

From: Alastair Mackenzie

Sent: 15 October 2025 15:49

To: NI Enquiries

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: EN010140 Helios Renewable Energy Project

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir,

Whilst on the subject of solar farms being sited close to airfields, it's also important to consider the risks associated during the construction phase of such projects.

In recent weeks the solar farm under construction to the north of Camblesforth between Burn Airfield and Drax power station now features thousands of vertical steel posts driven into the floor that will ultimately carry the racks on which solar panels will be mounted. These steel posts are invisible from the air along with the security fencing surrounding the fields in question and represent a deadly hazard to any aircraft or glider making a forced landing.

Please take a look at the attached pictures and ask yourself if anyone could survive a crash landing in such an area?

Kind regards,

Alastair Mackenzie.

On 15 Oct 2025 at 15:34, Alastair Mackenzie <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the response from Burn Gliding Club regarding the need for safe landing areas to be available off the ends of all runways and in particular Runways 07 and 15 to the east of the airfield.

There is a risk to gliders and tugs taking off on aerotow in an easterly direction as well as gliders and tugs landing from the east onto runway 25 and 33. If a glider tug loses power on take off it will have to perform an emergency field landing and so will the glider it is towing. Likewise if a tug aircraft loses power on approach and cannot reach the runway threshold it will undoubtedly crash land in the fields that make up the undershoot area short of the airfield. Likewise glider's experiencing excessive sinking

air on approach face a similar problem. In such cases ground based obstacles present a deadly hazard to those onboard.

On BBC1 on Monday evening 13th October a TV program was aired entitled "Why Planes Crash". It highlighted the limited options for pilots to effect a safe landing in the case of engine loss due to bird strikes and drew attention to the lack of foresight involved in the siting of some new airports and / or the lack of foresight involved in the placement of obvious ground based hazards off the ends of existing runways. It drew the viewers attention to the terrible accident earlier this year in South Korea where 170+ passengers and crew were killed when an airliner was forced to make an emergency landing and slid off the end of the runway into the airport localiser that had mounted on top of an earth embankment that had reinforced concrete inside. If that structure hadn't been placed directly off the end of the runway then chances are everyone on board would have been saved.

So it would seem pretty ludicrous to build a solar farm with floor mounted steel supports, surrounded by prison style fencing directly off the end of a runway and not learn the lessons of history - that such structures are likely to prove deadly in the case of a plane or glider crash.

Please watch the programme and ask yourself is this a sensible place to build a solar farm?

Kind regards,

Alastair Mackenzie.





