

# Preliminary Environmental Information Report

## Calderdale Energy Park

7 April 2026

Volume 1, Chapter 3 : Description of the PEIR Boundary and Surrounding Area

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## 3 Description of the PEIR Boundary and Surrounding Areas

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This Chapter provides a high-level description of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Boundary and the surrounding area. Details on the technical baseline conditions are provided within **Chapters 8 – 23**.

### 3.2 Description of the PEIR Boundary

#### Location

3.2.1 As set out in **Chapter 1: Introduction**, the Proposed Development at this point in time includes a number of components and associated areas, as follows:

- Turbine Area;
- Eastern Access Route and Western Access Route (collectively referred to as the 'Access Routes'); and
- Bradford West Cable Corridor.

3.2.2 Altogether, these areas are termed the PEIR Boundary. These areas are described below. The location and extents of the PEIR Boundary are shown on **Figure 3-1**.

3.2.3 The 'Turbine Area' is a term used for the area covered by the wind turbines as well as onsite ancillary infrastructure, including the onsite substation and site internal access tracks (noting that this excludes the Access Routes themselves) (see **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** for further details).

3.2.4 The Turbine Area boundary is shown on **Figure 3-2** and consists of approximately 2,227 hectares (ha) of land at Walshaw Moor north of Hebden Bridge, located on either side of the three Walshaw Dean Reservoirs in West Yorkshire. The approximate centre of the Turbine Area is located at Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SD 96688 33581. The nearest point of the Turbine Area boundary is located approximately 3.5km to the north of Hebden Bridge, approximately 10.4km to the northwest of Halifax and approximately 7.2km to the east of Burnley. At its maximum, the Turbine Area extends approximately 9.3km east-west and approximately 4.9km north-south. The Turbine Area is located wholly within the administrative boundary of Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council ('Calderdale Council').

3.2.5 The Bradford West Cable Corridor will link the Turbine Area with the proposed Point of Connection into the electricity grid at the Bradford West Substation.

- 3.2.6 Following the scoping process and through further design and engagement with National Grid (refer to **Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution**), the Bradford West Substation is the preferred Point of Connection (from a technical, commercial, environmental and consenting point of view). The Bradford West Cable Corridor has therefore been taken forward for assessment at PEIR. At this stage of the process, the exact route remains undecided and a level of flexibility is sought. Further surveying and modelling, in combination with consultee responses, will inform the final Bradford West Cable Corridor, which will be set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) and Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.
- 3.2.7 The Bradford West Cable Corridor is located within the administrative boundaries of Calderdale Council and the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council ('Bradford Council') (see **Figure 3-3**).
- 3.2.8 There will be Access Routes from both the east and west into the Turbine Area. The Western Access Route will run from the A6068, off Two Laws Road and onto a new section of access track into the Turbine Area. The Eastern Access Route will run off the A646, before the junction with the A58 to Halifax, travelling in a northwest direction towards the A6033 near Oxenhope, before leaving the A6033 to cross into the Turbine Area. The location and extents of the Western Access Route are shown in **Figure 3-4** and those for the Eastern Access Route are shown in **Figure 3-5**.
- 3.2.9 The Eastern Access Route is located within the administrative boundaries of Calderdale Council and Bradford Council. The Western Access Route is located within the administrative boundaries of Calderdale Council, Bradford Council and Pendle Borough Council ('Pendle Council'). As the Eastern Access Route traverses the administrative area of Pendle Council, it also lies within the administrative boundary of Lancashire County Council.
- 3.2.10 The final alignment of the Access Routes will be informed by further environmental work and engineering design and these routes will be consulted on further with the relevant consultees and stakeholders (during and following statutory consultation). The final option(s) will be presented within the ES.
- 3.2.11 The proposed layout of the wind turbines for the purposes of this PEIR is shown in **Figures 4-1** and **4-2**. This layout will be subsequently refined as the design and consultation progress towards the ES. The current design evolution from consultation and design iterations to date is outlined in **Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution**.
- 3.2.12 Other additional land for supporting infrastructure works (e.g. to enable the delivery of wind turbine components from the anticipated Port of Entry to the Turbine Area), potential ecological compensation and compensation for Open Access Land and

Common Land will also be required. However, the locations and extents of these land parcels are under development at this point in time and therefore are not included in the figures and description provided.

