HELIOS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

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

Consultation Report: Appendix 8.4 - Consultation presentation slides

June 2024

Appendix 8.4 – Informal Consultation Presentation Slides (June/July 2022)

Informal Consultation Presentation Slides (June/July 2022)

Project Presentation

JUNE 2022

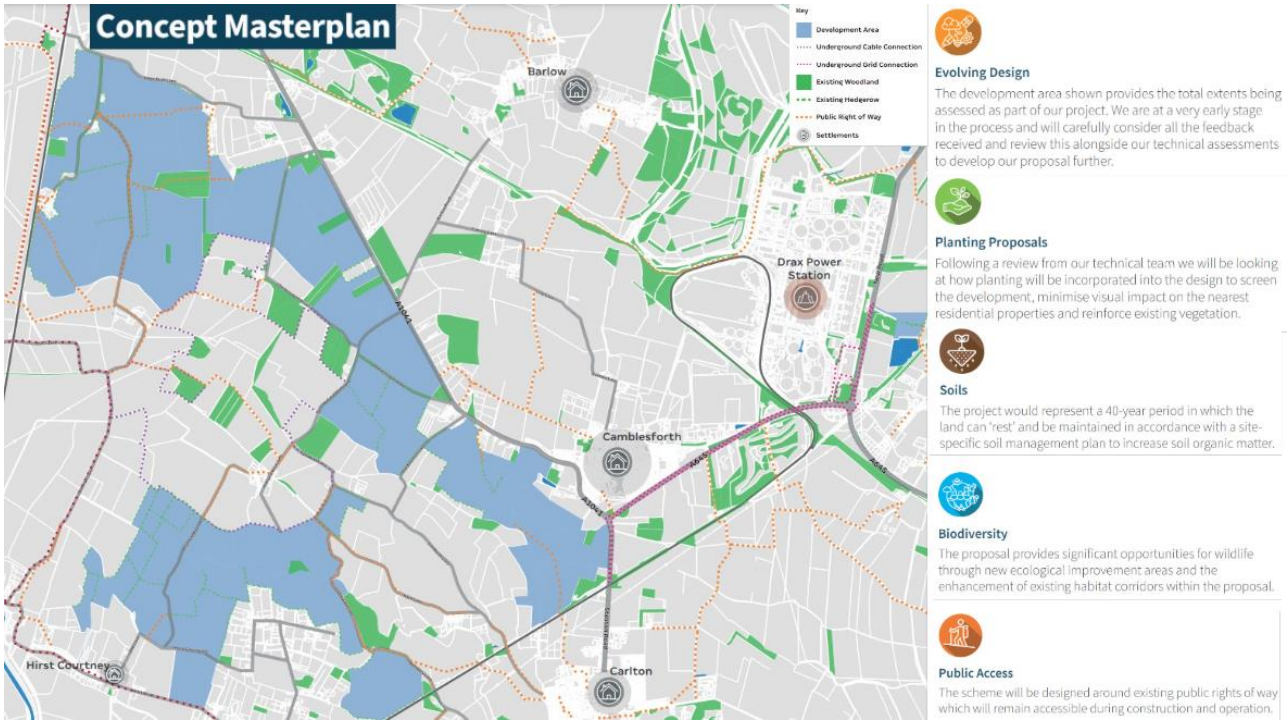
Introduction

Helios Renewable Energy Project consists of a solar farm with energy storage system and associated infrastructure on land to the west of the village of Camblesforth and to the north of the village of Hirst Courtney in North Yorkshire.

The connection point to the National Grid is to the east of Drax Power Station.

This Project would produce up to **250MW** of clean renewable energy

That's enough renewable energy to power around **61,950 homes** each year



Other Benefits

The UK has a legally binding target under the Climate Change Act 2008 to achieve a 'net zero' carbon account by 2050. This will require a step change in all sectors of the economy, including energy generation.

Solar is one of the cheapest and most effective renewable energy technologies, and has a major part to play in the decarbonisation of the UK's energy system.

