



HELIOS RENEWABLE
ENERGY
PROJECT

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Environmental Statement Chapter 0: Preface and Contents

June 2024



Helios Renewable Energy Project

Environmental Statement

Preface and Glossary

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010140

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Prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited

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PREFACE

This Environmental Statement ('ES') has been prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited (the 'Applicant') to accompany an application to the Secretary of State ('SoS') for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero ('DESNZ') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) ('the PA2008'). The application seeks a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the Helios Renewable Energy Project ('the Proposed Development').

The Proposed Development is located within the administrative areas of North Yorkshire Council ('NYC').

A full set of the ES documents can also be provided on a USB drive for £15, or as a hard copy for £1000, on written request to the Applicant via post or email at the details below (reasonable postage charges may also apply).

Please send any responses, requests for copies of documents or queries to:

- Email: info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk
- Online: <https://www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk/get-in-touch/>

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GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
<i>Access Tracks</i>	The tracks within the Site constructed to provide primary access around the Site.
<i>Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)</i>	A means of assessing the quality of farmland. Its assessment is based on physical limitations of the land, such as climate, site characteristics (for example gradient) and soil. The assessment gives an indication of the versatility and expected yield of the land. The system classifies agricultural land in 5 grades. The best and most versatile land is classified as 1, 2 and 3a.
<i>Ancillary Infrastructure</i>	Works to include means of enclosure and boundary treatment, security and monitoring infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity measures including planting, drainage and irrigation works, signage, earthworks, and access including permissive paths.
<i>Applicant</i>	Enso Green Holdings D Limited
<i>Baseline</i>	Existing environmental conditions which are described in the Environmental Statement.
<i>Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)</i>	A BESS is a type of energy storage system which uses batteries to store electrical energy. A BESS includes battery containers, control room, Inverter-transformers and a switchroom.
<i>Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</i>	Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.
<i>Biodiversity</i>	The biological diversity of the earth's living resources. The variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the natural communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur.
<i>Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)</i>	Development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before and involves an approach where developers work with local governments, wildlife groups, landowners and other stakeholders in order to support their priorities for nature conservation.
<i>Cable Corridor</i>	Area within the Order limits that are proposed for the grid connection cable between the Onsite Substation and the Drax National Grid Substation.

Term	Definition
<i>Carbon Budget</i>	The number of greenhouse gases that can be "spent" - or emitted, considering global warming.
<i>Characterisation</i>	The process of identifying areas of similar landscape character, classifying and mapping them and describing their character.
<i>Construction Compound</i>	Construction compounds are used during the construction and decommissioning phases to allow for storage, parking, turning and welfare facilities within the Site.
<i>Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)</i>	A specific plan developed to ensure that appropriate environmental management practices are followed during the construction phase of a Proposed Development.
<i>Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)</i>	Sets out how the construction phase (including deliveries to the Site) will be managed.
<i>Cumulative Effects</i>	Effects upon the environment that result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions.
<i>Development Consent Order Application</i>	The proposed application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be submitted by the Applicant to develop the Proposed Development on the Site.
<i>Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)</i>	A specific plan developed to ensure that the appropriate environmental management practices are followed during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development. Decommissioning is the process of removing all solar PV array infrastructure.
<i>Designated Landscape</i>	Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
<i>Development Consent Order (DCO)</i>	The order required for consent of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.
<i>EA (Environmental Agency)</i>	An executive non-departmental government body working with responsibilities to protect and improve the environment, including flood

