

Calderdale Energy Park

Programme Document

30th January 2026



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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 within 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 of 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 that would help meet the UK's need for low-carbon, homegrown energy (the Proposed Development). Calderdale Energy Park would be located across 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). The Proposed Development presented at Scoping featured up to 41 wind turbines and associated BESS with a generation capacity of over 100MW.

Following a review of baseline survey data and design work in 2024 and 2025, revised plans have been developed. The Proposed Development being presented at the next round of consultation later in 2026 comprises the construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of an up to 34 turbine wind farm and associated infrastructure.

The Applicant is in the process of securing a connection with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) or Northern Power Grid (NPG) which will allow the export of up to approximately 240 MW of electricity from the Proposed Development to the Bradford West Substation.

The Proposed Development will involve the installation, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the following components:

Turbine Area

- 34 wind turbines, with associated foundations, turning heads, crane hardstandings and external transformer units.
- Associated infrastructure, which may include onsite substation and infrastructure, internal access tracks and watercourse crossing infrastructure, a meteorological mast, underground internal electrical arrays, borrow pits, temporary construction compounds, a temporary onsite concrete batching plant, drainage, landscaping, lighting, CCTV, fencing and enclosures.

Access Routes

- Provision of the Western Access Route and Eastern Access Route, including external site access junctions and highway works to deliver access from the existing road network to the Turbine Area.

Bradford West Cable Corridor

- Export cables to connect the onsite substation to the new Bradford West Substation.

In addition, onsite environmental mitigation and enhancements are proposed and potential offsite ecological mitigation and compensation measures are also being considered, as is open access land and common land compensation.

Additional land outside this area is required to accommodate supporting infrastructure and environmental mitigation measures, which together form the full extent of the Proposed Development

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 the pre-application stage, and a 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.

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Planning Submission Date

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

Timetable of Activities

Calderdale Energy Park was 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.

The timetable of activities in Table 1 has been updated to reflect recent changes to the programme resulting from design updates to the proposed turbine layout and north western access route. These design updates were made following the completion of Phase 2 peat probing in Q4 2025 and are reflective of the Applicant's commitment to reducing impacts, particularly in relation to peat. Additional time has been required to review and update the design and incorporate the changes into the environmental assessment for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

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	April 2026
Preliminary Environmental Information Report	April 2026
Statutory Consultation	April 2026 – May 2026
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone	September 2026
DCO Submission	November 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
<p>Designations</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Detailed surveys and assessment are proposed which will support a Habitats Regulations Assessment and Derogation Case which will be submitted with the DCO application.</p> <p>Prior to submission appropriate measures to mitigate and compensate adverse effects on designated habitats will need to be agreed with relevant consultees.</p>
<p>Habitats</p>	<p>The Site is home to several distinct habitats.</p>	<p>The proposed design has been adapted to minimise adverse effects on the most sensitive habitats occurring within the Turbine Area.</p> <p>The habitat baseline has been developed through a range of recognised survey methodologies including UK Habitat Classification, and National Vegetation Classification surveys. Comprehensive coverage obtained from the Turbine Area has been used to develop a baseline habitat map which utilises other environmental data sets (including peat depth mapping) to classify those habitats on site, with specific effort made to distinguish the communities and condition of peat bog habitats present.</p>

POTENTIAL MAIN ISSUE	SUMMARY OF ISSUE	ACTIVITY TO REACH RESOLUTION
		<p>Further NVC surveys will be carried out within the Turbine Area, sections of the access and cable corridors (which overlap with the South Pennine Moors SAC) in 2026 to infill areas of low coverage and also to ground truth predicted habitat types in Spring/Summer 2026.</p> <p>Subject to access permissions, UK Habitat Classification and NVC surveys will be completed within the proposed access and cable corridors with more detailed surveys required, as described above.</p> <p>Agreement of approaches to delivery of habitat management proposals within the Proposed Development and agreement of delivery of offsite compensatory habitat creation/restoration is required with key consultees including Natural England and Local Planning Authorities.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is committed to the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain and a strategy for delivery will be developed for agreement, which takes into account the limitations and sensitivity of the habitats and their designated status.</p>
<p>Protected Species</p>	<p>Protected Species are present within and near the Site.</p>	<p>Ecological surveys have been undertaken to identify those species or species groups which are present within the Proposed Development or adjacent areas. Likely effects on those species as a result of the</p>