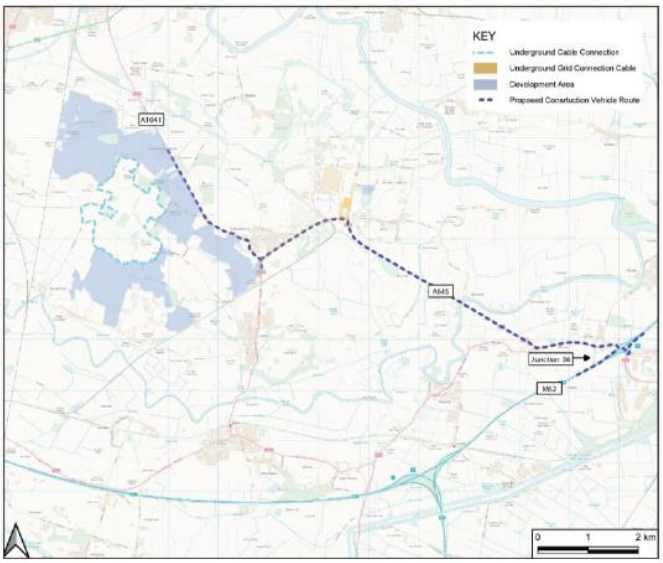
At a local level, this project can play a leading role in the transition away from fossil fuels, which is already underway. The decommissioning of Eggborough Power station is one example of this.

Solar projects are reversible energy generation projects with a lifetime of around 40 years. This does not alter the site's land use classification as they remain classed as 'agricultural'.

Access

Potential route access from Junction 36 of the M62, via the A645, and then the A1041.

Anticipated average number of deliveries would be **20 to 30 per day** across the 12 month construction period.



Community Benefit

We would be grateful for local views on the project including any specific considerations you feel are important to the local community.

If you have an idea for a sustainable community based scheme, which could benefit from the project, please share your idea with us.

Process

As the proposed development is for electricity generation of more than 50MW, it will be classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project(NSIP).

We are currently undertaking informal consultation on the proposals, prior to further refinement and the development of a 'Preferred Design'. A further stage of statutory (formal) consultation will take place later this year.

Early 2022	Pre-planning and project inception
July 2022	Phase 1: Informal community consultation
Autumn 2022	Phase 2: Statutory consultation on draft application
2023	Application submission to the Planning Inspectorate
2023-2024	Examination by the Planning Inspectorate prior to recommendation to Secretary of State

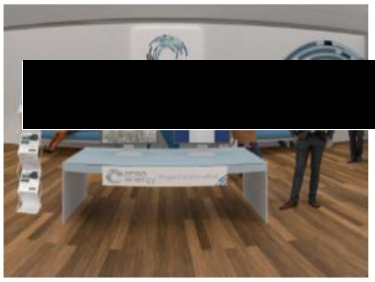
Consultation

Informal stage of consultation taking place across July 2022:

- Project website (www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk).
- Newsletter issued to local residents (within 2km radius of the site).
- Virtual consultation will be live from 30th June 2022.
- In-person consultation events:

Camblesforth Hall, Brigg Lane, Camblesforth, Selby, YO8 8HJ
Thursday 14th July 2022
2pm to 7pm

Carlton Village Hall, Church Lane, Carlton, DN14 9PB
Friday 15th July 2022
12.30pm to 5pm



Questions?


Project website
Project documents and plans detailing the nature and location of the project are available at https://helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk
Email
Written feedback can be provided utilising the project email address - info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk
Feedback forms
Available at the consultation event and online via the project website. Alternatively, get in touch to request a hard copy and we will post it to you
Freepost
Written feedback can be provided utilising the project freepost address FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION (no further address or stamp required)
Freephone
0800 699 0081 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays)

Statutory Consultation Presentation Slides (October – December 2023)

