



Meeting note

Project name	Helios Renewable Energy Project
File reference	EN010140
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate ('the Inspectorate')
Date	15 November 2022
Meeting with	Enso Green Holdings D Limited ('The Applicant')
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Update

Enso Green Holdings D Limited ('The Applicant') explained that they are awaiting consultation with the Environment Agency (EA) on flood modelling and risk assessments. The Applicant will give an update to the Inspectorate with regards to time scale once the consultation has taken place. The Inspectorate asked about the date of submission in which the Applicant stated it couldn't give a specific date but will be delayed to at least Q3 in 2023.

The Applicant has undertaken two non-statutory consultation events. The Applicant stated that most questions were around construction and local disturbances of the application. The Inspectorate asked if the Highways Authorities had been consulted; the Applicant has consulted them on the cable routing.

The Applicant has been in regular contact with North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council and has begun a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with both authorities.

The Applicant noted work being carried out by Selby District Council on a design guide, in relation to the government funding for Improving performance of the NSIP planning process and supporting local authorities' policy. The Inspectorate queried the content of the design guide created by Selby District Council for solar projects, in which the Applicant explained it's an iterative guidance document which is designed to be developed as time progresses.

In relation to solar specific documents, the Inspectorate noted an example document recently published on its website, originally produced for the Little Crow Solar Farm (EN010101)

project consented in April 2022. This example document was a plain English technical design guide.

The Inspectorate queried what differences the use of tracking solar panels presented in terms of design and impacts; the Applicant explained they generate minimal noise whilst tracking the sun, moving incrementally during the day and then slowly back at night to their original position. The Applicant stated it has chosen these solar panels as they sit higher than fixed panels therefore, they will sit above the predicted flood levels, and they will generate more electricity than fixed panels at the chosen site.

The Inspectorate queried whether arable use would be considered if the tracking panels sit higher than fixed panels. The Applicant confirmed that the current regime is majority arable with some land use being used for grazing.

Surveys

The Applicant requested clarification on comments made in the Scoping Opinion. The Inspectorate explained that their comments in the Scoping Opinion are based on the information presented in the Scoping Report and are made at a point in time. The Applicant explained its methodology for characterising ecological baseline data. The Inspectorate explained that robust baselines should be provided in the Environmental Statement to support assessments and where appropriate, agreement should be sought with the relevant consultation bodies. The Applicant should explain why any methodology used is appropriate.

AOB

The Inspectorate queried if the Applicant has agreed land options with landowners asked if compulsory acquisition is required. The Applicant explained that they have agreements with landowners and have used Terraquest to conduct land referencing exercise which is currently ongoing.

The Applicant confirmed they would submit draft documents to the Inspectorate before submission. The Inspectorate advised that a draft document review required between six to eight weeks and advised the Applicant to provide a list of what they would like the Inspectorate to look at.

The Applicant queried if the Inspectorate is initiating engagement with the solar industry. The Inspectorate stated they are in the process of creating an advice note on solar projects and advised the Applicant to sign up for notifications on the National Infrastructure website for when it will be published.

The Applicant asked if there are any solar project working groups within the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate explained that they share knowledge and information within the Inspectorate and in meetings with Applicants and consultees and suggested that the Applicant could set up solar working groups with other developers, if it wished to.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate will set up a Project Update Meeting with the Applicant at the beginning of 2023.
- The Applicant will email the Inspectorate with any updates on the project.