



**HELIOS** RENEWABLE  
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PROJECT

# **Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

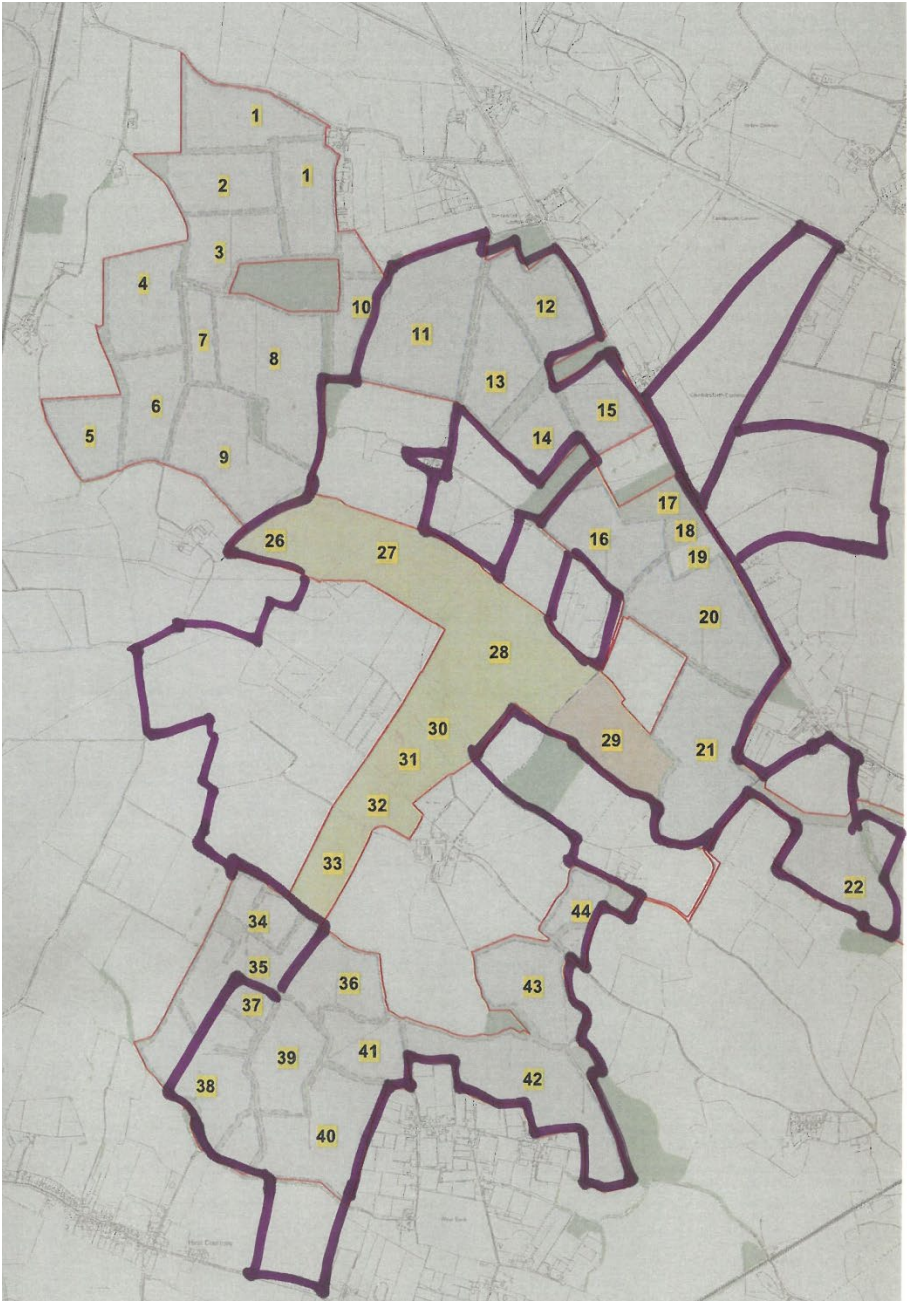
**Volume 3: Technical Appendices**

Appendix 14.2: Farm Business Reports

## **APPENDIX 14.2**

### **Farm Reports**

- A Quosquo Farm**
- B Stocks Hill Farm**
- C Fair Oaks Farm**
- D Primrose Hill Farm**
- E Land at Hirst Courtney**

Farm	Quosquo Farm
Interview	13th February 2023
Tenure	Family farming business farming family trust and rented land
Farm Size	<p>570 ha (1,400 acres) in total, mostly farmed.</p> <p>The approximate boundary of the farm is shown below:</p> 
Farm Building	There is a good range of farm buildings at Quosquo Farm, including crop storage and machinery storage.

