

From: [REDACTED]@historicengland.org.uk
To: [Oaklands Farm Solar](#)
Subject: Historic England advice on case PL00755482
Date: 09 May 2024 09:43:13
Attachments: [REDACTED]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@historicengland.org.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in relation to the following:

NSIP: National Significant Infrastructure Project (DCO)
Oaklands Farm Solar Park, Coton Road, Walton-on-Trent, Derbyshire
[Case Ref. PL00755482; HE File Ref. .; Your Reference. EN010122-000013]

Please find attached our written representations, we're aware there has been a delay here and apologise for the mistake.

Yours Sincerely

Molly Edwards
Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
E-mail: [REDACTED]@historicengland.org.uk
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Work with us to champion heritage and improve lives. Read our Future Strategy and get involved at historicengland.org.uk/strategy.

This e-mail (and any attachments) is confidential and may contain personal views which are not the views of Historic England unless specifically stated. If you have received it in error, please delete it from your system and notify the sender immediately. Do not use, copy or disclose the information in any way nor act in reliance on it. Any information sent to Historic England may become publicly available. Please read our full privacy policy (<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/>) for more information.

[REDACTED]

Work with us to champion heritage and improve lives. Read our Future Strategy and get involved at historicengland.org.uk/strategy.

Follow us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) Sign up to our [newsletter](#)

This e-mail (and any attachments) is confidential and may contain personal views which are not the views of Historic England unless specifically stated. If you have received it in error, please delete it from your system and notify the sender immediately. Do not use, copy or disclose the information in any way nor act in reliance on it. Any information sent to Historic England may become publicly available. We respect your privacy and the use of your information. Please read our full [privacy policy](#) for more information.



Ms Ashley McInnes
BayWa r.e. UK Limited
Ground Floor West
5 Thistle Street
Edinburgh
EH2 1DF

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00755482

3 May 2024

Dear Ms McInnes

Historic England

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE) is better known as Historic England, and we are the Government's adviser on all aspects of the historic environment in England, including historic buildings and areas, archaeology and historic landscapes. We have a duty to promote conservation, public understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment. We are an executive non-departmental public body, and we answer to Parliament through the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Proposal

Oaklands Farm Solar Park: Solar photovoltaic array and electrical storage and connection infrastructure, with a generation capacity of greater than 50 MW.

Representation

The proposed development covers a significant area of land, with the PV arrays situated to the south of the site, the extension to the north provides for access and connection to Drakelow for the National Grid.

The proposal causes harm to the setting and visual interconnectivity of multiple heritage assets. This includes the Scheduled Monument Hillfort southwest of Old Hall Cottages, to the southwest of the development site, and several Grade II* listed buildings, the Church of St Laurence and Walton Hall at Walton-on-Trent, Church of St Giles and Caldwell Hall, Caldwell, Church of St Mary at Rosliston, and Catton Hall at Coton in the Elms.

The development site also harms the setting of multiple Grade II listed buildings within the villages of Walton-on-Trent, also a conservation area, Caldwell, Rosliston, and Coton in the Elms. These buildings form the foundation of these settlements and a testament to the rural heritage of these communities. The buildings to the North also form part of the remains of the Drakelow Hall estate where the house has been lost



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH

Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk





and the land extremely altered. Buildings of note include, estate buildings related to the former Drakelow Hall, Walton Hall, and Catton Hall, as well as manor farms, priory farms, Barr Hall farm, and several cottages.

The layout in its current form, as of October 2023, proposes the PV arrays to the south of the site where it will impact upon these heritage assets. The proposal will require suitable landscape mitigation, which has not been adequately demonstrated, to resolve the impact on the setting of these heritage assets and the interconnectivity between them and the site. The development to the north, depending on final details, will have less impact on the setting of the heritage assets. The concerns raised here regarding the location, views and the need for mitigation need further, close consideration in any revised documents and plans. As part of this reducing the proximity to the settlement of Walton-on-Trent and the Scheduled Monument along the west boundary should be considered to mitigate the harm mentioned above.

Regarding buried archaeological remains, it is important that risk of avoidable/unmitigated damage to sensitive remains is well managed in proportion to their importance. This can be achieved through layout, deployment of green space, construction options and routes for cabling, and construction options for panel mounting etc. Archaeological risks can thus be well addressed, but only if there is a sound understanding of where archaeological sensitivity and importance lies across the site. Sufficiency of field evaluation is vital because some features (such as for instance early medieval burial grounds or Roman high-status buildings) would be both of high importance and high sensitivity to the insertion of panel mounting piles. In the context of sufficiency of evaluation work we refer you in the first instance to the expertise of local authority archaeological advisors. It is they who will (should DCO be granted with appropriate requirements) advise upon the acceptability of written schemes of investigation (WSI) and their accordance with a robust overall archaeological strategy secured through DCO submission.

Please confirm receipt of this relevant representation.

Please copy future correspondence to e-midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Molly Edwards

Molly Edwards
Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
[REDACTED]@historicengland.org.uk

