Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

SCOPING OPINION:

Proposed Calderdale Energy Park

Case Reference: EN0110023

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

10 October 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 1

2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS 3

2.0 Description of the Proposed Development 3
2.1 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment 8

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS 11

3.1 Ornithology 11
3.2 Biodiversity 15
3.3 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat 18
3.4 Carbon and Climate Change 22
3.5 Landscape and Visual 23
3.6 Cultural Heritage 27
3.7 Access, Traffic and Transport 30
3.8 Noise and Vibration 32
3.9 Air Quality 35
3.10 Socio-economics and Tourism 41
3.11 Human Health 42
3.12 Aviation 44
3.13 EIA other matters (shadow flicker) 46
3.14 Environmental Aspects Scoped Out 47

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

1. INTRODUCTION

1.0.1 On 01 September 2025, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from Calderdale Windfarm Limited (the applicant) under regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) for the proposed Calderdale Energy Park (the proposed development). The applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the proposed development and by virtue of regulation 6(2)(a), the proposed development is 'EIA development'.

1.0.2 The applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:

https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110023/documents

1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the proposed development as currently described by the applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the applicant's Scoping Report.

1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has / has not agreed to scope out certain aspects / matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects / matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.

1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in appendix 1 in accordance with EIA regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.

1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice pages, including 'Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping (AN7)'. AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their ES.

1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice pages'

1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (e.g. on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or associated development or development that does not require development consent.

2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

2.0 Description of the Proposed Development

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.0.1	N/A	Overarching comment	The Scoping Report defines a set of 'search areas' as the design is at an early stage with the locations of components not yet confirmed. The Scoping Report includes details of several components/processes which may be required during construction and operation. The Scoping Report also sets out the sensitive location of the proposed development site, located in or near a number of designated sites. The Inspectorate considers therefore that the boundary for the proposed development could change by the time of the preparation of the ES and therefore the amount of sensitive environmental receptors could change. The ES should therefore carefully set out how the design has evolved in response to environmental constraints and in response to consultation feedback from relevant consultation bodies. This should include demonstration of how a mitigation hierarchy approach has been followed in the development of the design. Where changes have been made from the scoping boundary to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) boundary, such as reduction or increase in extent, the reasons for such changes should be described in the ES. Where changes are made, each aspect chapter of the ES should explain the effect of such changes on the approach to assessment, including where this results in additional matters needing to be scoped into the ES. It should be noted that if the proposed development materially changes prior to submission of the DCO application, the applicant may wish to consider requesting a new scoping opinion.
2.0.2	N/A	Considerations with evolving scope	Following on from ID 2.0.1 it is advised that any subsequent refinement of scope should be agreed with relevant consultation bodies in writing, with evidence and a clear justification submitted as part of the ES. The Inspectorate advises the use of a table to set out the key changes in parameters or options of the proposed development presented in the Scoping

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			Report to that presented in the ES. It is also advised that a table demonstrating how the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed in the ES is provided.
2.0.3	Sections 5.3 and 5.4	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Substation	The ES should include the description of the physical characteristics and technical capacity of the BESS and substation. This should be sufficiently developed in the ES to include details such as construction and maintenance requirements, location, battery technology type/ specification and anticipated number of containerised battery units. Ancillary development to the substation and BESS such as fencing and lighting should also be clearly described and assessed.
2.0.4	Sections 5.6 and 5.11	Underground cables	Noting that the cable route is to be further defined, the ES should describe the details of the proposed route for cabling and connection point the national grid including trench width and depth and working width for the underground cabling. The works required to install the cables should be described, including jointing bay location and size (if required) and any dewatering of excavations and crossings.
2.0.5	N/A	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)	The Inspectorate notes that no parameters have been provided for the proposed HDD. The ES should include construction parameters, potential locations where this is to be required and demonstrate whether they are likely to encounter any groundwater bodies and provide details on any impacts on soils. It should also provide information on any construction compounds for the entry and exit pits.
2.0.6	Paragraph 5.14.2	Temporary construction site compounds, offices and welfare and storage facilities and inter-array roads	The Scoping Report states that the proposed development would require temporary construction compounds however little further information is provided. To ensure a robust assessment of likely significant effects, the ES should provide details regarding the number, location and dimensions of construction compounds, as well as any further ancillary development including office and welfare, storage facilities and inter-array roads.
2.0.7	Paragraph 5.5.2	Concrete batching plant	The ES notes that should concrete batching be required the potential impacts including abstraction of water and discharge of wastewater will be considered in the ES. The ES

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			should include all likely significant effects including but not limited to the increase in vehicle movements, materials required and carbon/climate impacts.
2.0.8	Paragraph 12.4.2	Road labelling	It has been noted by relevant consultation bodies that a number of road links have been mislabelled in the Scoping Report. The ES should ensure that road references are correctly recorded throughout the ES. Specific details are provided in the consultation responses in appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion.
2.0.9	Section 4.2	Quoted distances and locations	Wadsworth Parish Council (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) query a number of facts set out in the Scoping Report such the distance to Ovenden Moor Windfarm and population of Hebden Bridge, the ES should ensure that all locations, distances and figures quoted upon which assessments are based are accurate.
2.0.10	Paragraph 4.2.4	Nearest towns	This section introduces the additional cable corridor search areas however is inconsistent in its reference to these. For example, the Bradford West Cable Search Area is also referred to as the Bradford West Options 1 and 2 Cable Corridor search area. Eccup is also described as 'at the eastern end' and Bingley 'adjacent' which is less accurate than other descriptions. The ES should set out clear, consistent descriptions for each option.
2.0.11	Paragraph 4.1.9	Description of the cable routes	The Scoping Report provides clear detail in relation to the first and second points of connection. The same information is not provided for the remaining two points of connection. The ES should clearly set out information for all potential connections within the Rochdale Envelope within which the assessment has been undertaken.
2.0.12	Paragraph 12.3.1	Direction of travel	The Scoping Report refers to construction traffic routes to the east and west of the proposed development site, however figure 4-2 shows these as being the north and the south. Inconsistencies in the description of the routes limits comments which can be provided by the Inspectorate. Comments in relation to road numbering are noted above see ID 2.0.8.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.0.13	Paragraph 5.2.5	Crane hardstanding	The ES should set out location, dimensions, heights of crane infrastructure, levels and any construction works required for these components and demonstrate that these have been assessed. The EIA should consider the potential impacts arising from these during construction, operation and decommissioning.
2.0.14	Paragraph 5.2.6	Crane assist and blade storage pads	The Scoping Report states that these will be removed following on completion. It is assumed that this means the completion of the construction period. This should be clarified. As with all components to be removed, the ES should ensure that the removal and disposal of materials has been assessed. The ES should set out the waste generation and where this is to be processed (landfill or recycling centre) along with capacity information.
2.0.15	Paragraph 5.14.4	Construction hours	The Scoping Report sets out several works which may be required outside of the given construction hours. The ES should enable confidence in terms of the likelihood for works to be undertaken outside of the assessed construction hours to enable it to be understood as to whether the assessment assesses and reports all likely significant effects.
2.0.16	N/A	Borrow pits	The Scoping Report notes the potential requirement for borrow pits. The ES should set out the likely location, size and volume of materials to be excavated, it should also set out alternative options, should the borrow pits not provide the material required and any implications of this.
2.0.17	Figure 7-4	Clarity	The resolution of the image makes it very hard to read. It would also be helped if the order limits could be imposed to understand any interaction. Background OS mapping would assist in providing context to show key landmarks at an appropriate scale. This should apply to all application documentation.
2.0.18	N/A	Alternatives	The Scoping Report includes very limited information on alternatives in terms of site selection and refinement of design. The Inspectorate notes that the locations of site accesses and cable connections are not yet identified. Several other matters, including but not limited to, the turbine layout, requirement for concrete batching, BESS and construction

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			compound location remain under consideration which could result in different significant effects. The Inspectorate considers therefore that the presentation of alternatives within the ES should also explain the main reasons for the selection of alternatives within the proposed development, including a comparison of environmental effects.

2.1 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report Section 3)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.1	Paragraph 6.4.1	Relevant regulations	The ES should refer to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and not the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017.
2.1.2	N/A	Study areas	Where study areas are determined based on distances and distances to sensitive receptors are provided, the ES should set out whether these distances are taken from the centre point of the turbine area or nearest part of the redline boundary. The study area should also relate to the whole of the proposed development.
2.1.3	Paragraph 3.6.2	Baseline	The Scoping Report provides information predominately in relation to the turbine area with varying reference to future survey work to be undertaken for the access and cable search area. A baseline for all aspects should be proportionately based upon up to date and relevant desk studies and survey work for the whole of the proposed development with any gaps in information described and justified. This should be influenced by the zone of impact and tailored to the aspect assessment.
2.1.4	N/A	Significance of effect	The ES should clearly and consistently set out for each aspect chapter how significance of effect has been determined, referencing relevant industry guidance and where possible agreement with relevant consultation bodies.
2.1.5	N/A	Guidance documents	The Scoping Report lists several guidance documents published by NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage). These are proposed to be used where there is no comparable guidance in England and where it represents the most up to date guidance relevant to the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.6	Paragraphs 6.4.14 – 6.4.15	Decommissioning	The ES should provide a description of the activities and works which are likely to be required during decommissioning of the proposed development, including the anticipated duration. Where significant effects are likely to occur as a result of decommissioning the proposed development, these should be described and assessed in the ES.
2.1.7	N/A	Environment Agency (EA) data	The Environment Agency has published new flood and coastal erosion risk data in 2025 following the release of its "National assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk in England 2024". Further updates are also expected to follow. The applicant should ensure that assessments take account of updated data sets as these become available through Defra's Data Services Platform. Where relevant, the applicant is encouraged to liaise with the EA to determine the implications for project design and the scope of assessments.
2.1.8	Section 3.2	Flexibility	The Inspectorate notes the applicant's intention to apply a 'Rochdale Envelope' approach to maintain flexibility within the design of the proposed development. The Inspectorate expects that at the point an application is made, the description of the proposed development will be sufficiently detailed to include the design, size, capacity, technology, and locations of the different elements of the proposed development or where details are not yet known, will set out the assumptions applied to the assessment in relation to these aspects. This should include the footprint and heights of the structures (relevant to existing ground levels), as well as land-use requirements for all elements and phases of the development. The description should be supported (as necessary) by figures, cross-sections, and drawings which should be clearly and appropriately referenced. Where flexibility is sought, the ES should clearly set out and justify the maximum design parameters that would apply for each option assessed and how these have been used to inform an adequate assessment in the ES.
2.1.9	N/A	Mitigation and monitoring	Effort should be made to agree any proposed mitigation measures with the relevant consultation bodies, and it should be clear how these are secured through the DCO or other legal mechanism. Where any off-site mitigation is proposed, the additional area should be included in the red line boundary and assessed in the ES where significant

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			effects are likely to occur. Impacts of mitigation for one aspect should be considered for likely significant effects on another where relevant (intra-project effects).
2.1.10	N/A	Use of Scottish studies and guidance	It is understood that a number of the references to Scottish guidance and studies are provide in lieu of applicable English studies being available. Whilst this is common practice, the applicant should ensure that the applicability of these studies and guidance is appropriate in relation to the proposed development and provide justification and where possible, agreement with relevant consultation bodies.
2.1.11	N/A	Transboundary	The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the proposed development and concludes that the proposed development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the proposed development's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts. The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the proposed development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision. Note: The SoS' duty under regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process. The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the annex to its Advice Page 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process'.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

3.1 Ornithology

(Scoping Report Section 6)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	Table 6.4 and paragraphs 6.3.52 - 65	Effects on the North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) (all phases)	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out assessing effects on the North Pennine Moors SPA, stating its distance of 18.85km from the turbine area (noting that the cable corridor and access search areas are closer). This, it states is beyond the Scottish National Heritage (now NatureScot) range guidance. Paragraph 6.3.3 of the Scoping Report however states the study area for the desk study is 20km for internationally designated sites. Noting the range of features of the North Pennine Moors SPA and that it lies within the desk study distance as applied by the applicant, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this time. The applicant's attention is drawn to ID 2.1.2 of the Scoping Opinion relating to study areas.
3.1.2	Table 6.4	Non-target species (all phases)	The Scoping Report seeks to not undertake survey work for those species not afforded legal protection or with priority conservation status. The Scoping Report does not explain this approach in relation to sensitive receptors within the study area for the proposed development. The ES should set out how sensitive receptor have been identified and how this aligns to CIEEM Ecological Impact Assessment guidelines. This should also, where possible, be agree with relevant consultation bodies.
3.1.3	Table 6.4	Cable route operational effects	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out operational effects of the proposed cable route. The Inspectorate is content with this, providing that it is secured that operational

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			maintenance works are not to give rise to significant effects and that habitat will be restored following construction.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.4	Paragraphs 6.6.5-6.6.7	Clarification on baseline surveys	The Scoping Report is not clear on whether surveys are to be undertaken for the turbine area, cable and access search areas or focussed on the turbine area with cable and access search areas assessed 'where possible'. The EIA should be based upon baseline information gathered for the whole of the order limits and any areas beyond the order limits where significant effects are considered likely for all species year round. The applicant should seek to agree survey species and methodologies with relevant consultation bodies. The applicant should seek to agree baseline information with relevant consultation bodies.
3.1.5	Paragraph 6.3.4	Survey work	The Scoping Report notes that the scoping boundary has changed to exclude a small area of land in the north-east of the turbine area. It is not clear whether this means that this area is now outside of the order limits or whether it is an area removed from survey work. Clarity should be provided in the ES. If the latter, this should be depicted on a plan and explained.
3.1.6	N/A	Seasonal definitions	The applicant should seek to agree seasonal definitions for ornithological features with relevant consultation bodies to inform assessments.
3.1.7	N/A	Construction, operational and decommissioning impacts	The ES should consider and report on any potential for changes of species likely to be using the proposed development site as a result of construction and operation, for example as a result of changes to habitat or prey. The ES should report on any significant effects as a result.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.8	Paragraph 6.3.6 and paragraphs 7.4.10 and 7.4.13	Description of habitats within the order limits	The Scoping Report is inconsistent with its description of the habitats present within the order limits, with chapter 6 noting that the site is mainly rotationally burned upland heath and chapter 7 identifying it as having areas of blanket bog and also as the turbine area comprising 50% blanket bog. Descriptions should be consistent in articulation within the ES. The applicant should seek to agree habitat classifications with relevant consultation bodies to inform assessments.
3.1.9	Paragraph 6.6.31	HRA and ES terminology	The ES should be clear that the ES is reporting on the EIA through the identification of significant effects. Matters pertaining to integrity of European sites should be assessed within the HRA. The EIA should be clear in this distinction, noting that some ornithological features will be included within the EIA and HRA. Where effects on conservation status or integrity of sites are used to inform the assessment of significant effects for EIA, this should be clearly explained and justified and where possible, the methodology agreed with relevant consultation bodies. HRA matters are not covered within this scoping report.
3.1.10	N/A	Mitigation	A number of mitigation measures have been identified throughout the phases of the proposed development to minimise effect on ornithological features using the proposed development site. Effort should be made to agree the effectiveness of these measures with relevant consultation bodies and provide as much detail as possible in the management plans which secure them.
3.1.11	N/A	Designated sites	The ES should ensure that all relevant designated sites should be assessed within the ES. The applicant should seek to agree a list of sites with relevant consultation bodies.
3.1.12	N/A	Confidential Annexes	Public bodies have a responsibility to avoid releasing environmental information that could bring about harm to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features. Specific survey and assessment data relating to the presence and locations of species such as badgers, rare birds and plants that could be subject to disturbance, damage, persecution, or commercial exploitation resulting from publication of the information, should be provided in the ES as a confidential annex. All other assessment information should be included in

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			an ES chapter, as normal, with a placeholder explaining that a confidential annex has been submitted to the Inspectorate and may be made available subject to request.

3.2 Biodiversity

(Scoping Report Section 7)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.1	Paragraph 7.6.8	Badgers from the turbine area	The Scoping Report details surveys undertaken to date. Surveys carried out to inform the Scoping Report demonstrate no evidence of badger or suitable habitat for badger within the array area. Based on this, the Inspectorate is content that should this remain, this matter can be scoped out for the array area.
3.2.2	Paragraph 7.6.8	Dormouse from the turbine area	The Scoping Report details surveys undertaken to date. Surveys carried out to inform the Scoping Report demonstrate that no suitable habitat for dormouse occurs within the turbine area. Based on this, the Inspectorate is content that should this remain, this matter can be scoped out for the turbine area.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.3	Table 7.7	Extent of overlap with search area column	References in this column refer to the cable corridor search area and not the access search area as noted in the table title. Due to this confusion, no comments are provided on this table.
3.2.4	Paragraphs 7.3.2 – 7.3.4	Study area	The ES should demonstrate how the study area has been informed by potential impact-pathways and where possible, should be agreed with relevant consultation bodies.
3.2.5	Table 7.7	Use of static bat detectors	The Scoping Report sets out the locations of static bat detectors. The ES should consider the potential for significant effects beyond the proposed order limits for this and other

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			mobile species. The ES should also include full information of the static bat detectors which may have an influence on the survey results including location and height.
3.2.6	Paragraph 7.4.12	Consideration of environmental constraints	The Scoping Report notes that "Habitat surveys of the Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Areas will be completed following identification of the preferred options". It is not clear from this statement, how such survey work will inform the preferred cable corridor option. The ES should explain how survey work and environmental constraints influence any preferred options for cable and access routes.
3.2.7	Paragraphs 7.7.19 – 7.7.23	Survey work	The Scoping Report notes a number of surveys which have been undertaken to date but notes limitations to these and restrictions in areas of the proposed development limits surveyed. The applicant should collect data as far as possible for the whole of the proposed development, but where this has not been possible for the reasons set out, the ES needs to provide details of where surveys were restricted and demonstrate how gaps in the assessment have been filled, such as through other data collection means, and through agreeing an approach to data collection with relevant consultation bodies. The ES should also set out how data collection has affected the design.
3.2.8	N/A	Habitat classifications	The applicant should seek to agree habitat classifications with relevant consultation bodies to inform assessments. Clear figures depicting these should be provided in the ES.
3.2.9	N/A	Consideration of changes to habitats and impacts on species	The ES should consider the potential for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development to change habitat presence and composition, for example as a result of dewatering of peat. The ES should assess the consequential impact of altering supporting habitat for species within the red line boundary.
3.2.10	N/A	Aquatic survey work	It is noted that Walshaw Dean Reservoir is outside of the order limits and scoping boundary but located within the turbine area. The ES should ensure that impacts on the Walshaw Dean reservoir from the proposed development are assessed for all phases of the development.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			EA in its consultation response highlighted that suitable habitat is present within and adjacent to the order limits for aquatic species. Surveys for fish and other aquatic species should be undertaken beyond those proposed for white-clawed crayfish; this should include the consideration of amphibians and reptiles.
3.2.11	Table 7-12	Clarification	The table in relation to National (UK) sites, makes reference to agreement with NRW without any explanation. Where agreement with a consultation body is stated, details of this should be evidenced within the ES.
3.2.12	Paragraph 7.5.16	Natural England District Level Licencing	The Scoping Report is not clear as to whether the applicant intends to offset the effects of the proposed development on great crested newts (GCN) by obtaining a licence through the Natural England District Level Licensing (DLL) scheme. The Inspectorate understands that the DLL approach includes strategic area assessment and the identification of risk zones and strategic opportunity area maps. The ES should include information to demonstrate whether the proposed development is located within a risk zone for GCN. If the applicant enters into the DLL scheme, NE will undertake an impact assessment and inform the applicant whether their scheme is within one of the amber risk zones and therefore whether the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on GCN. The outcome of this assessment will be documented on an Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate (IACPC). The IACPC can be used to provide additional detail to inform the findings in the ES, including information on the proposed development's impact on GCN and the appropriate compensation required.

