

Calderdale Energy Park

Programme Document

1st September 2025



Table of contents

Introduction.....	3
Document Purpose	3
Summary of Calderdale Energy Park	3
Document Contents	3
Pre-Application Timetable.....	4
Overview.....	4
Planning Submission Date	4
Timetable of Activities	4
Areas of Interest for Examination.....	5
Overview.....	5
Approach to Stakeholder Engagement.....	7
Overview.....	7
Financial Support to Stakeholders.....	9
Minimising Programme Risks	10
References	12

Introduction

Document Purpose

Planning Inspectorate (PINS) advice [Ref. 1] and government guidance [Ref. 2] requires the production and submission of a Programme Document for Development Consent Order (DCO) applications which lays out the proposed timetable and activities during pre-application. This document fulfils that requirement.

Calderdale Energy Park is currently at the start of the pre-application process.

Following the Inception Meeting with PINS, Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) will host and maintain the agreed Programme Document on its website and update it as necessary during the pre-application period.

Summary of Calderdale Energy Park

The Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) granted the Applicant a Section 35 Direction for Calderdale Energy Park. This means that the Applicant will submit an application for a DCO under the Planning Act 2008.

Calderdale Energy Park is a proposed new onshore wind farm exceeding 100 MW with associated battery storage and infrastructure that would help meet the UK's need for low-carbon, homegrown energy (the Proposed Development). Calderdale Energy Park would be located across approximately 2,352 hectares of land at Walshaw Moor, on either side of the three Walshaw Dean Reservoirs in the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale, West Yorkshire. The point of connection (between Calderdale Energy Park and National Grid infrastructure), and associated cable route, has not yet been finalised.

The Applicant first announced a wind farm development in September 2023, originally known as Calderdale Wind Farm. This comprised up to 65 wind turbines, with the potential inclusion of solar panels, and a battery energy storage system (BESS). Following a review of baseline survey data and design work in 2024, revised plans are being developed. The current Proposed Development now features up to 41 wind turbines and associated BESS with a generation capacity of over 100 MW.

Document Contents

This document details the following information:

- Timetable of the Pre-Application process including the planned submission date;
- Areas of interest for examination (main project issues for resolution and risks) and the plan to resolve or manage them;
- The plan for engaging stakeholders and details of financial support in place; and
- Cross references to the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

Pre-Application Timetable

Overview

Calderdale Energy Park is at an early stage of development, however, an initial programme has been developed to achieve the key activities required prior to the submission of the DCO application. This document summarises the activities that have taken place to date and forecasts those activities remaining to achieve successful submission of our DCO application.

The Applicant first announced a wind farm development in September 2023, originally known as Calderdale Wind Farm. This comprised up to 65 wind turbines, with the potential inclusion of solar panels, and a battery energy storage system (BESS). Following a review of baseline survey data and design work in 2024, revised plans are being developed. The current Proposed Development now features up to 41 wind turbines and associated BESS with a generation capacity of over 100 MW.

Planning Submission Date

It is our intention to submit the DCO application in **September 2026**.

Timetable of Activities

Calderdale Energy Park publicly launched in **April 2025**. The launch comprised the publication of a project website and meetings with consultees.

Table 1 summarises the key milestone dates for the Proposed Development. The remaining dates are approximate monthly forecasts based on our current understanding of the Proposed Development and required remaining work.

Table 1: Calderdale Energy Park Key Pre-Application Activity Dates

MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL / FORECAST DATES
Non-Statutory Consultation	April – June 2025
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report submission	August 2025
Receipt of Scoping Opinion	October 2025
Publication of Statement of Community Consultation	November 2025
Preliminary Environmental Information Report	January 2026
Statutory Consultation	January 2026 – March 2026
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone	July 2026
DCO Submission	September 2026

Areas of Interest for Examination

Overview

This section identifies the Applicant's view on the main considerations that may require resolution with stakeholders and associated next steps.

