



HELIOS RENEWABLE
ENERGY
PROJECT

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2: Main Text and Figures

Chapter 5: Construction
& Decommissioning Methodology
& Phasing

October 2023

5. Construction and Decommissioning Methodology and Phasing

5.1. Construction Activity

5.1.1. The construction of the Proposed Development is anticipated to commence in 2026 for a period of approximately 12 months. On this basis, the Proposed Development would be completed in 2027.

5.1.2. The activities on-Site during the construction phase are expected to include the following:

- Site establishment and enabling works for construction:
 - Ground clearance, where necessary;
 - Delivery of construction materials, plant and equipment;
 - Establishment of site fencing;
 - Establishment of construction compounds;
 - Construction of internal access roads;
 - Setting out the positions for the infrastructure and equipment;
 - Trenching for cable routes; and
 - Habitat creation.
- Construction of the Proposed Development:
 - Installation of solar photovoltaic ('PV') array foundations and piling;
 - Construction of on-Site electrical infrastructure to facilitate the generation of electricity such as solar PV framing and panels, 132 kilovolt ('kV') substation and energy storage;
 - Laying of cables including Point of Connection ('PoC') cable groundworks and string cabling between the solar PV array;

- PoC electrical works;
- Installation of security lighting and CCTV;
- Installation of fencing and gates;
- Final installation checks;
- Testing and commissioning;
- Site clearance and compound removal; and
- Landscape planting and ecological enhancements.

5.1.3. The plant and equipment anticipated to be used for the activities outlined above are as follows:

- Digger;
- Tractor with trailer;
- Tractor with hedge cutter;
- Compactor;
- Piling rig;
- Mobile crane;
- Cement mixer; and
- 4 x 4 with trailer.

Working Hours

5.1.4. In line with NYC's guidance for construction sites¹, works will take place between the following hours:

- Monday to Friday: 8am to 6pm;
- Saturday: 8am to 1pm; and

¹ North Yorkshire Council, *Noise from construction and demolition site* Available at: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/pollution/noise-pollution/noise-construction-and-demolition-sites#:~:text=Work%20should%20normally%20take%20place,and%20bank%20holidays%3A%20no%20work> Accessed: August 2023

- Sunday and Bank Holidays: no work.

5.1.5. Should works be required outside of these hours, this would be agreed with NYC.

Site Access

5.1.6. Vehicle access to the Site during the construction phase of the Proposed Development will be taken from two access/ egress points (at fields 15 and 18/19 as shown on Figure 3.1 Field Boundaries Plan of the PEIR) on the A1041 at the north eastern boundary of the Site, as shown on Figure 3.2 Parameter Plan.

5.1.7. As demonstrated in Chapter 10 Transport and Access of the PEIR, the average HGV arrivals and departures is anticipated to be 5 per day (10 trips in total, consisting of 5 arrivals and 5 departures) for the area for the Underground Cable Corridor to the connection to the grid (shown on Figure 3.2 Parameter Plan) and 13 per day (26 trips in total, consisting of 13 arrivals and 13 departures) for the parts of the Site where the solar PV and energy storage infrastructure will be constructed.

5.1.8. A peak of 19 (38 trips in total) per day is anticipated for the parts of the Site where the solar PV and energy storage infrastructure will be constructed and 7 (14 trips in total) per day for the area for the Underground Cable Corridor to the connection to the grid.

5.1.9. For the solar PV and battery energy storage system ('BESS') elements, it is anticipated that the construction phase will require a maximum of 200 workers per day during the peak construction period, and 150 construction workers per day on an average day. For the grid connection and cable, 10 construction workers are anticipated across the average and peak days.

5.1.10. Deliveries to the Site, and construction worker shifts changes, will be coordinated so as to avoid the traditional AM peak hour (8am to 9am) and PM peak hour (5pm to 6pm).

Construction Compounds

5.1.11. As discussed in Chapter 3 Site and Development Description of the PEIR, during the construction phase, a primary construction compound will be provided on-Site with up to five secondary construction compound(s) provided throughout the Site; all compounds will be temporary and removed upon the completion of the construction

phase. The primary construction compound will provide office space, welfare units, canteen, storage and waste disposal, parking area and HGV turning area, whilst the secondary units will storage space, parking area and HGV turning area, and welfare units.

- 5.1.12. The primary compound will be located near to the Site's two access/ egress point at the eastern boundary to limit the distance travelled by delivery vehicles once exiting the A1041. The location of the secondary compounds will be fixed for the DCO application.

Considerations

- 5.1.13. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan ('oCTMP') will be submitted with the ES to be submitted in support of the DCO application, and will regulate the delivery of materials and movement of construction personnel to the Site during the construction phase. Further detail is provided in Chapter 10 Transport and Access of the PEIR.
- 5.1.14. An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ('oCEMP') (refer to Appendix 5.1 of the PEIR) details the environmental controls and best practice to minimise any adverse effects.
- 5.1.15. The Detailed CEMP and Detailed CTMP will be submitted to NYC for approval prior to the commencement of development on-Site, pursuant to requirements that will be included in the DCO.

5.2. Decommissioning Phase

- 5.2.1. Following cessation of energy generation and exportation at the Site, all solar PV modules, mounting structure, cabling, inverters and transformers will be removed and recycled, or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time.
- 5.2.2. The decommissioning of the Proposed Development is anticipated to take approximately 12 months. During the decommissioning phase, all the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near to the surface, inverters stations, fencing and ancillary infrastructure, and the substation and BESS compound would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy. All compounds and temporary

access tracks will be removed once decommissioning is complete.

Considerations

- 5.2.3. An Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan ('oDEMP') will be submitted with the ES to be submitted in support of the DCO application.
- 5.2.4. The Detailed DEMP will be submitted to NYC for approval prior to the commencement of development on-Site, pursuant to requirements that will be included in the DCO.