3.3 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat

(Scoping Report Section 8)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.1	Table 8-4	Coal mining activities	The Scoping Report states that on 5 October 2023, the Coal Authority confirmed that "Whilst the site falls within the coalfield, it is located outside the Development High Risk Area. The Coal Authority has no comment to make." This was confirmed through the scoping consultation response. On this basis, the Scoping Report seeks to scope this matter out. The Inspectorate agree with this approach, noting the response provided.
3.3.2	Table 8-6 and paragraph 8.3.42	Tidal flood risk – all phases	It is noted in the Scoping Report that the proposed development is not located near any tidal waterbodies and therefore the Inspectorate agrees that tidal flood risk is unlikely to be a significant effect. As such, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out.
3.3.3	Table 8-6	Changes to flood risk associated with the cable route – operation	The Scoping Report identifies that the cable corridor search area will 'cross beneath a number of risk areas and watercourses'. It goes on to state that due to the shallow nature of the excavations for the cable route, groundwater flows will 'flow as existing or around the therefore remain unaffected'. The Scoping Report does not discuss the potential for implications of increasing impermeability of the land through the presence of the cable but states that there is the potential for existing flows to divert around the cables. The Inspectorate also notes the number of watercourses shown to be present on the site which is classified as being largely blanket bog (albeit that this has been noted as being in consistent at present). As such, the Inspectorate is not content at present to scope this matter, further information on potential effects should be provided in the ES.
3.3.4	Table 8-6	Effects on groundwater abstractions located	The Scoping Report references that "Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development on Groundwater Abstractions, August 2024, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)", indicates that no further assessment is required should

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
		over 250m from infrastructure (excavations > 1m depth) associated with the turbine area, cable corridor search area and site access search area – all phases	construction activities be >1m in depth and more than 250m away from the groundwater abstraction source. EA in its consultation response notes that this guidance does not apply to England. The Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out providing a commitment is secured to maintain these distances. The Inspectorate also notes advice from EA that should infrastructure coincide with a Source Protection Zone; there is a potential for likely significant effects and therefore this matter should be scoped into further assessment where necessary.
3.3.5	Table 8-6	Effects on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) located over 250m from infrastructure excavation >1m – all phases	The Scoping Report references "Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development on Groundwater Abstractions, August 2024, SEPA" as stating "no further assessment is required should construction activities >1m in depth be greater than 250m away from the GWDTE". EA in its consultation response notes that this guidance does not apply to England. The Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out providing a commitment is secured to maintain these distances. The Inspectorate also notes advice from EA that should infrastructure coincide with a Source Protection Zone; there is a potential for likely significant effects and therefore this matter should be scoped into further assessment where necessary.
3.3.6	Table 8-6	Erosion and sedimentation - operation	The Scoping Report seeks to scope this matter out noting that the proposed development will have a negligible impact on sediment loads. Little information has been provided to demonstrate this. EA in its consultation response requested that further assessment is undertaken, specifically highlighting gullying and gully erosion and the need to consider downstream

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			impacts. The Inspectorate also notes the predominately peaty soils within the proposed development area which has the potential to be eroded and impacted by water flows. Noting this, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.7	Paragraphs 8.3.2 -	Study area	The Inspectorate notes that the Scoping Report references that the study area will include buffers. The study area for the EIA should be wide enough to ensure that it encompasses all water features that have the potential to be significantly impacted by the proposed development. Sufficient cross-referencing within the ES should ensure all hydrological links, ecological and human receptors are considered in determining this. The study area should consider present conditions and future changes. Where possible, the study area should be agreed with relevant consultation bodies.
3.3.8	Paragraph 4.3.13	Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme	The ES and Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should clearly set out any information available in relation the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme along with how this has been taken into account in the ES and FRA.
3.3.9	N/A	Water requirements	The Scoping Report provides information on the impact on water supplies but does not discuss water requirements for the proposed development, this should be considered and discussed with relevant consultation bodies. The EA also raised this in their consultation response (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion).
3.3.10	Paragraph 13.6.5	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)	The Scoping Report makes reference to HDD potentially being required, the implications of this on the water environment should be considered for likely significant effects in terms of disturbance and potential for frac-out contamination. This matter was also raised by the EA.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.11	Table 8.2	Buffer zones	As part of the design iteration, buffer zones should be agreed with relevant consultation bodies.
3.3.12	Figure 8.1	Figure 8.1	Noting the number of watercourses present within the proposed development boundary, the ES should ensure that changes to these are considered in relation to giving rise to significant effects for other aspect topics such as biodiversity and ornithology with appropriate cross referencing.
3.3.13	N/A	Thermal impacts on groundwater receptors (including peat)	The EA, in its consultation response (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) highlighted that thermal impacts on groundwater receptors (including peat) should be scoped in for further assessment. The applicant should discuss this matter further with the EA and other relevant consultation bodies.
3.3.14	N/A	Hydro-flouric Acid from firewater at the BESS	The Inspectorate note states that a BESS safety management plan would be developed to further mitigate the risk of HF emissions. The EA in its consultation response (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) set out a number of mitigation measures to reduce or fully mitigate significant effects. The applicant should seek to agree these with the EA.
3.3.15	N/A	Intra-related assessments	The construction of roads and compounds should be considered in relation to soil/ground impacts and stability as well as the wind turbine generators, ensuring any significant effects arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of all components are assessed.

3.4 Carbon and Climate Change

(Scoping Report Section 9)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.2	Paragraphs 9.5.12, 9.5.13 and 9.5.21	Greenhouse gas assessment (GHG) assumptions	The GHG assessment within the ES should clearly describe any assumptions made in determining the quantification of any emissions reduction resulting from the proposed development such as the displacement of fossil fuel power generation.
3.4.3	N/A	Lifetime impacts	The ES should assess any likely significant effects arise from the present of the turbine foundation and other components due to be left in situ in perpetuity on carbon capture and storage.

3.5 Landscape and Visual

(Scoping Report Section 10)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.1	Table 10-5	Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) outside the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), or where limited theoretical visibility is predicted	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this matter on the basis that if there is no or limited theoretical visibility of the proposed development from a particular LCT/LCA, it is expected that no significant effects may arise in respect of this receptor. The Inspectorate considers that where limited theoretical visibility is present, there remains a potential for significant effects to occur and therefore does not agree to scope this matter out at this time. The ES should include an assessment of impacts to LCTs and LCAs underpinned by clear, published screening criteria and targeted field verification unless evidence is provided in the ES demonstrating the absence of a significant effect and agreement with the relevant consultation bodies.
3.5.2	Table 10-5	Townscape character assessment for urban parts of the study area	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that the proposed development is not located within an urban area and it is unlikely that it will have a significant effect on the character of such areas, noting that visibility is likely to be limited by buildings. The Inspectorate considers that the Scoping Report does not provide sufficient justification or evidence as to why the proposed development would not have a significant effect on the townscape character of urban parts of the study area. Furthermore, the Inspectorate notes that the turbine area is located within an area of elevated topography, increasing the likelihood of visual and landscape impacts. As such, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this stage. The ES should include an assessment of significant effects for all phases, unless evidence is provided in the ES demonstrating the absence of a significant effect and agreement with the relevant consultation bodies.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.3	Table 10-5 and paragraph 10.6.40	Effects arising from the underground cable connection during operation	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that once construction is complete and land within the cable corridor is restored, it is unlikely there will be significant effects on landscape and visual receptors. The Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out on the basis that limited justification has been provided and impacts may be longer term in duration depending on landscape and habitats affected and method used to reinstate the cable routes. The LVIA must fully assess both the construction and operation phases given the geology and the type of habitats present along the associated infrastructure corridor unless evidence is provided in the ES demonstrating the absence of a significant effect and agreement with the relevant consultation bodies.
3.5.4	Table 10-5 and paragraph 10.6.38	Landscape and visual effects during decommissioning	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that effects are likely to be comparable to those arising during construction and the key activities would comprise the removal of key visible elements of the proposed development resulting in the reversal of the landscape and visual effects. Given the anticipated 24-month decommissioning phase and in the absence of greater detail regarding the removal of above ground structures and the current optionality of leaving the foundations and cabling in-site, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope decommissioning effects out of the assessment at this stage. Furthermore, decommissioning activities could result in alteration to landform and habitats leading to potentially residual effects. Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of this matter during all phases or demonstrate the absence of significant effects, with agreement from the relevant consultation bodies.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.5	Paragraph 10.3.2	Study area	The ES should justify the extent of the study areas used for the assessments with reference to professional guidance and the extent of the likely impacts, informed by fieldwork and relevant models or approaches such as the ZTV. The applicant should agree the study areas with relevant consultation bodies where possible.
3.5.6	Figure 10-6 to 10-7	Viewpoints	Figure 10-6 and 10-7 of the Scoping Report set out the proposed viewpoints. The applicant should justify the location and number of viewpoints, ensuring these capture a worst-case scenario of impacts from the proposed development and are representative of visual receptors. Efforts should be made to agree the number and location of viewpoints as well as the locations for photomontages with relevant consultation bodies. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) in this regard.
3.5.7	Paragraph 10.6.40	Cable route	Paragraph 10.6.40 of the Scoping Report states that if the cable route requires the removal of notable landscape features or elements, or above ground infrastructure is required at the point of connection, specific assessments may be required. The Inspectorate agrees with this statement and considers that the ES should provide an assessment of these scenarios as well as other potential scenarios such as the need for jointing bays (if required) during operation or demonstrate the absence of a significant effect with agreement from the relevant consultation bodies.
3.5.8	Figure 10-1 to 10-7	ZTV	The cable corridor search area is not currently shown on the ZTV. A separate ZTV should be produced to assess the theoretical visibility of works outside of the turbine area. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from NE and Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) with regard to the ZTV distance and the need to display all potential visibility.
3.5.9	N/A	National Character Areas (NCA)	The NCAs in the cable route search area should form part of the assessment of landscape effects in the LVIA. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from NE on this matter (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion).

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.10	Table 10-1	Nidderdale National Landscape	Nidderdale National landscape is shown on the ZTV as within the 45km study area. As such, effects on the Nidderdale National Landscape should be assessed within the ES.
3.5.11	N/A	Impact of severance on the landscape	The impact of severance on landscape should be assessed for the cable and infrastructure routes alongside the turbine area. The risk of reinstatement of habitat types where construction methods prove to be unfeasible, or changes in hydrology leading to degradation or change of habitats should be considered. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from NE on this matter (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion).
3.5.12	Paragraph 10.6.5 and Figure 10-2	Special qualities of the Protected Landscapes	The turbine area displayed in Figure 10-2 lies beyond the boundaries of the Protected Landscapes. Impacts on the setting of these Protected Landscapes and how these effects will be avoided, reduced and mitigated should be detailed in the LVIA. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from NE (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) with regard to scoping in potential effects on the special qualities of Protected Landscapes into the assessment in paragraph 10.6.5 of the Scoping Report as a fifth category of effects.
3.5.13	N/A	Hydrological regime	The Inspectorate considers that impacts to habitats connected to the existing hydrological regime from the proposed development could also incur landscape impacts. Route selection should avoid impacts to hydrological regimes in highly sensitive and priority habitats to avoid consequential landscape effects. The potential impact should be assessed within the LVIA to include the hydrological impact zone and zone of influence, unless evidence is provided in the ES demonstrating the absence of a significant effect and agreement with the relevant consultation bodies. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from NE (appendix 2 of this Opinion) in this regard.

3.6 Cultural Heritage

(Scoping Report Section 11)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.1	Table 11-7	Effects on the settings of heritage assets from the construction of the turbine area	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that effects on settings from construction activity, such as plant movement, would be temporary and reversible. The Inspectorate considers that the Scoping Report does not provide sufficient justification as to why construction would not affect the setting of heritage assets. The layout of the proposed development, including the location of construction compounds and access points have not been finalised and the construction phase is anticipated to be approximately 30 months. As such, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this stage. See comments at ID 2.1.6 regarding decommissioning. The ES should include an assessment of significant effects for construction and decommissioning, unless evidence is provided in the ES demonstrating the absence of a significant effect and agreement with the relevant consultation bodies.
3.6.2	Table 11-7	Effects on the settings of heritage assets from the construction or operation of the cable routes	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that effects on settings from construction activity, such as plant movement, would be temporary and reversible and that it is not anticipated that the cable corridor search areas would have an above ground 'expression' substantial enough to result in an effect. The Inspectorate considers that the Scoping Report does not provide sufficient justification as to why construction and operation of the cable routes would not affect the setting of heritage assets. The layout of the proposed development, including the location of construction compounds, access points and any maintenance requirements have not been finalised at this stage. As such, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out during construction and operation at this stage.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			The ES should include an assessment of significant effects for construction and operation, unless evidence is provided in the ES demonstrating the absence of a significant effect and agreement with the relevant consultation bodies.
3.6.3	Table 11-7	Effects on archaeological remains from the operation of the proposed development	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that no additional ground disturbance is anticipated during operation of the proposed development. In the absence of further information relating to the operational phase of the proposed development and associated maintenance activities, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope out this matter and considers there is potential for indirect effects to archaeology remaining in situ during operation from impacts such as alteration of drainage patterns or changes in ground conditions due to the existence of the proposed development. Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of this matter or demonstrate the absence of a significant effect with agreement from the relevant consultation bodies.
3.6.4	Table 11-7	Effects on heritage assets from the decommissioning of the proposed development	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that there would be no additional physical disturbance to heritage assets and that the removal of above ground infrastructure would return the landscape to its previous state, removing any ongoing effects on heritage assets through a change in setting. Given the anticipated 24-month decommissioning phase, the Inspectorate considers that impacts to the setting of heritage assets during decommissioning are likely to be similar to those experienced during construction. On this basis, and in the absence of greater detail regarding the removal of above ground structures and the current optionality of leaving the foundations and cabling in-situ, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope out decommissioning effects on heritage assets at this stage. Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of this matter during decommissioning including an assessment of any optionality for component removal or demonstrate the absence of a significant effect with agreement from the relevant consultation bodies.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.5	Paragraph 11.6.1	Study area	The ES should establish the study area with reference to the extent of the likely impacts which should be informed by fieldwork and the ZOI. The applicant should agree this study area with relevant consultation bodies where possible. The Inspectorate also considers that the setting influence of heritage assets may extend beyond their strict designation boundary and that the wider landscape context should be considered in the assessment (in conjunction with assessments in the Landscape and Visual ES Chapter). Reference to the ZTV should be made when defining the study areas. The applicant should make efforts to agree the approach with the relevant consultation bodies. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from Historic England (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) regarding how the proposed study areas are based on the centre point of the turbine area and the potential for heritage assets which may be affected by the outermost turbines to not be identified as a consequence. The study area and assessment should take account of not only the location of the centre turbine but the outermost turbines as well, where significant effects are likely to occur.
3.6.6	Section 11.6	Methodology and approach	The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation responses from Historic England and Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) regarding the approach to understanding the potential impact of the proposed development on the significance of designated heritage assets and the need to clarify which types of designated heritage assets will be included in each of the proposed study areas.
3.6.7	N/A	Bronte landscape	The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from Bradford Metropolitan District Council (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) regarding the need to recognise the interface between cultural heritage, landscape and tourism in relation to the significance of the literary legacy of the Brontë family. The applicant should seek to agree a methodology with relevant consultation bodies.

3.7 Access, Traffic and Transport

(Scoping Report Section 12)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	Table 12-2	Transport impacts - operation	The Scoping Report sets out the predicted trips expected during the operational phase of the proposed development. The Inspectorate notes agreement with relevant consultation bodies and agrees that providing operational traffic levels remain below the threshold for assessment, this matter can be scoped out.
3.7.2	Table 12-2	Transport Impacts – decommissioning	The Scoping Report notes that the decommissioning phase would result in fewer traffic movements than in the construction period. This is not evidenced and does not automatically enable the conclusion of no likely significant effects. The ES should include an assessment of all likely significant effects during the decommissioning of the proposed development where IEMA guidance for Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement thresholds are reached. See comments at ID 2.1.6 regarding decommissioning.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.3	Paragraph 12.4.3	Phases of development to be assessed	This paragraph notes that "The assessment will consider the effects on transport link users and residents within the study area during the construction phase only." The ES should explain why an assessment for operation or decommissioning is not proposed, noting comments at ID 2.1.6 regarding decommissioning. The EIA should ensure an assessment of all sensitive receptors and not just those who are users and residents.
3.7.4	Paragraph 12.4.4	Construction of access routes and cable corridors	The Scoping Report identifies that construction traffic will include staff and material deliveries to and from the turbine area. There are a number of uncertainties surrounding this information. The Scoping Report does not explain how the impact of the construction

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			of the access routes and cable routes will be assessed individually and cumulatively. An assessment should be provided of the traffic impacts of these in the ES.
3.7.5	Paragraph 12.4.6	Traffic surveys	The applicant is encouraged to discuss travel survey methodologies with relevant highway authorities.
3.7.6	Paragraph 12.4.18	Sensitive Receptors	The EIA should ensure that identifies sensitive receptors in line with IEMAs Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement July 2023 or explain why the methodology has departed from this. This should include all users of Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) with consideration of horse riders if they are found to be users of the area.
3.7.7	N/A	Trip figures	The Scoping Report does not provide any information on the likely expected trips during construction, operation and decommissioning. This information should be clearly provided in the ES.

3.8 Noise and Vibration

(Scoping Report Section 13)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.1	Paragraphs 13.5.3 – 13.5.11 and Table 13-4	Infrasound and low-frequency noise	The Scoping Report sets out findings from a number of reports to demonstrate that significant effects from infrasound and low frequency noise is unlikely. The Scoping Report does not confirm whether other elements of the proposed development could generate low frequency noise and or infrasound, this should be confirmed in the ES and assessment provided, where significant effects are likely to occur. The ES should consider the potential of significant effects from components cumulatively.
3.8.2	Paragraphs 13.5.12 – 13.5.21	Amplitude modulation	The Scoping Report notes the lack of industry wide methodology for the assessment of amplitude modulation. This is not, in itself a reason to scope this matter out. A final layout is also not known at this stage. The applicant is encouraged to discuss this matter with the relevant consultation bodies to seek further agreement to scope this matter out should it be agreed that significant effects are unlikely. The Inspectorate is unable to agree to scope this matter out at present.
3.8.3	Paragraphs 13.5.22 - 13.5.23 and Table 13-4	Vibration - operation	The Scoping Report refers to a report undertaken in Scotland on vibration. The information provided however does not set out the distance at which vibration will be experienced. Based on the limited information provided, the Inspectorate is unable to agree to scope this matter out. The ES should clarify the distance at which vibration is experienced (for example at source) and provide evidence of no significant effects.
3.8.4	Table 13-4	Vibration – construction and decommissioning	The Scoping Report states that no vibration inducing construction activities are to be taken place in proximity of sensitive receptors. At present there is little information pertaining to where activities would take place and where construction compounds for example would be required. Furthermore, no information on machinery to be used has been provided.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			The Scoping Report goes on to state that the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) would secure vibration levels at residential properties. At this time, this is not secured. The ES should set out this information and should this enable a conclusion of no significant effects, this matter can be scoped out. See comments at ID 2.1.6 regarding decommissioning.
3.8.5	Table 13-4	Noise – decommissioning	The Scoping Report does not set out decommissioning requirements and limited information is provided for the construction phase. The Inspectorate therefore does not agree to scope this matter out at this time. See comments at ID 2.1.6 regarding decommissioning.
3.8.6	Table 13-4	Cable corridor route – construction noise	The Scoping Report notes noise effects from cable corridor route construction to be negligible. The Scoping Report includes cable corridor search areas with little information on nearby sensitive receptors. The ES should assess impacts on any sensitive receptors and secure any required mitigation to enable this matter to be scoped out.
3.8.7	Table 13-4	Cable corridor route – operational noise	The Inspectorate is content to scope out operation noise of the cable corridor noting that maintenance works to the cable during the operation period will be limited.
3.8.8	Table 13-4	Traffic noise – operational	The Inspectorate is content that the level of operational traffic, whilst not specifically set out in the scoping report is likely to be infrequent maintenance activities and therefore unlikely to result in significant effects.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.9	N/A	Vibration from all sources	The Scoping Report focusses on vibration from the windfarm however the EIA should consider vibration from all sources including traffic, the BESS and machinery unless it can

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			be demonstrated that such effects would not be significant with agreement from the relevant consultation bodies.
3.8.10	Figure 13-2	Turbine configuration	This figure shows a previous iteration of the proposed development comprising a greater number of turbines, the ES should ensure that all figures and assessment relate to the latest layout for which development consent is being sought.