Term	Definition
	risk management.
<i>Ecological feature/receptor</i>	An ecological feature is a living system or entity that exists because of specific limiting factors such as the soils and nutrients, availability of water, climate, etc. An ecological receptor is a feature that is sensitive to or has the potential to be affected by an impact.
<i>EIA Regulations</i>	Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
<i>Environmental Statement</i>	Document setting out the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
<i>Flood Zone 1</i>	Low Probability – Land having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding.
<i>Flood Zone 2</i>	Medium Probability – Land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding.
<i>Flood Zone 3a</i>	High Probability – Land having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding.
<i>Flood Zone 3b</i>	The Functional Floodplain – This zone comprises land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood.
<i>FRA (Flood Risk Assessment)</i>	An assessment as to the current and future flood risk of an area where development is proposed.
<i>Glint</i>	A momentary flash of bright typically received by moving receptors or from moving reflectors.
<i>Glare</i>	A continuous source of bright light typically received by static receptors or from large reflective surfaces.
<i>Green Infrastructure</i>	Network of green spaces and watercourses and water bodies that connect rural areas, villages, towns and cities.
<i>Grid Connection Corridor</i>	The proposed corridor for the Grid Connection Cables between the Proposed Development and the Drax National Grid Substation.
<i>Groundwater</i>	Water below the surface of the ground and in direct contact with the ground or found subsoil in cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock.
<i>ha</i>	Hectare – unit of measurement 100m x 100m, or 10,000m ²
<i>Habitat connectivity</i>	Linkage between areas of habitats, such as corridors to allow

Term	Definition
	dispersal of wildlife.
<i>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)</i>	A Habitat Regulations Assessment is required where a project may have significant effects on a site by affecting its function to support protected habitats or species. Its purpose is to assess the implications of the proposal in respect of the site's 'conservation objectives'.
<i>HGV</i>	Heavy Good Vehicle
<i>Higher Rated Voltage Cables</i>	33kV cables between field stations and the on-Site substation.
<i>HGV</i>	Heavy Goods Vehicle
<i>IFDB</i>	Internal Drainage Board
<i>Invasive Non-native species</i>	An alien plant or animal which is listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, making it an offence to allow the species to be spread into the wild.
<i>Inverter Stations/ Field Stations</i>	Inverters convert the direct current (DC) electricity collected by the PV Modules into alternating current (AC), which allows the electricity generated to be exported to the National Grid.
<i>Iterative Design Process</i>	The process by which project design is amended and improved by successive stages of refinement which respond to growing understanding of environmental issues.
<i>Land Use</i>	What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover, such as urban and industrial use and the different types of agriculture and forestry.
<i>LNR</i>	Local Nature Reserve
<i>Low Voltage Distribution Cables</i>	Transmit electricity between the PV modules and the inverters.
<i>Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)</i>	A process used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from development both on the landscape and as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.
<i>Listed Building</i>	Marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future

Term	Definition
	generations.
<i>LWS</i>	Local Wildlife Site - non statutory designated site identified and selected for their local nature conservation value and protected through planning policy.
<i>Magnitude (of effect)</i>	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.
<i>Mitigation</i>	Measures including any process, activity or design to avoid, reduce to remedy for negative environmental impacts or effects of a development.
<i>Mounting Structure</i>	The structure that is fixed to the ground and onto which the PV modules are attached.
<i>National Policy Statement</i>	National Policy Statements are produced by government. They give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They comprise the government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state.
<i>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)</i>	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are large scale developments which require development consent pursuant to the PA 2008.
<i>NYC</i>	North Yorkshire Council – the Host and Local Planning Authority
<i>Operational Phase</i>	The period within which the Proposed Development is operational, following the Construction Phase and following connection and first export to the National Grid, no earlier than 2028.
<i>Order Limits</i>	The land required temporarily and/or permanently for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development.
<i>Ordinary watercourse</i>	A watercourse that is not part of a Main River. All rivers and streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dikes, sluices, sewers

Term	Definition
	(other than public sewers within the meaning of the Water Industry Act 1991) and passages, through which water flows.
<i>Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP)</i>	The oLEMP sets out the landscape and ecological management actions for the Proposed Development, outlining how mitigation measures, identified within the Environmental Statement, will be delivered through future landscape works and management.
<i>PA 2008</i>	Planning Act 2008.
<i>Point of Connection ('POC')</i>	The POC is the location where the Proposed Development is connected to the existing electricity network in order to supply the National Grid.
<i>Preliminary Environmental Information</i>	Preliminary Environmental Information is defined in the EIA Regulations as: 'information referred to in regulation 14(2) which – (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop and informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development). A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the Proposed Development was produced in October 2023.
<i>Priority habitat or species</i>	Identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Statutory lists of priority species and habitats in England, are provided under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (England)
<i>Proposed Development</i>	The Proposed Development is a 'Schedule 2' development under the EIA Regulations for a renewable energy generating project.
<i>Public Right of Way (PRoW)</i>	Footpath, bridleway or byways over which members of the public have a right to use.
<i>PV String</i>	A row of PV Modules mounted onto the Mounted Structure that are connected to one another to form a PV string which is either connected to a string inverter or a central inverter
<i>PV Tables</i>	Solar PV Modules mounted onto the Mounting Structure, forming

