



Oaklands Farm Solar Park

Consultation Report

Appendix 8.6 - Informal Consultation Newsletter (Project Newsletter
#1) January 2022

January 2024

Applicant: Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd

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Oaklands Farm Solar Park Project Newsletter - Autumn/Winter 2021



Oaklands Farm Solar Limited is in the early stages of developing a large-scale solar and energy storage project in South Derbyshire.

The project will be located on land west of Rosliston and east of Walton on Trent.

This leaflet provides information about the proposals, the consultation process and how to contact us.



This project would produce around 160MW of clean renewable energy

That's enough renewable energy to power around 40,000 homes, or nearly all houses in South Derbyshire.*

*42,210 properties in S.Derbyshire as of July 2019 - (Ref: South Derbyshire Housing Stock Condition Report 2019)

We want to hear your views



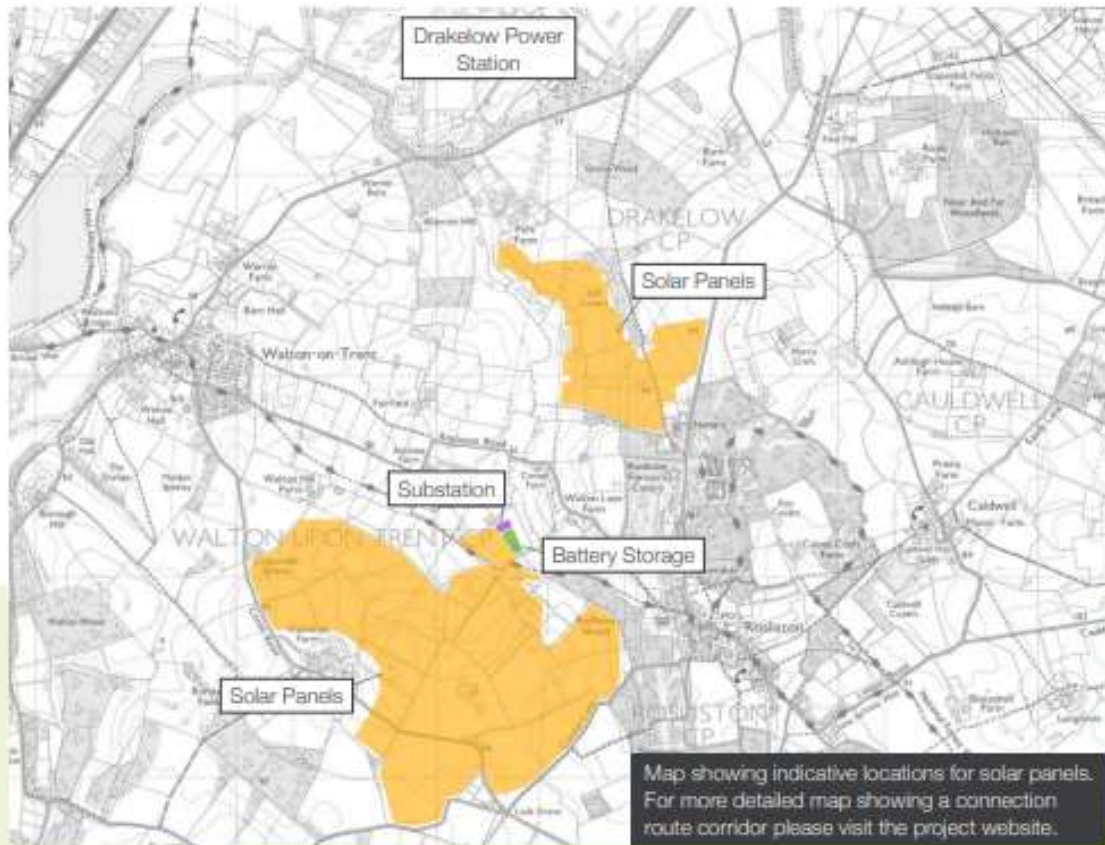
We are still at an early stage in the development of these proposals, however we are keen to hear local views on the plans as we prepare an application.