3.9 Air Quality

(Scoping Report Section 14)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.1	Paragraph 14.1.1	Ecological receptors	The Inspectorate does not agree to scope out of ecological receptors from the air quality assessment. The Scoping Report states that air quality effects upon ecological receptors would be considered in chapter 7 Biodiversity. However, limited information is provided in the chapter 7 on the assessment the potential impacts of air quality on sensitive ecological features. For the avoidance of doubt, the ES should assess the potential for likely significant effects relating to air quality on ecological receptors. The applicant should seek agreement on the sensitive receptors from relevant consultation bodies.
3.9.2	Table 14-4	Dust and particulate matter creation from ground, excavation and profiling works during construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of dust emissions during the construction phase on the basis that a construction dust risk assessment would be undertaken and incorporated as a technical appendix to the EIA to determine the risk of dust impacts to human and ecological receptors and identify appropriate mitigation measures that would be incorporated into the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP). The Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out for human receptors on the basis that the mitigation measures outlined in the oCEMP are expected to ensure that any impacts on human receptors would not be significant. However, considering the proximity of designated sites and the limited information about construction processes provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope out this matter for ecological receptors. The ES should include an assessment of dust emissions during construction which are likely to result in significant effects to ecological receptors. The assessment should demonstrate that the proposed dust-suppression measures provide adequate mitigation for impacts to designated sites within 200m of the works and would result in no significant change from the baseline. It should be

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			clear how all mitigation measures would be delivered and secured, through cross reference to the oCEMP and DCO. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from NE (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) regarding the assessment of construction dust.
3.9.3	Table 14-4	Construction phase plant and Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) air quality effects	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of emissions from NRMM during the construction phase on the basis that the amount of NRMM to be used is relatively small (fewer than 10 units operating simultaneously at any location), and a site layout designed to maximise the distance between NRMM and sensitive receptors. Mitigation measures include switching off vehicles and plant when not in use and ensuring all NRMM complies with the London Best Practice Guidance, meeting Stage IV emissions standards. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out for human receptors, on the basis that sufficient information is provided to demonstrate no likely significant effects and the site management controls, and mitigation are secured, to support this conclusion. The ES should however include an assessment of NRMM emissions during construction which are likely to result in significant effects to ecological receptors. The ES should also include information on whether back-up generators are proposed within the assessment in order to make a comprehensive assessment of any impacts. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from NE (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) regarding the assessment of NRMM emissions on designated sites.
3.9.4	Table 14-4	Operational phase traffic air quality effects	On the basis of the information in chapter 12: Access, Traffic and Transport, with regard to low traffic flows during operation, the Inspectorate agrees that operational traffic emissions can be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.5	Table 14-4	Operational phase wind turbine air quality effects	The Inspectorate is content that the operation of wind turbine and associated infrastructure is unlikely to result in significant effects on air quality and that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.9.6	Table 14-4	Operational phase BESS fire hydrogen fluoride (HF) effects	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this matter on the basis that the BESS would incorporate a cooling system to minimise the risk of fire and an 'Unplanned Atmospheric Emissions from BESS' Report would be submitted with the DCO application which would consider the potential emissions and impact to air quality in the event of a fire. Appendix A (ID: C20) of the Scoping Report also states that a BESS safety management plan would be developed to further mitigate the risk of HF emissions. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out on the basis that the air quality effects would be assessed in the fire and explosion risk assessment. The application's attention is drawn to comments in ID 3.14.3.
3.9.7	Table 14-4	Dust and particulate matter creation from ground, excavation and profiling works during decommissioning	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out this matter on the basis that effects during the decommissioning phase will be similar to those during the construction phase and mitigation would be managed via the implementation of an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP). The Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out for human receptors on the basis that the applicant should undertake a decommissioning dust risk assessment using a similar approach to that adopted during the construction phase. As above, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope out this matter for ecological receptors. The ES should include an assessment of dust emissions during decommissioning which are likely to result in significant effects to ecological receptors. The assessment should determine the potential risk of dust impacts to ecological receptors and identify appropriate mitigation measures that would be incorporated into the oDEMP to ensure that any impacts on ecological receptors would not be significant. It should be clear

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			how all mitigation measures would be delivered and secured, through cross reference to the oDEMP and DCO. The application's attention is drawn to comments in ID 3.9.2 regarding the assessment approach for the construction phase.
3.9.8	Table 14-4	Decommissioning phase delivery vehicles, plant and NRMM air quality effects	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of emissions from NRMM during decommissioning on the basis that emissions from vehicle, plant and machinery are expected to be much lower due to improvements in vehicle technology and progression towards net zero carbon emissions. No information has been provided in the Scoping Report to support this. However, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out for human receptors, on the basis that sufficient information is provided to demonstrate no likely significant effects and the site management controls, and mitigation are secured using a similar approach to that adopted during the construction phase. The ES should include an assessment of NRMM emissions during decommissioning which are likely to result in significant effects to ecological receptors. The ES should include information on whether back-up generators are proposed within the assessment in order to make a comprehensive assessment of any impacts. The application's attention is drawn to comments in ID 3.9.3 regarding the assessment approach for the construction phase.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.9	Paragraph 14.3.4	Study area	The Scoping Report states that the study area for consideration of construction dust from ground, excavation and profiling works upon human health would extend 250m from the turbine area, cable corridor search areas; and 50m either side of routes extending 200m from the exit points of these areas. The study area for consideration of emissions from

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			plant and machinery would extend 250m from the turbine area and cable corridor search areas. The ES should provide justification with reference to the relevant guidance for the study area and agree this where possible with relevant consultation bodies. The ES should include a plan showing the extent of the final study area, including proposed construction routes, the location of receptors considered in the assessment. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from the Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council and NE (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) for further information.
3.9.10	Table 14-2	Human receptors	The Scoping Report states that the receptors likely to be incorporated into the assessment are all residential and educational in nature. The applicant should consider the potential for the proposed development to impact on all air sensitive receptors within the study area, including community and social infrastructure, health facilities and recreational and route-based users. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation responses from the Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) which list other possible receptors.
3.9.11	Paragraph 14.6.1	Baseline data	Paragraph 14.6.1 of the Scoping Report states that the baseline will be established using publicly available air quality data, and no additional surveys are proposed. However, the Scoping Report does not specify the distance between the monitoring site for the publicly available data and the application site. The applicant should ensure that the baseline can be adequately characterised through a desk-based study and effort should be made to reach agreement with relevant consultation bodies, including the local authorities, as to whether any additional survey or monitoring work is required.
3.9.12	Paragraphs 14.6.4 and 14.6.5 and table 14-5	Construction phase delivery vehicles air quality effects	The Scoping Report states that the air quality impacts would be predicted at a number of locations alongside routes used to access the proposed development. The ES should refer to NE's guidance to assess the likely significant effects on air quality resulting from

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			increased traffic associated with the proposed development, particularly in relation to any designated sites located within 200 metres of access routes. The applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation responses from NE (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) for further information.
3.9.13	N/A	Guidance	The applicant's attention is drawn to the Defra advice '$PM_{2.5}$ Targets: Interim Planning Guidance'. The ES should explain how key sources of air pollution within the proposed development have been identified and how action has been taken to minimise emissions of $PM_{2.5}$ or its precursors.

3.10 Socio-economics and Tourism

(Scoping Report Section 15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.1	Section 15.9	Decommissioning assessment	The Scoping Report seeks to scope this matter out on the basis that decommissioning effects will be less that the construction phase. The Inspectorate notes comments on the discount of future costs however does not deem these explanations justify the scoping out of this matter. The applicant's attention is drawn to ID 2.1.6 regarding decommissioning.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.2	Table 16-4	Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	It is noted that PRoW are scoped into chapter 12: Access Traffic and Transport, the applicant should review comments made in relation to the IEMA guidance and assessment noted in ID 3.7.6 above. The proposed development order limits include a number of well used walking and horse-riding routes, the impact on which should be considered as part of the socio-economic assessment where there is a potential for significant effects.
3.10.3	N/A	Common land and open access land	The proposed development site comprises common land and open access land, the impact on this should be assessed. The approach to the assessment should be discussed and where possible agreed with relevant consultation bodies.
3.10.4	Paragraphs 15.3.2 and 15.3.3	Study area	The study area should be discussed and agreed with relevant consultation bodies, noting the range of tourism and natural features in and around the proposed development site. The applicant's attention is also drawn to ID 2.1.2 above in relation to the study area.

3.11 Human Health

(Scoping Report Section 16)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.1	Table 16-3	Health related behaviours risk - taking behaviours	The Inspectorate agrees that providing standard health and safety protocols are enforced and secured through relevant plans throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development, this matter can be scoped out.
3.11.2	Table 16-3	Health related behaviours – diet and nutrition (including access to healthy affordable food)	The Inspectorate agrees that the proposed development is unlikely, as a result of loss of poor-quality agricultural land, to affect the affordability and availability of food locally. As such, it is agreed that this matter can be scoped out.
3.11.3	Table 16-3	Social environment - relocation	The Inspectorate is content that as noted in the Scoping Report, the proposed development does not currently require population displacement and therefore this matter can be scoped out at present. The Scoping Report states that this would be reviewed should this change.
3.11.4	Table 16-3	Social environment – community safety	The Scoping Report sets out mitigation measures including safe working practices secured through the CEMP and health and safety protocols and working practices that are to be enforced. Noting this, the Inspectorate is content that significant effects are unlikely and that this matter can be scoped out.
3.11.5	Table 16-3	Economic environment - regeneration	The Inspectorate is content to scope this matter, agreeing that the proposed development does not involve the demolition or rebuilding of any deprived neighbourhoods.

3.11.6	Table 16-3	Bio-physical environment – land quality and use	The Scoping Report notes that due to low-grade agricultural land, removing this from use during the operational period is unlikely to result in significant effects. The Inspectorate agrees with this in relation to significant effects on human health, this matter can be scoped out.
3.11.7	Table 16-3	Bio-physical environment – air quality – operation	The Inspectorate is content that significant effects on human health from traffic and dust emissions are unlikely and therefore agrees that this matter can be scoped out.
3.11.8	Table 16-3	Institutional and built environment – built environment	The Inspectorate agrees that the proposed development does not include changes to utilities for local communities or social infrastructure. As such, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.9	N/A	Study area	The study area should be agreed with relevant consultation bodies and should not be based on an arbitrary radius, ensuring all relevant features/determinants and areas are included within the assessment. Calderdale Council's consultation response (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) notes that a wider study area should be considered. The approach to determining the study area should be detailed in the ES. The applicant's attention is also drawn to comments in ID 2.1.2 in relation to the study area.
3.11.10	Paragraph 16.6.7	Scoping out of decommissioning	Preceding texts noted that decommissioning is to be included in the assessment whilst this paragraph states 'It is proposed that potential impacts during decommissioning phase are scoped out of the assessment'. It is therefore unclear as to the approach for this matter and consequently, comments on this are not possible at this stage. The applicant's attention is drawn to ID 2.1.6 in relation to decommissioning.

3.12 Aviation

(Scoping Report Section 17)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.12.1	Table 17-1	Likely impacts on the radar, monitoring and other such infrastructure and operational assets of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	The Scoping Report sets out that this matter is to be scoped out as 'CAA is no longer a consultee on wind energy proposals other than its role in approving proposals for reduced lighting schemes'. The scoping of matters should be based upon likely significant effects and therefore the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out on this basis. The Inspectorate does however agree to scope this matter out if it can be demonstrated in the ES that the CAA does not have any infrastructure or operational assets within the study area.
3.12.2	Table 17-1	Likely impacts on the radar, monitoring and other such infrastructure and operational assets of Humberside Airport	The Scoping Report sets out that the proposed development is beyond the operational range of Humberside Airport and therefore proposes to scope out impacts on Humberside Airport. The Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.
3.12.3	Table 17-3	Effects on non-radar equipped unlicensed aerodromes with a runway length of less than 800m	The Scoping Report seeks to scope this out noting that there are no aerodromes within the study area. The Scoping Report states that the study area is based upon CAA guidance CAP764. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out.
3.12.4	Table 17-3	Secondary surveillance radars	The Scoping Report seeks to scope this out noting that there are no facilities within the study area. The Scoping Report states that the study area is based upon CAA guidance CAP764. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out.

3.12.5	Table 17-3	Effects on licensed and certificated aerodromes	The Scoping Report has noted Leeds/Bradford Airport as the only licensed and certificated aerodrome within the study area and therefore proposed to scope out effects on licensed and certificated aerodromes outside the study area. The Scoping Report states that the study area is based upon CAA guidance CAP764. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out.
3.12.6	Table 17-3	Effects on the RAF Leeming PSR	The Scoping Report states that following line of sight modelling, no effects are predicted on RAF Leeming PSR. Providing the line-of-sight modelling has been undertake on the worst-case scenario, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.
3.12.7	Table 17-3	Effects on the MoD Staxton Wold PSR	The Scoping Report states that following line of sight modelling, no effects are predicted on MOD Staxton Wold PSR. Providing the line-of-sight modelling has been undertake on the worst-case scenario, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.
3.12.8	Table 17-3	Humberside Airport PSR and other operational assets	The Scoping Report sets out that the proposed development is beyond the operational range of Humberside Airport and therefore proposes to scope out impacts on Humberside Airport. The Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.

3.13 EIA other matters (shadow flicker)

(Scoping Report Section 18)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.13.1	Table 18-2	Shadow flicker - construction	The Scoping Report highlights that shadow flicker is present when turbines are operational and therefore the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out of the construction phase assessment. In scoping this matter out, the applicant should however consider the potential for any likely significant effects towards the end of the construction period should the proposed development begin to be incrementally operational. This should be confirmed in the ES.
3.13.2	Table 18-2	Shadow flicker - decommissioning	The Scoping Report highlights that shadow flicker is present when turbines are operational and therefore the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out of the decommissioning phase assessment providing all turbines have ceased operation.
3.13.3	Table 18-2	Shadow flicker effects on people with epilepsy	The Scoping Report sets out that commercial scale wind turbines are considered to rotate slower than the frequency considered to trigger photosensitive epilepsy. Noting the information provided, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.13.4	Section 18.3	Study area radius	The Inspectorate, in the absence of final turbine location and size information suggest the applicant seek to agree the study area radius with relevant consultation bodies, to enable further consideration of topography and final design. The Inspectorate note comments from Calderdale Council (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) on current assumptions to inform the assessment.

3.14 Environmental Aspects Scoped Out

(Scoping Report Section 19)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.14.1	Table 19-1	Agricultural land	The Scoping Report sets out that currently the land identified as being required for the proposed development is Grade 5 and therefore not Best Most Versatile (BMV) land. It recognises that further design iteration is required but notes that this is unlikely to result in permanent BMV land take. Whilst noting this, the Inspectorate is not clear whether the statement in the Scoping Report also relates to the access and cable corridors and any construction compounds required. As such, the Inspectorate is not content to scope this matter out at this time. The Inspectorate notes that the applicant would discuss with NE whether an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey would be required. The applicant's attention is directed to NE's comments on soils and agricultural land quality included in their response (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion). The ES should provide an assessment of agricultural land where there is potential for likely significant effects to occur on agricultural land or demonstrate that no likely significant effects would occur with agreement from relevant consultation bodies. The assessment should consider the provisional grade of all land within the sites red line boundary, in order to determine whether the development will cause significant loss or damage to BMV soils.
3.14.2	Table 19-1	Land contamination and minerals	The Scoping Report sets out in that the turbine area is partly located in a Sandstone Mineral Safeguarding Area with a historic landfill site adjacent to the north-east of Walshaw Dean Middle Reservoir with further historic landfill sites adjacent to the turbine area. The Scoping Report also notes a number of mitigation measures and controls relating to contamination. These are to be secured through the oCEMP, outline Soil Resources Management Plan (oSRMP) outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) and the outline Waste Management Plan (oWMP).

			The Inspectorate also draws the applicant's attention to comments made in ID 2.0.16 in relation to borrow pits. The Inspectorate also recognises comments made in this Scoping Opinion pertaining to soil stability and changes in soil as a result of all phases of proposed development. The Inspectorate notes comments from Calderdale Council (appendix 2 of this Scoping Opinion) on the potential for contamination, use of borrow pits and hydrological changes. Noting the potential for unknown significant effects at this time, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out.
3.14.3	Table 19-1	Risk of major accident and/or disasters	The Scoping Report sets out that a BESS Safety Management Plan is to be provided detailing measures to minimise associated risks in addition to the inclusion of a fire risk management system. The Scoping Report also noted the provision of pollution prevention measures to be included in the oCEMP, oOEMP and outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP). Whilst noting these intended mitigation measures, the Scoping Report also notes that there is potential for impact to aviation and radar which has the potential to be mitigated through technical solutions, however this is an unknown matter at this stage. Furthermore, it notes the potential for landslides following disturbance of peat deposits. Until the peat landslide hazard and risk assessment has been undertaken, mitigation required is unknown. In addition to the above, the summer has seen a number of wildfires which is highlighted by Heptonstall Parish Council in its consultation response. The applicant is requested to consider and assess the risk of the proposed development in increasing the risk of fire and the impacts on the proposed development of such a fire. The Inspectorate deems that there are a number of matters which have not been assessed at this stage which may give rise to effects where the effectiveness of mitigation is not certain. Noting this, the Inspectorate is not content to scope this matter out at this time. The ES should seek to include this assessment, consult with relevant consultation bodies, secure mitigation if required and demonstrate that significant effects are unlikely before scoping this matter out.

