



# Oaklands Farm Solar Park

## Consultation Report

Appendix 8.4 - Project Launch Press Release and Resulting Coverage

September 2021

January 2024

**Applicant:** Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd

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# 1. Project Launch Press Release 2 September 2021



## Press Statement

Thursday September 2 2021

### New solar Farm proposals confirmed for South Derbyshire

Oaklands Farm Solar Limited is in the early development stages of a large-scale solar project in South Derbyshire, on land west of the village of Rosliston, and east of Walton on Trent.

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.

The proposals comprise a solar park covering two separate parcels of land, connected by an overhead cable. The generating capacity of the project, at this stage is expected to deliver in the region of 160 MW to the electricity grid.

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.

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.

Oaklands Solar Farm Project Manager, Ashley McInnes, said:

*"We are working on the early proposals for a solar farm in South Derbyshire. We're currently undertaking preliminary surveys in order to inform the proposals and have just submitted a scoping request to the Planning Inspectorate. This will help inform our early technical work as we develop the proposals for the scheme."*

*"Wherever possible, we're 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."*

*"As part of this commitment, we will be consulting extensively with local residents and relevant stakeholders as we bring forward our application. We look forward to confirming further details about this and methods for providing feedback over the course of the next few months."*



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 2.5m – 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.

BayWa is committed to effective public engagement and will be taking a pro-active role in undertaking pre-application consultation on the proposed project. This will involve both informal and formal consultation over the course of the pre-application period across 2021 and early 2022.

A project website will contain information on the proposals soon, with broader information about BayWa r.e. available to view at <https://www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/solar/oaklands-solar-farm>.

**ENDS**

For further information, please contact Will Morgan – [will.morgan@thirty47.co.uk](mailto:will.morgan@thirty47.co.uk) or call 07717 492911.

**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

BayWa 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. 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/>

## 2. Resulting Press Coverage

News

Clean Energy, Large-Scale Solar, PV, Storage

# BayWa r.e. eyes 163MW mega solar project

By Molly Lempriere

September 3, 2021



The 163MW site would be one of the largest in the UK, following on from the 350MW Cleve Hill Solar Farm which received development consent in 2020. Image: Andreas Gücklhorn (Unsplash).

BayWa r.e. is planning the development of a 163MW solar project in South Derbyshire.

The renewables developer is also looking to incorporate a 37.5MW battery energy storage on the site.

The project would be sited across two parcels of land on land west of the village of Rosliston, and east of Walton on Trent.

It will be connected to the national grid via an overhead cable to Drakelow Substation, which is located to the north of the site that lies on open, agricultural land.

The layout of both sites will be designed to protect public footpaths, with landscaping measures introduced such as improving the network of hedgerows to screen the site from external view.



Oaklands will sit across two sites connected by an overhead cable. Image: BayWa r.e.

BayWa r.e. is currently undertaking an Environmental Impact assessment for the site, with a scoping request already submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the project. This looks to ascertain the parameters of the environmental and technical assessments and surveys.

These preliminary surveys will help inform early technical work as the company develops the proposals for the scheme, said Ashley McInnes, project manager at Oaklands Solar Farm, the BayWa r.e. subsidiary and special purpose vehicle (SPV) established to house the development.

"Wherever possible, we're 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."

Given the scale of the proposed development, Oaklands will submit its application to the Planning Inspectorate under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) regime in late 2022.

The Inspectorate will examine this and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who then makes the decision whether to grant or refuse development consent.

Over the course of the pre-application period across 2021 and early 2022 both informal and formal consultations will run, as BayWa r.e. looks to take a pro-active role in public engagement.

"As part of this commitment, we will be consulting extensively with local residents and relevant stakeholders as we bring forward our application," added McInnes. "We look forward to confirming further details about this and methods for providing feedback over the course of the next few months."

BayWa r.e. has developed 31 solar projects in the UK with a total cumulative capacity of approximately 536MW. In July it also [acquired 99.8MW of subsidy-free collocated solar sites](#) from UK developer JBM Solar, as it continued to expand its operations in the market.