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Pursuant to:
APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

**Consultation Report:
Appendix 8.2 - Informal
Consultation letters**

June 2024



Appendix 8.2 – Informal Consultation Letters

Initial letter to stakeholders – 13 June 2022



Issued via email

13 June 2022

REF: Introduction and update on Helios Renewable Energy Project

Dear Stakeholder

I write in relation to the Helios Renewable Energy Project (HREP), a proposed renewable energy development located to the southwest of the village of Camblesforth and to the north of the village of Hirst Courtney in North Yorkshire. The development is situated within the administrative areas of Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

The HREP proposals comprise the installation of ground mounted solar arrays, energy storage and associated development comprising grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the development for the delivery of over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The scheme could deliver up to 250 MW of electricity, which is enough clean energy to power approximately 61,950 homes¹ and will assist in tackling the climate emergency and to help the UK Government in meeting its target for net zero emissions by 2050. The proposals also represent a significant opportunity to reduce the UK's reliance on foreign energy supplies.

About the project

As the Project will deliver over 50MW of solar power it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) which requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008. The application for development consent will therefore need to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy via a process administered by the Planning Inspectorate. It is anticipated that the application will be submitted in 2023 following consultation with the local community. The Planning Inspectorate will appoint an independent Examining Authority to consider the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision.

The design of the proposed solar farm is likely to evolve during the course of the Project, however at this initial stage, the Project is currently envisaged to comprise:

- Solar PV modules and module mounting structures with string combiner boxes;
- Energy Storage System (ESS) to manage and store electricity;
- Access tracks;
- Transformers, inverters, switchgear and spare parts containers;
- On-site substation and underground cabling; and
- Cable route (with a maximum voltage of 132kV) connecting the development with the Drax National Grid Substation

¹ Based on average home electrical consumption of 3,961 kWh within England as detailed by the 'Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics 2005 to 2020', published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy in December 2021



Current position

A formal request for a Scoping Opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the project. This Scoping Request seeks to agree the scope and extent of the environmental and technical assessments required to assess the positive and negative impacts of the HREP.

Following the submission of a Scoping Request, we will receive a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate confirming its expectations in this regard.

The Scoping process sets out certain base information about the project, which will be published on the Planning Inspectorate website. We will also include copies of relevant documents on our project website: www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk.

Next steps

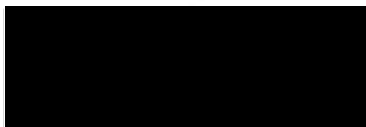
We will be undertaking extensive consultation with the local community and stakeholders over the coming months, including non-statutory (informal) consultation prior to the summer, with a statutory phase of consultation later in the year. We intend to submit our application in 2023. We will ensure that the local community and stakeholders are fully informed about opportunities to review information about the proposals and when and how to provide feedback.

At this early stage, we would be pleased to answer any questions you may have, or to arrange a meeting with you via Teams or Zoom to discuss the initial proposals and explain the process in a little more detail. Please contact the team using the details at the bottom of this letter to arrange this. Further information will be made available on the Project website over the coming weeks, and we will continue to keep you informed about the Project via post or email, unless you request otherwise.

Thirty4/7 feel free to get in touch with the Project Team using the contact details on this letter.

Thank you in advance for your time, I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Kirsty Lodge
Principal Planner and HREP Lead

info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk
0800 6990081

Stakeholder covering letter (accompanying newsletter) – 30 June 2022



Name
Organisation
Address 1
Address 2
Address 3
Address 4
Postcode

30 June 2022

REF: Helios Renewable Energy Project Launch of Consultation (Phase 1)

Dear XXX

I write in relation to the Helios Renewable Energy Project (HREP), a proposed renewable energy development located to the west of the village of ~~Camblesforth~~ and to the north of the village of Hirst Courtney in North Yorkshire. The development is situated within the administrative areas of Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

The proposals include a solar farm with energy storage and associated infrastructure, with a grid connection point at the Drax National Grid substation.

The proposed solar farm would provide renewable electricity for distribution to the National Grid. The energy storage system will supply electricity to the network at times of peak energy demand and help make the renewable energy output of the solar farm a secure and reliable part of the UK energy supply.

The scheme could deliver up to 250 MW of electricity, which is enough clean energy to power approximately 61,950 homes and will assist in tackling the climate emergency and to help the UK Government in meeting its target for net zero emissions by 2050. The proposals also represent a significant opportunity to reduce the UK's reliance on foreign energy supplies.

Public consultation

We have just launched the first phase of our public consultation on the proposals. I have enclosed a copy of a newsletter which is being sent to all residents within the surrounding local communities of the project. The newsletter provides a summary of the proposals and details of the public consultation events, how to find out more information, and where to send any feedback or comments. Further information can also be found on the project website: www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk.

As a local community representative, I wanted to write to you directly to invite you to participate in the consultation. The project team would be pleased to provide you with further information, and I would like to extend an invitation for you to meet the project team in person prior to the opening of the first public consultation event (details of the events are available in the enclosed newsletter).

We'd be pleased to welcome you to ~~Camblesforth~~ Hall (Brigg Lane, ~~Camblesforth~~, Y08 8HJ) on the 14th July at 1pm, prior to the consultation event opening to the public. Of course, you are more than welcome to attend at any other time during the two drop-in events if you cannot make this time.



Next steps

We will be undertaking extensive consultation with the local community and stakeholders over the coming months. Following this initial phase of informal consultation, we will be returning for a 'statutory' phase of consultation later in the year. We then intend to submit our application in 2023.

We will ensure that the local community and stakeholders are fully informed about opportunities to review information on the proposals and when and how to provide feedback.

If you have any queries or questions about the proposals in the meantime, please contact the team using the details at the bottom of this letter. Further information will be made available on the Project website over the coming weeks, and we will continue to keep you informed about the Project via post or email, unless you request otherwise.

Thank you in advance for your time, and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Kirsty Lodge
Principal Planner and HREP Lead

info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk
0800 6990081