3.14.4	Table 19-1	Transboundary effects	This is commented upon in ID 2.1.11.
3.14.5	Table 19-1	Materials and Waste	The Scoping Report seeks to scope this matter out noting that a Materials and Waste Assessment Report and a Waste Strategy will be provided alongside the ES. It is stated that these documents will control effects and include commitments to divert waste from landfill. Heptonstall Parish Council in its consultation response (Appendix A) has identified a lack of waste sites in Heptonstall village or civil parish. The Scoping Report also commits to a carbon management plan which will consider the embodied carbon in product and material procurement. The Inspectorate considers that insufficient information has been provided on the expected waste arisings associated with the proposed development. As such, the Inspectorate is currently not in a position to scope this matter out. The ES should provide an assessment of waste and materials across all phases of the proposed development. This should include a detailed description of waste streams, including expected quantities of waste arisings and any monitoring measures required to ensure compliance.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

Bodies prescribed in schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations (as amended)')

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence
The relevant parish council or, where the application relates to land in Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council	Shipley Town Council
	Foulridge Parish Council
	Cross Roads Parish Council
	Stainland and District Parish Council
	Whitworth Town Council
	Brierfield Town Council
	Nelson Town Council
	Trawden Forest Parish Council
	Blacko Parish Council
	Barrowford Parish Council
	Colne Town Council
	Salterforth Parish Council
	Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council
	Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council
	Old Laund Booth Parish Council
	Roughlee Booth Parish Council
	Hapton Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Habergham Eaves Parish Council
	Cliviger Parish Council
	Worsthorne-with-Hurstwood Parish Council
	Briercliffe Parish Council
	Dunnockshaw Parish Council
	Cowling Parish Council
	Lothersdale Parish Council
	Sutton-in-Craven Parish Council
	Glusburn and Cross Hills Parish Council
	Kirkby Overblow Parish Council
	Kearby with Netherby Parish Council
	Weeton Parish Council
	Shaw and Crompton Town Council
	Saddleworth Parish Council
	Normanton Town Council
	Keighley Town Council
	Oxenhope Village Council
	Haworth with Stanbury Village Council
	Denholme Town Council
	Cullingworth Village Council
	Silsden Town Council
	Bingley Town Council
	Baildon Parish Council
	Ilkley Town Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Burley Parish Council
	Clayton Parish Council
	Wilsden Parish Council
	Bradford Trident Community Council
	Steeton with Eastburn Parish Council
	Harden Village Council
	Menston Parish Council
	Sandy Lane Parish Council
	Wrose Parish Council
	Ripponden Parish Council
	Todmorden Town Council
	Blackshaw Parish Council
	Heptonstall Parish Council
	Wadsworth Parish Council
	Hebden Royd Town Council
	Erringden Parish Council
	Kirkburton Parish Council
	Swillington Parish Council
	Barwick in Elmet and Scholes Parish Council
	Harewood Parish Council
	Bardsey cum Rigton Parish Council
	Drighlington Parish Council
	Morley Town Council
	Gildersome Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Allerton Bywater Parish Council
	Great and Little Preston Parish Council
	Rawdon Parish Council
	Bramhope & Carlton Parish Council
	Otley Town Council
	Arthington Parish Council
	Alwoodley Parish Council
	Thorner Parish Council
	Scarcroft Parish Council
	East Keswick Parish Council
	Horsforth Town Council
	Shadwell Parish Council
	North Turton Parish Council
	Yate and Pickup Bank Parish Council
The Environment Agency	Environment Agency
Natural England	Natural England
The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as Historic England)	Historic England
The relevant internal drainage board	Earby and Salterforth Internal Drainage Board
The Canal and River Trust	Canal and River Trust
The relevant Highways Authority	Bradford Metropolitan District Council Highways Department

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council Highways Department
	Leeds City Council Highways Department
	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council Highways Department
	North Yorkshire Council Highways Department
	Lancashire County Council Highways Department
	National Highways
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
NHS England	NHS England
The Coal Authority	Mining Remediation Authority
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The relevant police authority	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
	York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority
The relevant ambulance service	Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
	North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
	West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS

'Statutory undertaker' is defined in The APFP Regulations (as amended) as having the same meaning as in section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
	NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
	NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board
NHS England	NHS England
Special Health Authorities	NHS Resolution
The relevant NHS Trust	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
	North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust
The relevant NHS Foundation Trust	Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust
	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
	Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
	Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
	National Highways Historical Railways Estate
Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities	Canal and River Trust

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The relevant Environment Agency	Environment Agency
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	United Utilities
	Yorkshire Water
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Northern Gas Networks Limited
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
	CNG Services Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Inovyn Enterprises Ltd
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
	Leep Gas Networks Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Mua Gas Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Stark Infra-Gas Limited
	National Gas
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	E.ON UK Network Assets Ltd
	Electricity North West Limited
	Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Limited
	Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc
	Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd
	Aidien Ltd
	Aurora Utilities Ltd
	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Mua Electricity Limited
	Optimal Power Networks Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Energy System Operator (NESO)

TABLE A3: LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 43(3) OF THE PA2008

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Lancaster City Council
Rossendale Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Hyndburn Borough Council
Burnley Borough Council
Yorkshire Dales National Park
North York Moors National Park
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
City of York Council
City of Doncaster Council

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Westmorland and Furness Council
Leeds City Council
Manchester City Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
North Yorkshire Council
Durham County Council
Darlington Borough Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Middlesbrough Borough Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Lancashire County Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Sefton Council
St Helens Council
Wigan Council
Blackpool Borough Council
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council

APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Blackshaw Parish Council
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Colne Town Council
Durham County Council
Electricity North West Limited
Environment Agency
Foulridge Parish Council
Haworth with Stanbury Village Council
Health and Safety Executive
Hebden Royd Town Council
Heptonstall Parish Council
Historic England
Ilkley Town Council
Kirkburton Parish Council
Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Mining Remediation Authority
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
National Highways
Natural England
Normanton Town Council

North Turton Parish Council
North York Moors National Park
Oxenhope Village Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Roughlee Booth Parish Council
Sefton Council
Silsden Town Council
St Helens Council
Todmorden Town Council
United Kingdom Health Security Agency
United Utilities
Wadsworth Parish Council
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Wigan Council
Yorkshire Water

From: [redacted]@blackburn.gov.uk> **On Behalf Of** Forward Planning
Sent: 17 September 2025 14:08
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> You don't often get email from forwardplanning@blackburn.gov.uk. Learn why this is important

Hello,

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council can confirm that has **no comments** on the Calderdale Energy Park EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification.

Kind Regards

Strategic Planning

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

From: Blackshaw Clerk <blackshawclerk@gmail.com>
Sent: 29 September 2025 10:05
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Calderdale Energy Park proposed development

Good morning,

Blackshaw Parish Council, a statutory consultee on this proposed project, would like to submit the attached response.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Blackshaw Parish Council Clerk

[redacted]

Please note that I work five hours per week, and these hours aren't fixed. If you require me urgently, please send me a text or a WhatsApp message. Be sure to state that you need me in my capacity as BPC Clerk.

This e-mail and any attachments may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure. They must not be used by, or copied or disclosed to persons other than the intended recipient. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party acting, or refraining from acting, on any information contained in this e-mail is excluded. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete the e-mail.

Should you communicate with anyone at Blackshaw Parish Council by e-mail, you consent to the Council monitoring and reading any such correspondence, and storing personal data for up to a year. To view the full Privacy [redacted]

Stronger Together response to CEP Scoping Report, September 2025

Stronger Together to Stop Calderdale Wind Farm (ST) is a coalition of eight local groups who intend to prevent the construction of Calderdale Energy Park (aka Calderdale Wind Farm).

www.stopcalderdaleenergypark.com

The groups involved in this response are:

Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network (UCWN)
Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm (WV)
Walshaw Turbines Research Group (WTRG)
For Peat's Sake (FPS)

Stronger Together note the unhelpful structure of this Scoping Report (SR), compared to Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd.'s previous SR of 22 September 2023:

(https://portal.calderdale.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S1E3AQDW0CF00)

- The first SR was published on 22 September 2023; the first response from a consultee (the Ministry of Defence) was not even **received** until 17 October 2023 and consultees continued to respond until the end of November 2023.
- This current SR has a closing date for responses of 29 September 2025, giving consultees less than a month to respond.
- The 2023 SR had 151 pages.
- The current SR has 577 pages - about four times as many.
- The 2023 SR had a series of questions for consultees at the end of each section, which made it easy for consultees to respond.
- The current SR has no questions for consultees, which makes it not user-friendly at all.

Numerous egregious errors are identified and described throughout this response.

It is a matter of concern to us and should be for all consultees and the Planning Inspectorate that CWF Ltd. have taken so little care in the production of the current SR. We look to the Planning Inspectorate to insist on a correct SR so that consultees, statutory or otherwise, can make properly informed comments instead of wasting further time and money on responses to such an inaccurate document.

6. Ornithology

(Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network)

We make an initial comment regarding the independence of this scoping report as we believe all sections should give unbiased and objective information. We consider that this is undermined by such comments as:

Table 6.4: In respect of scoping out of non-target species "given the low potential for significant habitat loss, the limited scale of land take..."

and

6.65 in respect of Golden Plover " which may use the study area during key periods..."

The first statement fails to accept that this would be the largest wind farm in England covering 2352ha and incorporating 41 x 200 m high turbines and their associated foundations and infrastructure on one of the most nature protected areas of land in England. To state then that there is a low potential for habitat loss and limited scale of land take shows a lack of understanding of the scale of operations and magnitude of construction to achieve this proposal.

The second statement at a more detailed level understates the presence of Golden Plover. Since the Golden Plover are explicitly cited in the Special Protection Area (SPA), to suggest that they MAY use the study area during KEY periods is disingenuous.

We believe statements such as these are pre-judging the conclusion of any future report and are unacceptable in this context.

We note the term 'ornithological features' is used frequently instead of 'Birds'. We request that this term is no longer used: it is unnecessarily obtuse and we feel commodifies nature. We prefer plain English please.

The Ornithology Chapter fails to cross reference CEP's potential impacts on birds with the potential impacts on habitats/hydrology, although the two subjects are intimately linked. The birds are unable to exist unless their habitats including the peat hydrology are healthy.

Continuing the theme of the inaccurate habitat map presented at the non-statutory public consultation, this chapter continues to peddle the false premise about the lack of blanket bog on Walshaw Moor, stating in **6.3.6**. that vegetation consists "mainly of rotationally burned upland heath managed for Grouse with areas of blanket bog and rough grazing…."

Literature cited

We note that nesting dates of moorland birds in English, Welsh and Scottish uplands published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is not cited as reference material, and we request that this is referred to, and breeding dates noted. Other important documents which are not referred to include:

UK Biodiversity Framework
The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
DEFRA's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy
Natural England: New Definitions of Favourable Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland

Surveys

1] **6.3.4** states that "a small area of land would be excluded in the NE of the turbines area and subsequently to include new areas that include

access roads". It is not clear on the accompanying **figures 6.2 and 6.3** where the excluded area is.

2] None of the areas affected by proposed access roads and cable corridors are shown as areas where surveys are to be carried out. In particular this applies to peatland habitats affected by alternative routes A, B and C and potential cable corridors. These areas must be included within the survey, since the survey information would surely inform the selection of a preferred route. Parts of the wider Phase 2 SPA are within these search areas and birds would be affected by any proposed construction works within these areas.
We request that **Figure 6.3** is updated to show this information, and the full extent of surveys to be undertaken in 2025 and 2026 is fully noted.

National Policy Statement EN-5 states that "the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both on shore and offshore at an early stage in the development process"

We are concerned that, given the timetable of the works, set out in the programme document indicating that the Environmental Statement will be published in September 2026, there will be insufficient time to carry out this important survey work.

3] Baseline surveys

6.3.13 Field Surveys Overview
UCWN requested in their response to the 2023 Scoping Report (SR) that a winter roost raptor survey was carried out. This does not appear to have been scheduled in and we again request that this is carried out, to demonstrate the importance of this area of moorland for winter roosting for these birds specifically. **6.3.65** notes the importance of the area for winter roost for Hen Harrier, but we can see no other formal survey of these or other raptors.

UCWN also requested that a control site be set up to aid future monitoring, and this was also requested by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). We cannot find any details of such monitoring in the SR.

We do not accept that land access restrictions are a major hurdle to achieving additional winter roost information, or control monitoring sites, since the Walshaw Estate owns most of the land surrounding the turbine area where such surveys would be done. This is all comparable peatland that forms part of the wider Phase 2 SPA. We consider this to be an important omission from the scoping report that must be addressed.

Given that this proposal is targeted at a site of national and international importance for birds, we consider it imperative that surveys are carried out to the highest standard to ensure a thorough baseline of the bird population living, breeding, feeding and roosting on and crossing Walshaw Moor is completely understood.

While we endorse the need for post construction monitoring as set out in **Table 6.2**, this does not provide equivalent data that comparable control and reference sites would.

There are no surveys cited that consider the effects of lighting on birds and particularly passage birds. It is known that artificial lighting can have a detrimental and disruptive effect on bird migration as well as local breeding populations of birds and this should be fully considered.

Passage Birds

The SR considers some passage birds which we note would be picked up in the vantage point (VP) surveys in spring and autumn. However, we are not satisfied that this would pick up high-level migrants of species such as Swift, particularly as surveys of these birds are planned in March and October, with Swift passage taking place around May and July -August. We realise that such high-altitude surveys would be challenging, however placing 200 m turbines on the highest land in the south Pennines is unprecedented, and could have a detrimental impact

on Swift and other migratory species that follow the high ground of the Pennine Chain. These vulnerable, declining, red-listed birds are understood to be susceptible to the low frequency infrasound emitted by wind turbines which can lead to disorientation.

We believe this is an under researched area which could have unintended consequences for bird populations, far beyond the proposed wind turbine site.

Receptors identified

6.3.6 states 'Habitats within the Turbine Area consist mainly of rotationally burned upland heath managed for grouse with areas of blanket bog and rough grazing (predominantly for sheep).' This is wrong and doesn't even match with the UK Habitat Classification Distribution map shown in chapter 7, which indicates that the largest part of the turbine area is blanket bog and degraded blanket bog, with upland heathland shown as a smaller proportion. We still consider that this map is inaccurate since we consider much of the area classified as upland heath is in fact degraded blanket bog.

We will expand further on this factor because it is a crucial part of understanding the importance of the peatlands on Walshaw Moor, which throughout this SR are underemphasised and wrongly defined. Both the active and damaged areas of blanket bog are recognised by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee citation for the SAC, which includes Walshaw Moor, and these are classed as Annex 1 habitats. This is confirmed by Natural England who state that:

'All blanket bog is a Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitat, and active blanket bog is a priority habitat under the Directive… the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat "encompasses all areas of blanket bog supporting semi-natural blanket bog vegetation, whether or not it may be defined as 'active'.'

Blanket bog habitat, both active and degraded, is the reason why this area is so important for birds.

6.3.60 UCWN have extensive records of raptors using Walshaw Moor and can confirm that there are at least two further species of owl including Short Eared Owl and Long Eared Owl known to breed on the moor and which are not noted in the SR. **6.3.60** also fails to mention Merlin, which is one of the birds cited in the designation of the SPA because of the internationally important breeding populations of this bird. Tawny Owl, Hobby, and Marsh Harrier are other raptors that have been recorded within the turbine area.
Raptor breeding habitat is not confined to cloughs, gritstone escarpments and dilapidated buildings but also heather and bilberry and flat open sites.
Other species not noted in the scoping report which can be present within the turbine area in significant numbers are Greylag Geese and Pink-footed Geese, and also Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper, and Common Sandpiper.

6.3.66 There are no target species listed in **6.3.16**. Can this be addressed?

Construction
6.4 4 states that the design of the turbine area has been adapted to minimise impacts. The design of the proposed development should take account of survey work yet to be completed, and we would expect the survey work to inform the design and turbine layout. If this is not the case, there seems little point in carrying out these surveys.

6.4.5 sets out the purpose of the outline Construction Management Plan and **6.4.7** states that construction work would avoid the peak nesting season. This is different to what we were told at the non-statutory consultation which was that construction would avoid the nesting season.

We have a number of concerns here:

1) The nesting season may change from year to year and April - May cessation in construction may not be appropriate every year.

2) The breeding season takes place over a much longer period than April to May, with some species arriving on the moor in February,

and not leaving until July. There are many fledgling birds on the moor until late June. These birds are extremely vulnerable as they are too young to fly and we are concerned that these species would be seriously affected by proposed construction works.

3) We are concerned about the phrase 'wherever practicable' in relation to construction work avoiding the peak breeding season. What are the circumstances where there would be construction work carried out during April and May?

4) **6.4.8** refers to the nesting season, is this April -May as noted above, or does it extend to encompass the whole nesting season, we believe it should, as the young of Lapwing etc are still at a fledgling stage in late June.

6.4.9 refers to the use of handheld equipment. This seems like an inserted generic paragraph: surely while desirable for wildlife, the use of handheld equipment will not be practical for this scheme.

6.4.10 states that artificial light will be avoided 'wherever practicable.' On a site of this importance for wildlife there should surely be a ban on any works taking place when artificial light is required. Again, it would be useful to understand the parameters for when this would not be practical.

6.4.11 states that all putrescible and edible wasteful be stored and disposed of in a timely manner. This must be off site.

6.4 15 there is no mention of habitat restoration during the operational phase of the wind farm, yet a major justification for this project being acceptable on this highly protected blanket bog habitat has been the restoration that is proposed.

6.4.1 states that 'consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur.' However, no time scale is given, and it is not clear if any environmental measures would take place during the construction phase.

Are we correct in assuming then that habitat restoration would not take place until the decommissioning stage?

We are also unsure of the intent of any proposed restoration, as removing the turbine structures and reinstating a veneer of peat like material over foundations and hard standings might result in the moor being returned to something like its prior appearance, but not its physical character.

Table 6.2 We endorse the RSPB's concern that not all VP surveys locations were located outside the Turbine Area, and are uncertain why there are access restrictions given that the Walshaw Estate owns the surrounding land.

Table 6.4 We do not agree with the premise that there is low potential for habitat loss and a limited scale of land take. Consequently, we do not consider it appropriate that all non-target bird species are screened out. Species that should be "common and widespread" such as Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Raven, Wheatear, Whinchat and Stonechat are not necessarily as common as they should be and should not be scoped out.

At a detailed level, we note that no mention has been made of the potential effects of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and its impacts on birds due to localised fragmentation of the habitats and loss of feeding and breeding areas, as we assume the BESS compound will be fenced off. It would be useful to know to what extent the selection of the BESS site will involve consideration of impact on the bird population.

(author: PB 12.9.25)

7: Biodiversity

(Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network)

We make an initial comment regarding the independence of this SR as we believe all sections should give unbiased and objective information. A major concern is the inaccuracy of the description of the moorland

habitats, particularly in respect of this chapter, and the general under-representation of blanket bog and over-emphasis on areas of dry heath.

There are some significant errors in this section of the report. **7.4.20** refers to sites in Scotland, while **7.5.14** and **7.5.15** are almost identical. Such egregious errors undermine our confidence that this is an accurate and professional report.

We are also concerned about the failure to cross-reference information between this chapter, and the previous chapter on ornithology, and the chapter on peat hydrology, all of which are fundamentally linked.

We are concerned about the lack of cross-reference between this section and Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual which considers mitigation. As restoration of the degraded areas of blanket bog is a key part of the Catchment Management Plan (CMP), we would expect consistent and accurate information to be emerging about how this is planned. However there appears to have been no collaboration between the authors of this chapter and that of Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual. At **7.5.27** reference is made only to mitigation at the decommissioning phase, 'this plan will aim to return the Proposed Development to a condition that aligns with the ecological and ornithological character and conservation objectives of the…. SPA' whereas at **10.4.6** reference is made to planting grasses alongside tracks and tree planting. Any thought of a comprehensive plan for restoration of areas of degraded blanket bog *NOW* seems to be ignored.

Literature

The following documents are not cited in the Policy Section of chapter 7:

UK Biodiversity Framework
The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
DEFRA's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy
Natural England: New Definitions of Favourable Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland

Surveys

7.3.3 states that to date surveys have only been carried out within the Turbine Area. If the survey work is to inform the preferred access route and cable routes into the site, this needs to be carried out in sufficient time to ensure this information can be used to inform the design.

Table 7.2 does not include an amphibians survey, apart from Great Crested Newt, although amphibians are mentioned in **7.5.22** and **table 7.13**, nor are they mentioned in the list of receptors in **7.4.22**.

The SSSI impact area (MAGIC) is not cited in **Table 7.3** with particular reference to the potential cable corridor and access routes.

7.4.7 states that in accordance with the Catchment Management Plan (CMP) , up to 100ha per annum will be restored.

1) Will there be an assessment as part of the scoping process to determine how much of this has been carried out and how successful this has been given that monitoring has not been carried out by Natural England (NE) since 2017?

2) Is it the intent to continue the process of the habitat restoration and management on Walshaw Moor as outlined in the CMP, during the construction of the wind farm, or, as implied in **7.5.25**, is the intent to continue restoration at the decommissioning stage?

7.4.8 states that 'Ongoing monitoring has not yet been provided but is subject to ongoing discussion with Natural England and the Walshaw Moor Estate.' It is of great concern to us that this SR is based on a complete lack of monitoring from NE since the commencement of the Catchment Management Plan.

The surveys need to take account of the impact of permanently lighting the turbine towers during the operational phase.

Habitats

7 4.10 doesn't mention flushes, rocky outcrops, bracken and woodland.

7.4.12 states that habitat surveys will be carried out AFTER identification of the preferred option. This is repeated in **7.4.25**. We are highly critical of this approach as we consider it imperative that some form of habitat survey informs the selection of the preferred routes for cable corridors and access routes. Should we assume that the selection of a preferred route will not be influenced in any way by the habitats that are potentially crossed?

This reinforces our opinion that these surveys are little more than a token gesture. Furthermore, National Policy Statement EN-5 states that 'the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both onshore and offshore at an early stage in the development process.' We are also concerned that, given the timetable of the works set out in the programme document indicating that the Environmental Statement will be published in September 2026, that there will be insufficient time available to carry out important survey work, as survey timings are very specific for species including bats.

7.4.14 states that 'after blanket bog, the most common habitat is dry heath which accounts for 544 ha (24.57%) of the Turbine Area including 513.54 ha of h1b5 dry heaths; upland heath (H4030)' which was in varying condition (225.54ha in good condition and 243.28 ha in poor condition)." This SR therefore shows that over 50% of the site is considered to be blanket bog, and we are confident that large sections of dry heath are in fact degraded blanket bog.

7.5.14 and **7.4 15** (which are almost identical) state that the oCEMP, oPMP and PWMS will be tailored to the ecology of the proposed development, and that biodiversity protection zones and areas will be identified. Are these a special designations that we have not heard about? Given that the existing SPA, SAC and SSSI designations are recognised as affording protection internationally and nationally why is a further layer required?

Insufficient consideration has been given to the importance of hydrological connectivity across the moorland, not only to the

mosaic of Peatland habitats but also the internationally important assemblage of CHEGD fungi, for which Calderdale is particularly well known, We know that the hydrological influence of the peatlands and blanket bog has an important impact on the fungi which thrive on grasslands below the moorland but sometimes outside the Turbine Area. Consequently, impact on the hydrology of the moorlands will have an impact on these important areas too. This must be explored fully in the ES.

