HELIOS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

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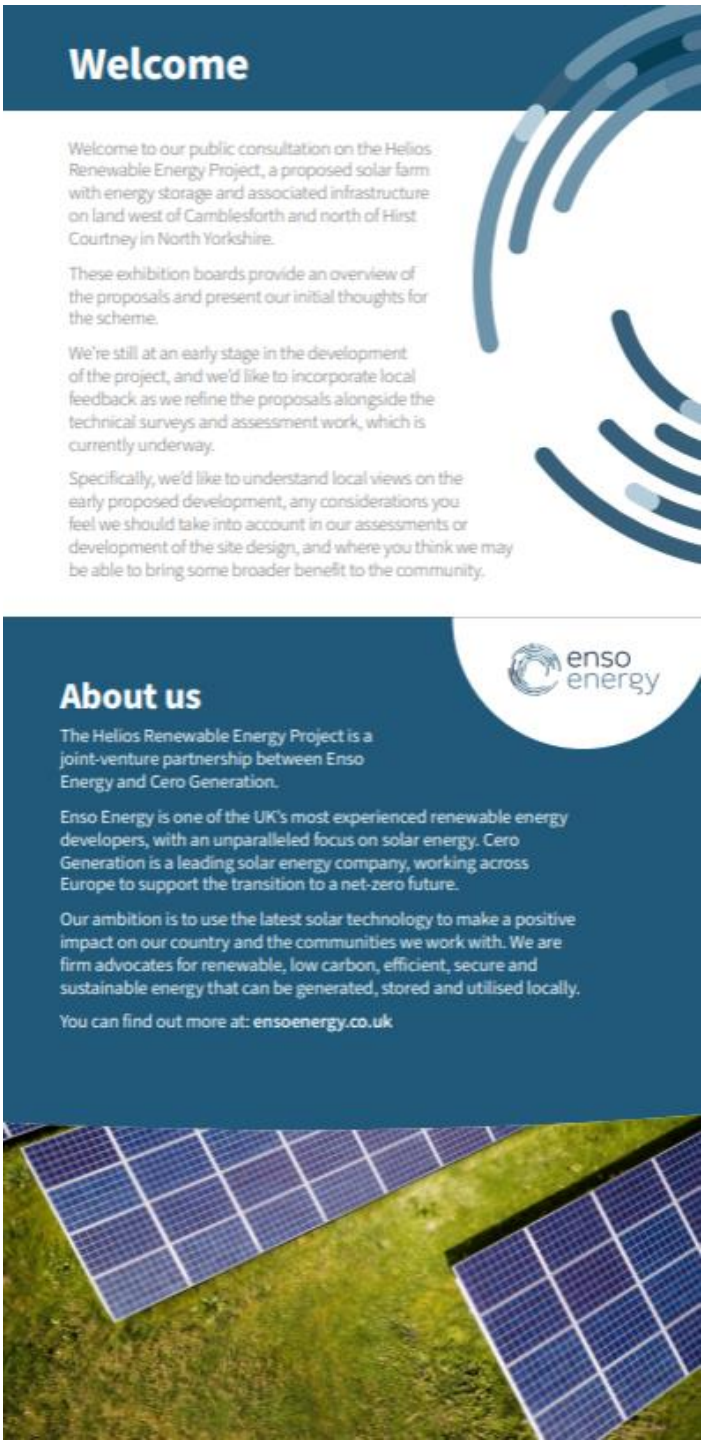
Pursuant to:
APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Consultation Report: Appendix 8.6 - Informal Consultation banners and feedback form