### **Environmental Features, Designations and Land Use**

- 3.2.13 There are three residential properties within the PEIR Boundary; two in the centre of the Turbine Area, both named The Lodge; and one directly to the south of the Turbine Area, named Holme Ends Farmhouse.
- 3.2.14 Land use within the PEIR Boundary is in part characterised by undulating upland moorland and farmland. Bogs, marshes, water-fringed vegetation and fens are widespread. Habitats also include rotationally burned upland heath, managed for and used as a grouse moor, with areas of rough grazing (predominantly for sheep). Outside the upland moorland areas, the PEIR Boundary comprises a mix of farmland and existing highways, in both rural and urban areas.
- 3.2.15 The PEIR Boundary lies partially within the South Pennines Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA) (see **Chapter 8: Biodiversity** and **Chapter 9: Ornithology** for further details).
- 3.2.16 The PEIR Boundary is in part located on Walshaw Moor, on either side of the three Walshaw Dean Reservoirs. There are a large number of ditches and watercourses (ordinary and main) across the PEIR Boundary, some of which are sources of surface water flooding (see **Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat** for more detail).
- 3.2.17 The PEIR Boundary does not lie within a national landscape designation (i.e. National Park or National Landscape). The PEIR Boundary does sit within the locally designated Calderdale Special Landscape Area (see **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** for further details on landscape designations).
- 3.2.18 There are two Grade II Listed Buildings within the PEIR Boundary; Holme Ends Farmhouse and Attached Barn; and Bridge at Holme Ends Over Alcomden Water. There are no other designated heritage assets within the PEIR Boundary. The PEIR Boundary is also part of the cultural landscape known as the 'Brontë Country', named after the Brontë Sisters, with numerous other known cultural connections (see **Chapter 13: Historic Environment** for more details).
- 3.2.19 The moorland is also used for recreational activities, and the majority of the Turbine Area is classified as Open Access Land with some area categorised as Common Land under the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000<sup>6</sup>. The Pennine Way National Trail runs through the middle of the PEIR Boundary, crossing from northeast to southwest (see **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** for further details).

3.2.20 The PEIR Boundary in part is located within the Liverpool, Manchester and West Yorks Green Belt.

### 3.3 Description of the Surrounding Area

#### Environmental Features, Designations and Land Use

3.3.1 Outside the PEIR Boundary lies the remaining extents of the South Pennines Moors SSSI, the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA (see **Chapter 8: Biodiversity** and **Chapter 9: Ornithology** for further details).

3.3.2 There are a number of reservoirs surrounding the PEIR Boundary, including Widdop Reservoir, Leeshaw Reservoir, Warley Moor Reservoir and the Upper and Lower Dean Head Reservoirs. There are a large number of ditches and watercourses (ordinary and main) within the PEIR Boundary, some of which are sources of surface water flooding (see **Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat** for further details).

3.3.3 The area immediately surrounding the PEIR Boundary does not fall within a nationally designated landscape (i.e. National Park or National Landscape). The nearest National Park, the Yorkshire Dales, is circa 12km to the north at the closest point. The nearest National Landscape, Forest of Bowland, is situated approximately 7km to the west at the closest point (see **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** for further details).

3.3.4 There are a large number of other designated heritage assets in the surrounding area, including the Saltaire World Heritage Site, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, conservation areas and listed buildings, including within, and close to, the PEIR Boundary. Outside of the PEIR Boundary, lies the remaining parts of the cultural landscape known as the 'Brontë Country'. Top Withens (recognised as the likely inspiration for the farmhouse in Wuthering Heights) is approximately 450m from the PEIR Boundary to the northeast (see **Chapter 13: Historic Environment** for further details).

#### Settlements

3.3.5 The nearest towns and villages to each component of the Proposed Development are outlined below.

3.3.6 The nearest towns and villages within 5km of the Turbine Area include:

- Hebden Bridge, approximately 3.5km southeast of the nearest boundary of the Turbine Area;
- Oxenhope, approximately 2.5km northeast of the nearest boundary of the Turbine Area;

- Stanbury, approximately 2.8km northeast of the nearest boundary of the Turbine Area;
- Wycoller (hamlet), approximately 3.5km northwest of the nearest boundary of the Turbine Area;
- Trawden, approximately 3.6km northwest of the nearest boundary of the Turbine Area;
- Peckett Well, approximately 1.5km southeast of the nearest boundary of the Turbine Area; and
- Hepstonstall, approximately 3.2km southeast of the nearest boundary of the Turbine Area.