The impact of the BESS and the installation of an area of fenced of hard paved industrial zone within the moorland has not been addressed in this chapter of the SR. Installation of security fencing and water storage bunds and changes to the land form to accommodate the specific requirements of the BESS have not been considered. This could include:

1) Fragmentation of habitats caused by fencing which is not wildlife permeable.

2) Creation of hardstandings and new buildings which will destroy habitat.

3) Noise, lighting and disturbance associated with operation and maintenance of the BESS.

4) Fire risk to vulnerable peatlands.

Construction

7.15.8 states that a sensitive lighting strategy will be employed to avoid unnecessary light pollution minimising the impact of lighting on sensitive species. However **5.14** suggests that some operations, including turbine movements, would be carried out over a 24 hour period to accommodate transport to site avoiding major disruption to local transport networks. It is vital that this area is fully explored as the implication is that there would be frequent times when lighting would be necessary.

7.5.20 refers to the mitigation and compensation for the loss of habitats. UCWN want to stress that irreplaceable habitats such as blanket bog are not possible to replace in any meaningful time scale. Consequently, we want all loss of habitats to be minimised otherwise the integrity of the entire peatland across the Turbine Area will be at risk.

7.5.21 notes the need for regular attendance on site during the operational period. The oCEMP must therefore take account of the sensitivities of many of the bird and animal species to disturbance, particularly during the breeding season, and timing of maintenance works needs to consider this.

7.5 27 states what elements of the scheme might be left in situ on completion of the project. The ES must give a clear assessment of the impact of leaving structures in place permanently and state precisely what would be left in place and particularly how this may affect the hydrology of the remaining peatland.

Table 7.10

In its Scoping Opinion of 2023 Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (CMBC) notes that assessments should be continued beyond the site boundary, but it is not explicitly stated that this will happen. Since blanket bog is a mosaic of interconnected habitats, there will be effects felt beyond the extent of the Turbine Area, so it is vital that any assessment covers these areas.

Table 7.2 states that bats will be surveyed within the Turbine Area. However, the SNC guidance states that bat surveys need to take account of the location and extent of commuting to foraging habitat used by bats which may include not just the site but also flight paths and habitats in the surrounding landscape. Since there is a large and diverse population of bats in and around Hardcastle Crags, it should be considered whether additional survey work needs to be completed to cover any bats moving between Walshaw Moor and Hardcastle Crags.

CMBC also requested the use of static detectors at height. While we recognise the difficulty of achieving this on open areas, we ask that this is explored within woodland areas within the Turbine Area, where this might be more easily achieved.

Table 7.12 sets out the definition of importance for Ecological Features. While the SAC, SPA features are noted as being of international importance, and the SSSI status of national importance, there is, however, no mention of the importance of this site towards meeting our obligations as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This requires protections for nature in the planning system to be maintained with the goal of providing "effective conservation and management" of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans by 2030. It is not possible for the UK to meet its international obligations if sites such as Walshaw Moor are irreparably damaged.

Table 7.13 gives no detail whatsoever of the construction process or operations. The section Operation of Wind Turbines **table 13** cites collision with turbine blades as a hazard for bats but fails to mention barotrauma.

Further baseline data

7.7. 15 states that further surveys are planned for potential cable routes and access routes and that once preferred designs and routes are agreed with the design team, surveys will be agreed with the design team based on the nature of the habitats and locations they are crossing.
We object strongly to the implication that the determination of the preferred route will be based solely on commercial, logistical and economic factors etc with no consideration of the ecology or of how potential new land uses, for cabling and access in the wider area might affect connectivity for wildlife, potential fragmentation of habitats and disturbance to the wider environment. We consider this is a major omission that should be timetabled in, and fully described in any decision making.

If this is not the case, the surveys proposed can only be used to inform small scale changes, within the preferred route and not be used to avoid areas of greatest value for wildlife, nor will appropriate information be available to consultees to make an informed decision about the scheme.

Table 7.15 implies that these surveys will only be carried 'where necessary' within cable corridor and site access search areas, despite extensive parts of these corridors and areas lying within zones of international importance for wildlife.

The long-term impacts of these installations need to be fully understood as we understand these elements will remain permanently in situ. There will be long term impacts arising from decommissioning that are not mentioned: for example habitats will be reinstated over areas of foundations where the hydrology has been completely altered, and it will not be possible to reinstate these habitats to their original status. This appears not to be understood.

PB 22.9.25

8: Hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and peat

(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

Comments on the peat slide risk laid out in **8.3.26** and **8.3.29** are given in the section on Chapter 12 Access Traffic and Transport.

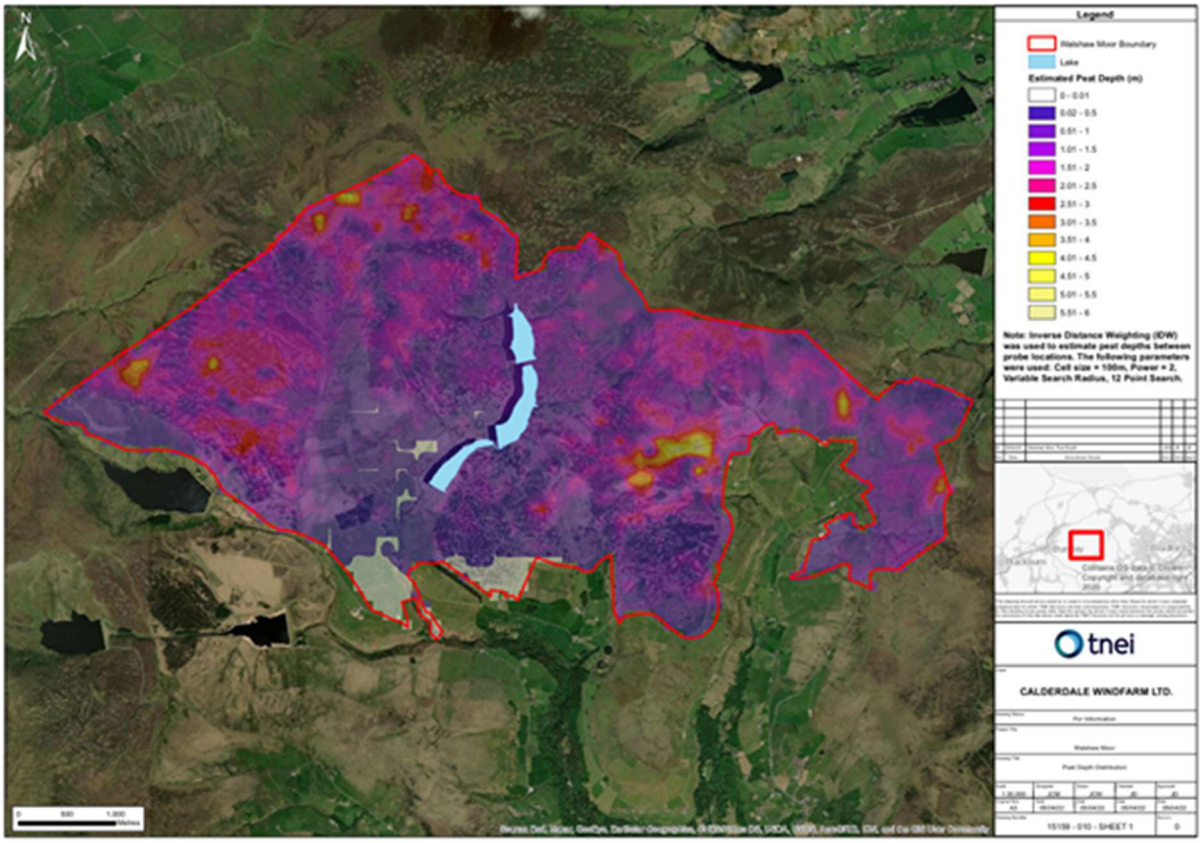
The Peat and Hydrology models used to make the Scoping Report are inadequate and the Scoping Report should be withdrawn.

The information on peat and hydrology published by CWF Ltd and used to design the layout repeatedly published in the Scoping Report and at the Non-statutory Consultation is so inadequate that we believe the only option is to withdraw the Scoping Report, revise it without any turbine layouts, and also to withdraw the layout published for the Non-statutory

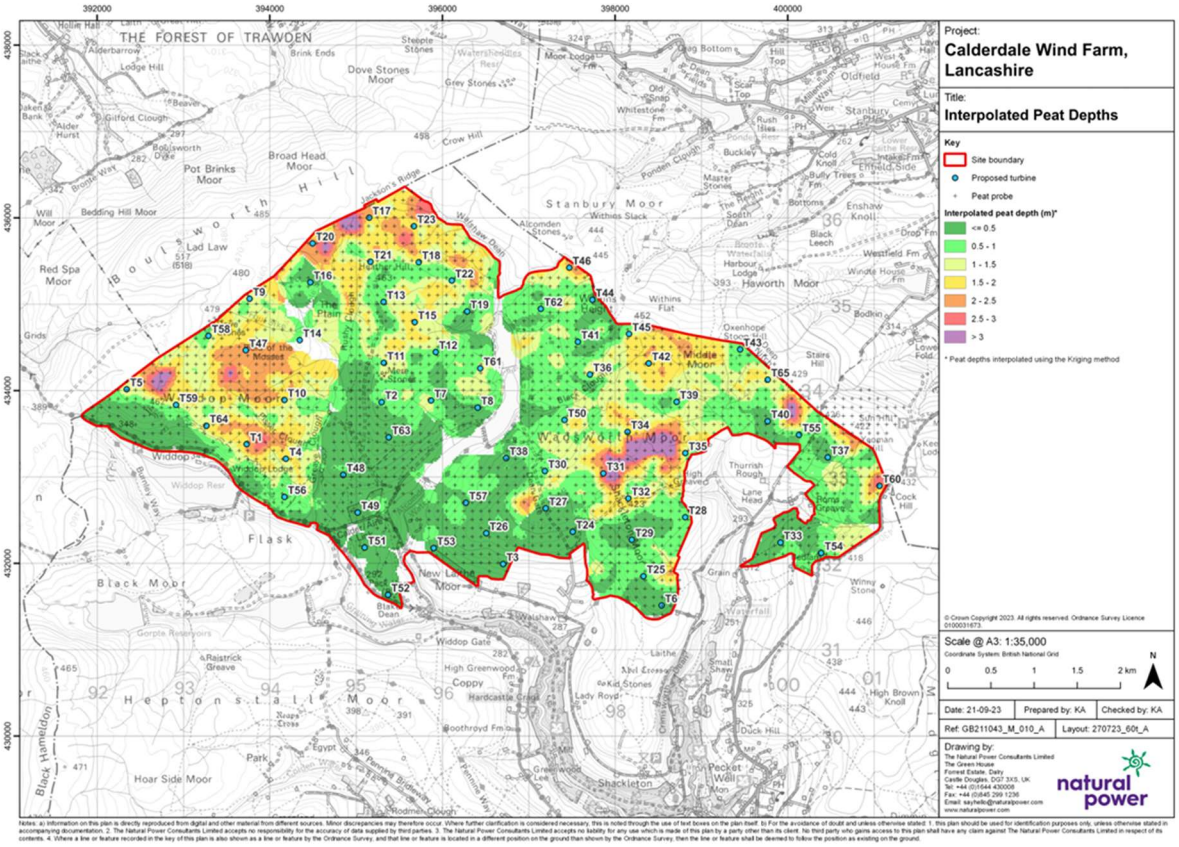
Consultation. The status of the Non-statutory Consultation which was based on this turbine layout must then be decided by the Secretary of State, advised by the Planning Inspectorate.
To comment here on the Scoping Report account of Peat and Hydrology in detail would be to condone the process that has led to the present position. Such a layout should not be given status by being published in the Scoping Report and for the Non-statutory Consultation. It was not necessary for any maps of this layout to be presented in the Scoping Report and all the maps that give it status should be withdrawn. A list of the relevant maps is given at the end of this section.
We therefore reserve comment on Peat and Hydrology pending the withdrawal of all layout maps both in the Consultation Brochure and throughout the Scoping Report since they were designed on the basis of inadequate information about peat and hydrology.
None of the layout maps presented in the Consultation Brochure were described as "indicative" and the word "indicative" does not appear anywhere in the brochure. The repeatedly published layout was designed on the basis of two models: one of Peat Depth and one of Hydrology.
Our analysis will concern what the SR calls "western Turbine Area" which is the triangular area west of Greave Clough.

Peat Depth Models

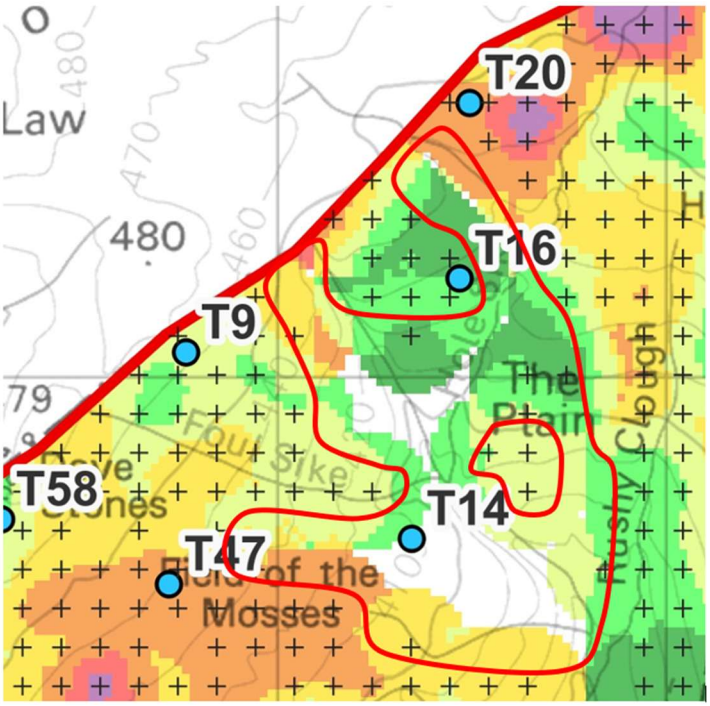
The published CWF Ltd. Peat Model currently consists of a Kriging-interpolated map of peat depths surveyed within the turbine area. The survey was made by TNEI in February 2022. The data set has not been published, but three maps of the data set have been published by CWF Ltd. and these are shown below as Peat Model 1, Peat Model 2 and Peat Model 3. The probing grid used by TNEI is preserved in Peat Model 2 and was based on a 100-metre interval.



Peat Model 1 uses an inferior interpolation algorithm (inverse square distance weighting). A large area west of Greave Clough (usually called "the western turbine area" in the SR) might seem to have been adequately surveyed, but the algorithm has covered up the problem by allowing data far from the survey failure to be used to colour the map.



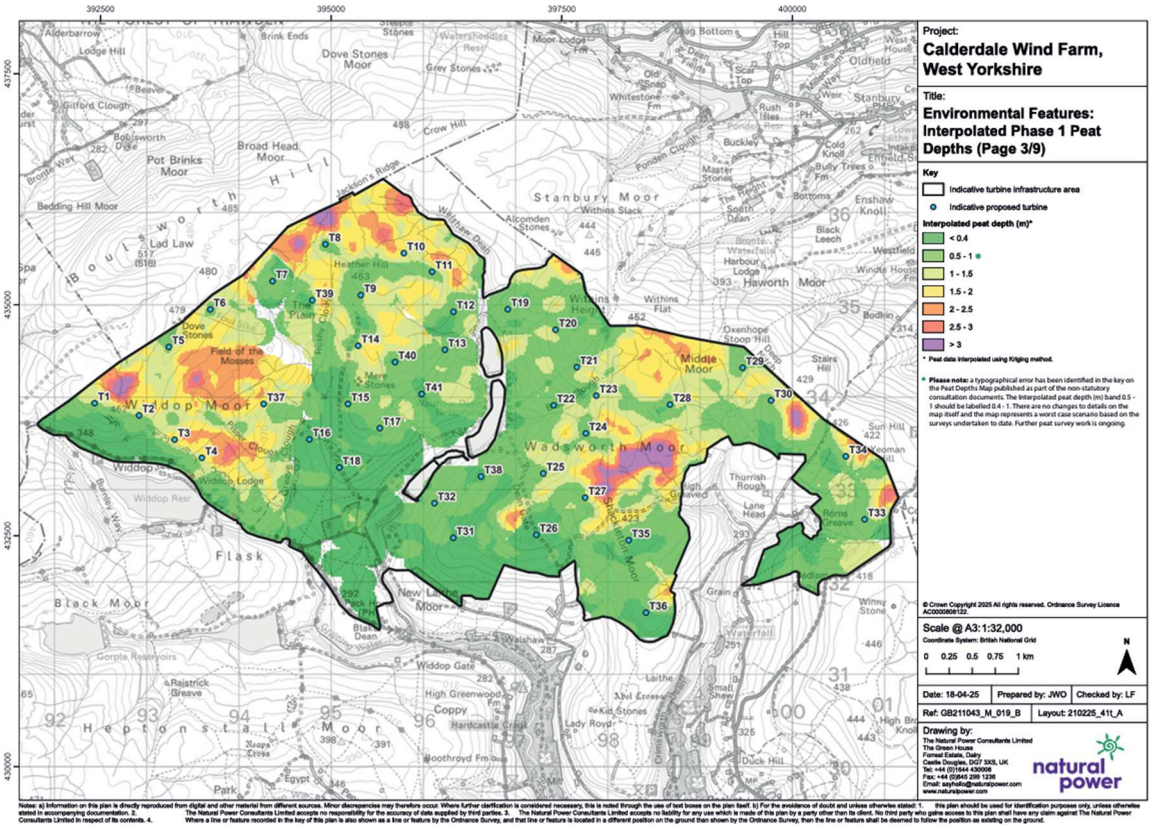
Peat model 2: Published September 2023 in the CWF Scoping Report
Peat Model 2 uses the superior Kriging algorithm to interpolate the depths found in the survey. It also shows the probing grid. Notice that probe points are shown outside the NE turbine area which correspond to the mapped hump in Peat Model 1. Natural Power should be strongly commended for publishing the probing crosses and for leaving some of the map blank where the probing carried out by TNEI had failed. Because of high standards pertaining at Natural Power, the Kriging algorithm did not colour the blank area west of Greave Clough (near T14) because the probing had failed there. The extent of the probing failure is clear from the absent crosses.



Inside the red area the colouring of the peat depths used to design the layout published repeatedly in the Scoping Report and Consultation Brochure is based on a wholly insufficient probing interval. The Kriging algorithm is guessing at depths based on distance depths. Once the distances are too great the algorithm does not attempt any colour and the map is left white.

CWF Ltd were informed of the problem in this area by Robbie Moore M.P. in a letter from the House of Commons in October 2024. Far from remedying the problem, CWF Ltd. used the deficient Peat model to create a new iteration of the layout, published in the Consultation Brochure on 29 April 2025, and used throughout the Scoping Report.

Despite the high standards at Natural Power, the definition of "deep peat" in England is > 40 cm while in Scotland it is > 50 cm. Natural Power used a 50 cm definition to create Peat Model 2 which therefore lacks the 40 cm contour that defines "deep peat". This fault was remedied in Peat Model 3, but no further data was obtained.



Peat model 3: Published for the Launch of CEP Non-statutory Consultation 29 April 2025 and corrected twice on 1 May 2025. Peat model 3 uses the same data as model 2 to colour the present depth of "deep peat" in England correctly. The model now has a 40 cm contour around the dark green area.

At publication on 29 April 2025, Peat Model 3 had two glaring errors. A turbine T42 was sited where T38 is now to be found; and the Key had an error in that the scale reads < 0.4 and 0.5 -1 with a gap for depths between 0.4 and 0.5. The T42/T38 error was corrected at 10.30 on 1 May 2025 after it had been pointed out by a member of the public at 09:06 on the same day. The scale error was corrected by the insertion of the note now present below the key. This note could not be inserted in the glossy version of the Consultation Brochure so a sticker was inserted carrying the same information. The blank area west of Greave Clough persists in Peat Model 3. No further survey work had been done to remedy the survey problem that had now persisted from February 2022 until 29 April 2025.

