

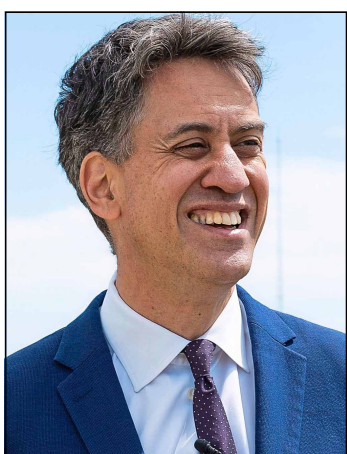
Bomber heroes' last resting place to be desecrated by giant Miliband solar farm

By **Mark Hookham**
and **Alexander Butler**

FOR decades it has been the sacred site where 12 heroic airmen laid down their lives to save an English village from being destroyed by their doomed bomber.

But The Mail on Sunday can reveal the hallowed field in Isleham, Cambridgeshire, is to be 'desecrated' – after Energy Secretary Ed Miliband gave the go-ahead to a sprawling 15-mile-long solar farm as part of his Net Zero crusade.

On October 13, 1949, the US Air Force Boeing B-50 Superfortress took off from nearby RAF Lakenheath laden with 16 500lb bombs on a practice flight to Heligoland, Germany. But a fire



ANGER: Ed Miliband and, right, a B-50 Superfortress



TRIBUTE: Linda Dunbavin holding a memorial order of service at the air crash site

dozens planned across Britain's countryside, huge solar panels will cover the field and surrounding areas.

The only concession made by the developers is that they have promised to leave a square in the field free of panels and will put up a plaque in memory of the airmen.

Last October, a 75th anniversary memorial service was held at St Andrew's Church in Isleham to commemorate the airmen's 'valiant sacrifice'.

A Sunnica spokesman said: 'We undertook geophysical surveys which accurately confirmed the exact location of the crash impact crater.'

'In recognition of the importance of the crash crater, we have proposed an exclusion zone around it where no development would occur.'

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero said in a statement: 'We respect the significance this field holds for those in Isleham and the memory of those lost in the 1949 USAF crash.'

'We support the developer's commitment to honour them by creating a protected area around the site.'

broke out shortly after take-off and US pilot George Ingham, 27, faced a horrifying choice – veer the flaming aircraft away from Isleham and sacrifice his and his crew's lives, or bail out and destroy the village.

Elderly residents remember the stricken bomber missing Isleham by just half a mile and crashing into a large field just outside the village in a 'terrifying' explosion that shattered the windows of their primary school.

Mr Miliband approved the solar farm plan just three days after Labour came to power last year. His controversial move, which will also affect 11 other villages in

Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, came despite a 2023 Planning Inspectorate report that rejected it as 'inappropriate' – in part due to the possibility of human remains still being in the field.

Local residents are furious at the development at the last resting place of the airmen – 11 of whom were American and one British.

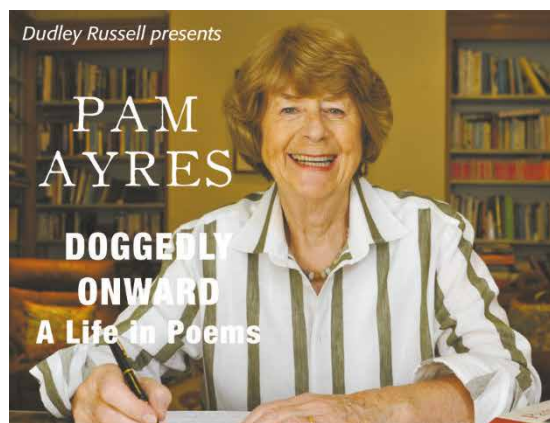
Linda Dunbavin, who remembers the plane going down when she was just four, accused Mr Miliband of erasing the memory of the heroic airmen by approving the Sunnica Energy Farm.

The 80-year-old, whose two sisters and three cousins were inside the school at the

time of the crash, described how she heard an 'almighty bang' and said: 'We drove home and my grandmother was saying, "Oh my God, oh my God, a plane has gone down." Those soldiers gave their lives to save our village and a whole generation of children. My grandfather went up there and saw bits of hands and feet all over the place. Ed Miliband is desecrating their blood and bones.'

David Brown, 89, was inside the school when the bomber crashed. He said: 'I'm not pleased about Sunnica building a solar farm over it. It is disrespectful to those men.'

As part of the 2,500-acre Sunnica solar farm, one of



OCTOBER 2025

Sun 12	3pm	MONMOUTH Blake Theatre	01600 719401	theblaketheatre.co.uk
Wed 15	7.30pm	GUILDFORD Yvonne Arnaud Theatre	01483 440000	yvonne-arnaud.co.uk
Fri 24	7.30pm	BRIDPORT Electric Palace Theatre	01308 424901	electricpalace.org.uk
Sun 26	3.30pm	WIMBORNE Tivoli Theatre	01202 885566	tivoliiwimborne.co.uk
Wed 29	7.30pm	SHREWSBURY Theatre Severn	01743 281281	theatresevern.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun 2	3.30pm	SWINDON Wyvern Theatre	0343 310 0040	trafalgartickets.com
Charity Fund raiser in aid of HATHEROP BIG BUILD, raising funds for much needed development at Hatherop Primary School, near Cirencester. See www.hatheropbigbuild.com				
Wed 5	2.30pm	EASTBOURNE Devonshire Park Theatre	01323 412000	eastbourne-theatres.co.uk
Sun 9	3.30pm	YEovil Westlands Entertainment Venue	01935 422884	westlandseyovil.co.uk
Sun 13	3.30pm	SAFFRON WALDEN The Saffron Hall	0845 548 7650	saffronhall.com
Sat 15	7.30pm	CHIPPING CAMPDEN Cidermill Theatre	01386 335420	cidermilltheatre.com
Charity Fund raiser in aid of CHELTENHAM ANIMAL SHELTER, raising funds for continuing care and support for pets in need. See www.gawa.org.uk				

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Forget carrots – fish fingers can give kids great eyesight

By **Roger Dobson**

FISH fingers and biscuits might not seem like a healthy diet, but feeding them to your children could be good for their eyesight, research has found.

They were found to be linked to a lower risk of developing myopia – or short-sightedness – in an analysis of genetic information from more than 210,000 people in a UK database.

Fruit and canned soup also have a positive effect, the children's eye specialists found, but breakfast cereals and low-calorie hot chocolate were found to have a detrimental effect.

Only six foods were studied by experts at Xian Children's Hospital in China, with breaded fish found to be the most beneficial. 'Breaded fish consumption

exerted a direct protective effect against myopia,' they wrote in the International Journal of Ophthalmology.

'While numerous studies have explored associations between dietary intake and myopia, none have identified specific foods. Our findings support the notion that incorporating fish into the diet represents a feasible and accessible strategy for myopia prevention.'

It's not the only benefit of eating fish fingers. Another study of 6,000 youngsters in England, published earlier this year, found they could help children grow up to be kinder and more sociable.

Myopia is an increasing problem, with the number of children affected estimated to have more than doubled since the 1960s.

Factors are thought to include less time being spent outdoors and the increased use of electronic devices. Diet has been implicated, but research has been hampered by difficulties in ruling out other factors that can skew results.

The new Chinese study used a gene-based technique designed to remove such factors and found that eating breaded fish, canned soup, sweet biscuits and fruits was linked to a lower risk of myopia of between seven and 12 per cent.

Hot chocolate and breakfast cereal were associated with an increased risk of between six and 16 per cent.