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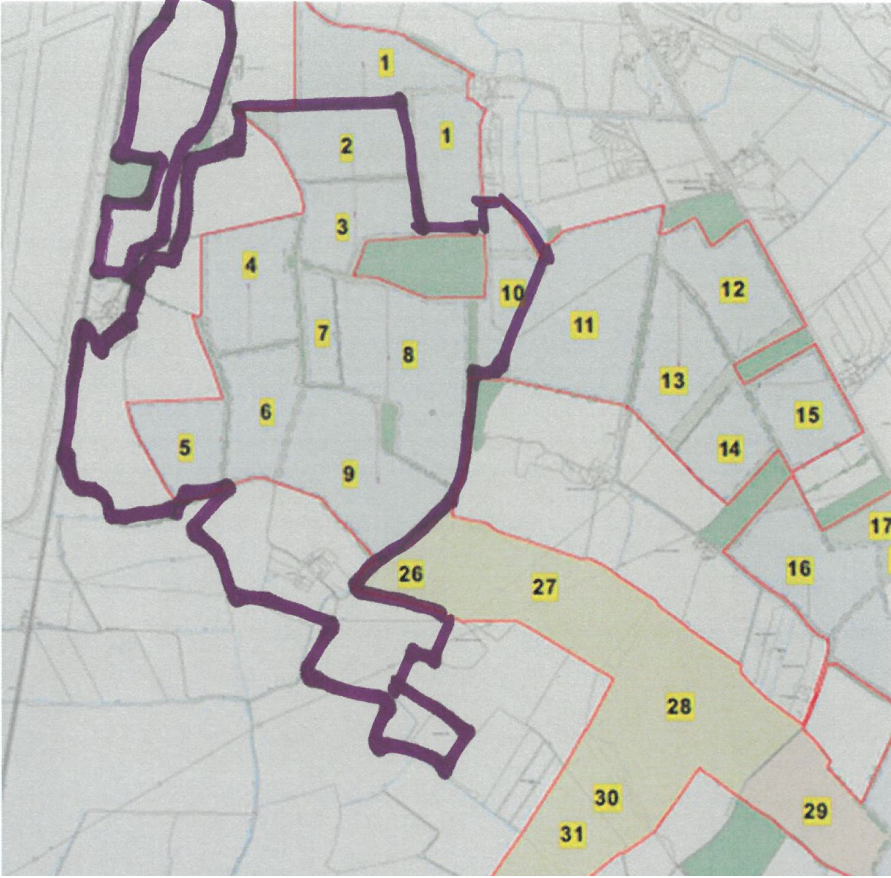
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Enterprises	<p>The farm operates a rotation, which varies across the farm.</p> <p>The farm operates cereal and break crops in-house, and lets land for periodic growing of carrots, potatoes and fodder crops. In 2022 the farm put down a short-term ley on part of the farm to help recover organic matter levels.</p> <p>The northern part of the farm is sandy soil, and is the area let periodically for potatoes and carrots.</p> <p>Yields of the principal cereals are average, due to the sandy soils. Winter barley performs well, in most years.</p> <p>The farm is endeavouring to go to a minimum tillage system.</p>
Staffing	<p>Farmer full-time.</p> <p>Employee full-time.</p> <p>Part-time secretary.</p> <p>Two harvest workers.</p>
Other matters	<p>The farm is losing about 24 ha to the Camblesforth Solar Farm.</p>
Fertiliser	<p>The farm applies fertiliser usually to the limits permitted by the NVZ limitations.</p> <p>Parts of the farm are very low in manganese.</p>
Underdrainage	<p>Most of the farm is underdrained, much of it from the 1970s. Most field drainage is at least a metre deep.</p>
Agri-environmental	<p>Some fields are in CSS arable options, but these will end soon.</p>
Post-installation	<p>The farm will continue with a similar crop rotation.</p> <p>Whether the farm will run the sheep themselves or let them out is currently undecided.</p>

<b>Farm</b>	<b>Stocks Hill Farm</b>
Interview	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Tenure	This farm is owned and farmed by the farmer, with additional land around the area tenanted.
Farm Size	<p>There are three farmyards in total. The farm extends to 607 ha of owned land and 405 ha rented. The entirety of the farm is a mixture of grassland and arable.</p> <p>Below shows a plan of the land ownership in connection with Stocks Hill Farm alone.</p> 
Farm Buildings	The farm that manages this land parcel currently has approximately six livestock buildings. Crops which are taken from the arable land are kept at another farm base.
Enterprises	Mixed arable and livestock farm.