The design iteration that led to the layout published at the Non-statutory consultation and used throughout the Scoping Report for CEP was therefore made using an incomplete peat model. In fact that design originally had 42 turbines, with T38 lying between T37 and T39 and T42 where T38 now lies. This fact (evident from the turbine numbering) was

confirmed by CWF lead consultant Donald Mackay at the Trawden Exhibition of CEP on 29 May 2025. When asked about the anomalous position of T38 in the layout he said, “T38 was originally on the blank area of the peat survey, so we moved it.” The deficiency in the Peat Model was therefore obvious at the design meeting.

A fossil of that 42-turbine layout persists in the Scoping Report, because the Shadow Flicker map **18-1** still has T42 and no T38. The cause will be clear to any expert user of windPRO software. A second fossil is the stated power of CEP. It was intended to be 42 times 7.2 MW which is 302 MW. In fact it is 41 times 7.2 MW which is 295 MW.

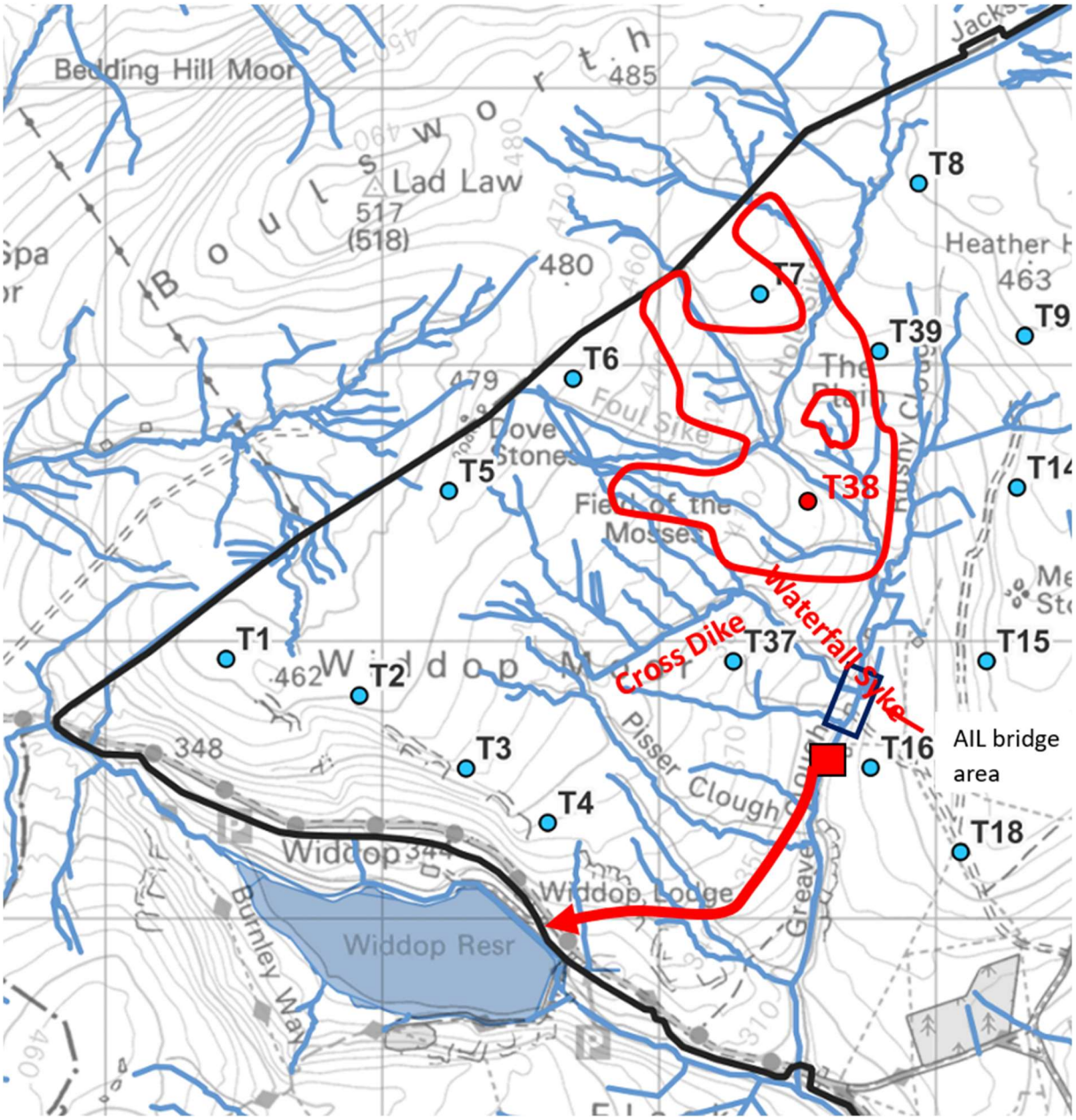
Hydrology

The CWF Ltd peat model used to design the layout repeatedly mapped in the Scoping Report is therefore at its most deficient in the only named area that **4.3.11** acknowledges is at risk of surface water flooding. “A large area at risk of surface water flooding, on the western side of the Turbine Area, is the Waterfall Syke and Cross Dike.” No other area is named in the Scoping Report.

It is this western side of the Turbine Area (west of Greave Clough) where the hydrology and peat errors in the models used to design the 42/41-turbine layout are concentrated.

A very serious omission is made in the hydrology models **Figures 8-1, 8-2, 8-3** and in the hydrology map presented at the Non-statutory Consultation. Most of the runoff in the Greave Clough catchment is intercepted by a sluice and sent by a tunnel to Widdop Reservoir as shown below.

In a storm the sluice and tunnel can be overwhelmed and the water goes over the sluice dam down a spillway designed for the purpose, direct to Henden Bridge via Graining Water. The hydrology maps used to design the 42/41-turbine layout therefore do not correspond to peak flow.
We can summarise all these deficiencies on a detail of the hydrology map published for the non-statutory consultation. The hydrology maps published in Scoping Report are very weak and do not permit analysis of hydrology.



The red outline shows the extent of probing failure in the peat depth model. Cross Dike and Waterfall Syke are at the centre of the surface water flooding risk described in 4.3.11. The original position of T38 is shown. The sluice in Greave Clough and the tunnel carrying normal flow to Widdop Reservoir are shown in red. Greave Clough cannot be bridged for AIL delivery except in the box shown west of T16 where there is currently a footbridge. Walshaw Moor Estate quadbike tracks climb the 11% slope west of this footbridge.

Access to T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7 and T37 therefore requires transit of terrain whose hydrology and peat were inadequately understood at the design meeting. Coding on maps published by CWF Ltd suggest this design meeting was at the end of February 2025.

The following maps in the Scoping Report give status to a layout that should now be explicitly withdrawn until proper work has been done in the area.
The Scoping Report is part of the document sequence that forms the legal foundation of the proposal. It is not in the interests of Consultees, the investors in CWF Ltd. or the Secretary of State representing the British people that the Scoping Report should remain unrevised.
The following maps imply that the dangerous layout has a status that is not justified by the information available to CWF Ltd when it was designed.
10-1 National Character Areas
10-2 Landscape Designations
10-3 Registered Parks and Gardens
10-4 Green belt
10-5 Visual Receptors
10-6 Blade Tip ZoV
10-7 Hub height ZoTV
13-1 Noise Sensitive Receptors
18-1 Study Area Shadow Flicker.
The following maps published for the Non-statutory Consultation display the layout designed on the basis of the inadequate information.
Proposed Turbine Layout [p 14]
International and National Designations [p 18]
Peat Depth and Hydrology [p 19]
Public Access and Cultural Heritage [p 20]

(Author: NIPM 22/09/25)

10: Landscape and visual

This response has been prepared on behalf of Stronger Together to Stop Calderdale Windfarm by Penny Bennett who is a Chartered Landscape Architect with 44 years of experience.

Literature cited

The following reports need to be documented / referred to:

Visual Representation of Development Proposals TGN 06/19 (Landscape Institute) although under review it is the most comprehensive guidance for technical visualisations used in LVIA

Planning for onshore wind, Research Briefing for House of Commons Felicia Rankl Oct 2023

Study area

10.3.2 states that the assessment of cable connection would concentrate on a 1km buffer either side of the proposed route. There may well be points at which the cable corridor would have an impact on mature trees, groups of trees or woodland. Where this is the case, professional judgement should be used to extend the visual envelope appropriately.

Relevant Baseline Conditions: landscape character

10.3.4 states that the relevant landscape character areas will be verified on site and refined where appropriate. It is also good practice to review the landscape character information being used.

10.3.6 the author refers to weathered 'tors'. These are features of granite landscapes such as Dartmoor; gritstone features are termed outcrops. The inaccurate description continues further down this paragraph when it states that 'Landcover is predominantly open moorland, largely rough grassland…' This is incorrect. The moorland is **not** largely rough grassland and the National Character Area (NCA) 36 goes to some lengths to reinforce the importance and extent of the blanket bog areas which is usefully summarised in the table below:

7.2 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority habitats

The NCA includes the following areas of mapped priority habitats (as mapped by the national UK BAP habitat inventory March 2011 (unless stated)) Footnotes denote local/expert interpretation.

Habitat	Area (ha)	% of NCA
Blanket Bog	28,702	24%
Broadleaved Woodland (National Inventory of Woodland & Trees)	3,142	3%
Upland Heathland	1,419	1%
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	721	1%
Lowland Meadows	773	1%
Purple Moor-grass & Rush Pastures	613	1%
Floodplain Grazing Marsh	99	<1%
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	15	<1%
Upland Calcareous Grassland[1]	88	<1%
Upland Hay Meadows[2]	15	<1%
Fens	348	<1%
Lowland Heath[3]	18	<1%
Lowland Raised Bog	18	<1%

Source: Natural England (2011)

To say that the mosaic of upland landscapes is of ecological value is an underestimate, given much of the upland plateau in the South Pennines has international and national wildlife designations. This is reinforced in the summary of the first page of NCA 36 which states that "The area contains internationally important mosaics of moorland habitats"

10.3.8 cites wind farms in the vicinity. Those on Todmorden Moor should be included in the list.

Relevant Baseline Conditions: Landscape Designations

Table 10.1 does not include the Nidderdale National Landscape, and this should be added.

Viewpoint Assessment

10 3.25 notes that no viewpoints have been selected in relation to the site access search areas or cable corridor search areas. While it is understood that the identification of specific visual receptors is not appropriate at this stage, the SR should confirm that the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) has been used to help to inform route selection, particularly where there is a chance that areas of mature trees and woodland may be affected by cable and access routes, and loss of such trees and woodland due to cable works would have a visual impact.

Table 10.2 Proposed viewpoint locations

It is unclear at what stage viewpoints will be finalised. **Table 10.2** includes a number of new viewpoints which were omitted from the 2023 SR and in **10.3.23** and **10.3.24** the parameters for viewpoint selection are set out. It is stated that stakeholder feedback will be taken account of, but it is uncertain how this will happen. **Table 10.4** summarises comment from stakeholders from the 2023 SR and a number of important viewpoints are highlighted as missing in 2023, which are still omitted two years later for example:

Sheepstones Edge
The Yorkshire Three Peaks
Haworth, the Parsonage
Blackstone Edge
Leeds Liverpool Canal between Blackburn and Barrowford

The comments in **table 10.4** say that the viewpoint selection has been refined and altered in response to the previous SR, although we note the landscape and visual SR was written when turbine heights of between 149m and 200m high were being considered. Now the turbine heights are confirmed at 200m high the selection of viewpoints will cover a comparatively larger area. It is stated that viewpoints will be reviewed as the design process evolves, but at what point can stakeholders discuss this with the applicant?

Given the vast area over which this development will be visible, we would like to see viewpoints also from:

Lund Tower, above Cowling
Simon's Seat on the Bolton Estate in the Dales
Pinhaw Beacon above Lothersdale
Within the Peak District.

Environmental Measures

10.4.1 states 'Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur.' The NCA gives very clear guidance in the statements of environmental opportunity on the opportunities to restore and improve ecological links between moorland habitats, restoring degraded areas of blanket bog to active sphagnum dominated bog to promote peat formation, and heath communities where matt grass has become dominant.

This needs to be so much more than a 'consideration' but rather a complete ethos which thoroughly understands the critical importance of the landscape which is to be altered and embraces every opportunity to restore and enhance the moorland environment.

10.4.2 - 10.4.4 describe the scope for landscape design to mitigate the potential landscape and visual effects.

Given the importance of the ecological features on the potential turbine area, will there be a hierarchy of mitigation between issues of landscape and visual importance and ecological importance, and will this be clearly set out and made transparent in the ES?

Construction

10.4.6 refers to the routing and siting of elements of the proposed development to avoid notable landscape features. How are these notable landscape features defined, and, for instance, do these correspond with important ecological features such as blanket bog?

The 'key potential mitigation measures' miss the point completely with regard to the restoration of the blanket bog. The objectives state that native grass/ moorland species to be planted to assist in blending the track into the surrounding moorland context. Given that grasslands make up a small percentage of the areas on Walshaw Moor the emphasis here is misguided. Meanwhile mention of woodland creation (when blanket bog is not even mentioned) is bordering on the irrelevant. The mitigation process needs to consider what the objectives are in the restoration of the vegetation. It seems that the aim is to recreate the vegetation patterns that were here prior to development which in places is degraded habitat brought about by years of mismanagement, not to take the opportunity to restore an internationally important area of blanket bog, for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood control and protection of water quality.

There are the clear objectives set out in the NCA which provides clear and concise guidance that should be followed. The oLEMP would also need to fully understand the objectives of the Catchment Management Plan, and the requirements of any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

The statement that careful consideration will be made of any planting proposals to complement the landscape character is worrying and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the ecological value of the landscape of the proposed turbine area. Restoration must take full account of the restoration of the peatland vegetation and hydrology and understand the challenges of restoring irreplaceable and irreparable peatland habitats.

It is hugely concerning that the restoration of this precious landscape is being entrusted to those that appear to have no grasp of its importance.

Scope of the assessment

Table 10.4 reviews comments made by consultees. A recurring comment refers to need for cumulative assessment but there is no detail given as to what cumulative effects should be considered. These should include cumulative sequential effects along key public rights of way, including the Pennine Way in both directions, considering the effects from the furthest point north and south from where the proposal would be seen.
This will reinforce the massive scale of the visual impact on this path. Other important routes where cumulative sequential effects should be considered include:

The Pennine Bridleway
Brontë Way
Leeds Liverpool Canal
Calderdale Way
Burnley Way
Pendle Way
Calder Aire Link
E2 European Long-Distance Path
Scenic road routes: Widdop Road
A6033 from Hebden Bridge to Oxenhope

A further point made by UCWN when commenting on the 2023 SR was that the sense of openness should be considered. This is not quite the same as the sense of openness considered in a planning context which is related to the green belt, but the sense of being able to experience wide open spaces unimpaired by built development.

Effects scoped out from the Detailed Assessment

Table 10.5 states that no townscape assessments will be carried out in the urban parts of the study area. We consider that there will be sufficient impact on the urban areas to merit townscape studies which should be considered for Haworth, Heptonstall, Trawden, Pecket Well, Stanbury and Oxenhope as skylines and backdrops to these developments will be affected by this proposal.

The effects arising from the decommissioning phase should be considered as there are likely to be long term changes resulting from the reinstatement of vegetation over hard standings as outlined in chapter 7. This is because the impervious concrete hard standings and foundations remaining in the ground will result in a permanent change to the hydrology and patterns of vegetation that will be impossible to change.

Likely significant effects scoped into the Detailed Assessment

10.5.4 does not consider the BESS. In contrast to the largely clean lines of the wind turbines, the BESS will be a smaller scale but piecemeal development with security fencing and associated small buildings and the landscape and visual effects of this need to be fully assessed.

Table 10.6 states that the design of the Proposed Development should be considered in relation to the landform of local context, but there is a regional context here: Walshaw Moor is the highest ground in the South Pennines and the impact of this development on this landform will be felt across the region.

Similarly, the study area of 15km underestimates the extent of the potential impact of this development across the wider region.

Consultation

10.6.5 doesn't include perceptual qualities as one of the categories that will be assessed in the LVIA. Para 5.3.7 of GLVIA states that the importance of perceptions of landscape is emphasised in the European Landscape Convention: for instance, the perceptions of wildness and tranquillity and how this would be affected should be considered.

Physical effects on Landscape Elements

10.6.6 states that physical effects of the development are restricted to within the footprint of the development. We consider that these effects would extend beyond the footprint of the Turbine Area. As the blanket bog is hydrologically linked it is likely that the effects will extend to other parts of the peatland mosaic even if they are outside the proposed site.

Effects on views

10.6.8 we consider that there will also be perceptual effects caused by the introduction of lighting to turbines, such as the loss of dark skies.

Cumulative effects

Sequential cumulative effects which are described in **Table 7.1** of GLVIA are not mentioned as part of the scoping. This has already been mentioned in respect of views from footpaths etc (**10-4**).

Significance of Effects – nature of effects

10.6.28 suggests that the landscape and visual effects of windfarms are difficult to categorise as beneficial or adverse. We disagree: this is not necessarily the case and it is important that this is understood in the LVIA. For instance, if wildness is an accepted feature of the landscape character of the South Pennines NCA and, by introducing new development into that landscape, the character of wildness will be LOST, this is clearly a negative effect, because it is a clear attribute and characteristic of the landscape character which no longer exists. We consider that it is hard to claim that there is an element of subjectivity here. We note that the LVIA will adopt a precautionary approach here which we believe to be essential.

Decommissioning

As noted earlier, since it will not be possible to reverse the effects of much of the proposed installation there will be permanent changes to the hydrology of the moor which in turn will have an impact on the vegetation.

Assumptions Limitations and Uncertainties

LVIA should be iterative documents which respond to changes as they happen, so it is expected that there will be changes to the LVIA as the design evolves.

(Author: PB 21/9/25)

11: Cultural heritage

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

4.3.21

1] The diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted.
2] The landscape is known as 'Brontë country', not 'Bronte countryside (sic)'. Nor should the landscape be described solely as 'literary' for the reasons stated in our response to 10.3.06 below.
3] Top Withens is known simply as that, not 'Top Withens Farmhouse'.
4] Top Withens is believed to be the inspiration for the **location** of Wuthering Heights.

4.3.28

1] The diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted.
2] The 'Bronte Way (sic)' may have a closest point to the turbine area but does not have a 'closet point'.

10.3.06

The landscape is not purely 'literary'. It should be described as 'cultural'. It has connections not only with the Brontë sisters but also with Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many more.

10.3.21

The location of Wuthering Heights is Top Withens, not 'Top Witherns'.

10.3.22

Visualisations should include kinetic photomontages and should include imaging from both Penistone Hill looking west towards the proposed site, trig point TP7008 Withins Height looking west towards the proposed site and Heptonstall looking east towards the proposed site. Visualisations should also include night-time photomontages.