We will be undertaking formal consultation events in early 2022 and these will be advertised locally via a newsletter, the local newspaper and various other means such as social media.

In the meantime, you can find out more on our website or contact us using the details on the back of this leaflet.

The Proposals

The proposals comprise a solar farm, expected to generate over 160 MW of electricity, and a 37 MW battery storage unit. The project will be located on two main parcels of land and cover approximately 540 acres. It will connect to the UK electricity network at Drakelow substation to the north by a 2km underground and overhead cable



The layout is being designed to ensure existing public footpaths and access are maintained. Landscaping measures, such as enhancing and improving the network of hedgerows around and within the site, will also be included in the design.

Visibility of the site from surrounding areas will be a key design consideration. At 2.5 m height the panels are relatively low lying therefore much of the site won't be visible from local residential areas. Enhancing the hedgerows throughout the site will also improve screening from local roads and villages.



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 2022. Further information about the DCO process can be found here:

infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/



Frequently Asked Questions

Why here?

One of the key drivers for siting renewable energy projects is being close to a suitable connection point in order to export power to the national grid. As a decommissioned power station the substation at Drakelow provides this opportunity. A search for a suitable area of land, including brownfield and agricultural sites, within a 10km radius of Drakelow was carried out and this identified the Oaklands site as the preferred option for development.

What are the impacts on the local environment and biodiversity?

A well-designed solar farm provides many opportunities for local ecological and biodiversity improvement particularly on land that has previously been intensively farmed. Potential biodiversity enhancements include reinforcement of existing and planting new hedgerows, planting of native grasses and wildflowers within and around the solar farm itself.

Will the project mean that the existing footpaths and rights of way will be closed?

No. There may be some temporary diversions during construction, however, existing rights of way will remain accessible during operation.

When the panels reach the end of their life, will the land be deemed 'brownfield' making it easier to build on in future?

No. The planning approval will require the site to be fully decommissioned and returned to agricultural use at the end of the project life.

Will these proposals cause additional traffic through Walton on Trent and Rosliston?

During construction traffic will not be permitted through either Walton on Trent or Rosliston. During this temporary period, all construction traffic will be managed by a construction and environmental management plan that will be agreed with the local authorities. Once operational solar farms require very little maintenance and give rise to minimal traffic.

Further information and FAQ's are available on the project website:
www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/solar/oaklands-solar-farm

Local Benefits

We're keen to hear from you regarding benefits the project could bring to the local area. We've identified the following examples:

- ◆ **Clean Renewable Energy:** Enough renewable energy to power around 40,000 homes
- ◆ **Significant contribution to Local and National Climate Emergency Goals**
- ◆ **Opportunities for Direct Ecological Benefits and Biodiversity Net Gain through:**
 - ◇ Hedgerow planting & improved management
 - ◇ Improving grasslands and wildflowers
 - ◇ Decreased use of fertiliser and herbicide
 - ◇ Improved soil condition
- ◆ **Socio-economics**
 - ◇ Improving links between existing paths and right of ways
 - ◇ Local contracting opportunities – fencing, civil works, testing & commissioning
 - ◇ Knock on effects for local businesses & payment of business rates
- ◆ **Annual Community Benefit Contribution**
 - ◇ This contribution will be discussed and agreed with the local community and relevant organisations through the consultation process

About BayWa r.e.

Oaklands Farm Solar Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of BayWa r.e. UK Ltd (BayWa). BayWa is a global developer of large-scale renewable energy projects.

BayWa is focused on solar projects throughout the UK & Ireland and onshore wind in Scotland and Ireland. The company has delivered 625 solar projects worldwide totalling approximately 1900MW, including 31 solar projects in the UK totalling approximately 536MW.

Find out more at: www.baywa-re.co.uk

Get in touch

Whilst we're still at an early stage, we're interested to hear your views on these proposals. Please get in touch to find out more, and provide your feedback:

- ◆ **Visit:** www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/solar/oaklands-solar-farm
- ◆ **Call (Freephone):** 0800 6990081 and leave a message
- ◆ **Email:** info.oaklands-solarfarm@baywa-re.co.uk