HELIOS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

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Consultation Report: Appendix 8.5 - Informal Consultation newsletter

June 2024

Appendix 8.5 – Informal Consutlation Newsletter (June 2022)

Introducing Helios Renewable Energy Project

Enso Energy is proposing to develop a solar farm with energy storage and associated infrastructure on land west of Camblesforth and north of Hirst Courtney in North Yorkshire.

The proposed solar farm would provide renewable electricity for distribution to the National Grid. The proposal would generate a significant amount of energy each year of the proposed 40-year operational life, while also providing large CO_2 savings when compared to generation of electricity by non-renewable sources.

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.

This leaflet explains where to find out further information, view the detailed plans, and how to contact the project team to provide feedback.

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

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

The map in this leaflet shows the proposed location of the solar farm and grid connection point at the Drax National Grid substation.

The Proposals

The plans include:

- Solar panels 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

About us

The Helios Renewable Energy Project is a joint-venture partnership between Enso Energy and Cero Generation.

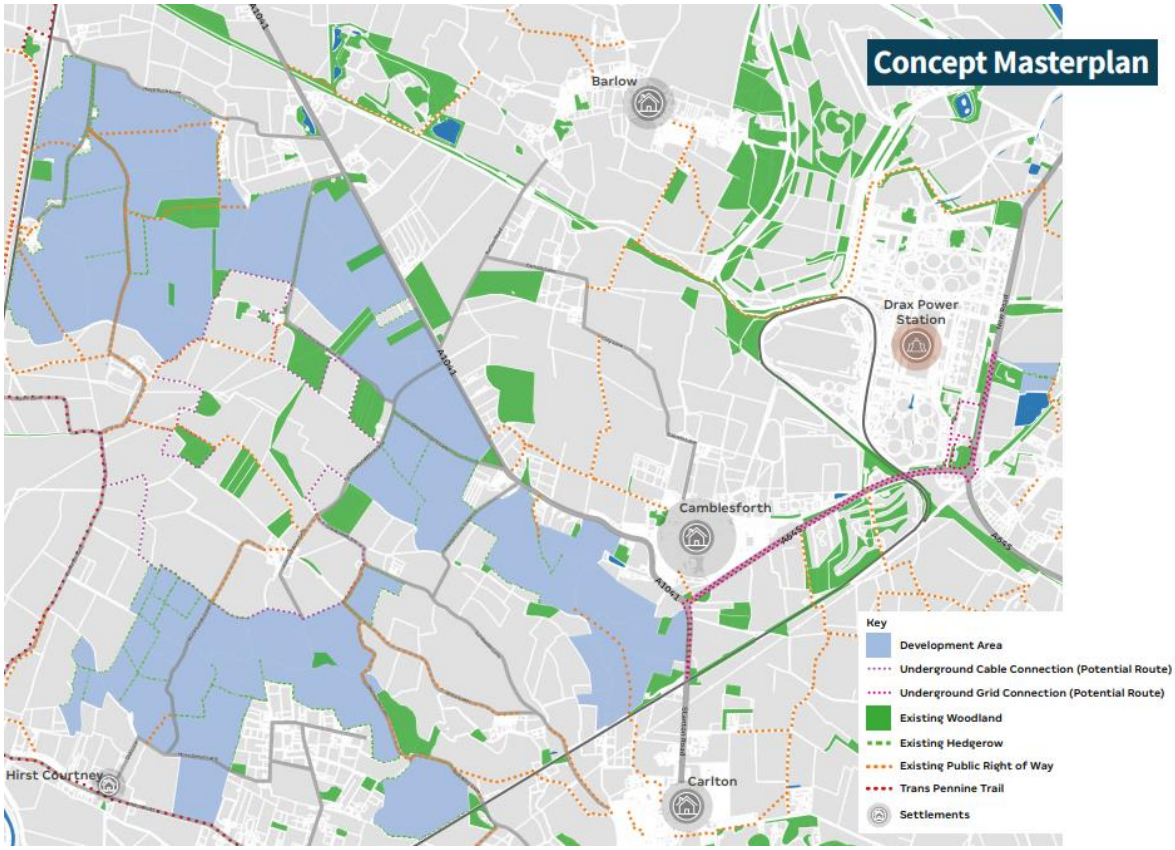
Enso Energy is one of the UK's most experienced renewable energy developers, with an unparalleled focus on solar energy.

Cero Generation is a leading solar energy company, working across Europe to support the transition to a net-zero future.

Find out more at:
www.ensoenergy.co.uk

The Planning Process

As the proposed development is for electricity generation of more than 50MW, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 and we must therefore apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO). Following both informal and formal (statutory) consultation, we are aiming to submit an application to the Planning Inspectorate in 2023. We hope to have a decision from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in 2024.



Biodiversity

The proposal provides significant opportunities for wildlife through new ecological improvement areas and the enhancement of existing habitat corridors within the proposal.

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.

Planting Proposals

Following a review from our technical team we will be looking at how planting will be incorporated into the design to screen the development, minimise visual impact on 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.

Renewable Energy

Through the development of Helios Renewable Energy Project, we hope to make a significant contribution towards the UK Government aims to reduce carbon emissions significantly over the coming years and to reach net zero by 2050.

Community

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, then please share your idea with us.

Evolving Design

The development area shown provides the total extents being assessed as part of our project. We are at a very early stage in the process and will carefully consider all the feedback received and review this alongside our technical assessments to develop our proposal further.

Benefits

- The project will support the UK's urgent need to transition to a low carbon future, producing significant amounts of renewable energy.
- This is a reversible development and at the end of the solar farm's life (40 years) all equipment can be easily dismantled, removed from site and largely recycled.
- A solar farm allows agricultural land to rest for the period of operation whilst reducing fertilizer and pesticide usage.
- A scheme of landscape and ecological improvements will be prepared, ensuring the project provides a biodiversity net gain (improves biodiversity around the site).
- A solar farm gives land the opportunity for multiple uses. In addition to renewable energy production, solar farms can continue to be grazed by sheep and support biodiversity.

Come along to our public consultation exhibition

We are holding public consultation events at the following times and locations:

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

We would welcome your feedback

Comments and feedback can be made via the feedback form attached, or by sending comments directly to us via the contact details below.

- **Email**
  info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk
- **Online**
  www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk
- **Freepost**
  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).

Virtual exhibition
We will also be hosting a virtual exhibition on our Project website, where you can find all the relevant information. Please visit: helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk

The virtual exhibition will be live throughout the consultation period from 30th June to 28th July 2022