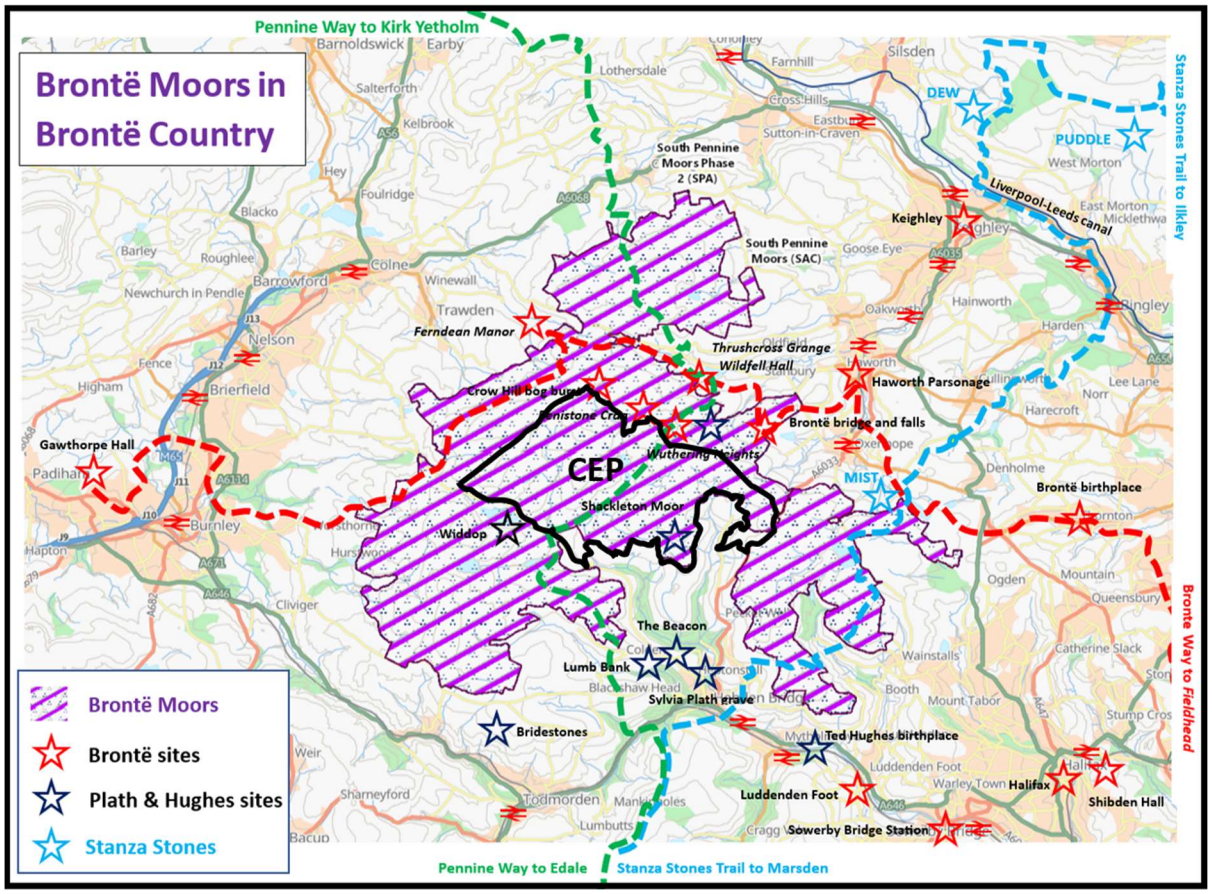
Table 10-2

1] Viewpoint 3: the diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted. Top Withens has connections not only with Emily Brontë but also those people referred to in 10.3.06 above and others.
2] Viewpoint 8: the diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted in both the viewpoint location and the visual receptor type/rationale for selection in assessment.
3] Viewpoint 26: Crow Nest Bingley. Surely the location is meant to be Crow Nest Park in Lightcliffe, Halifax, the site of the mansion Crow Nest House which belonged to Ann Walker, the partner of 'Gentleman Jack', Anne Lister? This should be clarified.
4] Viewpoints from Great Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent should be included.
5] Viewpoints from the 'Brontë Stones Walk' should be included.

11.3.9

'The Proposed Development and the area surrounding the settlement at Haworth' is not an adequate description of the extent and cultural importance of the landscape. As the map below indicates, the culturally significant area of this moorland extends from Padiham in the east to Ilkley in the north-west to Fieldhead in the east and Marsden in the south, and

encompasses the work of Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Simon Armitage, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many others as well as the Brontës.



The area 'Brontë Moors' shaded in purple is also the South Pennines Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

Table 11-6

1] pp. 392-394: the diaresis in Brontë is omitted.
2] p. 392: The Brontë Society should be one of the 'external stakeholders'.
3] the general scope of the analysis of the impact of the proposed development on the cultural landscape should be extended to encompass the work of Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Simon Armitage, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many others working across all media, as well as the Brontës. This analysis should also take into account the ongoing impact of the cultural landscape for future generations of artists of all practices.
4] p. 395: the assumption that 'decommissioning will remove all above ground elements of the Proposed Development (with the exception of

tracks and hardstanding) and thus return the landscape to its previous state (as it is now) or enhanced landscape state, therefore removing any ongoing effects on heritage assets through a change in setting. Therefore, there will be no likely significant effects on the significance of any heritage assets from the decommissioning process, so this has been scoped out of any further assessment' is incorrect. The remaining tracks and hardstanding will irrevocably alter the iconic and currently virtually untouched moorland landscape. This effect of the decommissioning process should be included in further assessment.

11.6.27 and 11.6.28

The diaresis in Brontë is omitted.

11.6.29

We reiterate the point that decommissioning will NOT return the landscape to its previous point or enhanced landscape state. The remaining tracks and hardstanding will irrevocably alter the iconic and currently virtually untouched moorland landscape. This effect of the decommissioning process should be included in further assessment.

(Author: LM 10/09/25)

12: Access, Traffic and Transport

(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

Omissions and errors in Chapter 12 are significant and systemic, so full comment is reserved, pending an accurate revision of the Scoping Report (SR) and an extended deadline to allow detailed attention to a more accurate document. Several prima facie A.I. hallucinations (plausible sounding random falsehoods) in the SR Chapter 12 are noted.

Policy on matters noted in these comments

These comments address important matters that are either absent from scoping, lack articulation because of weak integration across chapters, or are systemically erroneous.

Unexplained suppression of Option A

An Option A access route for AIL via Halifax was published in the non-statutory consultation on 10 June 2025 [Consultation Brochure (CB) p 23]. The suppression of Option A in SR is noted, and comment is reserved.

Prima facie A.I. hallucinations in the SR

The use of A.I. to produce the SR need not have been a problem, but uncritical use of A.I. is indicative of a failure of supervision by qualified human intelligence. Because providing information and analysis is not the purpose of the SR stated in **1.4.2**, it is surprising to find any prima facie A.I. hallucinations in the SR.
The EIA developed on the foundation of the SR will consist mainly of information and analysis and will be intensely vulnerable to A.I. hallucination if this is not nipped in the bud in the SR. Logika and CWF Ltd should supply a full account of A.I hallucination in the SR.

Weak cartography at critical points

Weak cartography at critical points is noted. Consultees should not have to provide adequate maps.

Failure to proofread by management of Logika and CWF Ltd.

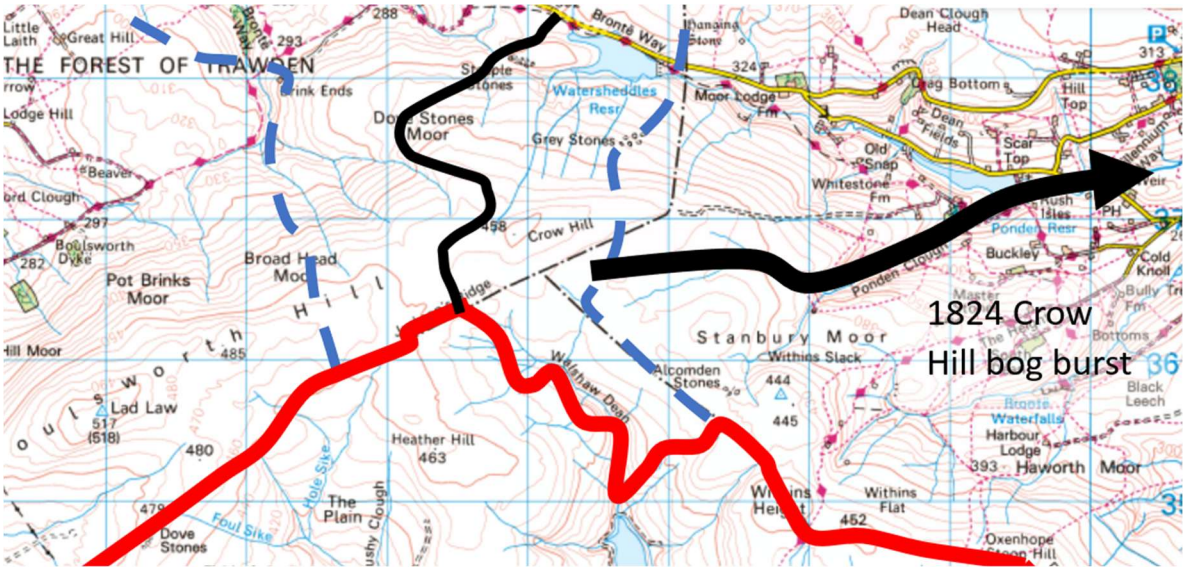
Readers should not have been embarrassed by extensive and systemic errors in a public document concerning a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. Subsequent revisions should be signed off as proofread by named Logika senior management and accepted as proofread by the Project Director of CWF Ltd.

Comment themes

A) The risk of a peat slide on the new Crow Hill access track.
B) Implications for traffic of the West Yorkshire aggregates problem.
C) Systemic errors in SR 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7
D) Rights of way and the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

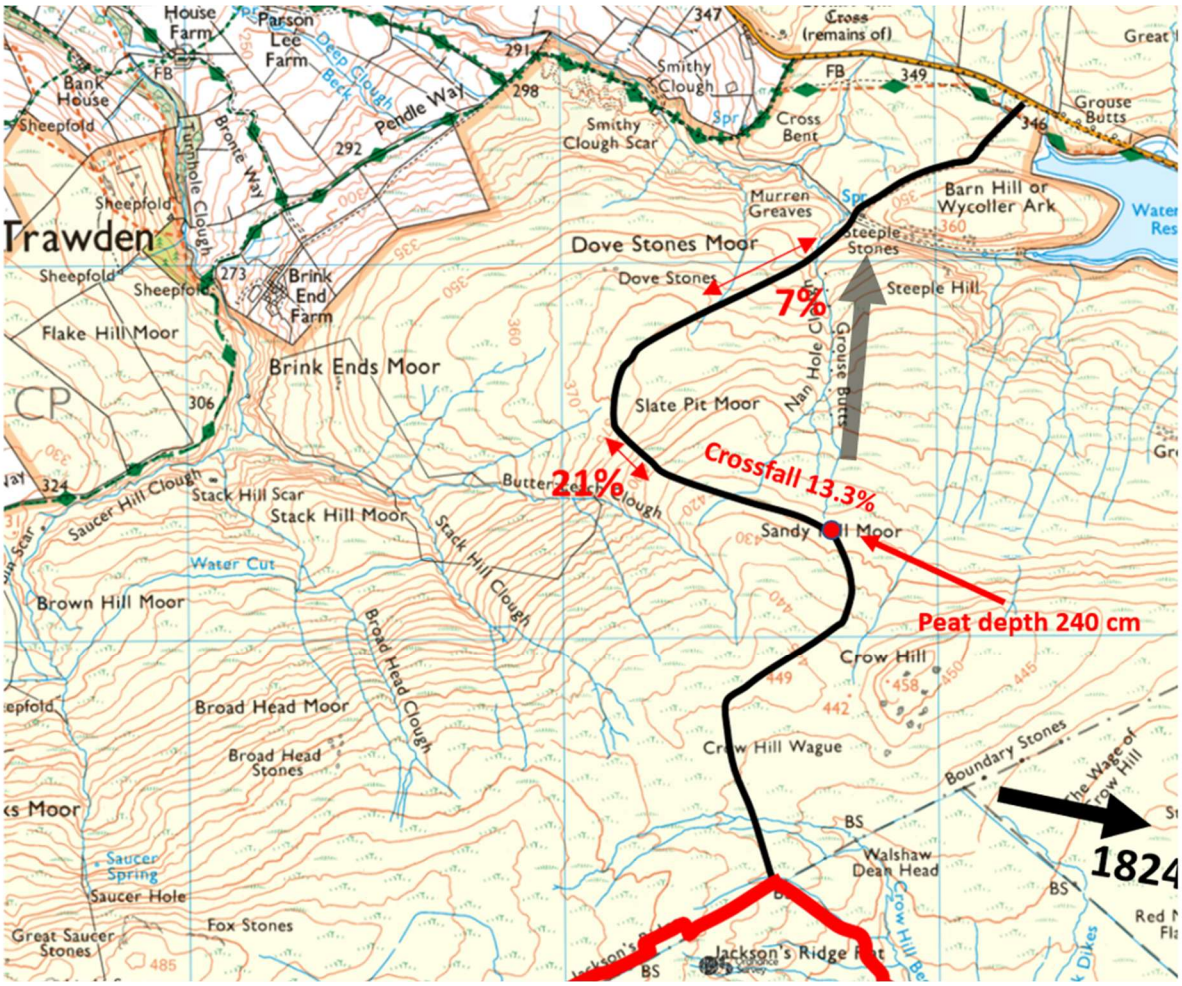
A) The risk of a peat slide on the new Crow Hill access track.

12.3.2 states that access to the turbine area for AIL will be by a new track. **4-2** has a map of the relevant Site Access Search Area and the brochure [CB p 24] for the non-statutory consultation gives a map of the Considered Access Route over Crow Hill. Neither map is adequate, so two maps are given in these comments. The route (black curve) over Crow Hill is shown on our Map 12A with the turbine area boundary (red), the search area borders (blue dashes) and the peat slide (thick black arrow) (**8.3.26**) known as the 1824 Crow Hill bog burst.



Map 12A Detail of the Site Access Search Area over Crow Hill showing path of 1824 Crow Hill bog burst. Map: WTRG after SR **4-2**]

Map 12B is on a larger scale and shows the Considered Access Route over Crow Hill.



Map 12B Considered Access Route over Crow Hill showing potential peat slide on Crow Hill access track and the 1824 bog burst on Crow Hill. Map: WTRG after CB p 24. Data: WTRG.

12.2 **12.3.2** states that all abnormal indivisible loads (AIL: the turbine components) will be delivered up the section of Crow Hill between the blue dashed lines in **Map 12 A**. **12.5.2** confirms that AIL will come via Crow Hill. The Crow Hill terrain is existential for the proposal because all turbine components come as AIL over Crow Hill.

The SR account of Crow Hill terrain is deficient

12.3 The SR has little to say about the soil mechanics of Crow Hill over which the turbine components must come. The remarks about Crow Hill are confined to **8.3.26** and **8.3.29,** both quoted in full:

8.3.26 *'To the north and outside of the Turbine Area, there are two recorded peat landslides, one of which is known as the Crow Hill bog burst*

(Ross, 2020), described by the Rev. Patrick Brontë. LiDAR data indicates no equivalent features within the proposed turbine area."

Note the tendency of this statement to minimise the significance of the Crow Hill bog burst for the proposal. Although the 1824 Crow Hill catastrophe indeed started slightly outside of the Turbine Area, all the turbine components will be delivered across Crow Hill. Ross 2020, though excellent, is primarily a post-doctoral literary resource and together with the instancing of the Rev. Patrick Brontë, who was not a soil engineer, but the father of three of the most famous women in the history of the world, **8.3.26** tends to suggest that the 1824 bog burst was a remote, academic, or even gothic event.

12.4 " ***8.3.29*** *A large proportion of the Cable Corridor Search Areas and eastern Site Access Search Areas have no superficial deposits and where present, lie within peat deposits. The western Site Access Search Area is underlain by superficial deposits of Glacial Till where present."*

This is prima facie A.I. hallucination on soil mechanics. The incoherence of **8.3.29** shows that no detailed consideration has been given to the Crow Hill soil mechanics, and essential matters to be scoped into the Access baseline, and dealt with at once, are therefore laid out here in detail.

Crow Hill peat slides

12.5 The Site Access Search Area over Crow Hill is adjacent to, and for 20 ha includes, the locus of the 1824 Crow Hill bog burst, the catastrophic peat slide of **8.3.26**. The reference (Ross 2020) states that the river of peat and boulders was over 2-metres deep at Ponden Hall, some 3 km from the burst. The explosion of the bog was heard in Leeds, and the river Aire above Leeds was so polluted by its tributary the Worth that the reservoir water pumps were stopped. A peat stain could be seen as far as the Humber.

12.6 The "considered access route" (CB p 24) traverses the top of the Nan Hole Clough drainage funnel (see Map 12 B). The traverse has a crossfall of 13.3% and a preliminary peat survey by WTRG has found peat of depth 240 cm on the traverse. The slope is convex.

12.7 The 1824 bog burst was not triggered by immediate human activity and began at a similar altitude to the Nan Hole Clough traverse. The considered access route crosses similar terrain as the 1824 slide, but the

ground will also have been disturbed by the construction of the track; will have been loaded by hundreds of tonnes of aggregate that form the track; and will carry the heavy AIL. There is a prima facie case that the track may cause a peat slide, that the probability during construction is at least Scale 3 (SR ref 133 5.5), and that the worst impacts of that peat slide would be catastrophic, involving multiple loss of life and the stranding of the project.

12.8 It is indicative of the danger of the Crow Hill terrain that in an otherwise overcrowded proposal, the layout advanced in CB, and mapped inconsistently in the SR, avoids putting turbines on Jackson's Ridge of Crow Hill, even though the wakes would stream NE in the prevailing wind and not reduce the aerodynamic efficiency of the array, as so many of the indicated turbines will do.

12.9 A second Crow Hill peat slide occurred on 19 May 1989. Dykes and Warburton (Mass movements in peat (2006)) give a photograph of the remnants of the 1989 slide taken in 2005. The extent was 3.6 ha, and 46000 m^3. The peat was originally 2-3 metres deep and 0.3-0.5 metres of depth remains. The terrain is not steep and corresponds to the ground crossed by the Crow Hill access road at 440 metres just before the last bend. A prolonged drought had affected England from November 1988, punctuated by short-lived but often abrupt phases of wet weather. On 19 May 1989, a record 2-hour point rainfall of 193 mm was recorded at Walshaw Dean Lodge in the middle of the turbine area. This is the record daily rainfall for May, and the most intense 2-hour rainfall recorded in Britain. It is known as the "Halifax Storm". The 1989 Crow Hill peat slide and 1824 Crow Hill catastrophe had in common intense rain following a drought. Droughts in the Walshaw catchment include 2023 when emergency pipes were laid by helicopter from Walshaw Dean to Ponden reservoirs, and the ongoing drought of Spring and Summer 2025.

Survey and analysis required

12.10 **8.2.2** references "Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Scottish Government, 2017) (SR footnote 133)" which should set the baseline method for peat landslide risk assessment on Crow Hill.

12.11 Equation 8 of SR footnote 133 states that the safety factor *F* can be modelled by the equation

$$F = \frac{c' + (\gamma - m\gamma_w) z \cos^2 \beta \tan \phi'}{\gamma z \sin \beta \cos \beta}$$

Given the existential nature of the peat slide risk for the whole proposal, slope convexity, the triggering factors of very heavy deliveries, the weight of aggregate used to build the track, a predicted pattern of long dry spells and intense rain, and the proximity of the catastrophic peat slide of 1824, values of *c'* (effective cohesion) and *z* (peat depth) must be established by onsite peat coring and probing at a variety of saturations *m*. Note the known high *z*-value already found (peat depth 240 cm at the turn) and the high β-value = $\tan^{-1}(0.133)$ calculated on the published track. Other peat depths already obtained are reserved.

12.12 Values of *c'* from peat coring should be presented in tabular form at a range of values of *m* including full saturation, correlated with values of *z* at the same locations and the resultant value of *F*. Peat cohesion is strongly dependent on fibrosity and saturation. Fibrosity is likely to vary over short scales, so a 10-metre probing-and-coring grid is minimum. Given the existential nature of the area, a finer grid may be indicated.

Site and access choice cause survey difficulties

12.12 Given the present drought, it is possible that *c'* at values of *m* near (and at) saturation might not have been measured by 28 February 2026. A dispensation from Natural England to perform peat coring and peat depth probing during the ground nesting bird season of 1 March - 31 July 2026 should be sought to allow ongoing measurement of cohesiveness in a variety of saturation regimes.

12.13 Dykes and Kirk [p 391] explain why the Yorkshire drought of summer 1824 might be a proximate cause of the September 2 Crow Hill catastrophe. The same explanation applies to the 1989 Crow Hill peat slide. Dykes and Kirk explain that in a drought, dry peat masses with "lower water contents and lower liquid limits" undergo "a decrease in particle size" which triggers "the close packing of the organic particles and the consequently smaller pores and higher bulk density." Consequently, it "would take a smaller increase in water content to bring about significantly higher water pressures or even a change of state."

12.14 The present difficulty of obtaining cohesiveness values at high saturations is a consequence of weather instability that itself contributes to

the baseline risk of peat slides on Crow Hill, and are further consequent of the site choice and access choices made by CWF Ltd.

12.15 Because of the existential nature of the Crow Hill access, statutory consultees and the Secretary of State must have high confidence in the survey for peat depth *z* and effective cohesiveness *c'* and in the reliability of the subsequent analysis. The work should be independently conducted and peer reviewed and published in good time before the beginning of Statutory Consultation, which may have to be delayed.

