



HELIOS RENEWABLE
ENERGY
PROJECT

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**National Policy Statement Accordance
Table: National Policy Statement for
Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)**

January 2025





Helios Renewable Energy Project

National Policy Statement Accordance Table: National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010140

January 2025

Prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1. This document has been prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited ('the Applicant') to demonstrate that the Helios Renewable Energy Project ('the Proposed Development') is in accordance with the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).

2. Accordance with the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
2.3 Factors influencing site selection and design		
Paragraph 2.3.4	The choices which applicants make in selecting sites reflect their assessment of the risk that the Secretary of State, following the general points set out in Section 4.1 of EN-1, will not grant consent in any given case.	The Alternative Site Assessment (ASA) [APP-227] sets out the site selection process undertaken by the Applicant in relation to the Proposed Development. It is noted that the Government has not provided direction for the location of new renewable energy infrastructure.
Paragraph 2.3.5	It is for applicants to decide what applications to bring forward. In general, the government does not seek to direct applicants to particular sites for renewable energy infrastructure. In specific circumstances it may be appropriate to provide some direction or guidance, for example to areas of search or areas to avoid through Marine Plans, Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) or The Crown Estate Leasing Rounds, in respect of marine renewable technology. All of the examples given consider marine specific aspects of many of the assessment principles set out in Part 4 of EN-1.	
Paragraph 2.3.6	<p><i>National Designations</i></p> <p>When considering applications for CNP Infrastructure in sites with nationally recognised designations (such as SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, National Parks, the Broads, Areas of</p>	The Proposed Development is CNP infrastructure. It is not located within or close to the boundaries of a nationally recognised designation.

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	<p>Outstanding Natural Beauty, Registered Parks and Gardens, and World Heritage Sites), the Secretary of State will take as the starting point that the relevant tests in Sections 5.4 and 5.10 of EN-1 have been met, and any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the urgent need for this type of infrastructure.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2.3.7</p>	<p>The Secretary of State should have regard to the aims, goals and targets (including targets set under the Environment Act 2021) of the government’s Environmental Improvement Plan (of which the 25 Year Environment Plan is the first), and other existing and future measures and targets in England, as well as Welsh policy, such as the Wales National Marine Plan, Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5,9 the Wellbeing of Future Generations Wales Act and compliance with the Environment Act 2021.</p>	<p>It is considered that the Proposed Development contributes to the delivery of the government’s Environmental Improvement Plan. The Proposed Development generates renewable energy and provides environmental gains including the provision of an anticipated 55.70% biodiversity net gain in Habitat Units, 61.11% in Hedgerow Units and 9.05% in Watercourse Units, as set out in ES Appendix 8.11 Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool [APP-153].</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.3.8</p>	<p>In considering the impact on the historic environment as set out in Section 5.9 of EN-1 and whether the Secretary of State is satisfied that the substantial public benefits would outweigh any loss or harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should take into account the positive role</p>	<p>ES Chapter 6 Cultural Heritage [APP-026] provides an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the historic environment. It concludes that there would be no significant effects in relation to the historic environment.</p>

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Paragraph 2.3.9	<p>that large-scale renewable projects play in the mitigation of climate change, the delivery of energy security and the urgency of meeting the net zero target.</p> <p><i>Other locational considerations</i></p> <p>As most renewable energy resources can only be developed where the resource exists and where economically feasible, and because there are no limits on the need established in Part 3 of EN-1, the Secretary of State should not use a consecutive approach in the consideration of renewable energy projects (for example, by giving priority to the re-use of previously developed land for renewable technology developments).</p>	<p>The site selection process for the Proposed Development is set out in the ASA [APP-227]. As set out in the ASA, the initial site selection was informed by grid connection availability.</p>
2.4 Climate change adaptation and resilience		
Paragraph 2.4.1	<p>Part 2 of EN-1 covers the government’s energy and climate change strategy, including policies for mitigating climate change.</p>	<p>Please see NPS Accordance Table for EN-1 (Document Reference 8.7.1) which sets out compliance of the Proposed Development with the relevant sections of EN-1, including those on climate change and adaptation to climate change.</p>
Paragraph 2.4.2	<p>Section 4.10 of EN-1 sets out generic considerations that applicants and the Secretary of State should take into account to help ensure that renewable energy infrastructure is safe and resilient to climate change, and that necessary</p>	<p>ES Chapter 12 Climate Change [APP-032] provides an assessment of the Proposed</p>

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Paragraph 2.4.3	<p>action can be taken to ensure the operation of the infrastructure over its estimated lifetime.</p> <p>Section 4.10 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to climate change should be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application. For example, the impact of increased risk of drought as a result of higher temperatures should be covered in the water quality and resources section of the ES.</p>	<p>Development in relation to its effects on climate, and its resilience to the effects of climate change.</p>
Paragraph 2.4.11	<p>Solar photovoltaic (PV) sites may also be proposed in low lying exposed sites. For these proposals, applicants should consider, in particular, how plant will be resilient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased risk of flooding; and • Impact of higher temperatures. 	<p>The Sustainable Drainage Strategy as set out in the Flood Risk Assessment [APP-232 - APP-235] has been designed to ensure that the Proposed Development would not increase flood risk elsewhere and would reduce flood risk overall, taking climate change into account. Non-flood sensitive infrastructure (PV solar arrays) has been designed to be resistant and resilient to flood waters in the fluvial and tidal design flood events. See paragraph 4.115 of Flood Risk Assessment Part 1. An earth bund has been proposed around the Substation and BESS compound to protect the equipment, with a height of at least +0.6m above the fluvial ‘credible maximum scenario sensitivity test’, which will ensure that sensitive equipment is resilient to the effects of the credible maximum climate change scenario. The Proposed Development has therefore been designed to be</p>

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		<p>resilient to an increased risk of flooding in the future.</p> <p>As set out in ES Chapter 12 Climate Change [APP-032], the Proposed Development is considered to be resilient to projected climate change.</p>

2.5 Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure

Paragraph 2.5.1	Section 4.7 of EN-1 sets out the criteria for good design that should be applied to all energy infrastructure.	Please see NPS Accordance Table for EN-1 (Document Reference 8.7.1) which sets out compliance of the Proposed Development with the relevant sections of EN-1, including those on good design.
Paragraph 2.5.2	Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage.	The Design and Access Statement [APP-229] sets out how the design of the Proposed Development has taken into account guidance for good design.

2.6 Flexibility in the project details

Paragraph 2.6.1	Where details are still to be finalised, applicants should explain in the application which elements of the proposal have yet to be finalised, and the reason why this is the case.	The design of the Proposed Development cannot be finalised until the tendering process for the design has been completed and the detailed design has been approved in advance of the Proposed Development commencing (or first phase thereof).
Paragraph 2.6.2	Where flexibility is sought in the consent as a result, applicants should, to the best of their	This is to allow for flexibility to

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Paragraph 2.6.3	<p>knowledge, assess the likely worst-case environmental, social and economic effects of the proposed development to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed.</p> <p>Full guidance on how applicants and the Secretary of State should manage flexibility is set out in Section 4.3 of EN-1.</p>	<p>accommodate changes in technological advancements. As set out in ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-23], the assessment of the Proposed Development has adopted the Rochdale Envelope approach, in which the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) parameters of the Proposed Development have been defined and assessed as a reasonable worst-case scenario. Where there is a degree of uncertainty, assumptions have been based on the worst-case scenario, as discussed in the technical chapters of the Environmental Statement [APP-026 - APP-034].</p>

2.10 Solar Photovoltaic Generation

Paragraph 2.10.9	<p>The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions by 2050. As such, solar is a key part of the government’s strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is a renewable low energy generation development, and is therefore a critical national priority as per NPS EN-1, and will therefore contribute to the Government’s carbon emissions and climate change targets. The Proposed Development would also increase the country’s energy security through diversifying the grid and improving energy affordability due to being the cheapest form of electricity generation. Further detail is provided in Section 4.8, 'Need for the Proposed Development', of the Planning Statement [APP-228].</p>
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Factors influencing site selection and design

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Paragraph 2.10.19	<p><i>Irradiance and site topography</i></p> <p>Irradiance will be a key consideration for the applicant in identifying a potential site as the amount of electricity generated on site is directly affected by irradiance levels. Irradiance of a site will in turn be affected by surrounding topography, with an uncovered or exposed site of good elevation and favourable south-facing aspect more likely to increase year-round irradiance levels. This in turn affects the carbon emission savings and the commercial viability of the site.</p>	<p>The land within North Yorkshire, and the more localised site selection area surrounding the grid connection is considered to having potential to locate a large-scale solar development due to the large open area of undeveloped land, characterised by gently undulating topography, which would provide uniform exposure to irradiance. The topography within 5km search radius is relatively flat, with nominal elevation changes. As such, overshadowing from topography will not affect solar irradiation. See Paragraphs 4.5.5-4.5.6 of ES Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-024] for further information.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.20	<p>In order to maximise irradiance, applicants may choose a site and design its layout with variable and diverse panel types and aspects, and panel arrays may also follow the movement of the sun in order further to maximise the solar resource.</p>	<p>As detailed in Paragraph 3.2.6 of the Planning Statement [APP-228], the panels will utilise a Single Axis Tracker ('SAT') system. This allows the panels to tilt east-west to track the movement of the sun to maximise the solar resource.</p> <p>The DCO application seeks flexibility for the different configurations of solar PV modules.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.21	<p><i>Network connection</i></p> <p>Applicants should consider important issues relating to network connection at Section 4.11 of EN-1 and in EN-5. In particular, and where appropriate, applicants should proceed in a</p>	<p>Please see NPS Accordance Tables for EN-1 (Document Reference 8.7.1) and EN-5 (Document Reference 8.7.3) which set out compliance of the Proposed Development with the relevant sections</p>