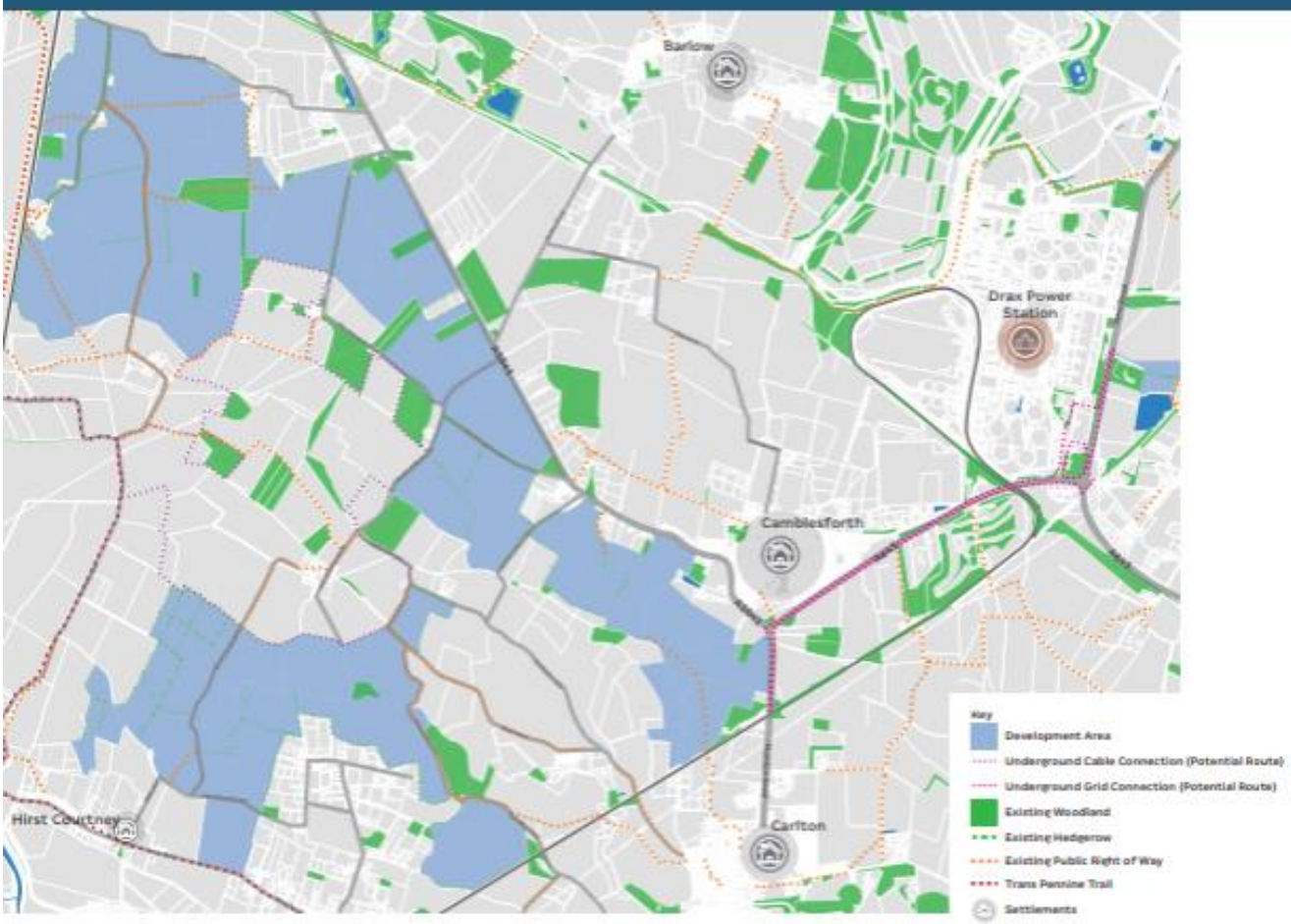
June 2024

Appendix 8.6 – Informal Consultation Banners and feedback form

Informal Consultation Banners



Concept Masterplan



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Why solar?

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. This project presents the opportunity to repower the region with clean, green energy and will help keep the lights on, without carbon emissions, and at a low cost to customers.

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'. Some agricultural activities can be retained (such as sheep grazing), and there is opportunity to enhance local biodiversity through creation of new habitats and planting around the site.

Biodiversity

The project would represent a 40-year period in which the intensively farmed land can 'rest' while the boundary vegetation is improved and maintained to improve biodiversity. In addition, the following biodiversity benefits are being considered:

- Significant opportunities to provide additional hedgerow and tree planting to create new ecological improvement areas and enhance existing habitats.
- Year-round vegetated ground providing both habitat and foraging opportunities.
- Wildflower planting to encourage pollinators and other insects, which will see benefits through the food chain.
- Keeping the land pesticide and chemical free, enabling species to thrive and improve soil quality.
- Installation of features to promote wildlife such as bird boxes and beehives.

