 April 2022).....	5
3. Press coverage (Solar Power Portal – 21 April 2022).....	8

1. Press release regarding start of statutory consultation

Press Statement

21st April 2022

BayWa r.e. kicks off consultation for Oaklands Farm Solar Park, South Derbyshire

Following publication of its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), Oaklands Farm Solar Limited has launched statutory consultation on 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 Derbyshire¹.

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), and all consultation materials are available to view at various locations around the proposed site and explain 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 over the coming weeks."

"The statutory consultation will take place from 21st April 2022 to 6th 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."

All consultation materials are 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
- **Freepost** – FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION (no further address or stamp required)
- **Freephone** - **0800 699 0081** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays)

Following the start of the statutory consultation period on 21st 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 6th June 2022.

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

Consultation events will take place at the following locations:

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

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 2.7 metres 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.

2. Press coverage (Staffordshire Live – 22 April 2022)

The screenshot shows a news article on the Staffordshire Live website. The article title is "How huge solar farm would look in South Derbyshire". Below the title, it states "It will stretch across a 540-acre site from Drakelow, Walton, Catton and Rosliston". The article is by Helen Kreft and Faith Pring. There is a video player showing a landscape with a caption: "VIDEO SHOWING ONE OF PROPOSED AREAS WHERE OAKLANDS SOLAR FARM IS PLANNED". To the right, there is a "MOST READ" section with four items: 1. "Why it's back to reality now for teen striker Dylan", 2. "Warning we are washing pants wrong and spreading poo around home - but £3 item can stop it", 3. "Heartbreak at the death for Brewers", and 4. "Dunelm's 'perfect' chair that 'looks so expensive' reduced in up to 50% off sale".

The public is being invited to have their say on a plan for a huge new solar farm in South Derbyshire which is expected to span 540 acres. The proposed Oaklands Farm Solar Park is so large that the Government will decide whether it can go ahead.

Usually planning applications are determined by , rather councils like in this case **South Derbyshire District Council**, but this one is so big the Government will have to step in. The 540-acre site stretches from north of Catton almost a square-mile to Drakelow, with Walton to the left, and Rosliston to the right.

For comparison, the England football team's St George's Park HQ near Burton is only 200 acres. Part of the site will be close to Rosliston Forestry Centre.

TOP STORY: **Food and drinks fairs coming to Burton after market hall plan was thrown out**

The Oaklands Farm Solar Park first released its detailed plans for the area last year, and is now looking for public opinion on the venture. With new overhead cabling, a substation and control building, and transformers all being part of the new plan, the company behind the plans are looking forward to engaging with the public.

The plan is being put forward by BayWa, a renewable energy developer that works on an international scale and are based in 28 different countries. They have launched 31 other solar power projects across the UK, and 142 worldwide.

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 over the coming weeks."

"The statutory consultation will take place from April 21 to June 6. Public exhibitions will take place in early May, with a full online virtual exhibition available for viewing during that period."



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"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 planned proposals comprise a solar park covering two separate areas of land located west of the village of Rosliston, and east of Walton. The solar farm, should it go ahead, is expected to deliver in the region of 160 MegaWatts to the electricity grid, which is the equivalent amount required to power nearly all homes in South Derbyshire.

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), and all consultation materials are available to view at various locations around the proposed site and explain how, when and where local communities can participate in the statutory consultation on the plans, prior to an application being submitted.

The plans can be viewed at three locations in the South Derbyshire area:

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

The consultation period will end on 6 June 2022, at which point 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.

3. Press coverage (Solar Power Portal – 21 April 2022)

News

Large-Scale Solar

BayWa r.e. launches consultation for 160MW Oaklands Farm Solar Park

By Molly Lempriere

April 21, 2022

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BayWa r.e. has developed 31 solar farms in the UK, with a capacity of around 536MW. Image: BayWa r.e.

BayWa r.e. has launched a consultation for its 160MW Oaklands Farm Solar Park, South Derbyshire.

The [company announced the mega project](#), which will sit west of the village of Rosliston and east of Walton-on-Trent, in 2021. It has since published its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

It is now inviting the local population in South Derbyshire to respond to its statutory consultation on the proposals, ahead of submitting an application for development in late 2022.

Given the scale of the project – in the region of 160MW and incorporating a 37.5MW battery energy storage system (BESS) on the site – an application for its development will need to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) regime.

"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 over the coming weeks," said Oaklands Solar Farm project manager, Ashley McInnes.

"The statutory consultation will take place from 21 April 2022 to 6 June 2022. Public exhibitions will take place in early May, with a full online virtual exhibition available for viewing during that period."

The consultation events will take place at Walton-on-Trent Village Hall and Rosliston & Cauldwell Village Hall.

Oaklands Farm Solar Park is one of a number of NSIP's currently in development in the UK, including [Windel Energy and Canadian Solar's 350MW Mallard Pass Solar Farm](#), Ecotricity's Heckington Fen Solar Park, [Evolution Power's 165MW solar and storage project in Kent](#), [Low Carbon's 500MW Gate Burton solar and storage park in Lincolnshire](#), [Island Green Power's 600MW solar project](#) and Longfield Solar Energy Farm in Essex.

[INRG Solar's 150MWp Little Crow Solar Farm](#) recently became the second NSIP solar farm to gain a development consent order, following on from the [350MW Cleve Hill Solar Farm](#), which was approved in [May 2020](#), before being acquired by [acquired by Quinbrook](#) and renamed Project Fortress.

BayWa r.e. has developed 142 utility-scale solar projects worldwide, with a total capacity of around 2000MW. This includes 31 solar projects in the UK, totalling approximately 536MW.

In December, it was granted planning permission for its [49.9MW Rag Lane Solar Farm project](#), whilst in June it acquired [100MW of co-located solar from JBM Solar](#).

baywa r.e. , nsip , oaklands farm solar park , public consultation , solar pv , south derbyshire , uk solar