



**HELIOS** RENEWABLE  
ENERGY  
PROJECT

**PINS Document Number:**  
EN010140/APP/8.1.10

## **Draft Statement of Common Ground with Camblesforth Parish Council**

January 2025





# Helios Renewable Energy Project

## Draft Statement of Common Ground

### with Camblesforth Parish Council

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010140

January 2025

Prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited

<b>Project Ref:</b>	33627/A5/SOCCG	
<b>Status:</b>	Issue (Draft)	
<b>Issue/Rev:</b>	Deadline 2	
<b>Date:</b>	January 2025	
<b>Prepared by:</b>	AB	
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	JB	

Stantec  
7 Soho Square  
London  
W1D 3QB

Tel: 020 7446 6888



#### COPYRIGHT

The contents of this document must not be copied or reproduced in whole or in part without the written consent of Stantec.

All Stantec stationery is produced using recycled or FSC paper and vegetable oil-based inks.

# CONTENTS

<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1. Overview.....	3
<b>2. Record of Engagement .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1. Summary of consultation and engagement .....	4
<b>3. Current Position.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Signatures .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## Appendix A: Detailed Matters

DRAFT

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1. This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') has been prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited (the 'Applicant') in conjunction with Camblesforth Parish Council in respect of the Helios Renewable Energy Project Development Consent Order (the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2. The SoCG sets out the matters of agreement between the Applicant and Camblesforth Parish Council and also explains those matters which, at the time of writing, remain in progress, or where agreement has not been achieved.
- 1.1.3. This SoCG is based on Camblesforth Parish Council's Additional Submission published on 13 November 2024 **[AS-004]**.
- 1.1.4. The SoCG will be amended as the examination progresses in order to enable a final version to be submitted to the Examining Authority.
- 1.1.5. This SoCG covers all the matters which are relevant to Camblesforth Parish Council.

## 2. Record of Engagement

### 2.1. Summary of consultation and engagement

2.1.1. The Consultation Report [APP-181] sets out the consultation between the Applicant and interested parties/stakeholders prior to the submission of the Application, including the engagement undertaken with Camblesforth Parish Council. Table 2.1 shows a summary of the engagement that has taken place between the Applicant (including consultants on its behalf) and Camblesforth Parish Council in relation to the Proposed Development.

**Table 2.1: Schedule of Meetings and Correspondence**

Date	Form of Correspondence	Summary
13/06/22	Email	Applicant sent the details of the informal consultation, including an overview of proposals and an offer of a meeting.
15/06/22	Email	Camblesforth Parish Council asked for clarification on the location and for confirmation that this is a separate project from the proposed solar farm to the north of Camblesforth.
16/06/22	Email	Applicant provided a link to the site plan and offer of a meeting to discuss further.
04/07/22	Email	Camblesforth Parish Council requested the Applicant brief Parish Council members.
19/07/22	Email	Applicant offered to attend a meeting with the Parish in September.
19/07/22	Email	Camblesforth Parish Council confirmed that the request for the September meeting offer would be passed to the Cllrs.
11/10/23	Email	Applicant sent SoCC announcement, dates of Statutory Consultation.
11/10/23	Email	Camblesforth Partish Council requested a meeting following announcement of the SoCC and Statutory Consultation.

Date	Form of Correspondence	Summary
18/10/23	Email	Applicant sent holding response.
24/10/23	Email	Applicant offered to attend a meeting with Parish representatives.
25/10/23	Email	Applicant confirmed that members of the project team were not able to attend a meeting on dates previously suggested. Encouraged the Parish to attend the stakeholder preview event ahead of the public consultation event to meet with the project team.
27/10/23	Email	Camblesforth Parish Council expressed disappointment that the team were not able to hold a separate meeting with the Parish Council.
25/10/23	Email	Statutory Consultation announcement including formal notifications to host parishes.
15/11/23	Email	Update following consultation events – offer of hard copies of consultation documents which were then posted.
16/11/23	Email	Camblesforth Parish Council reiterated their disappointment that the project team is no longer able to offer a meeting to the Parish Councillors.
21/11/23	Email	Further opportunity to submit comments and questions.
05/12/23	Email	Extension to the consultation – opportunity to address outstanding queries.
06/12/23	Email	Consultation summary including responses received and encourage formal response.
14/12/23	Email	Feedback summary and final reminder to submit a formal response.
26/09/24	Email	Camblesforth Parish Council confirmed that they will object to the proposals.