3.3.7 The nearest villages and towns to the Eastern Access Route include:

- Oxenhope, approximately 1km northeast of the nearest boundary of the Eastern Access Route;
- Denholme, approximately 3.8km northeast of the nearest boundary of the Eastern Access Route; and
- Hebden Bridge, approximately 5.9km southeast of the nearest boundary of the Eastern Access Route.

3.3.8 The nearest villages and towns to the Western Access Route include:

- Trawden, approximately 2.5km west of the nearest boundary of the Western Access Route;
- Colne, approximately 3.8km west of the nearest boundary of the Western Access Route; and
- Cowling, approximately 4.2km northeast of the nearest boundary of the Western Access Route.

3.3.9 The nearest villages and towns to the Bradford West Cable Corridor include:

- Oxenhope, approximately 1.2km north at the western end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor ;
- Denholme, approximately 0.3km south at the eastern end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor ;
- Cullingworth, approximately 1.2km north at the eastern end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor ;

- Wilsden, approximately 0.6km northeast at the eastern end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor ;
- Harden, approximately 2.7km north at the eastern end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor ;
- Thornton, approximately 1.9km southeast at the eastern end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor ;
- Allerton, approximately 2.2km east at the eastern end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor ;
- Bradford, approximately 7.2km east at the eastern end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor ; and
- Bingley, approximately 4.3km northeast at the eastern end of the Bradford West Cable Corridor .

3.3.10 There are also a large number of scattered residential properties located in proximity to the PEIR Boundary.

### Transport and Access

3.3.11 The A6068 is located to the north of the PEIR Boundary. The A629 is located to the east of the PEIR Boundary. The A646 runs to the west of the PEIR Boundary. Widdop Road and Ridehalgh Lane run adjacent to the southwest of the PEIR Boundary from Hebden Bridge towards Burnley. The M65 is the closest motorway to the Proposed Development, extending from the M6 and M61 interchange near Preston eastward towards Colne.

3.3.12 Areas surrounding the PEIR Boundary, particularly the upland moorland areas, are used for recreational purposes, due to the presence of Open Access Land, Common Land and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network within the area. There are a number of local bridleways and footpaths which cross the PEIR Boundary, including the Pennine Bridleway and the Pennine Way, and form part of the local and regional PRoW network. The Brontë Way is also located approximately 2.2 km to the north of the PEIR Boundary.

3.3.13 To the south of the PEIR Boundary, National Cycle Network Route 68 periodically runs along the southwestern boundary, following Ridehalgh Lane, at its closest point. National Cycle Network Route 68 is also known as the Pennine Cycleway and runs from Derbyshire to Northumberland.

3.3.14 A plan illustrating the PRoW and PEIR Boundary has been created using publicly available data and is displayed in Figure 7 of **Appendix 14-1: Transport Assessment**.

## Existing Infrastructure

3.3.15 There are a number of existing wind turbines within the vicinity of the Turbine Area<sup>1</sup>, including:

- 22.5 MW Ovenden Moor Wind Farm is located approximately 2.6km from the boundary of the Turbine Area in an easterly direction;
- 16 MW Coal Clough Wind Farm is located approximately 5.9km from the boundary of the Turbine Area in a southwest direction;
- 12.3 MW Todmorden Moor is located approximately 9.0km from the boundary of the Turbine Area in a southerly direction;
- 10.2 MW Reaps Moss Wind Farm is located approximately 9.2km from the boundary of the Turbine Area in a southwest direction;
- 23.8 MW Crook Hill is located approximately 11.2km from the boundary of the Turbine Area in a southerly direction; and
- 65 MW Scout Moor Wind Farm is located approximately 13km from the boundary of the Turbine Area in a southwest direction.

3.3.16 A concentration of small low voltage distribution network power lines and towers are located at the Hebden Water river and Crimsworth Dean Beck. There are power lines located adjacent and in close proximity to the PEIR Boundary.

The nearest meteorological station to the PEIR Boundary is the Bradford Station, situated approximately 9.5km to the northeast at the closest point. The Meteorological Office Radar at Hameldon Hill is located approximately 13km to the west of the PEIR Boundary at the closest point (see **Chapter 19: Aviation and Radar** for further details).

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<sup>1</sup> Used as the area of focus given this is where wind turbines will be located as part of the Proposed Development.