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Paragraph 2.10.22 – 2.10.24	<p>manner consistent with the regulatory regime for offshore transmission networks established by Ofgem, details of which are set out in EN-5.</p> <p>Many solar farms are connected into the local distribution network. The capacity of the local grid network to accept the likely output from a proposed solar farm is critical to the technical and commercial feasibility of a development proposal. Larger developments may seek connection to the transmission network if there is available network capacity and/or supportive infrastructure. In either case the connection voltage, availability of network capacity, and the distance from the solar farm to the existing network can have a significant effect on the commercial feasibility of a development proposal.</p>	<p>of EN-1 and EN-5, including those regarding network connection.</p> <p>The Site will connect to the National Grid Drax 132kV Substation via underground cabling as shown in ES Figure 3.2 Parameter Plan [APP-040]. The voltage for the underground grid connection cable will be up to 132kV.</p> <p>As set out in the Grid Connection Statement [APP-230], the Proposed Development will supply electricity to the System Operator (National Electricity System Operator (NESO)) via the infrastructure owned and operated by the Transmission Owner (NGET). NESO and NGET are both National Grid group companies and are owned and operated as two distinct legal entities (from April 2019) see in paragraph 1.1.6</p> <p>Enso Green Holdings D Limited has entered into a Bilateral Connection Agreement with NESO on 2 December 2020, reference A/NGET/ENSO/DRAX/20/-EN(0). The agreement currently allows for 190 MW export capacity. NESO have allocated a new generator bay within the 132kV Drax National Grid Substation compound.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.25 – 2.10.26	<p>To maximise existing grid infrastructure, minimise disruption to existing local community</p>	<p>The secured grid connection at National Grid Drax 132kV Substation is 2.1km from the closest part of</p>

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	<p>infrastructure or biodiversity and reduce overall costs, applicants may choose a site based on nearby available grid export capacity. Where this is the case, applicants should consider the cumulative impacts of situating a solar farm in proximity to other energy generating stations and infrastructure.</p>	<p>the proposed solar farm and 5.6km from the most distant part of it. The on-site substation is approximately 3.4km from the grid connection, although when taking into account the road network and onsite cabling this is increased to approximately 4.5km.</p> <p>ES Chapter 15 Cumulative Effects [APP-035] discusses the other identified projects which have been assessed for likely significant cumulative effects. Three significant residual cumulative effects are identified: a moderate beneficial effect at the local level to a reduction in carbon emissions, a major/moderate adverse effect to the Landscape Character Area 15, and a major beneficial effect to habitats at the local level.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.10.27</p>	<p><i>Proximity of a site to dwellings</i></p> <p>Utility-scale solar farms are large sites that may have a significant zone of visual influence. The two main impact issues that determine distances to sensitive receptors are therefore likely to be visual amenity and glint and glare. These are considered in Landscape, Visual and Residential Amenity (paragraphs 2.10.93-2.10.101) and Glint and Glare (paragraphs 2.10.102 – 2.10.106) impact sections below.</p>	<p>The effects on visual receptors have been assessed and are discussed in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027]. Through the implementation of embedded mitigation and measures to be adopted by the project, the landscape and visual effects during construction, operation and decommissioning will be reduced and minimised where practicable to ensure that there are no residual effects. See paragraph 7.1.3 of the Environmental Statement Chapter 7.</p> <p>Glint and Glare is assessed within the Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-117]. The Applicant is updating the Glint and Glare Study,</p>

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Paragraph 2.10.29	<p><i>Agricultural land classification and land type</i></p> <p>While land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location applicants should, where possible, utilise suitable previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated land and industrial land. Where the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary, poorer quality land should be preferred to higher quality land avoiding the use of “Best and Most Versatile” agricultural land where possible. ‘Best and Most Versatile agricultural land is defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.</p>	<p>which will be submitted to the ExA at a subsequent deadline.</p> <p>The Applicant provides justification and reasoning for siting the Proposed Development on Grade 2 agricultural land within Paragraphs 2.6.21-2.6.25 of the Alternative Site Assessment (ASA) [APP-228.2]. 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 development due to existing uses and planning applications occupying these areas.</p> <p>As set out in Paragraph 4.5.21 of ES Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-024], the Proposed Development will also allow for the continued agricultural use by enabling sheep grazing to be located on Site.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.30	<p>Whilst the development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, or sites designated for their natural beauty, or recognised for ecological or archaeological importance, the impacts of such are expected to be considered and are discussed under paragraphs 2.10.73 – 92 and 2.10.107 – 2.10.126. It is recognised that at this scale, it is likely that applicants’ developments will use some agricultural land. Applicants should explain their choice of site, noting the preference for development to be on suitable brownfield,</p>	<p>The Applicant has sought to avoid isolated pockets of woodland, hedgerows and unnamed streams in order to ensure biological conservation and protection. The site was refined through an iterative process towards selecting the final red line boundary, in response to environmental constraints and opportunities. Details of these changes are provided in Paragraphs 4.5.54-4.6.30 of ES Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution</p>

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Paragraph 2.10.31	<p>industrial and low and medium grade agricultural land.</p> <hr/> <p>It is recognised that at this scale, it is likely that applicants' development will use some agricultural land. Applicants should explain their choice of site, noting the preference for development to be on suitable brownfield, industrial and low and medium grade agricultural land.</p>	<p>[APP-024] and demonstrated on the Design Evolution Plan [APP-060].</p> <p>As set out in Paragraphs 2.6.21-2.6.25 of the Alternative Sites Assessment [APP-227], Provisional ALC mapping shows that the majority of the land within the study area identified around the grid connection is either Grade 1 or Grade 2, with some Grade 3 areas further from the grid connection or in inappropriate locations for a solar farm. The areas of undifferentiated Grade 3 land include the built-up areas of Camblesforth, Carlton, the A1041 and adjacent properties, as well as numerous isolated patches of woodland. Due to this, the location of the Site on Grade 2 BMV agricultural land was inevitable. To ensure minimal soil damage arises during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, an Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-173] is submitted with the application, which sets out the principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and a detailed Soil Resource Management Plan is secured as a requirement in the Draft Development Consent Order [AS-007].</p> <p>As set out in Paragraph 5.10.8 of the Planning Statement [APP-228], while the Proposed Development has been designed to allow for sheep grazing to take place on-Site, the Applicant</p>

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Paragraph 2.10.32	Where sited on agricultural land, consideration may be given as to whether the proposal allows for continued agricultural use and/or can be co-located with other functions (for example, onshore wind generation, storage, hydrogen	<p>acknowledges that the Site would limit the use of BMV agricultural land and full assessment of the impact to BMV agricultural land is included in ES Chapter 14 Soils and Agricultural Land [APP-034].</p> <p>The choice of site is explained in the Alternative Sites Assessment [APP-227]. As set out in Paragraph 2.6.29, the review of brownfield sites within the search area (5km radius from the Point of Connection) found that the available brownfield sites were all under 3ha, and therefore unsuitable for large scale solar development given their small and disparate nature.</p> <p>As set out in Paragraphs 2.6.22-2.6.23, 78.78% of land in the search area is either Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land. The majority of provisional Grade 3 agricultural land within the search area is subject to planning applications for two solar schemes and for the Barlow Ash Mound, and therefore not available for development. The Alternatives Sites Assessment [APP-227] therefore concludes in Section 3 that to maintain a congruent layout, it is necessary for the Proposed Development to be located on Grade 2 agricultural land.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will allow for the continued agricultural use by enabling sheep grazing to be located on Site.</p>

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Paragraph 2.10.33	electrolysers) to maximise the efficiency of land use.	An agricultural assessment and an Agricultural Land Classification ('ALC') have been undertaken. This involved a detailed ALC survey undertaken by Amet Property Ltd in March 2022. Details of this study can be found in paragraph 14.4.5 of ES Chapter 14 Soils and Agricultural Land [APP-034 of the ES] with full results available in the associated ES Appendix 14.1 ALC Report [APP-171] .
Paragraph 2.10.34	Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Resources and Management Plan which could help to use and manage soils sustainably and minimise adverse impacts on soil health and potential land contamination. This should be in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan to bring at least 40% of England's agricultural soils into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this up to 60% by 2030.	The Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-173] identifies the importance and sensitivity of the soil resource and provides specific guidance to ensure that there is no significant adverse effect on the soil resource as a result of the Proposed Development see paragraph 14.8.4 of ES Chapter 6. Further assessment will be undertaken to determine soil type and land quality once the cable route has been determined at detailed design stage, which will inform the preparation of a detailed soil management plan. This will ensure that land quality and soil structure are not adversely affected.