Date	Form of Correspondence	Summary
17/12/24	Email	Email from the Applicant to the Clerk of Camblesforth Parish Council providing advanced notice that a draft SoCG would be shared in early 2025 and welcoming further engagement regarding the SoCG.
10/01/25	Email	Applicant sent draft SoCG to Camblesforth Parish Council.
10/01/25	Email	Camblesforth Parish Council confirmed receipt and requested that the draft SoCG not be submitted until after 15/01/25 when they are next meeting.
10/01/25	Email	Applicant clarified that the SOCG is a draft intended to facilitate discussions. The Applicant is required to submit a first draft at Deadline 2 (13/01/25).
10/01/25	Email	Camblesforth Parish Council thanked the Applicant for clarification.

### 3. Current Position

3.1.1. Table 3.1 provides a schedule that summarises the position on key matters between the Applicant and Camblesforth Parish Council. Appendix A details the position between the Applicant and Camblesforth Parish Council on each matter raised in their Additional Submission.

3.1.2. Each matter is attributed a status as follows:

<b>Agreed</b>	The matter is agreed between the parties, or there are no significant disagreement such that the matter is considered closed.
<b>Under discussion</b>	This matter is neither 'agreed' or 'not agreed'. Technical work is being undertaken with the aim of achieving agreement, though the risk of disagreement remains.
<b>Not agreed</b>	The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by the Applicant or Camblesforth Parish Council is considered to result in a materially different impact to the assessment conclusions.

**Table 3.1: Key Matters**

Matter	Status	Date
Consultation process		Jan 2025
Design (scale)		Jan 2025
Cumulative		Jan 2025
Biodiversity		Jan 2025
Agricultural Land		Jan 2025

DRAFT



## 4. Signatures

4.1.1. This Statement of Common Ground is agreed upon:

On behalf of Camblesforth Parish Council:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

On behalf of the Applicant:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

DRAFT

Appendix A: Detailed Matters

Ref.	Description of Matter	Camblesforth Parish Council – Current Position (Additional Submission)	Applicant – Current Position	Status
CAPC-01	Consultation process	<p><b><i>In light of developer declining to attend the Parish Meeting, the Cllrs discussed the formal response from the Parish Council to the consultation.</i></b></p> <p><i>Cllrs discussed and debated the proposals as outlined in the consultation and expressed their respective views. At the conclusion of the discussion, a vote was taken and by majority vote (five opposing the development and one abstaining) it is duly resolved that the Parish Council would not support the new solar farm.</i></p>	<p>The Consultation Report [APP-181] sets out the consultation between the Applicant and interested parties/stakeholders prior to the submission of the Application. This includes engagement with Camblesforth Parish Council. Table 2.1 of this SoCG lists the correspondence between the Applicant and Camblesforth Parish Council.</p> <p>Chapter 11 of the Consultation Report [APP-181] further discusses the process of consultation undertaken to comply with the relevant sections of the Planning Act 2008. A Statement of Compliance has been prepared which confirms that the Applicant has complied with all statutory requirements in Chapter 18 of the Consultation Report [APP-201].</p>	Under discussion
CAPC-02	Design (scale)	<p><i>The scale / size of this proposal was of concern and unsuitable for a rural setting – it would be out of character with the area and visually obtrusive</i></p>	<p>Large areas of land are required for large scale solar development, and contiguous sites reduce the need for excessive cabling. Further, open fields without vegetated boundaries mean less vegetation will be removed during construction. A land assembly of larger, fewer fields also means the buffering around field edges for tree root protection and the avoidance of shading can be reduced. Therefore, sites with larger open fields of a regular shape which were within the</p>	Under discussion

