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The Applicant's Responses to Deadline 8 Submissions

May 2025

Helios Renewable Energy Project

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Prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1. This document sets out the responses from Enso Green Holdings D Limited (the 'Applicant') to the representations submitted by Interested Parties at Deadline 8 (the 'Deadline 8 submissions') in relation to the Development Consent Order Application (the 'DCO Application') for the Helios Renewable Energy Project (the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2. The Deadline 8 submissions were published on the Planning Inspectorate website on 19th May 2025. A total of seven Deadline 8 submissions were provided by Interested Parties, comprising both statutory consultees and local residents.

1.2. Structure of this Document

- 1.2.1. This document provides responses from the Applicant to the matters raised in the Deadline 8 submissions and is structured as follows:
- **Section 2** – List of Deadline 8 Submissions with the Applicant's Comments; and
 - **Section 3** – Applicant's Responses to Deadline 8 Submissions (Natural England).
- 1.2.2. References to the DCO Application documentation, as received by the Planning Inspectorate on 2 July 2024, are provided in accordance with the referencing system as set out in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Helios Renewable Energy Project Examination Library'.

2. Deadline 8 Submissions

Table 2.1: List of Deadline 8 submissions from Statutory Consultees and other Organisations

PINS Reference	Interested Party	Document	Applicant's Comments
REP8-022	Environment Agency	Comments on any information requested/submissions received by Deadline 7	The Environment Agency's submissions confirm that all matters are agreed, as per the Statement of Common Ground submitted at Deadline 8 [REP8-015] . The Applicant has no further comments.
REP8-023	Environment Agency	Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement	
REP8-024	Natural England	Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)	Please see Section 3 for the Applicant's response.
REP8-025	North Yorkshire Council	Deadline 8 Submission	North Yorkshire Council's submission confirms that they have no comments to make at this stage. The Applicant has no further comments on this submission.

Helios Renewable Energy Project**The Applicant's Responses to Deadline 8 Submissions****Table 2.2: List of Deadline 8 submissions from Local Residents**

PINS Reference	Interested Party	Document	Applicant's Comments
REP8-026	Pamela Joy Spreckley	Comments on any information requested/submissions received by Deadline 7	The Applicant has no further comments on this submission.
REP8-027	Pamela Joy Spreckley	Responses to the ExA's Third Written Questions (ExQ3)	The Applicant has no further comments on this submission.
REP8-028	Lesley Marson	Comments on any information requested/submissions received by Deadline 7	The Applicant has no further comments on this submission.

3. The Applicant's Responses to Deadline 8 Submissions

3.1. Natural England

3.1.1. At Deadline 8 Natural England submitted a response [REP8-024] on the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) [PD-008]. The response included comments regarding Requirement 10 Schedule 2 of the Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) that were made in response to the Examining Authority's (ExA) written questions and requests for information (ExQ3) Q4.0.1.

3.1.2. The ExA proposed that Requirement 10 (2(b)) of the dDCO be amended so that it requires the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan submitted by the Applicant to include a commitment to a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain in habitat units and details of how this will be achieved.

3.1.3. The Applicant has amended the dDCO so that it requires the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan to include:

"details of habitat creation including how a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain in habitat units, calculated using The Statutory Biodiversity Metric published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 29 November 2023 (or such other biodiversity metric approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body), will be achieved during the operation of the authorised development".

3.1.4. In its Deadline 8 response, Natural England stated that it welcomes that that 10% biodiversity net gain in habitat units is secured within the dDCO however it advised that the previous requirement to include 'details of habitat creation' could encompass all habitat creation including mitigation proposals for SPA birds, and advised that any changes to the wording would need to ensure this is addressed suitably.

3.1.5. The Applicant considers that this is not of concern as Requirement 10 (2) (c) and (d) require that management of the proposed landscaping throughout the lifetime of the authorised development and landscaping details will need to be specified in the LEMP for approval by the local planning authority in consultation with Natural England. Furthermore, Work No. 4 and 9 (as set out in Schedule 1 Authorised Development of the dDCO and Outline Design Principles Document Rev. 1 [REP7-021]) require that planting and ecological works will be undertaken in accordance

with the oLEMP **[REP4-019]** and ES Figure 3.16 Landscape Strategy Plan **[APP-054]** which identify that the Proposed Development will meet biodiversity net gain objectives beyond 10% and with ecological and landscaping works greater than the creation of ground nesting bird habitats. It is therefore demonstrated that the concern raised by Natural England is already inherently dealt with in the dDCO and associated documents that no amendments need to be made to Requirement 10 (2(b)) of the dDCO.