Table 2: Main areas of potential issue and resolution

POTENTIAL MAIN ISSUE	SUMMARY OF ISSUE	ACTIVITY TO REACH RESOLUTION
Designations	Calderdale Energy Park is located within a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are also nearby ancient woodlands. Turbine placements have been carefully chosen to minimise potential impacts on these designations at the early stage in the iterative design process.	Appropriate measures to mitigate and compensate adverse effects on these designations will be undertaken. A Habitats Regulations Assessment and Derogation Case will be submitted with the DCO application.
Habitats	The Site is home to several distinct habitats.	The proposed design will minimise adverse effects on the most sensitive habitats and species.
Protected Species	Protected Species are anticipated to be present within and near the Site.	Environmental surveys are currently being undertaken to determine what species are present, likely effects on those species as a result of the Proposed Development, and what, if any, mitigation measures are required to minimise adverse effects to acceptable levels.
Peatland	Large areas of peat have been identified on the Site, although some of this is degraded and sub-optimal.	The proposed design will avoid placing turbines in the areas of deepest peat (based on the survey data we have to date) and any consent would secure a Peat Management Plan to handle, store and restore displaced peat.

POTENTIAL MAIN ISSUE	SUMMARY OF ISSUE	ACTIVITY TO REACH RESOLUTION
Hydrology	There are many waterbodies and watercourses within the Site. There are recognised flooding issues further downstream from the Proposed Development in Hebden Bridge.	Environmental surveys are currently being undertaken to determine likely hydrogeology effects because of the Proposed Development, and what, if any, mitigation measures are required to avoid or minimise adverse effects to acceptable levels.
Public Access, Green Belt & Recreation	<p>The eastern portion of the Site is located within the Green Belt and there are several footpaths and bridleways within the Site, as well as a National Trail (the Pennine Way).</p> <p>The Site is also open access land and part of the Site is common land.</p>	The Proposed Development has taken into consideration the importance of preserving the natural beauty and accessibility of the area and will continue to do so in future design iterations.
Cultural Heritage – Statutory Designations and Bronte Country	There are several listed buildings within close proximity to the Site, largely concentrated south of the proposed project boundary. The Top Withins site, the moorland landscape and local village of Haworth are important from a historic literacy perspective and is home to Bronte Country.	As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, the impact of the Proposed Development on designated and non-designated heritage assets will be assessed and what, if any, mitigation measures are required to minimise adverse effects to acceptable levels.

Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

Overview

We are engaging widely with stakeholders and members of the communities in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Audiences for engagement include:

- Statutory Consultees
 - Host and neighbouring local authorities;
 - Prescribed Consultees;
 - Relevant Statutory Undertakers; and
 - Persons with an interest in the land.
- The Community
 - Walking Groups;
 - Riding Groups;
 - Cycling Groups;
 - Environmental Groups;
 - Local Residents;
 - Elected Representatives; and
- Community Groups.

Each of these will have different interests in the Proposed Development and wish to engage with us differently. In this section we summarise who falls into these broad groups and how we will engage with them.

An Issues Tracker document will also be produced to consolidate the relevant areas of disagreement during the pre-application phase and established in the Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS) to inform the Potential Main Issues for Examination (PMIE). The PMIE will also be produced and submitted with the DCO application which will include any areas of disagreement that remain as summarised within the PADSS.

Table 3 below outlines the summary of key stakeholders and proposed methods to engage with them.

