

From: [DESNZ Correspondence](#)
To: [REDACTED] [\(Energy Security\)](#)
Cc: [Energy Infrastructure Planning Team](#)
Subject: FW: Oaklands Farm Solar Project – Request for Reconsideration
Date: 09 May 2025 16:15:19

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see correspondence below regarding Oaklands Farm Solar Park. Just to confirm this has not been logged for a formal reply.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

From: Secretary of State (Ed Miliband)
Sent: 09 May 2025 10:53
To: DESNZ Correspondence
Subject: FW: Oaklands Farm Solar Project – Request for Reconsideration

OFFICIAL

Good morning,

Please log for TO response.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

From: Martin Silcock [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2025 09:17
To: Secretary of State (Ed Miliband) <Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk>
Subject: Oaklands Farm Solar Project – Request for Reconsideration
Dear Mr Milliband

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Oaklands Farm Solar Project, which has now reached the decision stage in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process. As the Secretary of State reviews the Examining Authority's recommendations, I urge careful reconsideration of this project due to the unplanned, disproportionate expansion of energy infrastructure in this rural area. While I acknowledge the need for renewable energy, the proximity to the former Drakelow power station appears to have made this area a target for excessive energy development, without a clear, strategic plan for cumulative impacts. The continued expansion of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in the region, combined with this large-scale solar project, is transforming agricultural land into an industrial energy hub, with no coordinated oversight of how this affects the local landscape, communities, and infrastructure.

Key Issues:

1. Uncoordinated Energy Development in the Drakelow Area – The former power station site has already attracted multiple energy-related projects, including further BESS proposals, yet there appears to be no overarching plan for managing the scale and distribution of energy infrastructure in the area. This piecemeal approach overburdens rural landscapes and communities, concentrating developments in a single region rather than distributing them across more suitable locations.
2. Loss of Agricultural Land – At a time when food security is a growing concern, removing 540 acres of productive farmland for solar panels is a poor strategic decision. Instead, solar projects should be prioritized on brownfield sites, rooftops, and industrial land rather than diminishing the UK's food production capacity.
3. Wasted Energy from Poor Planning of Industrial and Warehousing Sites – The push for new solar farms contrasts sharply with the failure to mandate solar installations on new commercial buildings, particularly warehouses. In areas overlooking the Trent, large warehouses remain unoccupied yet use unnecessary security lighting at night, contributing to wasted energy while failing to incorporate on-site solar panels. Why is there no legislation requiring all new warehouses to integrate solar power, rather than permitting further large-scale solar farms on open land?
4. Impact on Local Communities and the Environment – The cumulative effect of large-scale solar and BESS developments, coupled with a lack of long-term planning for rural energy zoning, risks permanently altering the character of the region, reducing biodiversity, and straining local infrastructure.

Request for Action

As the final decision on this project approaches, I urge you to:

Call for a coordinated approach to energy development in Derbyshire, ensuring that large-scale energy projects are distributed appropriately rather than concentrated in rural locations.

Oppose the Oaklands Farm Solar Project, prioritizing the protection of agricultural land and advocating for industrial and brownfield solar projects instead.

Push for new legislation requiring all warehousing and commercial developments to incorporate solar panels, ensuring that renewable energy is maximized in existing built environments rather than sacrificing farmland. Like how this company is doing

<https://www.solivus.com/>

I would appreciate a response outlining your position on this project and on the broader issue of uncoordinated energy infrastructure development. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Silcock

[Redacted signature block]



:: LinkedIn : [Redacted]

:: Mobile : [Redacted]

:: t : @explore

:: s : explore