HELIOS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

Statutory Consultation

Autumn 2023

Introduction

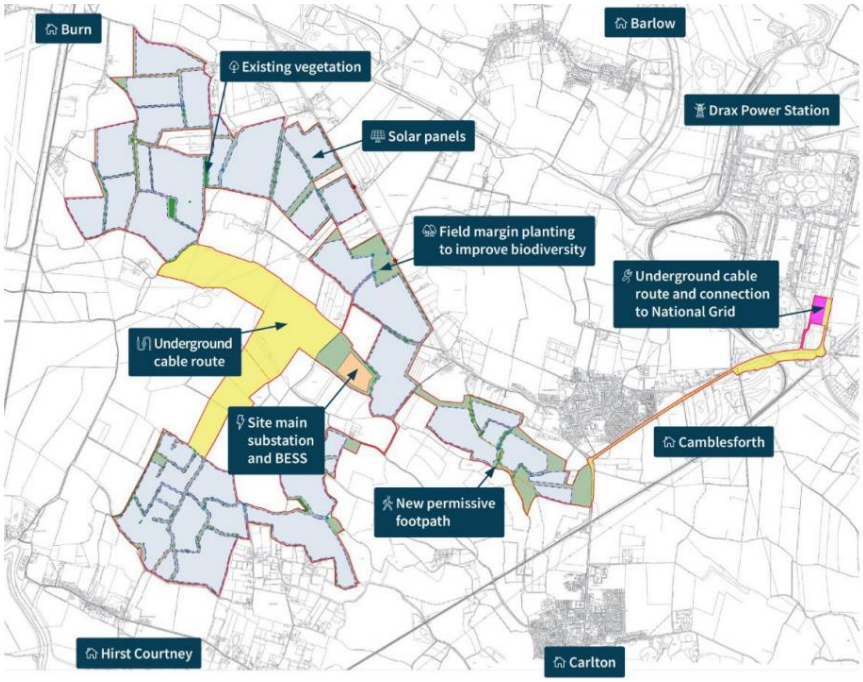
Helios Renewable Energy Project consists of a solar farm with battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure on land to the west of the village of Camblesforth and to the north of the village of Hirst Courtney in North Yorkshire.

The connection point to the national grid is at National Grid Drax Substation.

190MW of clean renewable energy.

Enough to power around **47,500 homes** each year.

Saving an estimated **36,500 tonnes** of CO2 each year.



Key Points

Renewable Energy: The Helios Renewable Energy Project will make a significant contribution towards the UK Government's legally binding target of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Planting Proposals: Following feedback from the local community and review from our technical team we have identified areas of planting within the scheme which is designed to screen the development, minimise visual impact for the nearest residential properties and reinforce existing vegetation.

Public Access: The scheme will be designed around existing public rights of way which will remain accessible during construction and operation. We have also identified opportunities to improve connectivity in the local area through the inclusion of a permissive footpath to link Camblesforth and Carlton.

Soils: The project would represent a 40-year period in which the land can 'rest' and be maintained in accordance with a site-specific soil management plan to increase soil organic matter.

The Benefits

Net zero – The proposals will deliver an export capacity of 190MW of renewable energy and will support the UK's legally binding commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Likewise, the proposals will support the government's target of reaching 70GW of solar capacity by 2035 – a five-fold increase on current levels.

Reversibility – The development is designed to be entirely reversible. At the end of the solar farm's 40-year life, all equipment will be dismantled, removed, and largely recycled. The site will then be returned to agricultural use.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Well-designed and managed solar farms are proven wildlife havens and support a range of ecosystems. The proposals include a comprehensive strategy of landscape and ecological improvements, aimed at significantly boosting nature and ecology.

Landscaping – To minimise visual impact, the solar farm will be screened. This will be achieved through the planting and restoration of hedgerows, as well as the establishment of native trees and vegetation.

Agricultural Land – Intensively farmed arable land can become degraded and infertile over time. A solar farm allows agricultural land to rest, free from fertilisers and pesticides. This helps increase soil organic matter and protects the long-term agricultural use of the site for future generations.

Land Use – Solar farms provide an opportunity for multiple lands uses; in addition to producing renewable energy, the site can continue to be grazed by sheep, supporting biodiversity and farming alongside clean energy generation.

Community Benefit – A contribution to a community benefit fund is being considered to assist with local schemes, initiatives, and worthy causes.

Biodiversity

The proposal provides significant opportunities for wildlife through new biodiversity and habitat improvement areas and the enhancement of biological corridors throughout the site as a result of grassland creation, tree planting and new hedgerows.

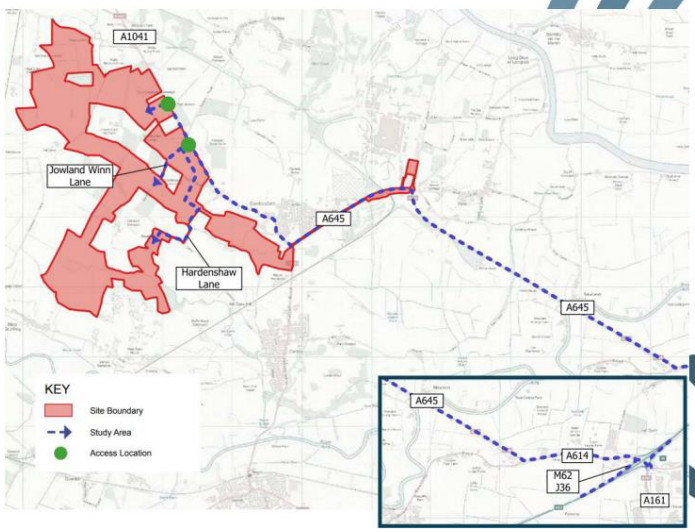
The proposed creation of diverse grasslands, tree planting and hedgerow planting will create new habitat opportunities for breeding, foraging and overwintering as well as refuge, for a range of species including birds, bats, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. These interventions will have the additional benefit of improving biological connectivity throughout the site. The proposed plans will therefore deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Access