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	<p>The arable land is used for cereal production (wheat, barley and oats) with a break crop of oilseed rape. Generally, all the cereals are used or sold for livestock feed. The oilseed rape goes for crushing.</p> <p>The farm has only recently taken on the land and therefore has no record of production from previous years.</p> <p>The farmer has a 100 cow suckler herd of Limousin cross cattle. They will unlikely ever have more than 300 head of cattle at one time (cows and calves). These are split between the land at Stocks Hill and another farm owned by the farmer.</p>
Staffing	<p>Two full-time members of staff</p> <p>One apprentice at college</p> <p>Three – four self-employed members of staff</p>
Other Matters	<p>The farmer's next closest farm is approximately 4 miles away. The farmer has diversified at that site by putting in place an Anaerobic Digester. This is run by farm staff.</p>
Fertiliser	<p>The farm is mainly using inorganic fertiliser. However, where possible farm yard manure will be used from the livestock on site.</p>
Underdrainage	<p>There is drainage in place however, as the farmer had only recently purchased the land they were unclear as to where the drainage ran from.</p>
Agri-Environmental	<p>The farm is in Countryside Stewardship, but the affected land is not in that agreement.</p>


<b>Farm</b>	<b>Fair Oaks Farm</b>
Interview	14th February 2023
Tenure	Family farming business occupying family-owned land as tenants, and rented land
Farm Size	<p>271 ha (670 acres) in total, of which about 251 ha (620 acres) is farmland. The farm also rents land around the adjacent airfield. An approximate boundary is shown below, excluding the airfield.</p>  <p>The principal block around the farmyard is approximately 142 ha.</p>
Farm Building	There are buildings adjacent to the house at Four Oaks Farm. The principal crop storage is adjacent to the railway south of Hagg Bush Farm
Enterprises	<p>The farm operates arable cropping, mostly cereals and oil seed rape, together with sugar beet, parsnips and carrots.</p> <p>Periodically small areas are let out for the growing of potatoes and maize.</p> <p>Cereal and oilseed rape yields tend to be poor, because in most years the sandy land dries and the crops do not fill well. Carrot yields are very</p>

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	variable, depending upon the use of water. The farm has an irrigation licence and a ring main that allows some fields to be irrigated.
Staffing	Farmer full-time. Family member full-time. Self-employed casual worker.
Other matters	The farm shares machinery with a neighbour. The farm has a holiday letting as farm diversification.
Fertiliser	The farm uses inorganic fertiliser within the permitted limits
Underdrainage	Part so the farm benefit from underfield drainage.
Agri-environmental	Part of the farm is in the mid-tier
Post-installation	The area of carrots will reduce due to rotational limitation. The farmers are interested in farming the sheep themselves.



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<b>Farm</b>	<b>Primrose Hill Farm</b>
Interview	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Tenure	Family farming business farming owned and rented land.
Farm Size	<p>The farm operates one main farmyard and farms approximately 283 ha of owned and rented land.</p> 
Farm Buildings	All of the farm buildings are located at Primrose Hill Farm, including all of the grain storage buildings.
Enterprises	<p>Wholly arable farm growing a mix of crops including combineable crops, sugar beet and carrots.</p> <p>The cereal crops are a mix of feed, malting and milling quality (wheat and barley).</p>
Staffing	<p>One full-time director</p> <p>One full-time working manager</p> <p>One full-time farm worker</p> <p>One part-time farm worker</p>
Fertiliser	The farm is using inorganic fertiliser.

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Underdrainage	There is some underdrainage in place and the land is generally well drained. The farmer has found that the land generally struggles with droughtiness.
Agri- Environmental	The farm is currently in Countryside Stewardship, nearing the end of the agreement period.

<b>Farm</b>	<b>Land at Hirst Courtney</b>
Interview	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Tenure	This farm is in shared ownership within a family and is farmed by a contractor on a share farming arrangement.
Farm Size	Own approximately 34 ha of land in total. 
Farm Buildings	There are no farm buildings in connection with this land. All produce which is harvested from the land is taken by the contractor to a grain marketing business.
Enterprises	The land remains in cereals year on year and the land generally follows winter cropping. The land is farmed by a contractor under a year-on-year share farming agreement.

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	<p>No livestock are kept on the site.</p> <p>The produce that is taken from the site is sold through a grain merchant and goes for livestock feed.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are no members of staff, the entirety of the land is farmed by a contractor.</p>
Other Matters	<p>The fields are generally small for modern arable farming and some are awkwardly shaped.</p>
Fertiliser	<p>All of the fertiliser used is inorganic.</p>
Underdrainage	<p>The drainage at the site is old and has not been updated within the last 20 years.</p>
Agri-Environmental	<p>The land is not enrolled under any schemes.</p>