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Paragraph 2.10.35	<p><i>Accessibility</i></p> <p>Applicants will need to consider the suitability of the access routes to the proposed site for both the construction and operation of the solar farm with the former likely to raise more issues.</p>	<p>The construction and operational traffic routes are detailed and assessed in the Transport Assessment [AS-005] and ES Chapter 10 Transport and Access [APP-030]. Following the implementation of mitigation measures including a detailed CTMP and a Travel Plan, it is found that the Proposed Development will have no significant effects.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.36	<p>Given that potential solar farm sites are largely in rural areas, access for the delivery of solar arrays and associated infrastructure during construction can be a significant consideration for solar farm siting.</p>	<p>An Outline CTMP ('oCTMP') has been prepared and is included as ES Appendix 5.2 [AS-006]. A detailed CTMP will be secured through a DCO requirement at detailed design.</p> <p>The oCTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Proposed Development, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised. The oCTMP sets out construction access arrangements, construction vehicle routing, construction vehicle trip generation, and the management/mitigation measures. It also summarises the requirements for vehicles transporting abnormal loads (for elements such as transformers). Examples of management measures set out within the oCTMP include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs to direct construction vehicles associated with the development to be

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Paragraph 2.10.37 – 2.10.39	<p>Developers will usually need to construct on-site access routes for operation and maintenance activities, such as footpaths, earthworks, or landscaping.</p> <p>In addition, sometimes access routes will need to be constructed to connect solar farms to the public road network.</p> <p>Applications should include the full extent of the access routes necessary for operation and maintenance and an assessment of their effects.</p>	<p>installed along the agreed construction traffic route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory signs informing contractors and visitors that parking is not permitted on-street in the vicinity of the Site or on the Site access road <p>ES Figure 3.14 Construction Vehicle Route [APP-052] shows the vehicular access routes to the Site during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The access routes are described in Paragraphs 3.4.46-3.4.48 of ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023]. These paragraphs also outline the extent of the internal access tracks and the limitations of vehicular access during the operational phase.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.41 – 2.10.42	<p><i>Public rights of ways</i></p> <p>Public rights of way may need to be temporarily closed or diverted to enable construction, however, applicants should keep, as far as is practicable and safe, all public rights of way that cross the proposed development site open during construction and protect users where a public right of way borders or crosses the site.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to design the layout and appearance of the site to ensure continued recreational use of public rights of way where</p>	<p>ES Chapter 10 Transport and Access [APP-030] contains information regarding the Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) that run through or nearby the site. See paragraph 10.4.3 and Table 10.5 within ES Chapter 10 Transport and Access [APP-030] lists all of these PRoWs alongside their approximate route in relation to the Proposed Development Site. Throughout the lifespan of the project (including construction and decommissioning), access to all existing PRoWs within the Site will be maintained. Should temporary closures be required to ensure the safety of PRoW users, these will be for a short</p>

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	possible during construction, and in particular during operation of the site.	period during construction and decommissioning and alternate routes will be provided.
Paragraph 2.10.43	Applicants are encouraged where possible to minimise the visual impacts of the development for those using existing public rights of way, considering the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities in the surrounding landscape.	As set out in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027] , planting has generally been provided alongside PRoWs to screen views of the Proposed Development. For where screening planting has not been provided in order to maintain a degree of openness within and/or across the Site, the solar PV arrays have been set back a minimum of 15m from the PRoW, and buffers will be planted with a tussock forming grassland mix, please see chapter 7.5.19 of ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views.
Paragraph 2.10.44	Applicants should consider and maximise opportunities to facilitate enhancements to the public rights of way and the inclusion, through site layout and design of access, of new opportunities for the public to access and cross proposed solar development sites (whether via the adoption of new public rights of way or the creation of permissive paths), taking into account, where appropriate, the views of landowners.	Making connections between existing public rights of way has been a consideration in the site design process, with a new permissive path being created in the south eastern part of the Site, connecting a footpath that extends to the north of Carlton (Ref. 35.18/6/1) with an 'other route with public access' that follows Claypit Lane to the west of Camblesforth. Further detail is provided within paragraph 7.2.23 ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027] .
Paragraph 2.10.45	Applicants should set out detail on how public rights of way would be managed to ensure they	The Outline CTMP [AS-006] contains measures to ensure the safety of public rights of way users. These measures are particularly focused on those Public Right of Ways (PRoW's) which are crossed

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	<p>are safe to use in an outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan.</p>	<p>by a vehicle track. These include but are not limited to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate signs installed along the PRow to make the PRow users aware of the construction activity. • Any damage to the surface of the footpath will be repaired as soon as practicable, the surface will be returned to original condition following the completion of construction. • Speeds to be limited to 10mph. <p>The Draft Development Consent Order [AS-007] includes a requirement that no phase of development which involves temporary closure of a section of a PRow may commence until a public rights of way management plan has been submitted to and approved by the LPA.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.10.46 – 2.10.48</p>	<p><i>Security and lighting</i></p> <p>Security of the site is a key consideration for developers. Applicants may wish to consider not only the availability of natural defences such as steep gradients, hedging and rivers but also perimeter security measures such as fencing, electronic security, CCTV and lighting, with the measures proposed on a site-specific basis. Applicants should assess the visual impact of these security measures, as well as the impacts on local residents, including for example issues</p>	<p>ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023] outlines the security measures incorporated into the Proposed Development design in Paragraphs 3.4.36-3.4.44. Efforts have been made to minimise the impact on the landscape and immediate surroundings of the security measures.</p> <p>The Outline CEMP [APP-121] includes details regarding security measures and the use of artificial lighting, which will be implemented through a detailed CEMP agreed with NYC.</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>relating to intrusion from CCTV and light pollution in the vicinity of the site. Applicants should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and the visual impact of security measures.</p>	<p>Security will be managed by the appointed principal construction contractor during the construction phase. Lighting usage will be minimised and switched off when not in use, and construction works will be restricted to daylight hours where possible to avoid the potential disturbance to people and bats. Lighting will be limited to the construction compounds only.</p> <p>Security and lighting in the operational and decommissioning phases will be set out in the Outline OEMP [APP-124] and Outline DEMP [APP-123] respectively and implemented through a detailed OEMP and detailed DEMP.</p>
Technical considerations		
Paragraph 2.10.52 – 2.10.56	<p><i>Capacity of a site</i></p> <p>From the date of designation of this NPS, for the purposes of Section 15 of the Planning Act 2008, the maximum combined capacity of the installed inverters (measured in alternating current (AC)) should be used for the purposes of determining solar site capacity. The capacity threshold is 50MW (AC) in England and 350MW (AC) in Wales. The installed generating capacity of a solar farm will decline over time in correlation with the reduction in panel array efficiency. There is a range of sources of degradation that developers need to consider when deciding on a</p>	<p>As discussed in Section 4.8, ‘Need for the Proposed Development’, of the Planning Statement [APP-228], the Proposed Development comprises of a Solar PV array electricity generation facility with a total capacity of 190MW AC.</p>

Helios Renewable Energy Project
NPS Accordance Table – EN-3

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.59	<p>solar panel technology to be used. Applicants may account for this by overplanting solar panel arrays. AC installed export capacity should not be seen as an appropriate tool to constrain the impacts of a solar farm. Applicants should use other measurements, such as panel size, total area and percentage of ground cover to set the maximum extent of development when determining the planning impacts of an application.</p> <p><i>Site layout, design and appearance</i></p> <p>Applicants should consider the criteria for good design set out in EN-1 Section 4.7 at an early stage when developing projects.</p>	<p>Please see NPS Accordance Table for EN-1 (Document Reference 8.7.1) which sets out compliance of the Proposed Development with the relevant sections of EN-1, including those on design.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.60	<p>As set out above applicants will consider several factors when considering the design and layout of sites, including proximity to available grid capacity to accommodate the scale of generation, orientation, topography, previous land–use, and ability to mitigate environmental impacts and flood risk.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development has been informed by a detailed design process. This has involved taking account of the context and features of the land within the Order limits, sensitive receptors, information from environmental surveys and feedback from stakeholders. The design takes into account constraints and opportunities with an aim of minimising potential impacts and providing environmental enhancements where practicable. The design process and basis of the design decisions are set out in Design and Access Statement [APP-229] and ES Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-024]</p>

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NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.61	For a solar farm to generate electricity efficiently the panel array spacing should seek to maximise the potential power output of the site. The type, spacing and aspect of panel arrays will depend on the physical characteristics of the site such as site elevation.	As set out in Paragraph 3.2.5 of the Planning Statement [APP-228] , the DCO application will seek flexibility for different configurations of Solar PV Modules. The gap between the rows of Solar PV tables will vary responding to local topography. This will be confirmed in the detailed design of the Proposed Development, following the approach set out in Paragraph 5.2.2 of the Design and Access Statement [APP-229] .
Paragraph 2.10.62	In terms of design and layout, applicants may favour a south-facing arrangement of panels to maximise output although other orientations may be chosen. For example, an east-west layout, whilst likely to result in reduced output compared to south-facing panels on a panel-by-panel basis, may allow for a greater density of panels to compensate and therefore for generation to be spread more evenly throughout the day.	
Paragraph 2.10.64	In the case of underground cabling, applicants are expected to provide a method statement describing cable trench design, installation methodology, as well as details of the operation and maintenance regime.	Paragraph 3.4.30 of ES Chapter 3 Site Development Description [APP-023] discusses the grid connection cables, including parameters on depth and width of the trenchless drilling area.
Paragraph 2.10.65 – 2.10.67	<i>Project lifetime</i> Applicants should consider the design life of solar panel efficiency over time when determining the period for which consent is required. An upper limit of 40 years is typical, although applicants may seek consent without a time-period or for differing time-periods of	As set out in Paragraph 1.1.3 of the Planning Statement [APP-228] , the Proposed Development has a design life of 40 years as secured via the draft DCO Requirement 5 [AS-007] .