Gathering the necessary technical information

We are currently in the process of undertaking a range of technical assessments to help us understand the site and local environment as we develop the Helios proposals. This is known as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). These assessments will be recorded in a report called the Environmental Statement (ES) and will form the evidence base we submit as part of the application.

Assessments currently being undertaken include:

- Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and Views;
- Biodiversity;
- Water Environment;
- Transport and Access;
- Noise;
- Climate Change;
- Socio-economics; and
- Soils and Agricultural Land.

As part of our consultation, we would like to hear what environmental issues relating to the proposals are most important to you at these early stages in the process.

We will carefully consider all the feedback received and review this alongside our technical assessments to development our proposal further.

Following feedback from the local community and our technical team, we will prepare a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The findings of the PEIR will form part of our next phase of consultation later in the year to seek further feedback before we finalise the project.

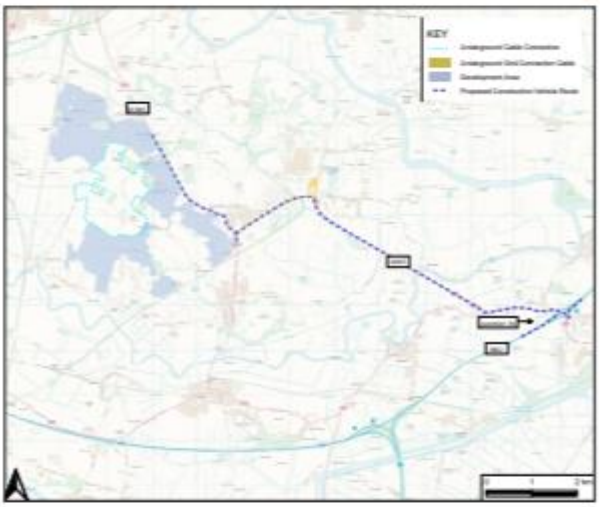
Construction traffic

Access to the site is currently expected to be from Junction 36 of the M62, via the A645, and then the A1041 as shown on the plan on this board.

It is anticipated that the average number of deliveries to be made by HGV during the construction period would be approximately 20 to 30 per day on average across the 12 month construction period.

Once operational there would be limited vehicle visits each month comprising a transit style van.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be developed as part of the application, this will provide details of proposed access arrangements, the anticipated programme, construction vehicle numbers and type, construction worker numbers and the proposed construction hours.



Decommissioning

The project lifetime is 40 years, meaning that we would be looking at decommissioning the site in the 2060's. The decommissioning activity will likely mirror the construction process in duration and activity, and will be agreed with the local authority and statutory consultees.

Community benefit

We believe that it's right that the community closest to a solar farm is able to benefit from it. In addition, we believe that the community itself is best placed to say what the community benefit should be.

If you have any thoughts on how this scheme could provide local community benefit, then please share your idea with us on the feedback form. Alternatively, feel free to take a post it note and place thoughts on this board.

Local jobs and investment

We are committed to using local labour wherever we can throughout the construction and ongoing operational life of the project. The project will also result in local investment directly (local employment opportunities during construction), and indirectly (expenditure in the local area from the construction workforce).

Feedback and next steps

We would be grateful for local views on the proposed development, any specific considerations you feel we should take into account in our assessments or development of the site design, and where you think we may be able to bring some broader benefit to the community.

Feedback will be considered alongside the results of technical assessments and surveys as we further refine our proposals.

The closing date for comments is the 28th July 2022.

Let us know your views

If you have any further questions or comments about the proposals or the consultation process currently underway, you can get in touch with us and provide your feedback via:

Project website
Project documents and plans detailing the nature and location of the project are available at **https://helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk**