			<p>search area were preferred, as set out in Paragraph 2.7.3 of the Alternative Site Assessment (ASA) [APP-227].</p> <p>The changes to the landscape and the potential effects on landscape and visual receptors has been assessed in Chapter 7 (Landscape and Views) of the ES [APP-027]. The Proposed Development has sought to reduce landscape impacts on receptors, through changes to the red line boundary as well as introducing new and reinforcing existing screen planting and areas of woodland. The height of the solar panels has been a consideration factored into the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment included in Chapter 7 (Landscape and Views) of the ES [APP-027]. The potential visibility of the Proposed Development has been a key consideration in the assessment process and has also influenced the proposed Landscape Strategy for the Site. It is considered that the Landscape Strategy would provide effective mitigation of the Proposed Development within 15 years.</p>	
CAPC-03	Cumulative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Camblesforth had 2 solar farms approved for the area. Cllrs felt that the Parish had 'done our bit' to help combat climate change</i></li> </ul>	<p>Both NPS EN-1 and EN-3 confirm there is an urgent need for Critical National Priority Infrastructure which is key for the Government to achieve their energy objectives and Net Zero and EN-3 (3.3.20) notes that the government analysis shows that a “secure, reliable affordable, net zero consistent system in 2020 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar”. NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 3.2.3 -3.2.4 states that it is not the role of planning to deliver specific amounts or limit any form of infrastructure covered by the NPS such as solar projects. The government wants industry to propose viable projects in line with government’s strategic</p>	<p><b>Under discussion</b></p>

			<p>framework. It goes on to say that it is not the government’s intention through the NPSs to “<i>propose limits on any new infrastructure that can be consented in accordance with the energy NPSs</i>” and that such consented projects “<i>can help deliver an affordable electricity system, by driving competition and reducing costs within and amongst different technology and infrastructure types. Consenting new projects also enables projects utilising more advanced technology and greater efficiency to come forward</i>”.</p> <p>It is therefore clear that the government, through planning policy, is not looking limit certain projects by location and there is no planning policy which applies in respect of a region having “done its bit”. The cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development are relevant and have been assessed accordingly in the environmental statement.</p> <p>Each technical chapter within the ES includes a summary of cumulative effects, which are subsequently summarised in Chapter 15 Cumulative Effects [APP-035] which addresses both inter- and intra-project effects. The only significant cumulative effects are identified in relation to landscape (adverse), biodiversity (beneficial) and socio-economics (beneficial).</p>	
CAPC-04	Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The size of the proposed solar farm had major implications for wildlife and local biodiversity</i></li> </ul>	<p>The impact of the Proposed Development on biodiversity is assessed in ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity [APP-028]. It is concluded that there will no significant adverse effects on biodiversity as a result of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development includes significant habitat enhancement provisions; these will be managed for the benefit of wildlife over the long term and will provide biodiversity gains for a wide variety of species. Additionally, the</p>	<b>Under discussion</b>

			<p>proposed creation of diverse grasslands, tree planting and hedgerow planting will deliver a quantifiable biodiversity benefit. Measures to protect and enhance biodiversity throughout the lifetime are set out in the oCEMP [APP-121], oOEMP [APP-124], oLEMP [APP-143] and oDEMP [APP-123], which will be secured via DCO Requirements as set out in the dDCO [AS-007].</p>	
CAPC-05	Agricultural Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Again, the size of the solar farm would mean a detrimental change to the fields with the loss of a considerable amount of agricultural land</i></li> </ul>	<p>National planning policy does not explicitly rule out development on agricultural land. The NPPF states that “Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.” This is supported within NPS EN-3, paragraph 2.10.30 which states “Whilst the development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land...the impacts of such are expected to be considered and are discussed under 2.10.73 - 92 and 2.10.107 - 2.10.126 which identifies a non-exhaustive list of specific impacts”.</p> <p>As detailed in Planning Statement Appendix 2: Alternative Site Assessment [APP-227], paragraph 2.6.29, a search was conducted for suitable non-agricultural brownfield land within a 5km distance from the point of connection at Drax Power Station. Paragraph 2.6.21 to 2.6.25 of the Alternative Site Assessment (ASA) [APP-227] set out the justification for the use of provisional Grade 2 agricultural land. As shown in Figure 2.7 of the ASA, the majority of the land within a 5km radius of the point of connection is either Grade 1 or Grade 2. The Grade 3 land within the 5km radius is not available for</p>	<p><b>Under discussion</b></p>



			development due to existing uses and planning applications in these areas.	
--	--	--	--	--

DRAFT