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>operation. Time limited consent, where granted, is described as temporary because there is a finite period for which it exists, after which the project would cease to have consent and therefore must seek to extend the period of consent or be decommissioned and removed. Solar panel efficiency deteriorates over time and applicants may elect to replace panels during the lifetime of the site.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2.10.68 – 2.10.69</p>	<p><i>Decommissioning</i></p> <p>Solar panels can be decommissioned relatively easily and cheaply. The nature and extent of decommissioning of a site can vary. Generally, it is expected that the panel arrays and mounting structures will be decommissioned, and underground cabling dug out to ensure that prior use of the site can continue. Applicants should set out what would be decommissioned and removed from the site at the end of the operational life of the generating station, considering instances where it may be less harmful for the ecology of the site to keep or retain certain types of infrastructure, for example underground cabling, and where there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site or a site substation.</p>	<p>Details of the decommissioning of the Proposed Development can be found in Paragraphs 3.4.55-3.4.58 of ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023].</p> <p>This states how the Proposed Development will be decommissioned and how the necessary infrastructure will be removed, recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice. The Site will be decommissioned in line with a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan ('DEMP') with further details found in Section 5.3 of ES Chapter 5 Construction Methodology and Programme [APP-025] and the Outline DEM [APP-123].</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.70 – 2.10.72	<p><i>Flexibility in the project details</i></p> <p>In many cases, not all aspects of the proposal may have been settled in precise detail at the point of application. Such aspects may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the type, number and dimensions of the panels; • layout and spacing; • the type of inverter or transformer; and • whether storage will be installed (with the option to install further panels as a substitute). <p>Applicants should set out a range of options based on different panel numbers, types and layout, with and without storage.</p> <p>Guidance on how applicants should manage flexibility is set out at Section 2.6 of this NPS.</p>	<p>The DCO application seeks flexibility regarding the design detail of certain components of the Proposed Development such as configuration of solar PV modules. The flexibility required is discussed in Paragraph 3.2.5 of the Planning Statement [APP-228] and Section 3.3 of ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023].</p> <p>To maintain flexibility in the design and layout, the assessment of the Proposed Development in the ES has adopted the Rochdale Envelope approach, whereby parameter ranges, size (footprint, width, and height relative to above ordnance datum ('AOD')), technology, and locations of the different elements of the Proposed Development have been specified.</p>

Impacts

Paragraph 2.10.76 – 2.10.79	<p><i>Biodiversity, ecological, geological conservation and water management</i></p> <p>The applicant's ecological assessments should identify any ecological risk from developing on the proposed site.</p> <p>Issues that need assessment may include habitats, ground nesting birds, wintering and</p>	<p>An assessment of the ecological effects of the Proposed Development has been undertaken by competent experts from Avian Ecology on behalf of the Applicant and it reported in the following application documents. ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity [APP-028] identifies ecological risks developing from the Proposed Development. A combination of desktop studies and field assessments have been</p>
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**Helios Renewable Energy Project
NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>migratory birds, bats, dormice, reptiles, great crested newts, water voles and badgers. The applicant should use an advising ecologist during the design process to ensure that adverse impacts are avoided, minimised or mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and biodiversity enhancements are maximised. The assessment may be informed by a ‘desk study’ of existing ecological records, an evaluation of the likely impacts of the solar farm upon ecological features, and should specify mitigation to avoid or minimise these impacts, and any further surveys required.</p>	<p>used to assess impacts on habitats, breeding and non-breeding birds, badgers, Water vole and otters, great crested newts, bat activity and invertebrates.</p> <p>ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity [APP-028] provides an assessment of the likely effects of the Proposed Development on ecological features during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases. It also discusses the measures taken during each phase to mitigate adverse effects.</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.6.10-4.6.19 of ES Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-024] set out the range of design options that have been chosen to avoid and mitigate potential effects on ecological receptors. These include the retention of higher value habitat features, focusing the large majority of built development proposals within lower ecological value land, and the use of buffer zones and other safeguarding measures.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.10.80 - 2.10.81</p>	<p>Applicants should consider earthworks associated with construction compounds, access roads and cable trenching.</p> <p>Where soil stripping occurs, topsoil and subsoil should be stripped, stored, and replaced separately to minimise soil damage and to provide optimal conditions for site restoration. Further details on minimising impacts on soil and</p>	<p>ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023] describes the works required for construction including the installation of cable which will include earthworks (Paragraphs 3.4.26-3.4.31).</p> <p>To ensure minimal soil damage arises during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, an Outline Soil</p>

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NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	soil handling are above at paragraphs 2.10.33 and 2.10.34.	Management Plan [APP-173] is submitted with the application, which sets out the principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and a detailed Soil Resource Management Plan is secured as a requirement in the Draft Development Consent Order [AS-007] .
Paragraph 2.10.82	Applicants should consider how security and lighting installations may impact on the local ecology. Where pole mounted CCTV facilities are proposed the location of these facilities should be carefully considered to minimise impact. If lighting is necessary, it should be minimised and directed away from areas of likely habitat.	<p>ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023] outlines the security measures incorporated into the Proposed Development design in Paragraphs 3.4.36-3.4.44. The Proposed Development will be surrounded by plain wire deer fencing, and CCTV cameras utilising night-vision technology and will be monitored remotely. The Outline CEMP [APP-121] includes details regarding security measures and the use of artificial lighting, which will be implemented through a detailed CEMP agreed with NYC.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will not be subject to permanent nightly illumination. Lighting operation will be limited to temporary lighting required for access and maintenance in the unlikely event that such actions are required after dark. This temporary lighting will adopt ‘ecologically sensitive’ lighting in-line with current guidance. This lighting will avoid the illumination of existing field margin habitats, surrounding woodland parcels and created semi-natural habitats associated with the</p>

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NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.83	Applicants should consider how site boundaries are managed. If any hedges/scrub are to be removed, further surveys may be necessary to account for impacts. Buffer strips between perimeter fencing and hedges may be proposed, and the construction and design of any fencing should account for enabling mammal, reptile and other fauna access into the site if required to do so in the ecological report.	<p>construction phase, thereby allowing the continued usage of the Site by bat foraging/commuting species and protecting any potential tree roosting features on-Site.</p> <p>ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity [APP-028] sets out how the Proposed Development’s design evolution has sought to avoid areas of significant biodiversity value, such as field boundary hedgerows. As outlined in Paragraphs 4.6.10-4.6.19 of ES Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-024], the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid and mitigate potential effects on ecological receptors. Design measures include the provision of 5m buffer zones on either side of hedgerows and ditches.</p> <p>The field boundary hedgerows comprising predominantly of species-poor hedgerows, ditch networks, and grassland field margins, pond, adjacent woodland (including the adjacent Kerrick Spring Wood ancient woodland site), and adjacent orchard represent habitats of higher ecological value, albeit limited in their distribution within and immediately surrounding the Site. These habitats will be largely retained and therefore direct impacts avoided.</p> <p>Habitat protection buffers will be maintained throughout the construction phase and will be implemented as part of the detailed CEMP,</p>