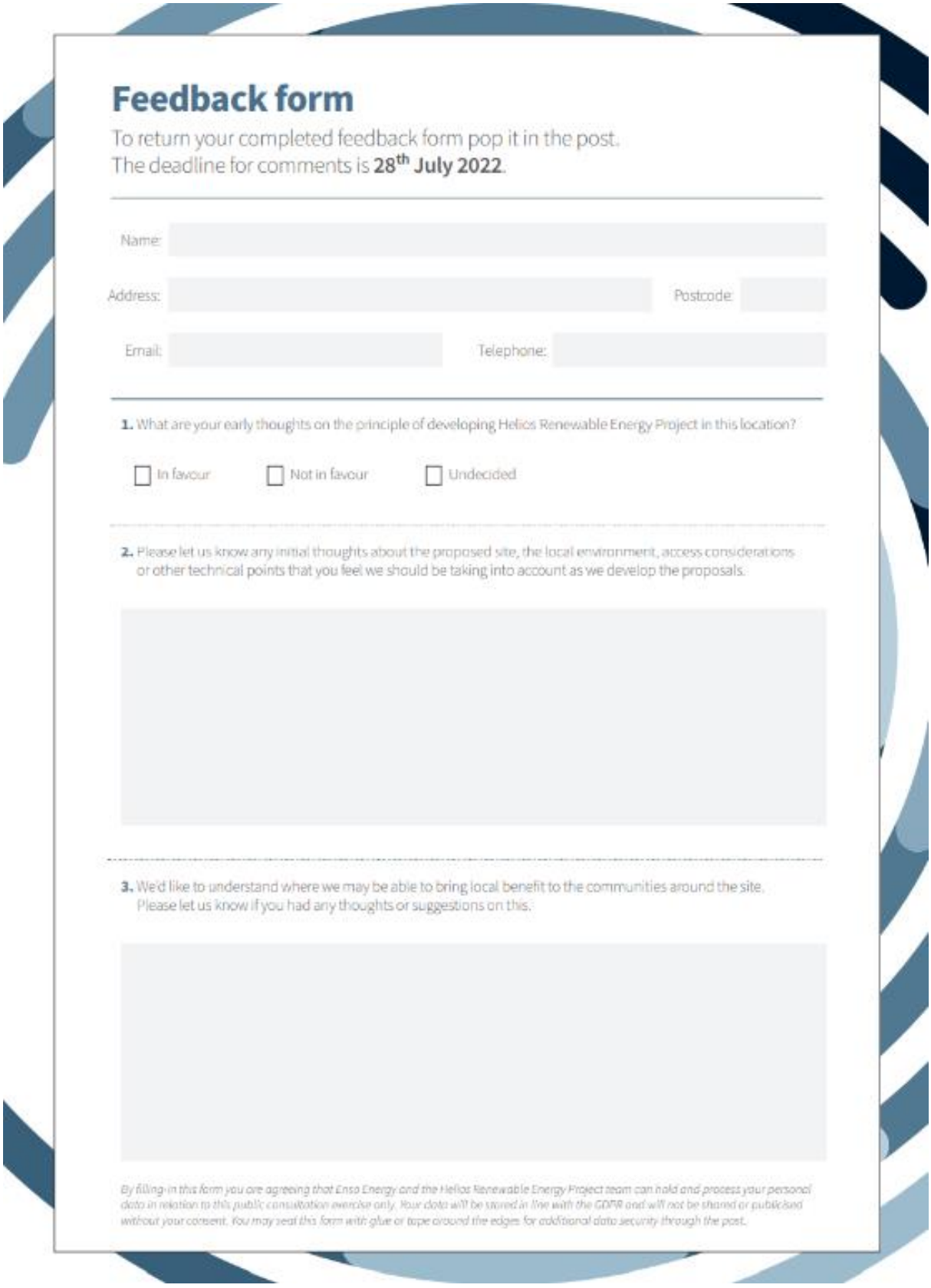
Email
Written feedback can be provided utilising the project email address – **info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk**

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)

Informal Consultation Feedback Form



Feedback form

To return your completed feedback form pop it in the post.
The deadline for comments is **28th July 2022**.

Name:

Address: Postcode:

Email: Telephone:

1. What are your early thoughts on the principle of developing Helios Renewable Energy Project in this location?

☐ In favour ☐ Not in favour ☐ Undecided

2. Please let us know any initial thoughts about the proposed site, the local environment, access considerations or other technical points that you feel we should be taking into account as we develop the proposals.

3. We'd like to understand where we may be able to bring local benefit to the communities around the site. Please let us know if you had any thoughts or suggestions on this.

By filling-in this form you are agreeing that Ensa Energy and the Helios Renewable Energy Project team can hold and process your personal data in relation to this public consultation exercise only. Your data will be stored in line with the GDPR and will not be shared or publicised without your consent. You may seal this form with glue or tape around the edges for additional data security through the post.