Term	Definition
	tables, which are then set out in rows
<i>Ramsar Site</i>	A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO, which came into force in 1975.
<i>Receptor</i>	A component of the natural or man-made environment that is affected by an impact, including people.
<i>Sensitivity</i>	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.
<i>Scheduled Monument</i>	"Nationally important" archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change.
<i>Significance</i>	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
<i>Single Axis Tracker (SAT) System</i>	PV Modules that are mounted to mounting structures that allow the PV Table to rotate and track the movement of the sun.
<i>Site</i>	The land required temporarily and/or permanently for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on land located to the south-west of the village of Camblesforth and to the north of the village of Hirst Courtney in North Yorkshire.
<i>Solar Farm</i>	Electricity generating station comprising of solar PV modules connected to the National Grid via a substation.
<i>Solar PV Array</i>	A PV Array is a distinct grouping of PV Tables. The PV Arrays are arranged within the Solar PV Site.
<i>Solar PV Cell</i>	A monofacial Solar PV Cell converts sunlight into electricity through absorbing the sun's energy on one photovoltaic side. A bifacial Solar PV Cell can absorb the sun's energy from both sides. A mono-crystalline solar cell consists of a single crystal of silicon across the entire volume of the solar cell.

Term	Definition
<i>Solar PV Module</i>	A panel comprising a grouping of photovoltaic cells connected to each other and set within a single physical frame. The PV Panel is attached to a Mounting Structure.
<i>Solar PV Strings</i>	A PV string is a group of PV modules that are connected to one another.
<i>Solar PV Panels</i>	PV modules placed on mounting structures arranged in rows.
<i>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</i>	Sites chosen to conserve the natural habitat types and species of wild flora and fauna listed in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive. They are the best areas to represent the range and variety of habitats and species within the European Union.
<i>Special Protection Area (SPA)</i>	European Designation designated under Article 4 of the EC Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (Directive 2009/147/EC) for the protection of rare or vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive) and for regularly occurring migratory species.
<i>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</i>	Conservation designation denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom. An area of land of special interest by reason of its flora, fauna, geology or physiographical features notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
<i>SPZ</i>	Source Protection Zone
<i>String Inverters</i>	String Inverters are located throughout the solar PV site, mounted on the mounting structures underneath the PV Modules.
<i>Study Area</i>	The area in which a particular assessment or survey targets. The study area will vary depending on the nature of the technical assessment. Where relevant, these are defined within the relevant technical chapter of the ES.
<i>Switchgear</i>	Switchgear is the combination of electrical disconnect switches, fuses or circuit breakers used to control, protect, and isolate electrical equipment.
<i>Substation</i>	The on-Site Substation will comprise an earthing transformer, surge arresters, earth switch, circuit breaker, 33kV intake room and generator transformers.
<i>Sustainable</i>	Management practices and control structures designed to drain

Term	Definition
<i>Drainage System (SuDS)</i>	surface water in a more sustainable fashion, mimicking natural processes.
<i>Swale</i>	A shallow vegetated channel designed to convey, treat or store surface water and facilitate infiltration.
<i>Transformers</i>	Transformers step up the voltage of the electricity generated by PV modules across the Site before it reaches the on-Site substation.
<i>UKCP</i>	UK Climate Projections
<i>Visual Amenity</i>	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
<i>Visual Effects</i>	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
<i>Works Plan</i>	The plans submitted with the Application known as the Works Plans and which delineate the Order limits and the Works numbers, relating to the Schedule 1 of the Draft Development Consent Order for the Proposed Development.
<i>Written Scheme of Investigation</i>	A Written Scheme of Investigation outlines known and potential archaeological features and deposits or built heritage elements on a site and suggests a structure for exploring them using the latest, most appropriate and cost-effective archaeological techniques.
<i>Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)</i>	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible.