

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Calderdale Energy Park

7 April 2026

Volume 1, Chapter 2 : Environmental Impact Assessment

PINS Reference: EN0110023

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
2009 – Reg 5 (2) (a).



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2 Environmental Impact Assessment

2.1 The Need for Environmental Impact Assessment

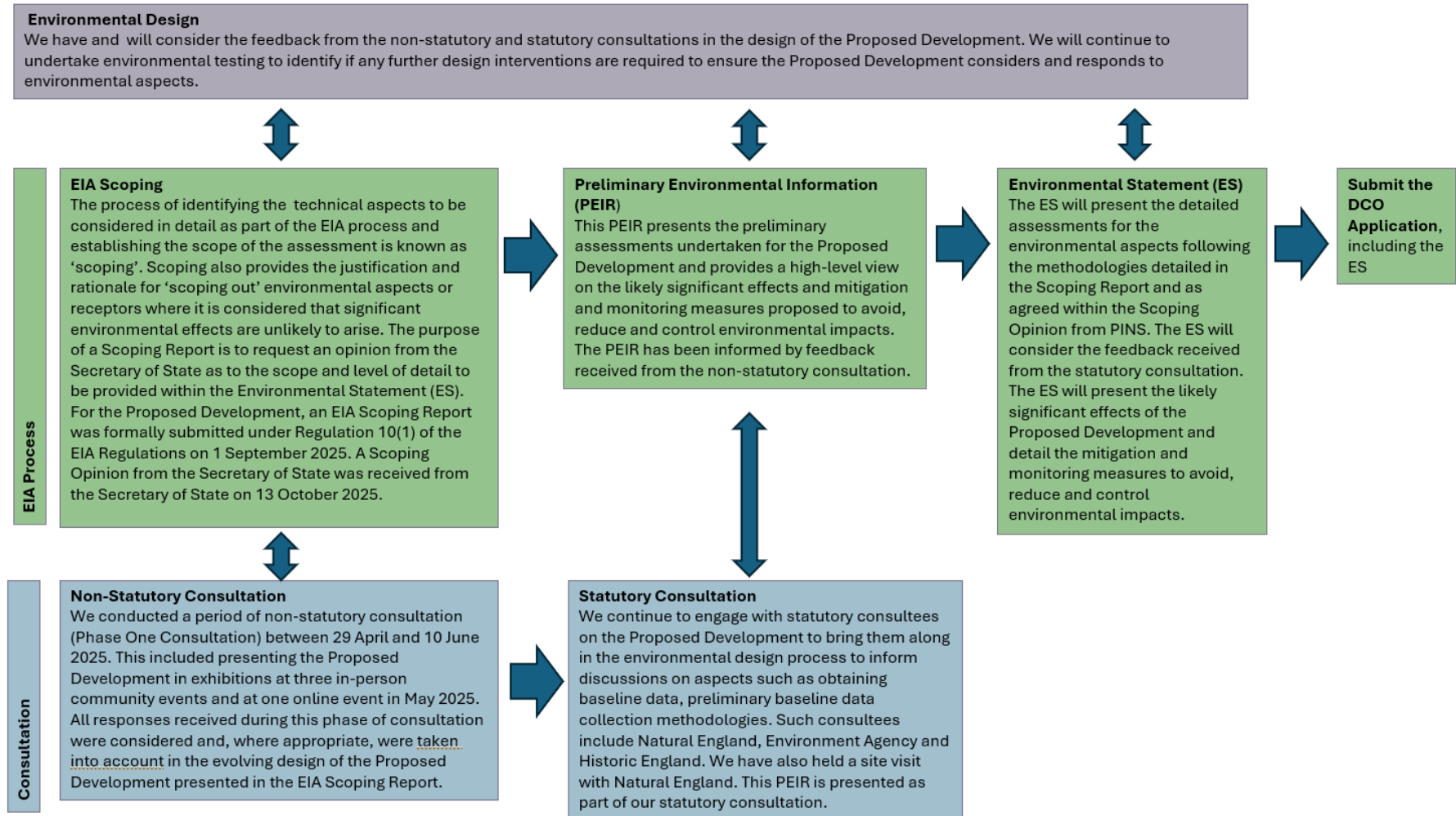
- 2.1.1 The purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is to protect the environment by ensuring that those responsible for making decisions on whether development consent should be granted have information on whether the Proposed Development is likely to give rise to significant environmental effects. This enables environmental considerations to be integrated into the decision-making process alongside social and economic factors.
- 2.1.2 The EIA Regulations set out the procedure for identifying which projects are subject to an EIA. Some types of development automatically require EIA, such as new airports or nuclear power stations, and these are listed within Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations. Other developments may be subject to EIA if they are listed in Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations and where it is considered that a proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.
- 2.1.3 The Proposed Development does not fall under any of the types of development set out in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations. However, it is of a type described in Schedule 2, 3(i) of the EIA Regulations:
- “3. Energy industry (i) installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms).”*
- 2.1.4 Given its nature, scale and location, the Proposed Development is considered likely to give rise to significant environmental effects and therefore constitutes ‘EIA Development’ under the EIA Regulations. Consequently, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared and submitted in support of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.

2.2 The EIA Process

- 2.2.1 EIA is a systematic process that comprises a number of key steps. It should help ensure that the construction, design, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of a project occurs in the most environmentally sustainable way possible. Furthermore, it should be informed by a series of consultations so that a robust and detailed assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development is produced using appropriate methods of assessment available and the data informing the assessments is adequate.

2.2.2 **Plate 1** shows the steps of the EIA process and associated documentation production. It also shows how this Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) fits into the EIA process.

Plate 1: Stages of EIA



2.2.3 Further details on the EIA stages outlined in **Plate 1** that take place prior to the submission of the DCO Application are set out below.

Scoping

2.2.4 An applicant can submit a Scoping Report to support a request for a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who conduct scoping on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero for energy sector projects. PINS must consult specific consultation bodies before issuing the Scoping Opinion.

2.2.5 A request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted by the Applicant on 1 September 2025 as part of a Scoping Report (available here: [Scoping Report](#)). The Scoping Report set out the aspects that were proposed to be subject to detailed assessment within the EIA process and those that were proposed to be 'scoped out'. The proposed methods for making an assessment of the likely significant effects on the existing environment were also outlined.

2.2.6 The Scoping Opinion provided by PINS was adopted on 10 October 2025. The Scoping Opinion is available in **Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion**.

2.2.7 As noted in **Chapter 1: Introduction**, the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion have informed this PEIR.

2.2.8 It is also worth noting that in July 2023, as part of an original Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) application approach for the proposed development, an EIA Scoping Report was submitted to Calderdale Council, for the proposed wind farm development and associated infrastructure, including cable connection.

2.2.9 Responses to this EIA Scoping Report were also received from relevant consultees. These were reviewed and inform the Scoping Report submitted in September 2025. Where relevant, these responses are also noted in this PEIR.

PEIR

2.2.10 The Applicant is required to conduct pre-application consultation in accordance with legislation, including the Planning Act 2008 and the EIA Regulations.

2.2.11 The PEIR aims to enable consultees, including the public, local authorities and statutory bodies, to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.

2.2.12 As described in **Chapter 1: Introduction**, where possible, this PEIR has been structured to follow the format of a draft ES. This is to facilitate a smooth transition. It presents the preliminary findings of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects based on the information available at this stage.

- 2.2.13 A tailored approach has been applied to certain elements of the Proposed Development where further design work is ongoing, notably the Bradford West Cable Corridor, for which detailed route information is not yet available. Some technical assessments and environmental surveys are also ongoing. Therefore, several technical aspect Chapters within this PEIR do not follow the full ES format. Each Chapter, however, provides a clear summary of the work undertaken to date, a view on likely significant effects (where possible) and sets out the next steps that will be completed prior to submission of the ES.
- 2.2.14 The content of this PEIR remains preliminary and subject to change as further environmental work and design development are completed prior to submission of the ES.

The ES

- 2.2.15 The ES will incorporate the outcomes of the consultation process and provide the detailed environmental information required under the EIA Regulations. It will build upon and advance the content of this PEIR by integrating feedback received during statutory consultation as well as the findings of further surveys and technical assessments undertaken after publication of the PEIR. The ES will also describe any refinements to the design of the Proposed Development and set out the final mitigation and enhancement measures to be implemented. The ES will present the conclusions of the EIA and will form a key component of the DCO Application.

2.3 Environmental Factors

- 2.3.1 Regulation 5(2) of the EIA Regulations sets out the environmental factors which must be considered within an EIA. **Table 2-1** indicates where specifically the PEIR has addressed these requirements with regards to the technical aspects ‘scoped in’.

Table 2-1: Environmental factors listed under Regulation 5(2) of the EIA Regulations

Schedule 5(2)	PEIR Technical Aspect Chapters
(a) population and human health	<p>Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat; Chapter 11: Carbon and Climate Change; Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual; Chapter 14: Transport and Access; Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration; Chapter 16: Air Quality; Chapter 17: Socio-economics and Tourism; Chapter 18: Human Health;</p>

Schedule 5(2)	PEIR Technical Aspect Chapters
	<p>Chapter 20: Major Accidents and Disasters; Chapter 21: Shadow Flicker; and Chapter 23: Other Environmental Matters (Agricultural Land and Land Contamination).</p>
<p>(b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under any law that implemented Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Biodiversity; Chapter 9: Ornithology; Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat; Chapter 11: Carbon and Climate Change; Chapter 16: Air Quality; and Chapter 20: Major Accidents and Disasters.</p>
<p>(c) land, soil, water, air and climate</p>	<p>Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat; Chapter 11: Carbon and Climate Change; Chapter 20: Major Accidents and Disasters; and Chapter 23: Other Environmental Matters (Agricultural Land and Land Contamination).</p>
<p>(d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape</p>	<p>Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat; Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual; Chapter 13: Historic Environment; Chapter 19: Aviation and Radar; Chapter 22: Materials and Waste; and Chapter 23: Other Environmental Matters (Agricultural Land and Land Contamination).</p>
<p>(e) the interaction between the factors referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (d)</p>	<p>Chapter 24: Cumulative Effects.</p>

2.4 Consultation, Engagement and Environmental Design

2.4.1 Consultation alongside the EIA process is important to the development of a comprehensive and proportionate ES. The views of consultees (both statutory consultees¹ and non-statutory consultees, including members of the public) are important to ensure that:

¹ Statutory consultees are described in s.42 of the Planning Act (2008). Details can be found here: [Planning Act 2008 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk). Accessed September 2025.

- Local context/knowledge is obtained to inform the core design principles;
- The prevailing environmental baseline conditions are identified and understood;
- The EIA focuses on specific environmental issues where likely significant environmental effects occur; and
- Where needed, further investigation is undertaken to enable environmental measures to be incorporated into the Proposed Development that avoid, prevent, reduce or, if practicable, offset adverse environmental effects and optimise environmental benefits.

2.4.2 The requirement for statutory consultation is also outlined in the relevant legislation (see **Chapter 6: Legislative and Planning Context**).

2.4.3 The phases of consultation are outlined below alongside the ongoing engagement. Where appropriate and relevant, the feedback obtained via the below has also been taken into account in the design of the Proposed Development, alongside other environmental design evolution (as presented below in **Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution**). Specific design interventions for each technical aspect can also be found in **Chapters 8 – 23**.

Phase One Consultation

2.4.4 Non-statutory consultation (Phase One Consultation) was conducted between 29 April and 10 June 2025. As part of this consultation, three public exhibitions were held. The first event was held in Hebden Bridge (on 13 May), the second in Oxenhope (17 May) and the third in Trawden (29 May). One online webinar was also held on 21 May. The written feedback that was received during this period of non-statutory consultation has been recorded and considered. This feedback will be detailed in the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report published as part of the Phase Two Consultation (see below).

Phase Two Consultation

2.4.5 Statutory consultation (Phase Two Consultation) is being undertaken in line with legislative requirements. This PEIR forms part of the documents that inform the Phase Two consultation.

2.4.6 On 23 April 2025, the UK Government announced the potential for changes to be made to remove the requirements for statutory consultation at pre-application stage

for major infrastructure projects, as a result of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill². At the time of writing, further detail has been released, therefore, at the time of Phase Two Consultation, the latest requirements to ensure adequate consultation has been undertaken, will be followed.

Ongoing Engagement

In addition to the above, there has also been ongoing engagement on the Proposed Development with consultees. This aims to bring consultees along in the environmental design process and has included a series of introductory meetings with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. An onsite meeting with Natural England was also held on 1 October 2025. Through this engagement, feedback on baseline environmental data collection, including preliminary baseline survey methodologies, has been obtained. This has helped inform the EIA process undertaken to date, as reported in this PEIR.

² The Planning and Infrastructure Bill. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-planning-and-infrastructure-bill>. Accessed September 2025.