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NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.84 – 2.10.88	<p>Where a Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out this must be submitted alongside the applicant's ES. This will need to consider the impact of drainage. As solar PV panels will drain to the existing ground, the impact will not, in general, be significant. Where access tracks need to be provided, permeable tracks should be used, and localised Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), such as swales and infiltration trenches, should be used to control any run-off where recommended. Given the temporary nature of solar PV farms, sites should be configured or selected to avoid the need to impact on existing drainage systems and watercourses. Culverting existing watercourses/drainage ditches should be avoided. Where culverting for access is unavoidable, applicants should demonstrate that no reasonable alternatives exist and where necessary it will only be in place temporarily for the construction period.</p>	<p>prepared in accordance with the oCEMP [APP-121].</p> <p>The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) [APP-232 – APP-235] considers the impacts of drainage. The preparation of the FRA, and the ES has taken account of advice and consultation from key bodies. The FRA contains a Surface Water Drainage Assessment which discusses measures on the management of runoff from the Solar Panels and Ancillary Control Equipment, the BESS facility and the on-site 132kV Substation, see section 5</p> <p>As mentioned in paragraph 9.5.38, ES Chapter 9 Water Environment [APP-029], opportunities are sought within the development areas for crossings of ordinary watercourses to be formed from single span structures, clear of the watercourse channels, wherever feasible. Where this is not possible, oversized box culverts will be utilised such that existing bed and bank profiles can be retained or reinstated in order to provide ecological benefits and maintain the existing hydrological characteristics of the water environment.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.89 – 2.10.90	<p>Solar farms have the potential to increase the biodiversity value of a site, especially if the land was previously intensively managed. In some instances, this can result in significant benefits</p>	<p>ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity [APP-028] discusses biodiversity net gain ('BNG'). The chapter describes the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development, considering construction, operation</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>and enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider environmental gains which is encouraged. For projects in England, applicants should consider enhancement, management, and monitoring of biodiversity in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.</p>	<p>and decommissioning. Given the nature of this Proposed Development and similar Proposed Developments, the actual land take and associated habitat loss is a small percentage, with construction effects, largely temporary and reversible. See paragraph 8.6.6 of ES Chapter 8.</p> <p>Habitat losses comprise low ecological value agricultural land, and the solar developments provide clear commitments to achieve significant measurable biodiversity gains. Cumulatively, this represents a local gain in habitats of ecological importance, which will also cumulatively strengthen habitat connectivity in the wider landscape. Areas within these developments will also be subject to lower levels of disturbance (resulting from the cessation of intensive arable management) and hence will provide areas of refuge for foraging and shelter for a range of species. Cumulative biodiversity net gain is therefore likely in relation to the Proposed Development and these four other solar application sites, as set out below in Paragraph 8.6.9 of ES Chapter 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land South of A645, Wade House Lane, Drax (ref: 2023/0128/EIA); • East Yorkshire Solar Farm NSIP (PINS ref: EN010143); • Land North and South of Camela Lane, Camblesforth (ref: 2021/0788/EIA);

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.92	Applicants should consider whether they need to provide geotechnical and hydrological information (such as identifying the presence of peat at each site) including the risk of landslide connected to any development work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land near Osgodby Grange, South Duffield Road, Osgodby, Selby (ref: 2021/0978/FULM). <p>Subsequently, it is considered that impacts to habitats will be of high (positive) magnitude on a Local value and sensitivity, which are consequently significant beneficial effects.</p> <p>The wider environmental gains of the project are highlighted within Paragraph 5.5.13 of the Planning Statement [APP-228], which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in GHG emissions and climate adaptation; • Reduction in flood risk; • Improvements to water quality; • Increased access to natural greenspace; • Enhancement, expansion or provision of trees and woodlands; and • Habitat enhancement and creation. <p>ES Chapter 9 Water Environment [APP-029] details the hydrological information that has been provided and assessed.</p> <p>As set out in Table 2.6 of ES Chapter 2 EIA Methodology [APP-022], ground conditions have been scoped out of the ES as there are considered to be no likely significant effects. The Scoping Opinion [APP-112] adopted by PINS requested a Preliminary Risk Assessment to support the scoping out of ground conditions.</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
2.10.94 – 2.10.95	<p data-bbox="813 751 1317 778"><i>Landscape, visual and residential amenity</i></p> <p data-bbox="813 823 1406 1337">The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large-scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing other onshore energy infrastructure. Solar farms are likely to be in low lying areas of good exposure and as such may have a wider zone of visual influence than other types of onshore energy infrastructure. However, whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of a zone of visual influence could be appropriately minimised.</p>	<p data-bbox="1417 264 2033 707">The Phase 1 Ground Conditions Assessment and Update Note [APP-114 – APP-116] comprises a desk study, Tier 1 (preliminary) qualitative contamination risk assessment and a preliminary ground stability appraisal. The Phase 1 GCA concludes in Section 6 that it is considered unlikely that the Site would be designated statutory contaminated land, and that a Low to Very Low geological hazard potential has been identified for the majority of the Site, with localised areas of Moderate hazard potential depending on the composition of the strata.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1417 751 2033 1007">An assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, including cumulative impacts, has been carried out and is presented in paragraph 7.6-7.7.4 in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027].</p> <p data-bbox="1417 1046 2033 1302">Photographs and visualisations have been included to assist in describing baselines views and visual effects. Due to project programme constraints, the photographs that form the basis of visualisations are spring views. However, winter baseline photography has also been provided for all representative viewpoints.</p> <p data-bbox="1417 1342 2033 1409">The character and physical features of the Site are described in paragraphs 7.4.63-7.4.68 of ES</p>

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NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.96	Landscape and visual impacts should be considered carefully pre-application. Potential impacts on the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes should form a part of the pre-application process.	Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-028] with reference to Site Appraisal Photographs ('SAPs') A-H, included in the Site Appraisal Photographs [APP-138] . The locations of photographic viewpoints are illustrated on the Site Appraisal Plan [PDA-12] . Landscape and visual impacts are assessed within ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027] . The Chapter includes as overview of how the site area has evolved to reduce effects on local residents (see paragraph 7.2.1 and 7.2.18 shown in, Figure 4.2, Design Evolution Plan [APP-060]) and how the landscape strategy seeks to reduce landscape and visual impacts. The Site is not located within or close to any nationally designated landscapes.
Paragraph 2.10.97	Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. Visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints.	ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027] comprises the landscape and visual assessment for the Proposed Development. Visualisations [APP-140 – APP-141] have been prepared for the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 2.10.98 – 2.10.99	Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.7 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar PV arrays	ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027] mentions that an overall objective of the landscape strategy is the minimise the visual impact of the Proposed Development on visual receptors.

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>especially within nationally designated landscapes. Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact (see paragraphs 2.10.46 – 2.10.48 above).</p>	<p>Proposed security fences around the perimeter of these areas will be to a maximum height of 2.1m above ground level, see paragraph 7.5.12. They will be erected as timber post and wire fences similar in appearance to forestry fencing of a type to protect new planting from deer browsing, and therefore not uncharacteristic in a rural environment. Access tracks and gates will be provided within these areas. Details of security measures will be approved by the LPA as part of the detailed CEMP.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.10.100 – 2.10.101</p>	<p>The applicant should consider as part of the design, layout, construction, and future maintenance plans how to protect and retain, wherever possible, the growth of vegetation on site boundaries, as well as the growth of existing hedges, established vegetation, including mature trees within boundaries. Applicants should also consider opportunities for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity. The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey and arboricultural/hedge assessment as appropriate.</p>	<p>ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity [APP-028] states that trees present within the Site will be retained and protected during construction see paragraph 8.5.20 of ES Chapter 8</p> <p>An oLEMP [APP-143] is submitted with this application which outlines all protection measures used to prevent impacts to existing and surrounding priority habitats, such as adjacent woodland parcels. Provision of a detailed LEMP is secured in a requirement of the Draft Development Consent Order [AS-007].</p> <p>An Arboriculture Impact Assessment [APP-150] sets out the results of tree surveys which has informed the assessment of impacts on trees and hedges.</p>

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NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.103	<p><i>Glint and glare</i></p> <p>Applicants should map receptors qualitatively to identify potential glint and glare issues and determine if a glint and glare assessment is necessary as part of the application.</p>	<p>Glint and Glare has been scoped out of the Environmental Statement as no significant impacts on sensitive receptors were anticipated from the Proposed Development, as set out in the Scoping Report [APP-111].</p>
Paragraph 2.10.104	<p>When a quantitative glint and glare assessment is necessary, applicants are expected to consider the geometric possibility of glint and glare affecting nearby receptors, and provide an assessment of potential impact and impairment based on the angle and duration of incidence and the intensity of the reflection.</p>	<p>The potential effects of glint and glare from the Proposed Development have been assessed within the Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-117], which concludes that no significant impacts of glint and glare from the Proposed Development are predicted upon residential amenity, road safety and train drivers. Mitigation is recommended for the approach path towards the runway 25 threshold at Burn Airfield. The Applicant is updating the Glint and Glare Study, which will be submitted to the ExA at a subsequent deadline.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.105	<p>The extent of reflectivity analysis required to assess potential impacts will depend on the specific project site and design. This may need to account for ‘tracking’ panels if they are proposed as these may cause differential diurnal and/or seasonal impacts.</p>	
Paragraph 2.10.106	<p>When a glint and glare assessment is undertaken, the potential for solar PV panels, frames and supports to have a combined reflective quality may need to be assessed, although the glint and glare of the frames and supports is likely to be significantly less than the panels.</p>	

