

Deadline 8 Submission

At the previous hearing I gave representation on behalf of myself & my family & as a HALT local campaign group representative.

One of the aspects I spoke on was the cumulative impact. The applicant listed many projects (14) within the cumulative impact assessment but then determined that all apart from 2 could be scoped out.

The developer also stated that they only consider other projects up to a cut off date and anything that comes to light after that point is not considered. I strongly disagreed with this, and explained that this is the point in time when the Enso Helios project is being examined and as such I feel any projects known at this point in time should form part of the evaluation. I also expressed concern as to the fact that due to our close proximity to Drax and the grid connection point it is not known how many others will follow suit and how many projects our small rural village could be facing.

At the time of this discussion, I explained that Camblesforth would be virtually completely encircled by the already approved solar farms and proposed Enso Helios solar farm and battery storage.

That was worrying enough but since that representation was made 2 further battery energy storage sites (BESS) have come to light also within Camblesforth.

Root North BESS (99MW) and Brockwell New Oak BESS (200MW). In fact within that time the Root North BESS has actually been approved by NYCC planners. The Brockwell Energy proposal is targeted to be submitted to the NYCC planning department this month.

I feel it would be remiss to ignore these further projects when they are known to exist at this stage in the examination process.

Enso's list within the cumulative impact assessment included 4 giant Battery Energy Storage Systems totalling 320MW.

The Helios proposal also contains a BESS, with worst case scenario stated as 76 shipping containers, so this would likely equate to around 200MW as a minimum, possibly far more.

When the 2 new BESS projects (Root North & Brockwell) are added to the mix that potentially makes 7 possible installations with approx.. 800MW of capacity. And all this in one single small rural locality and with this comes the multiplied amounts of Lithium and proportionately an increased level of risks to all within the local community.

In a written statement to Parliament in May 2024, [REDACTED], the then Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero said:

"When considering whether planning consent should be granted for solar development it is important to consider not just the impacts of individual proposals, but also whether there are cumulative impacts where several proposals come forward in the same locality."

I would ask that the cumulative impacts of these proposals are fully taken into account when making a determination on this proposal.