Proposed route access from Junction 36 of the M62, via the A645, and then the A1041.

The anticipated average number of HGV deliveries would be 36 per day (18 arrivals and 18 departures) across the 12 month construction period.

The suitability of these routes will be confirmed by detailed on-site assessment and traffic surveys and agreed with North Yorkshire Council and National Highways.



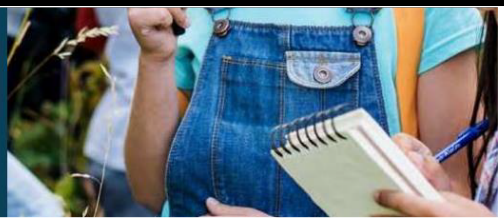
Community Benefit

Local jobs and investment – we are committed to using local labour and contractors wherever we can throughout the construction and ongoing operational life of the project.

Maintenance and enhancement of footpaths throughout the site as well as identified additional permissive footpaths to improve connectivity in the local area.

Potential biodiversity enhancements including reinforcement of existing hedgerows and the planting of new hedgerows, native grasses and wildflowers within and adjacent to the solar farm itself.

Community Benefit Contribution – A contribution to a community benefit fund is being considered to assist with local schemes, initiatives, and worthy causes.



Process

As the proposed development is for electricity generation of more than 50MW, it will be classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project(NSIP).

We are currently undertaking statutory consultation on the proposals, which runs until **7 December 2023**.

All documents and consultation materials are available to view online on the project website: **www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk**

Early 2022
Pre-planning and project inception

July 2022
Phase One informal community consultation

Autumn 2023
Phase Two statutory consultation on draft application

2024
Application submission to the Planning Inspectorate

2024 - 2025
Examination by the Planning Inspectorate prior to recommendation to the Secretary of State

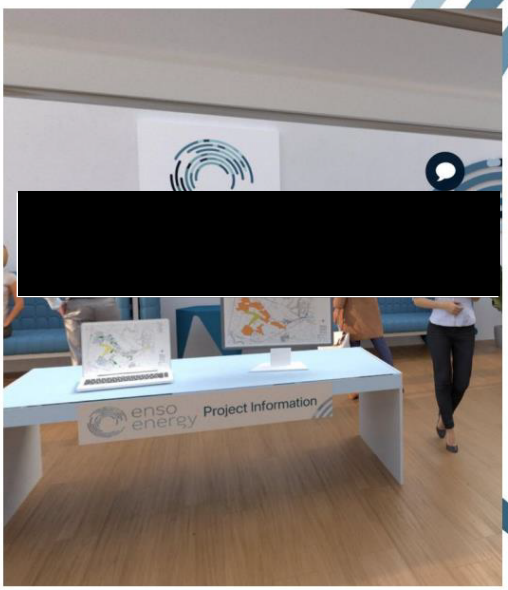
Consultation

Statutory Consultation taking place between 26 October and 7 December 2023:

- Project website (www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk).
- Newsletter issued to local residents (within 2km radius of the site).
- Virtual consultation live throughout the process.
- In-person consultation events:

Camblesforth Hall
Wednesday 8th November 2023, 2pm to 7pm

Carlton Village Hall
Thursday 9th November 2023, 12pm to 5:30pm



We're keen to understand the views of the local community and encourage you to provide your thoughts and feedback on the proposals. Any responses or representations in respect of the Project can be made via the feedback form (available at events, above noted locations, on the project website and upon request) or in writing via:

Email:
info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk

Feedback forms:
These will be available at our consultation events or on the project website
www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk

Alternatively you can request a hard copy by writing to us at the Freepost address or Freephone number below

Freepost:
You can send your feedback form to **FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION** (no further address or stamp required)

If you have any queries about the consultation process you can call – **0800 699 0081** (Freephone – Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays)

The deadline date for comments is 11.59pm 7 December 2023