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NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.107 – 2.10.110	<p><i>Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p>The impacts of solar PV developments on the historic environment will require expert assessment in most cases and may have effect both above and below ground. Above ground impacts may include the effects on the setting of Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets as well as on Historic Landscape Character. Below ground impacts, although generally limited, may include direct impacts on archaeological deposits through ground disturbance associated with trenching, cabling, foundations, fencing, temporary haul routes etc. Equally, solar PV developments may have a positive effect, for example archaeological assets may be protected by a solar PV farm as the site is removed from regular ploughing and shoes or low-level piling is stipulated.</p>	<p>ES Chapter 6 Cultural Heritage [APP-026] reports on the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment with respect to cultural heritage.</p> <p>It concludes that the overall impact on archaeological and above ground heritage assets through the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development would not be significant see table 6.5 of ES Chapter 6 which sets out the conclusions of tis assessment and contains all the potential heritage receptors, the nature of any effect, mitigation measures and the overall residual effects.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.113	<p>Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, the applicant should submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. These should be carried out using expertise where necessary and in consultation with the local planning authority, and should identify archaeological study areas and propose appropriate schemes of investigation, and design</p>	<p>The methodology for fieldwork has been agreed with the relevant consultation bodies. The archaeological mitigation areas, the proposed strategy and methodology for the watching brief and the Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) [APP-126] have been formulated and agreed through consultation with the Principal Archaeologist for North Yorkshire. A Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared in accordance with the Outline AMS, must be submitted to and</p>

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NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	measures, to ensure the protection of relevant heritage assets.	approved by the LPA as requirement of the Draft Development Consent Order [AS-007] .
Paragraph 2.10.114 – 2.10.115	In some instances, field studies may include investigative work (and may include trial trenching beyond the boundary of the proposed site) to assess the impacts of any ground disturbance, such as proposed cabling, substation foundations or mounting supports for solar panels on archaeological assets. The extent of investigative work should be proportionate to the sensitivity of, and extent of, proposed ground disturbance in the associated study area.	
Paragraph 2.10.116 – 2.10.119	Applicants should take account of the results of historic environment assessments in their design proposal. Applicants should consider what steps can be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting. As the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence but also from its setting, careful consideration should be given to the impact of large-scale solar farms which depending on their scale, design, and prominence, may cause substantial harm to the significance of the asset. Applicants may need to include visualisations to demonstrate the effects	ES Chapter 6 Cultural Heritage [APP-026] assessed the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage. The assessment has been informed by the Cultural Heritage Technical Appendix [APP-125] , which contains the detailed heritage baseline information, and the initial assessment, in accordance with Step 1 and Step 2 of the Historic England guidance, of the identification of which assets have the potential to have their settings affected by the proposed Development. See paragraph 6.4.5 of the Environmental Statement Chapter 6.

**Helios Renewable Energy Project
NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2.10.120 – 2.10.121</p>	<p><i>Construction including traffic and transport, noise and vibration</i></p> <p>Modern solar farms are large sites that are mainly comprised of small structures that can be transported separately and constructed on-site, with developers designating a compound on-site for the delivery and assemblage of the necessary components. Many solar farms will be sited in areas served by a minor road network. Public perception of the construction phase of solar farms will derive mainly from the effects of traffic movements, which is likely to involve smaller vehicles than typical onshore energy infrastructure but may be more voluminous.</p>	<p>As discussed in section 8 of the Transport Assessment [AS-005], a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, and this will be secured by the Requirements in the DCO. The CTMP will be substantially in accordance with the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [AS-006] submitted as part of the DCO application. This will regulate the delivery of materials and movement of construction personnel to the Site during the construction phase. Further detail is provided in ES Chapter 10 Transport and Access [APP-030].</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.10.123 – 2.10.124</p>	<p>Applicants should assess the various potential routes to the site for delivery of materials and components where the source of the materials is known at the time of the application, and select the route that is the most appropriate. Where the exact location of the source of construction materials, such as crushed stone or concrete is not be known at the time of the application, applicants should assess the worst-case impact of additional vehicles on the likely potential routes.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 10.5.31 – 10.5.38 shown in the ES Chapter 10 Transport and Access [APP-030] discusses potential routes for construction traffic such as Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs). The designated route for all vehicles associated with the construction phase has been designed to utilise the most appropriate roads available, avoid designated or protected areas, height and weight restrictions and residential area. Following the implementation of embedded mitigation and measures to be adopted by the project, there are</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.125	Applicants should ensure all sections of roads and bridges on the proposed delivery route can accommodate the weight and volume of the loads and width of vehicles. Although unlikely, where modifications to roads and/or bridges are required, these should be identified, and potential effects addressed in the ES.	<p>no significant effects on the potential routes caused by the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Transport Assessment [AS-005] Section 6 details the trip distribution associated with construction vehicles.</p> <p>The Transport Assessment [AS-005] discusses the protocol for abnormal load movements. Paragraph 7.2 sets out the definition provided by the Department for Transport (DfT) that a movement is abnormal if the load and vehicle meets any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a weight of more than 44,000kg; • an axle load of more than 10,000kg for a single non-driving axle and 11,500kg for a single driving axle; • a width of more than 2.9 metres; • a rigid length of more than 18.65 metres. <p>It is anticipated that there will be a maximum of three abnormal load transports associated with the construction of the Proposed Development. The abnormal loads will follow the same routes to the Site as other HGVs and as described in Section 6. The A62 and A645 are identified as 'heavy loads routes' by National Highways.</p> <p>Traffic management will be in places for all abnormal load movements destined for the Site. The exact nature of traffic management will be agreed with North Yorkshire Council and North</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.126	Where a cumulative impact is likely because multiple energy infrastructure developments are proposing to use a common port and/or access route and pass through the same towns and villages, applicants should include a cumulative transport assessment as part of the ES. This should consider the impacts of abnormal traffic	<p>Yorkshire Police prior to the movement taking place. It is likely to include temporary road closures and vehicle escorts.</p> <p>As set out in Paragraph 2.8 of the Transport Assessment [AS-005], the new access (A1041 Northern Access) will be of a sufficient width to enable 16.5m articulated construction vehicles to access the Site during the construction phase of the proposed solar farm. The A1041 Southern Access and the Hardenshaw Lane Connection will be improved and widened respectively to enable 16.5 articulated construction vehicles to access the Site during construction. As set out in Section 6 of the oCTMP [AS-006], abnormal loads will access the Site via access 1 (A1041 Southern Access). An over-runnable area will be provided to the south of the junction to ensure the vehicles can access the Site. Abnormal load deliveries will follow the same construction route as all other construction vehicles, as set out in Section 5 of the oCTMP [AS-006]. There are no weight, height or width restrictions along this route.</p> <p>Paragraph 10.8.1 of ES Chapter 10 Transport and Access [APP-030] highlights the cumulative developments at the time of submission which are considered likely to have an effect on the study area. These are –</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>movements relating to the project in question in combination with those from any other relevant development. Consultation with the relevant local highways authorities is likely to be necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drax Power Station Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Project NSIP (Ref: EN010120); • Land off New Road, Drax (Ref: 2020/1357/FULM); • Land off Hales Road, Drax (Ref: 2021/1089/FULM); • Land North and South of Camela Lane, Camblesforth (Ref 2021/0788/EIA); • Drax Power Station, Drax (Ref: 2022/0107/NYSCO); • Rusholme Grange, Rusholme Lane, Newland, Selby (Ref: 2021/0601/FUL); • Land south of the A645, Drax (Ref: 2023/0128/EIA); and • East Yorkshire Solar Farm NSIP (PINS Ref: EN010143). <p>Table 10.26 in the chapter details the traffic flows associated with the cumulative Proposed Developments over a 24 hour period.</p>

Mitigations

<p>Paragraph 2.10.127</p>	<p><i>Agricultural land classification and land type</i></p> <p>The Defra Construction code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites provides guidance on ensuring that damage to soil during construction is mitigated and minimised. Mitigation measures focus on minimising damage to</p>	<p>The Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [APP-173] sets out the principles on how the soils will be managed and protected during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The principles set out in the oSMP are in line with the Defra Construction Code of Practice where relevant.</p>
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NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>soil that remains in place, and minimising damage to soil being excavated and stockpiled. The measures aim to preserve soil health and soil structure to minimise soil carbon loss and maintain water infiltration and soil biodiversity. Mitigation measures for agricultural soils include use of green cover,</p> <p>multispecies cover crops – especially during the winter- minimising compaction and adding soil organic matter.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2.10.128-129</p>	<p><i>Biodiversity and ecological conservation</i></p> <p>In England, proposed enhancements should take account of the above factors and as set out in Sections 4.6 and 5.4 of EN-1 aim to achieve environmental and biodiversity net gain in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan and any relevant measures and targets, including statutory targets set under the Environment Act or elsewhere.</p> <p>This might include maintaining or extending existing habitats and potentially creating new important habitats, for example by installing cultivated strips/plots for rare arable plants, rough grassland margins, bumble bee plant mixes, and wild bird seed mixes.</p>	<p>Based on the proposed Landscape Strategy [APP-088 – APP-092], the Proposed Development will result in a biodiversity net gain of 55.70% in Habitat Units, 61.11% in Hedgerow Units and 9.05% in watercourse units as shown in the headline results extracted from the full Metric spreadsheet. More information regarding BNG can be found in paragraph 8.7.9 of the ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity [APP-028] and the supporting Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool [APP-153].</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.130	Applicants are advised to develop an ecological monitoring programme to monitor impacts upon the flora of the site and upon any particular ecological receptors (such as bats and wintering birds). Results of the monitoring will then inform any changes needed to the land management of the site, including, if appropriate, any livestock grazing regime.	ES Chapter 8 Biodiversity [APP-028] outlines the ecological monitoring which will be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist during the operational phase of the development. These ecological monitoring surveys will assess the success of mitigation and enhancement measures detailed within the LEMP, and if necessary, provide recommendations for remedial actions required to achieve the biodiversity objectives detailed within the LEMP and/ or adhere to relevant wildlife conservation legislation at that time. See paragraphs 8.5.45 – 8.5.50.
Paragraph 2.10.131 – 2.10.133	<p><i>Landscape, visual and residential amenity</i></p> <p>Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees and woodlands. Applicants should aim to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible applicants should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to assist in site security, or screen security fencing. Applicants should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.</p>	<p>ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023] Paragraph 3.4.42 states that CCTV cameras would use night-vision technology, which would be monitored remotely and avoid the need for night -time lighting. No areas of the solar PV arrays are proposed to be continuously lit. For security requirements, passive infra-red detector ('PID') systems (or similar) will be installed around the perimeter of the solar PV arrays to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The Outline CEMP [APP-121] includes details regarding security measures and the use of artificial lighting, which will be implemented through a detailed CEMP agreed with NYC.</p> <p>ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023] Paragraphs 3.4.26-3.4.37 provide detail of the security fencing, which will be plain wire</p>

