

Application by Enso Green Holdings D Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Helios Renewable Energy Project

Case Ref. EN010140

The Examining Authority's Note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI1)

Background

The Examining Authority (the ExA) undertook Unaccompanied Site Inspections to support the Examination of an application for Development Consent for the proposed Helios Renewable Energy Project on Monday 2 December 2024 and Thursday 5 December.

The ExA carried out its Unaccompanied Site Inspections from publicly accessible land (roads, footpaths and bridleways). No inspections were undertaken on private land, and advance permission to enter land was not required, so the inspections could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

The Inspections were to view the general location of the site including the proposed grid connection cable corridor and the National Grid substation works, the construction access route and all viewpoints.

References to viewpoints (VP) relate to those indicated in the Viewpoint Plan ([PDA-020](#)) and the associated visualisations within the Visualizations Part 1 ([APP-140](#)) and Part 2 ([APP-141](#)).

References to footpath numbers (eg FP 35.17/1/1) relate to those indicated within the Access and Rights of Way Plan ([APP-016](#)). References to road names are primarily taken from an Ordnance Survey map.

Monday 2 December 2024

The inspection was undertaken by Ken Taylor (the ExA).

The Inspection was undertaken on foot.

The Inspection commenced at approximately 09:15 and concluded at approximately 16:00.

In the morning, weather conditions were partly overcast, in the afternoon it was overcast with occasional light drizzle. Clear views were always possible. The temperature was approximately 7°C.

An overview of the approximate route for the site inspection is provided below (Figure 1).

Route

- The inspection commenced on Henwick Hall Lane (part of the Trans Pennine Trail) located to the north of Burn Gliding Club.
- Headed west to observe Burn Airfield and VP27.
- Headed east and then south on the Trans Pennine Trail to observe VP26.
- Headed east, crossing the railway to Hagg Bush, then north to Tranmoor Farm, then east along FP 35.14/12/1 to, and beyond, VP30.
- Retraced steps west to FP 35.14/11/3 heading south then east along FP 35.14/14/1 around and into Bales Wood.
- Retraced steps west then south along FP 35.14/11/4 to VP25.
- Headed west along track to VP9 and returned to VP25.
- Headed east and then south on footpath, passing Fair Oaks, then joining Common Lane and the Trans Pennine Trail to VP24.
- Continued south to Temple Hirst the east along Hirst Road to Hirst Courtney Observing VP 23 then VP 24.
- Retraced steps west to Old Lane heading north then east along Moss Green Lane to VP10.
- Headed north along a track (Brick Lands Lane) to and beyond VP1.
- Continued north the east along FP 35.18/3/2 to Quosquo Hall, then north-east along Jowland Winn Lane (FP 35.18/3/1), then north-west along FP 35.18/14/1 to Thorney Shaw Plantation observing land proposed for cabling outside the proposed operational land.
- Returned to Jowland Winn Lane then north to VP4, passing the proposed location for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- Continued north then east along Chester Court Road to VP3.
- Continued east to the A1041 then south-west along Hardenshaw Lane, then west along Sandwith Lane to VP5.
- Continued west to bridleway 35.18/13/1 heading south then joining Stockwith Lane to, and beyond, VP11.

- Retraced steps to Race Lane then headed south-east to VP21.
- Continued south-east joining Linwith lane, into Carlton then north along Low Street joining the public footpath, still heading north, to VP 20.
- Continued north, crossing the railway to VP19.
- Continued north on footpath, joining FP 35.18/6/1 to VP1.
- Retraced steps, then headed east along track (Claypit Lane), joined A1041 observing VP16.
- Headed north to roundabout then east along A645 to VP17.
- Returned to roundabout, headed west along A1041 to VP14.
- Continued along A1041 to Claypit Lane, walked to, and beyond, VP2.
- Back to A1041, headed west on Chester Court Road, observing VP3 again. Continued to track heading north-east observing VP13 and one of the proposed construction access points.
- Returned to Chester Court Road, headed west then north to VP6.
- Continued north along Chester Court Road then east to A1041 headed south-east to VP 12.
- Headed north-west along A1041 then headed west along Burn Road/Common Lane to VP 7.
- Continued west along Common Lane rejoining Henwick Hall Lane (and the Trans Pennine Trail) where the site inspection ended.



Figure 1: Overview of approximate site inspection route (Monday 2 December)

Thursday 5 December 2024

The inspection was undertaken by Ken Taylor (the ExA) accompanied by Matthew Sheard (Case Manager) and Harrison Coles (Case Officer) for the Planning Inspectorate.

The Inspection was undertaken by car and on foot.

The Inspection commenced at approximately 12:00 and concluded at approximately 13:45.

The weather conditions were overcast. Clear views were always possible. The temperature was approximately 11°C.

Construction route:

This part of the inspection was undertaken by car and followed the route set out in the Construction Vehicle Route ([APP-052](#)).

- Accessed the M62 at Junction 34 headed east.
- Exited the M62 at Junction 36, taking the A614 then the A645 heading north-west.
- Headed west along the A645 then north-west along the A1041 observing the existing access (proposed as a construction access point) at Jowland Winn Lane and then the location of the second proposed construction access point near Camblesforth Common.

Grid connection cable corridor (work No. 5), railway crossing (Work No. 8A), and National Grid substation works (Work No. 6)

The approximate route/location of the inspections in Figure 2 below.

- Observed the Drax Sports Social Club and related carpark and grounds.
- Observed the access to the golf course located to the west of Drax Sports and Social Club.
- Observed the proposed access to the National Grid substation (Work No. 6A).
- Observed VP18 and the location of the proposed Grid connection cable corridor along New Road.
- Observed the National Grid substation through the fencing.
- Travelled east along the A645, observing the proposed Grid connection cable corridor to the roundabout near VP17.



Figure 2: Approximate locations/ route of inspections

Other inspections:

- Observed the access to Burn Gliding Club located off Park Lane in Burn.
- Visited and ascended Hambleton Hough to observe VP29.
- Visited Brayton Braff, walked the footpath heading south and then east to observe VP 28.



Figure 2: Approximate locations of inspections