Table 3: Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

KEY STAKEHOLDERS	METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT	PROPOSED MEETING FREQUENCY
Planning Inspectorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct engagement - Written briefings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 meetings per year as per the Pre-Application Prospectus. - Proposed to take place following receipt of scoping response, before non-statutory consultation, post-statutory consultation, pre-submission
Prescribed Consultees (Technical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct engagement through relevant technical lead(s) - Written briefings - Invitation to in-person consultation events - Preparation of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) (where required) - Proposed Development website and virtual exhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings to be arranged throughout the pre-application process to engage with the technical stakeholders. This Programme Document will be updated periodically to include a list of future meetings.
Prescribed Consultees (Community and non-governmental organisations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct engagement - Written briefings - Invitation to in-person consultation events - Proposed Development website and virtual exhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings to be arranged throughout the pre-application process to engage with the stakeholders. This Programme Document will be updated periodically to include a list of future meetings.
Host Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct engagement and ongoing liaison with relevant technical leads - Written briefings - Invitation to in-person consultation events - Proposed Development website and virtual exhibition - Preparation of SoCG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly meetings will be set up with Calderdale Council, with the next one scheduled mid-September 2025.

Neighbouring Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written briefings - Invitation to in-person consultation events Proposed Development website and virtual exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings with neighbouring authorities will take place as required.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct engagement - Newsletters - Invitation to in-person consultation events - Proposed Development website and virtual exhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community will be invited to the next stage of consultation in early 2026. - Consultation material and newsletters will be sent throughout the process - The direct contact details are available for the community to contact the Applicant's team throughout the DCO process
Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation to in-person consultation events - Proposed Development website and virtual exhibition - Direct engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings with the landowners will take place as required.

We expect to undertake statutory consultation with the consultees (audience) listed in Table 3 above during January 2025 – March 2026 We will also be publishing a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out further details of our approach to consultation in October 2025. A link to the SoCC will be provided once we have consulted on the SoCC with Calderdale Council – the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Consultation with surrounding local authorities, where supporting infrastructure may locate within, will also be undertaken and these include Bradford Council, Burnley Council, Pendle Borough Council and Lancashire County Council.

Financial Support to Stakeholders

The Calderdale Energy Park project team values the inputs of all stakeholders. We also recognise that many organisations, especially LPAs have stretched resources. To support their engagement in the process we are negotiating a Planning Performance Agreement with the LPA hosting the Proposed Development.

In addition, to the PPA with the LPA, we will meet the costs of statutory bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency), as appropriate and in accordance with the statutory requirements. We are in the process of setting up Discretionary Advice Service agreements with Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England.

Minimising Programme Risks

Project management of the Application monitors risks on an ongoing basis, allowing for the early detection and resolution of issues that could impede progress. The project manager is responsible for monitoring and managing all aspects of the risk management process. This includes the following –

- The development and regular review of a risk register;
- Ensuring there are adequate resources for managing risks;
- The continual monitoring of the project to identify any new or changed risks; and
- Regular reporting on the status of risks to internal senior management.

Table 4 below identifies risks and how these are proposed to be managed. This is not an exhaustive list, and it is expected that as the project progresses, amendments will be made as further risks are identified or eliminated.

Table 4: Identified risks and proposed risk management methods

RISK	SUMMARY OF RISK	PROPOSED MITIGATION
Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)	Delays or challenges in completing the EIA, which is critical for identifying environmental impacts and obtaining necessary approvals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage experienced environmental consultants early in the project. • Conduct preliminary environmental surveys to identify potential issues. • Develop a comprehensive EIA plan with a clear timeline
Community and Stakeholder Opposition	Local community or key stakeholders opposing the project, potentially leading to delays.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a robust community engagement strategy. • Hold further public consultations and provide transparent information about the project.
Technical and Design Issues	Challenges related to the technical design and feasibility of the wind farm, potentially affecting the project timeline and costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage experienced engineering and design firms to progress assessments.
Political and Policy Changes	Changes in local or national policies regarding renewable energy could impact the project's feasibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay informed about policy developments and engage with policymakers.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop adaptable project plans that can accommodate policy changes.• Participate in industry groups to advocate for supportive policies.
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References

Ref. 1 – Planning Inspectorate, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus, 16 May 2024 (last updated 1 May 2025), Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>

Ref. 2 – [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#) and [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#), Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, 30 April 2024, Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