Helios Renewable Energy Project
NPS Accordance Table – EN-3

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.134	<p><i>Glint and Glare</i></p> <p>Applicants should consider using, and in some cases the Secretary of State may require, solar panels to comprise of (or be covered with) anti-glare/anti-reflective coating with a specified angle of maximum reflection attenuation for the lifetime of the permission.</p>	<p>deer fencing to a maximum height of 2.1m to the top of the date post.</p> <p>As outlined in Paragraph 3.4.11 and Table 3.2 of ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023], the solar PV panels will be made of silicon glass and include an anti-reflective coating.</p> <p>The potential effects of glint and glare from the Proposed Development have been assessed within the Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-117], which concludes that no significant impacts of glint and glare from the Proposed Development are predicted upon residential amenity, road safety and train drivers. Mitigation is recommended for the approach path towards the runway 25 threshold at Burn Airfield. The Applicant is updating the Glint and Glare Study, which will be submitted to the ExA at a subsequent deadline.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.135	<p>Applicants may consider using screening between potentially affected receptors and the reflecting panels to mitigate the effects.</p>	<p>The potential effects of glint and glare from the Proposed Development have been assessed within the Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-117], which concludes that no significant impacts of glint and glare from the Proposed Development are predicted upon residential amenity, road safety and train drivers. Mitigation is recommended for the approach path towards the runway 25 threshold at Burn Airfield. The Applicant is updating the Glint and Glare Study, which will be submitted to the ExA at a subsequent deadline.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.136	<p>Applicants may consider adjusting the azimuth alignment of, or changing the elevation tilt angle of, a solar panel within the economically viable range, to alter the angle of incidence. In practice this is unlikely to remove the potential impact altogether but in marginal cases may contribute to a mitigation strategy.</p>	<p>The potential effects of glint and glare from the Proposed Development have been assessed within the Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-117], which concludes that no significant impacts of glint and glare from the Proposed Development are predicted upon residential amenity, road safety and train drivers. Mitigation is recommended for the approach path towards the runway 25 threshold at Burn Airfield. The Applicant is updating the Glint and Glare Study, which will be submitted to the ExA at a subsequent deadline.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.137	<p><i>Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p>The ability of the applicants to microsite specific elements of the proposed development during the construction phase should be an important</p>	<p>As set out in Paragraph 4.3.16 of the Design and Access Statement [APP-229], the design of the Proposed Development has evolved to reduce potential effects upon listed heritage assets. The</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.138	<p>consideration by the Secretary of State when assessing the risk of damage to archaeology.</p> <hr/> <p>Where requested by the applicant, the Secretary of State should consider granting consents which allow for the micrositing within a specified tolerance of elements of the permitted infrastructure, so that precise locations can be amended during the construction phase if unforeseen circumstances, such as the discovery of previously unknown archaeology, arise.</p>	<p>Solar Farm Zone was moved further away from sensitive heritage receptors, alongside the creation of more substantial landscape buffer zones. Additionally, the on-site substation and BESS compound have been placed in a central position in the Site, well-screened from surrounding assets by both the earth bund and landscaping, further eliminating any potential views from identified designated heritage assets.</p> <p>The Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [APP-126] sets out the methodology to be used for the construction of the Proposed Development within the specific areas of the Site which have been identified as having archaeological potential. It sets out the mitigation measures to be put in place to preserve the archaeological deposits in this area.</p> <p>As set out in ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-022], to maintain flexibility in the design and layout, the assessment of the Proposed Development in the ES has adopted the Rochdale Envelope approach, whereby parameter ranges, size (footprint, width, and height relative to above ordnance datum ('AOD')), technology, and locations of the different elements of the Proposed Development have been specified. Precise locations could therefore be amended within these parameters should unforeseen circumstances arise.</p>

**Helios Renewable Energy Project
NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.139 – 2.10.140	<p><i>Construction including traffic and transport, noise and vibration</i></p> <p>In some cases, the local highway authority may request that the Secretary of State impose controls on the number of vehicle movements to and from the solar farm site in a specified period during its construction and, possibly, on the routeing of such movements particularly by heavy vehicles.</p> <p>Where the Secretary of State agrees that this is necessary, requirements could be imposed on development consent.</p>	<p>As set out in Paragraph 10.5.56 Chapter 10 Transport and Access of the ES [APP-030] states that during the construction phase the effect of additional traffic on road vehicle driver and passenger delay within the study area is considered to be negligible to temporary, which is not significant. Construction traffic will be managed through the CTMP, as per the Outline CTMP [AS-006].</p> <p>The design of accesses at the site has taken into account the number and type of vehicles that will use them to avoid queuing on surrounding roads during construction. Parking will also be provided on site.</p> <p>Whilst the percentage change in some traffic flow locations is high, there will not be any significant delay to drivers or passengers due to the low numbers of real term two-way movements per day. For example, on Hardenshaw Lane, there is a 42% increase in traffic flows during the Proposed Development’s construction phase. However, the 2026 baseline flows predict 108 two-way movements per day. This will increase to 153 two-way movements as a result of the Proposed Development’s construction traffic.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.141 - 2.10.142	Where cumulative effects on the local road network or residential amenity are predicted from multiple solar farm developments, it may be	Paragraph 10.8.1 of ES Chapter 10 Transport and Access [APP-030] highlights the cumulative developments at the time of submission which are

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NPS Accordance Table – EN-3

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>appropriate for applicants for various projects to work together to ensure that the number of abnormal loads and deliveries are minimised, and the timings of deliveries are managed and coordinated to ensure that disruption to residents and other highway users is reasonably minimised. It may also be appropriate for the highway authority to set limits for, and coordinate these deliveries through, active management of the delivery schedules through the abnormal load approval process.</p>	<p>considered likely to have an effect on the study area. These are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drax Power Station Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Project NSIP (Ref: EN010120); • Land off New Road, Drax (Ref: 2020/1357/FULM); • Land off Hales Road, Drax (Ref: 2021/1089/FULM); • Land North and South of Camela Lane, Camblesforth (Ref 2021/0788/EIA); • Drax Power Station, Drax (Ref: 2022/0107/NYSCO); • Rusholme Grange, Rusholme Lane, Newland, Selby (Ref: 2021/0601/FUL); • Land south of the A645, Drax (Ref: 2023/0128/EIA); and • East Yorkshire Solar Farm NSIP (PINS Ref: EN010143). <p>The cumulative effects are considered to be negligible to minor throughout the three phases of development. Construction traffic will be managed through the CTMP, as per the Outline CTMP [AS-006].</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.10.143 – 2.10.144</p>	<p>Once consent for a Proposed Development has been granted, applicants should liaise with the relevant local highway authority (or other coordinating body) regarding the start of construction and the broad timing of deliveries. Applicants may need to agree a planning</p>	<p>The outline Construction Transport Management Plan (CTMP) [AS-006] sets out an outline of the protocol for engaging with the local highway authority for matters regarding delivery of</p>

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NPS Accordance Table – EN-3

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>obligation to secure appropriate measures, including restoration of roads and verges. Further, it may be appropriate for any non-permanent highway improvements carried out for the development (such as temporary road widening) to be made available for use by other subsequent solar farm developments.</p>	<p>abnormal loads, signage, management of PROWs and road condition surveys.</p> <p>The final CTMP will be secured through DCO requirement.</p>

Secretary of State decision making – Factors influencing site selection and design