POTENTIAL MAIN ISSUE	SUMMARY OF ISSUE	ACTIVITY TO REACH RESOLUTION
		<p>Proposed Development have been identified with approaches to environmental measures being developed. to avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse effects to acceptable levels where necessary.</p> <p>Surveys within the Turbine Area have been ongoing since 2023 with surveys completed throughout 2024 and 2025.</p> <p>Requirements for protected species within the proposed access and cable corridors will be subject to further survey, to be completed during 2026.</p>
Ornithology	<p>The Site supports an important assemblage of breeding and non-breeding birds.</p>	<p>Bird surveys have been undertaken and remain ongoing to determine the abundance, distribution and diversity of birds within the Site and its immediate environs. The approach to the surveys has been informed by good practice guidelines where relevant. The assessment of effects on birds will also follow relevant good practice guidelines and, where significant adverse effects are identified, appropriate mitigation and compensation will be proposed to offset the effects that are predicted.</p>
Peatland	<p>Large areas of peat have been identified on the Site, although some of this is degraded and sub-optimal.</p>	<p>The proposed design will avoid placing turbines in the areas of deepest peat (based on the survey data we have to date – Phase 2 Peat Depth Probing data). Further peat depth and peat core surveys, NVC surveys and peat</p>

POTENTIAL MAIN ISSUE	SUMMARY OF ISSUE	ACTIVITY TO REACH RESOLUTION
		<p>condition assessments will be undertaken to inform design iterations. Any consent would secure a Peat Management Plan to handle, store and restore displaced peat and outline mitigation to reduce the disturbance of peat.</p>
<p>Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk</p>	<p>There are many waterbodies and watercourses within the Site. There are recognised flooding issues further downstream from the Proposed Development in Hebden Bridge.</p> <p>The Site falls within several public water supply surface water catchments and groundwater source protection zones (SPZs).</p>	<p>Environmental surveys are currently being undertaken to determine likely hydrological and hydrogeological effects due to the Proposed Development, and what mitigation measures are required above standard best practice to avoid or minimise adverse effects to acceptable levels. Further consultation (UU, YWS, LLFA and EA) and a more detailed hydrogeological assessment for infrastructure will take place for the ES. Consultation with the EA is also ongoing in regard to watercourse crossings and any need for flood modelling, if required. There would also be a walkover/site visits to determine Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWTEs), Private Water Supplies (PWS) and other sensitive hydrological features.</p>
<p>Public Access, Green Belt & Recreation</p>	<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 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. An assessment of Common and Open Access land is being undertaken and suitable</p>

POTENTIAL MAIN ISSUE	SUMMARY OF ISSUE	ACTIVITY TO REACH RESOLUTION
	<p>The Site is also open access land and part of the Site is common land.</p>	<p>compensation, as required, will be determined as part of the ES.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage – Statutory Designations and Brontë Country</p>	<p>There are several listed buildings within close proximity to the Site, largely concentrated north of the proposed project boundary. The Top Withens site, the moorland landscape and local village of Haworth are important from a historic literacy perspective and is home to Brontë Country.</p>	<p>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. Ongoing consultation with Historic England, National Trust and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) is informing the need for any further environmental surveys for the ES, in respect of heritage and archaeology.</p>

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 consultation website 	<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 consultation website 	<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 consultation website - Preparation of SoCG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly meetings will be set up with Calderdale Council as soon as possible.

Neighbouring Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written briefings - Invitation to in-person consultation events - Proposed Development consultation website 	<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 consultation website 	<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 April 2026 – May 2026 We will also be publishing a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out further details of our approach to consultation in April 2026. A link to the SoCC will be provided once we have consulted on the SoCC with host authorities.

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 have been negotiating a Planning Performance Agreement with the LPA hosting the Proposed Development. Calderdale Energy Park has sought to respond to queries from the LPA swiftly, and most recently issued a revised PPA on 5th January 2026, consistent with industry standards and await a response from the LPA.

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 management team 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.

RISK	SUMMARY OF RISK	PROPOSED MITIGATION
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop adaptable project plans that can accommodate policy changes. • Participate in industry groups to advocate for supportive policies.
Baseline environmental survey limitations	<p>Environmental surveys that are necessary to inform the project are subject to seasonal restrictions, weather constraints, an iterative project design process, land access approvals, and emerging good practice guidelines, which could affect the adequacy of survey coverage and the project timeline and costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree survey approach with relevant consultation bodies. • Identify and document potential survey limitations when encountered and undertake repeat/alternative surveys where necessary. • Take a precautionary approach to the determination of the environmental baseline conditions and assessment of effects. • Include additional environmental mitigation and compensation measures where any uncertainty in environmental baseline conditions and/or the severity of predicted effects prevails.
Consultation Timing Limitations	<p>Consultations have a potential to affect project timings, for instance further detailed assessment may be required as an outcome of them, to determine appropriate mitigation, and contracts may need to be drafted up for the ES. All of which could take time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule meetings as early as possible in order to allow time for the outcomes of meetings. • Work with consultees and the client team to ensure contracts are processed quickly and efficiently.

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>