Paragraph 2.10.145	<p><i>Agricultural land classification and land type</i></p> <p>The Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. The Secretary of State should ensure that the applicant has put forward appropriate mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils or soil resources.</p>	<p>The Outline Soil Resource Management Plan [APP-173] identifies the importance and sensitivity of the soil resource and provides specific guidance to ensure that there is no significant adverse effect on the soil resource as a result of the Proposed Development. This will be secured via DCO Requirement 8, as set out in the draft DCO [AS-007].</p>
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Secretary of State decision making – Technical considerations

2.10.146	<p><i>Project lifetime and decommissioning</i></p> <p>The Secretary of State should ensure that the applicant has put forward outline plans for decommissioning the generating station when no longer in use and restoring the land to a suitable use (taking into account paragraphs 2.10.59 and 2.10.60).</p>	<p>The Outline DEMP [APP-123] sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The production of a detailed DEMP and agreement with relevant authorities prior to commencing decommissioning, is secured via the draft DCO at Requirement 5.</p>
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**Helios Renewable Energy Project
NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
2.10.147 – 2.10.151	<p>Where the consent for a solar farm is to be time-limited, the DCO should impose a requirement setting that time-limit from the date the solar farm starts to generate electricity. Such a requirement should also secure the decommissioning of the generating station after the expiration of its permitted operation to ensure that inoperative plant is removed after its operational life. An upper limit of 40 years is typical, although applicants may seek consent without a time period or for differing time-periods for operation. The time limited nature of the solar farm, where a time limit is sought as a condition of consent, is likely to be an important consideration for the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State should consider the period of time the applicant is seeking to operate the generating station, as well as the extent to which the site will return to its original state, when assessing impacts such as landscape and visual effects and potential effects on the settings of heritage assets and nationally designated landscapes.</p>	<p>As discussed in Paragraph 1.1.3 of the Planning Statement [APP-228], the Proposed Development has a design life 40 years. The Proposed Development is anticipated to commence decommissioning no earlier than 2069.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase all site infrastructure, including compounds and access tracks, will be removed and action taken to remediate the Site, in accordance with any requirements included in the DCO.</p> <p>The mitigation measures for the Proposed Development's decommissioning phase will be set out in an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP). The oDEMP is secured through draft DCO Requirement 5 and will be agreed with the relevant authorities in advance of the commencement of decommissioning.</p>
Secretary of State decision making – Impacts		
Paragraph 2.10.154 – 2.10.155	<p><i>Biodiversity, ecological, geological conservation and water management</i></p> <p>Water management is a critical component of site design for ground mount solar plants. Where previous management of the site has involved</p>	<p>As discussed in Paragraph 6.1.12 of the Planning Statement [APP-228], the Proposed Development benefits from embedded mitigation in the form of design mitigation and management control measures.</p>

**Helios Renewable Energy Project
NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>intensive agricultural practice, solar sites can deliver significant ecosystem services value in the form of drainage, flood attenuation, natural wetland habitat, and water quality management. The Secretary of State must consider the worst-case effects in its consideration of the application and consent.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development will be designed to be appropriately safe in the combined fluvial and tidal design flood without increasing flood risk elsewhere. These design mitigation measures include the appropriate sequential design of the Site to avoid (as best possible) areas of elevated flood risk and incorporation of flood resilience and resistance measures so that the equipment can remain operational during times of elevated flood risk. Pollution prevention measures, surface water management measures, appropriate design of watercourse crossings and, where necessary, floodplain compensation are also proposed. Management control mitigation includes site evacuation procedures and construction site management measures.</p> <p>Taking into account the embedded mitigation measures the remaining effects of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases on surface water drainage, flood risk and quality of onsite watercourses would not be significant.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.10.157</p>	<p><i>Landscape, visual and residential amenity</i></p> <p>The Secretary of State will consider the landscape and visual impact of any proposed solar PV farm, taking account of any sensitive visual receptors, and the effect of the development on landscape character, together</p>	<p>An assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development has been carried out and is presented in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027].</p>

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>with the possible cumulative effect with any existing or proposed development. Nationally designated landscapes (National Parks, The Broads and Areas of Outstanding Beauty) are afforded extra protection due their statutory purpose. Development in these areas needs to satisfy policy as set out in EN-1 Section 5.10.</p>	<p>Photographs and visualisations have been included to assist in describing baselines views and visual effects. Due to project programme constraints, the photographs that form the basis of visualisations are spring views. However, winter baseline photography has also been provided for all representative viewpoints, which demonstrates that the assessments undertaken using spring views are consistent for winter views. The assessment of landscape and visual effects has included for the likely seasonal variation in visibility with reference to the Type 1 winter viewpoint photography, and therefore considers the worst-case scenario of visibility.</p> <p>The character and physical features of the Site are described in paragraphs 7.4.63- 7.4.71 of ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027] with reference to Site Appraisal Photographs ('SAPs') A-H, included in Appendix 7.5: Site Appraisal Photographs [APP-138]. The locations of photographic viewpoints are illustrated on Figure 7.5: Site Appraisal Plan [PDA-012].</p> <p>ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views [APP-027] explains that an overall objective of the landscape strategy is to minimise the visual impact of the Proposed Development on visual receptors.</p> <p>Proposed security fences around the perimeter of these areas will be to a maximum height of 2.1m</p>

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NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
Paragraph 2.10.158 – 2.10.159	<p><i>Glint and Glare</i></p> <p>Solar PV panels are designed to absorb, not reflect, irradiation. However, the Secretary of State should assess the potential impact of glint and glare on nearby homes, motorists, public rights of way, and aviation infrastructure (including aircraft departure and arrival flight paths). Whilst there is some evidence that glint and glare from solar farms can be experienced by pilots and air traffic controllers in certain conditions, there is no evidence that glint and glare from solar farms results in significant impairment on aircraft safety. Therefore, unless a significant impairment can be demonstrated, the Secretary of State is unlikely to give any more than limited weight to claims of aviation interference because of glint and glare from solar farms.</p>	<p>above ground level. They will be erected as timber post and wire fences similar in appearance to forestry fencing of a type to protect new planting from deer browsing, and therefore not uncharacteristic in a rural environment. Access tracks and gates will be provided within these areas. See paragraph 7.5.12 of ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Views.</p> <p>As set out in ES Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [APP-023] paragraph 3.4.11 the solar PV panels will be made of silicon glass and include an anti-reflective coating.</p> <p>The Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-117] concludes that no significant impacts are predicted upon residential amenity, road safety and train drivers travelling along the assessed section of railway track, therefore no mitigation is required. The Applicant is updating the Glint and Glare Study, which will be submitted to the ExA at a subsequent deadline.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.160	<i>Cultural Heritage</i>	As set out in ES Chapter 6 Cultural Heritage [APP-026] , the Proposed Development’s construction,

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NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>Solar farms are generally consented on the basis that they will be time-limited in operation. The Secretary of State should therefore consider the length of time for which consent is sought when considering the impacts of any indirect effect on the historic environment, such as effects on the setting of designated heritage assets.</p>	<p>operational, and decommissioning phases are not anticipated to result in significant effects on cultural heritage.</p> <p>There are no designated heritage assets located within the Site boundary. There are a limited number of records identified from the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (NYHER) and National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) within the Site and several areas of cropmarks that have been identified from aerial photographic analysis and National Mapping Programme (NMP) mapping. In addition to this, a geophysical survey has been carried out within the Site which has identified several areas of discrete archaeological anomalies, some of which correspond with previously recorded cropmarks.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.10.161 – 2.10.162</p>	<p><i>Construction including traffic and transport, noise and vibration</i></p> <p>Once solar farms are in operation, traffic movements to and from the site are generally very light, in some instances as little as a few visits each month by a light commercial vehicle or car. Should there be a need to replace machine components, this may generate heavier commercial vehicle movements, but these are likely to be infrequent. The Secretary of State is</p>	<p>As detailed in Paragraph 10.5.68 in ES Chapter 10 Transport and Access [APP-030], during the Proposed Development’s operational phase, there are anticipated to be around five visits to the Site per month for maintenance purposes (less than one trip per day on average). These would typically be made by light van or 4x4 type vehicles. Whilst the construction compounds will have been removed at the end of the Proposed Development’s construction phase, space will remain within the Site on the access tracks to</p>

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NPS Accordance Table – EN-3**

NPS EN-3 Relevant Paragraph	NPS EN-3 Detail	NPS EN-3 Proposed Development compliance
	<p>unlikely to give any more than limited weight to traffic and transport noise and vibration impacts from the operational phase of a project.</p>	<p>enable a maintenance vehicle to turn around to ensure that reversing will not occur onto the highway.</p> <p>There will be no operational phase effects on transport and access associated with the installed grid connection cables, as these will be located underground. Access may be required for maintenance, but this is only likely to be required once or twice a year and is therefore negligible in scale and scoped out from further consideration.</p> <p>In light of this, effects on road vehicle driver and passenger safety, severance, road vehicle driver delay, non-motorised user delay and amenity, and hazardous loads / large loads during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be negligible and not significant. The effects will be long-term temporary, as the modelled operational lifespan for the Proposed Development is 40 years.</p>