Maximum parameter values should be justified

Justification of the maximum gradient of any access track over Crow Hill relative to safe practices in AIL delivery, likely delivery method, track engineering and default manufacturer limits, should be given. The present value on the presented track in CB p 24 is 21% (our **Map 12 B**).

12.17 Justification of the maximum crossfall of any access track made over Crow Hill should be given. The present value presented in CB p 24 is 13.3% (our **Map 12 B**)

Mitigation of peat slide risk on Crow Hill

12.18 On current evidence, the Crow Hill peat landslide probability under baseline worst-case scenario is "Likely: scale 3" or "Probable: scale 4" (SR ref 133 table 5.1)
The impacts (multiple deaths and stranding of the project) are "Extremely high: Scale 5" (SR ref 133, table 5.2)
The indicative risk baseline is then medium or high (SR ref 133 table 5.3) and the reference states:

"*Where the risk level for a zone is medium or high, avoidance or specification of mitigation measures would normally be the only means by which project infrastructure could be considered acceptable within that zone at the proposed development site*."

12.19 Specific measures to mitigate peat slide on Crow Hill must be stated in the baseline Access assessment and follow SR ref 133 table 5.66 . Mitigation measures should not be generic. Given a peat slide on Crow Hill, the trigger with the highest Bayesian likelihood would be an AIL convoy, and the only reliable mitigation may be avoidance of the area by AIL. If the

proposal continues to depend on Crow Hill access, a justification would be required. The baseline would give a foundation for ongoing monitoring during construction and operation if it has been shown to be reasonably safe to proceed.

12.20 A regime of ongoing monitoring of the Crow Hill terrain during operation should be scoped into baseline, since access over Crow Hill may be required by the emergency services in the event of a wildfire, turbine fire or BESS lithium fire, and a peat slide would form part of the Fire Service risk assessment. Robust data might then be available for the decommissioning phase, when frequent heavy traffic may again be using the Crow Hill access.

Requirement for an early report on Crow Hill

12.21 Given that access via Crow Hill is existential for the proposal, statutory consultees should not be required to maintain concern for the proposal as a whole under very short deadlines (42 days for the non-statutory consultation and just 29 days for the SR) until independent research is completed and the report on access via Crow Hill is published. Detailed research and analysis of the Crow Hill access should be published before the beginning of the Statutory Consultation since it is existential for the proposal. The consultation is anticipated to begin in "Winter 2025" and must be delayed if no conclusion on peat slide risk on Crow Hill has been reached. If consultees are to engage with confidence in Statutory Consultation, they must be convinced ab initio that there is safe access to the site before they are required to expend further public money, charitable funds and expert management time responding to the proposal. Consultees should not have to wait until the whole-site geomorphological map of **8.6.4** is complete, especially since that map will not necessarily include the off-site access across Crow Hill and might be too general and small scale.

Ecological status of Crow Hill

12.22 The Crow Hill section of the search area is part of the South Pennines Phase 2 SAC and SPA, should be part of the baseline assessment of the impact on designated land, and should be accorded a separate assessment as it is outside the Turbine Area boundary. A preliminary walkover found excellent active bog west of Nan Hole Clough. The area is part of the 7.1% already regarded by DEFRA as counting towards England's 30 by 30 target under the Kunming-Montreal GBF. Present policy on

SAC/SPA designated land and the K-M GBF is summarised in the joint Policy paper issued by DESNZ and DEFRA on 14 July 2025: Unlocking benefits for people, nature and climate: Actions to jointly address climate change and biodiversity loss in England. This paper should be referenced in future revisions of the SR, and its contents should inform all revised chapters.

SR is over-confident about Crow Hill

12.23 **19-1** states: "Given the nature and type of development, it is considered that the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in any type of major accident/disaster."

This is prima facie an over-confident assessment of Crow Hill.

B) Implications of the West Yorkshire Aggregate Problem for Access and Transport

12.24 It has been known for at least 70 years that if West Yorkshire sandstones are crushed to aggregate, they are too weak, porous and susceptible to frost for roadstone or technical concrete. This is called the West Yorkshire Aggregate Problem (WYAP).

12.25 The problem and its extent are confirmed in the fourteen separate annual aggregate assessments (2012-2025) of the five West Yorkshire councils. The assessments have not been found in the materials used for the desk study by Logika. A typical statement of the problem from the assessments is:
A1.2.2 "The sandstones are too weak and porous for the manufacture of concrete or for road building and are commonly used in low specification situations and for bulk fill."

12.26 The relation of the WYAP to Calderdale Wind Farm and Calderdale Energy Park has been a commonplace at least since April 2024. The matter was formally raised by Robbie Moore M.P. in a letter to CWF Ltd. from the House of Commons in October 2024. No indication of the WYAP appears in the SR.

12.27 The only public acknowledgement by CWF Ltd. or Logika of the WYAP, and only as it relates to the onsite rock, was made by CWF Ltd consultant Donald Mackay on the CEP Webinar (21 May 2025, 43:40-45:27)

in response to a question put by a member of the public during the Non-statutory Consultation. Donald Mackay's answer includes the statement that "The naturally occurring materials on the site are not the best quality for construction."

Borrow pits supply the equivalent of local quarry waste

12.28 5.8 "Borrow pits" should state the agreed deficiency of onsite rock for technical aggregates in the Chapter 5 baseline, and the West Yorkshire annual aggregate assessments should be explicit in the baseline assessment for Access and Transport in Chapter 12. The same point should be stated in **8.6.1. 9 (bullet point 8)**. Given the WYAP, the aggregates that can be won from onsite borrow pits are only suitable for bulk fill. This low-grade material is widely available in West Yorkshire as a waste product from the quarrying and cutting of building stone, a point repeatedly confirmed by the annual aggregate assessments.

Walshaw Moor is an internationally designated SAC and SPA and already part of England's attempt to reach the 30 by 30 requirement of the Kunming-Montreal GBF, so it is most unlikely that on-site borrow pits to extract what is available nearby as quarry waste will be consented. Once the force of this rationale has been understood, borrow pits should be scoped out of SR because there should not be any.

Limestone and ferrous sulphate are toxic to sphagnum

12.29 **4.3.16** describes the Natural England Walshaw Catchment Restoration Plan (2017-2042) a programme of interdependent habitat management and infrastructure management techniques agreed between Natural England and the Walshaw Moor Estate, designed to protect, restore and improve important blanket bog habitat. The plan states (8.1.6) "Aggregate used on tracks will be inert materials". The blanket bog is very acid; limestone aggregate is highly alkaline; and the reaction between bog and limestone releases bicarbonate which is toxic for sphagnum moss.

12.30 All concrete is strongly alkaline, so concrete turbine foundations must be protected from the acid environment. Since it will not initially interact with the bog environment, limestone immobilised as concrete aggregate may be thought acceptable on protected peatlands. **5.2.2** specifies a large rebar and concrete gravity foundation for each turbine and **5.1.16** states that the foundations will remain in situ after

decommissioning. The concrete/bog barrier will eventually rupture. The long-term poisoning of internationally designated blanket bog as concrete and rebar deteriorate to produce mobile toxic carbonate and ferrous sulphate, the moss killer sold in all garden centres, should be scoped in, and may be impossible to mitigate in a Special Area of Conservation without the careful removal of the foundations at decommissioning.

Integration of aggregate aspects across chapters

Aggregates are existential to the proposal and should be integrated in the SR and fully referenced in the Access baseline. An explicit worst-case scenario should be stated:
"Bulk fill will be local quarry waste imported from off-site; concrete aggregates and inert roadstone will be imported from out of West Yorkshire; if granite is specified for roadstone it will be imported from out of Yorkshire, or out of England if Glen Sanda on Loch Linnhe is chosen; the need to import all aggregates to CEP will cause unusual traffic intensity compared to the majority of large wind farms that are built from internal resources once the first borrow pit is reached."
Given its size, internationally designated blanket bog, distance from the sea and unfavourable geology, CEP as described in the SR may need the most extensive bulk material movements by distance and weight of any wind farm in the UK.

C) Systemic errors in SR 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7

12.32 The following list is restricted to errors indicating a systemic failure of drafting and supervision by Logika and the client CWF Ltd. A full list of errors is reserved. Some of the errors could not have been made by a qualified human. The simplest explanation of the extent and non-human nature of the errors is that they are A.I. hallucinations that were missed by the senior management of Logika and CWF Ltd when they proofread the chapter.

12.4.2

a] Bullet point 2. "A6068 between the M56 and Colne".
The A6068 does not join the M56. For "M56" read M65.

b] Bullet point 6. "A6063 between Hebden Bridge and Cross Roads."
For "A6063" read A6033.

c] Bullet point 7. “A464 between Todmorden and Mytholmroyd.”
For “A464” read A646. This error is particularly indicative of A.I. hallucination, because any human qualified to write or check a chapter on Access and Transport would know that the “A464” must be in the M4 corridor from London to South Wales.

12.4.5

d] Bullet point 2. “A6068 between the M56 and Cowling; Count sites 28783 (Colne)”
For “M56” read Colne. Here “M56” cannot be read as “M65” because the M65 count is in the previous bullet point.

12.4.8

e] “Onsite PRoW present on the A6063”.
For “A6063” read A6033 or A6068 or both.

12.4.11

f] “The A6068 is operated by Lancashire County Council and is mainly a two lane distributor road. It connects the M56 to West Yorkshire and passes through the town of Colne.”
For “M56” read M65. For “West Yorkshire” read North Yorkshire.

12.4.16

g] “The A464 provides an east-west connection between Lancashire and West Yorkshire, connecting Burnley to Halifax.”
For “A464” read A646. For “east-west” read “west-east” because Lancashire is west of West Yorkshire and Halifax is east of Burnley. This error is prima facie caused by A.I. hallucination, with the A.I. confused by the “West” in “West Yorkshire”. No human qualified to write the chapter could make this error. It would have been picked up had human senior management at Logika or CWF Ltd proofread SR with care. Note that the A646 is not shaded in the Map 4-2 access corridors.

12.6.6
h] Bullet point 6: “Users of the A6063 between Hebden Bridge and Cross Roads.”

For “A6063” read A6033.
i] Bullet point 9: “Residents living alongside the A6068 between the M56 and Cowling”.
For “M56” read M65.
j] Bullet point 10: “Residents living alongside the A644 between Todmorden and Mytholmroyd.”
For “A644” read A646.

12.7.1
k] Bullet point 6: For “A6063”, read A6033.
l] Bullet point 7: For “A6063”, read A6033.
m] Bullet point 8: For “A6063”, read A6033.
n] Both **12.4.13** and **12.4.14** are incoherent. Other corrections are possible, but both items should probably read:
“It is unlikely that the peak of construction will have a significant impact on the A56, **but** an impact assessment will be undertaken, given that it may be used for the import of bulk materials to the site.”
o] **12.4.17** states that the A629 may be used for bulk materials with significant impacts. The A629 does not connect with the site. The final distributor road after the A629 will be the A6033, but **12.3.3** states that “Currently, temporary access to the east will be taken for general construction traffic and construction staff from the A6033” with no mention of the significant impacts of bulk materials. The bulk materials on the A629 in **12.4.17** evaporate before they move onto the A6033 in **12.3.3**.

D) Public rights of way and the Pennine Way national trail

12.33 **12.4.16** states that PRoW users within the site will be considered as highly sensitive receptors. Since the site is almost all open moorland under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, a protocol for those exercising their rights under the CRoW Act should be scoped in, and such users should also be considered as highly sensitive receptors. The protocol should cover construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

12.34 The CRoW Act is an achievement of our democracy, governing the relation of ordinary English (and later Welsh, but not Scottish) people, and their guests, with the oligarchic and feudal landownership pattern of moorland. The access baseline should scope in the closing words of Lord Whitty, which are indicative of parliament’s intention in the matter of this relation.

"In the spirit of compromise and balance, which I have advocated throughout the Bill, we have not taken away the land from the landowners, who have recognised their responsibilities. Tonight, we have, to some extent at least, given the land to the people."

12.35 Since the CRoW Act, a network of light-footed desire paths has become established on Walshaw Moor, often on previously suppressed rights of way. These should be mapped and scoped into the impact assessment on Access. The guidebook "West Yorkshire Moors" by Christopher Goddard will be of great use and should be part of the baseline Access assessment references. Goddard's 2nd edition maps a substantial aggregate track around Thurrish Rough, and a vehicular bridge over Mare Greave Clough, neither of which are present on the maps published by CWF Ltd. at the non-statutory consultation [CB p14 et al]. In all subsequent documents, CWF Ltd. must use maps which show all relevant features appropriate to scale and topic. Weak and incorrect cartography has been a systemic management problem for CWF Ltd. and has worsened as the project becomes more articulated. A full account has been lodged separately with the Planning Inspectorate.

12.36 Most of the SR array maps (they are inconsistent) and the array map published in the Consultation Brochure [p 14] when combined with the SR **note 291** on rotor diameter, indicate that the blades of T21 would oversail the Pennine Way, a National Trail, by 24 metres. The same maps show that T18 is sited directly on the junction of two PRoW. Buffer sizes around the Pennine Way and PRoW should be scoped into the Access baseline and in the case of the Pennine Way should be justified relative to its national and cultural status as an institution of our democracy.

12.37 Table 16-4 p 498 states that "Currently, construction works may temporarily disrupt use of public rights of way (PRoW) during construction […] Any potential physical impacts will be assessed in the Transport and Access chapter with mitigation measures secured to minimise disruption (see Chapter 12: Access Traffic and Transport)" . No indication of such assessment appears in Chapter 12. Several similar statements in **Table 16-4** are meant to be assessed in Chapter 12, but no indications of such assessments are present in Chapter 12. Integration across the chapter silos in the SR here, and elsewhere, has been neglected, and should be rectified in subsequent revisions. The EIA will not be an integrated assessment of the impacts of the proposal if the SR is allowed to remain so disjointed. The complexity of integration in the SR, and the EIA for which it is the

foundation, are consequent on the size of the proposal and the choice of controversial land on which to build it, and the complexities must be accepted by the applicant.

12.38 **16.4.5** refers to "Proposed permissive paths". Walshaw Moor is open access moorland under the CRoW Act (2000). The relationship between these "permissive paths" and the status of Walshaw Moor as open access moorland the CRoW Act should be made explicit in the Access baseline.

The systemic error rate in Chapter 12 is much too high in a planning document for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

12.39 Despite only being given 29 days for the task, careful human readers have found far too many serious systemic errors permeating the SR, some of which have been identified in these comments on Chapter 12. The error rate should be explained by Logika and CWF Ltd. and they should provide an accurate revision of the SR so that it forms a firmer legal foundation in the document sequence. Calderdale Energy Park is a controversial proposal because it is built on doubly internationally designated land, counting towards the 30 by 30 target being pursued jointly by DESNZ and Defra; and is "within the Brontë Country" – the CWF Ltd. description of the situation of CEP on the internationally revered landscape which has provided inspiration for some of the most famous novels ever written.
Given the choice by CWF Ltd of such controversial land, it is not in the interests of CWF Ltd, their investors, and the Secretary of State representing the British people, that the legal foundation of the document sequence for Calderdale Energy Park should be an unrevised SR that is riddled with errors and prima facie A.I. hallucination.

12.40 The deadline for comments on the SR should be extended, and the deadline for comment on any subsequent more accurate versions should be much longer than the 29 days provided for the SR, since consultees must take great care in reading when there is already a history of serious systemic error and omission, and prima facie A.I. hallucination.

12.41 The errors in Chapter 12 seem unusually egregious in a document relating to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project submitted to the Secretary of State. Lest this form a precedent, a justification for this

deviation from the normal courtesies of precision should be given by Logika and CWF Ltd, relative to their peculiar difficulties.

12.42 Several instances of a failure to integrate the SR across chapter silos have been noted. A full account of integration failures cannot be expected from consultees in just 29 days, especially when there are so many, and such serious, errors and lacunae within single chapter silos. Integration of an SR (and subsequent EIA) across disciplines is always complex for applicants, but particularly so if the proposal is large and on such controversial land.

12.43 Integration of the disciplines is the task of the CEP Project Directorate, which should have an overview of all chapters, and the agency to achieve some integration on key points at least. Far from attempting this complex task, the Project Directorate have not even checked the SR for glaring methodological errors in single chapter silos.

12.44 Generative A.I. has only recently become widely available, so there is little precedent for what is an acceptable rate of A.I. hallucination in such a document as this SR. As A.I. use by planning consultants can only increase, it may be helpful to all applicants for the Secretary of State to issue guidance on the nature and extent of A.I hallucination (and related A.I. slop) that might be condoned in an applicant document relating to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

(Author: NIPM 16/09/25)

13: Noise and Vibration

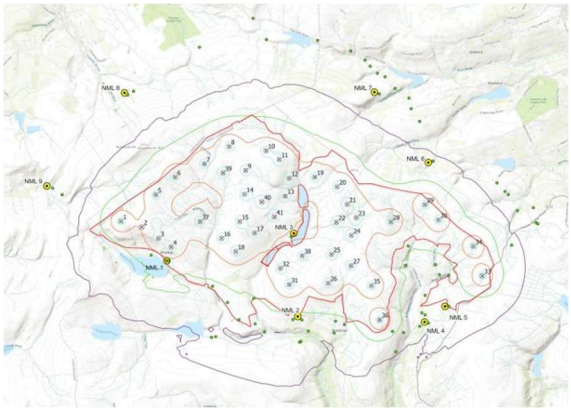
(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

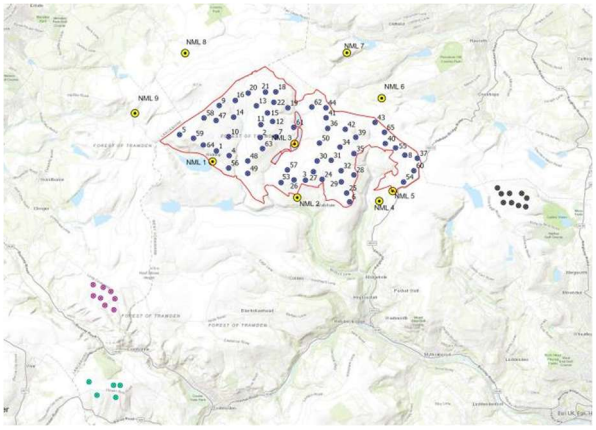
The omissions and errors in Chapter 13 are significant and systemic, and full comments are reserved pending a corrected SR with a realistic deadline for more detailed attention.

13.1 Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration was found to be unchecked with serious errors, to embed a fundamental modelling error, and to use cut-and-paste material from previous studies that would not apply to the layout being modelled. This very serious matter is dealt with in our 13.11 below.

The disclaimer in **13.6.18** does not excuse the conduct of Chapter 13. Either the SR should have waited for a correctly spaced layout, or noise modelling should not have been reported in the SR.

13.2 Figure 13-1 (Drawn by 'ST,' checked by 'MT' dated 19/08/2025) (below left) shows the result of modelling noise. It uses the layout for CEP presented at the Non-statutory Consultation on 29 April 2025 in the corrected version of 1 May 2025. Its last revision is 05, made on 29/08/2025.





13-2 (Drawn by 'ST', checked by 'MT' dated 09/07/2025) (above right) concerns the noise impact of cumulative wind turbines in the area. Its last revision 02 was made on 29/08/2025. For reasons that should be explained by Logika and CWF Ltd, but which would be immediately apparent to experienced users of windPRO, it uses the former 65-turbine layout for CWF described by CWF Lead Consultant Donald Mackay (Trawden public exhibition 29 May 2025) as "worse than useless".

Two completely different layouts, one of them "worse than useless", have been used on adjacent maps revised on the same day.

13.3 The General Notes printed on **13-1** and **13-2** state:
"This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all engineer's, architect's or other relevant drawings and specifications."

The authors of Chapter 13 have themselves not read **13-1** in conjunction with **13-2**. It is indicative of management weakness at Logika that the senior consultant for Noise did not do so either, nor did the CWF Ltd. Project Directorate notice these adjacent conflicting drawings when they checked the document before it was submitted to the Secretary of State.

13.4 The productions of ST and MT in SR must all be checked, corrected and published in a revised SR. An analysis of the work of ST appears below in our 13.20-13.25 below.

13.5 The modelling assumptions used in **13-1** are set out in **13.3.5**:

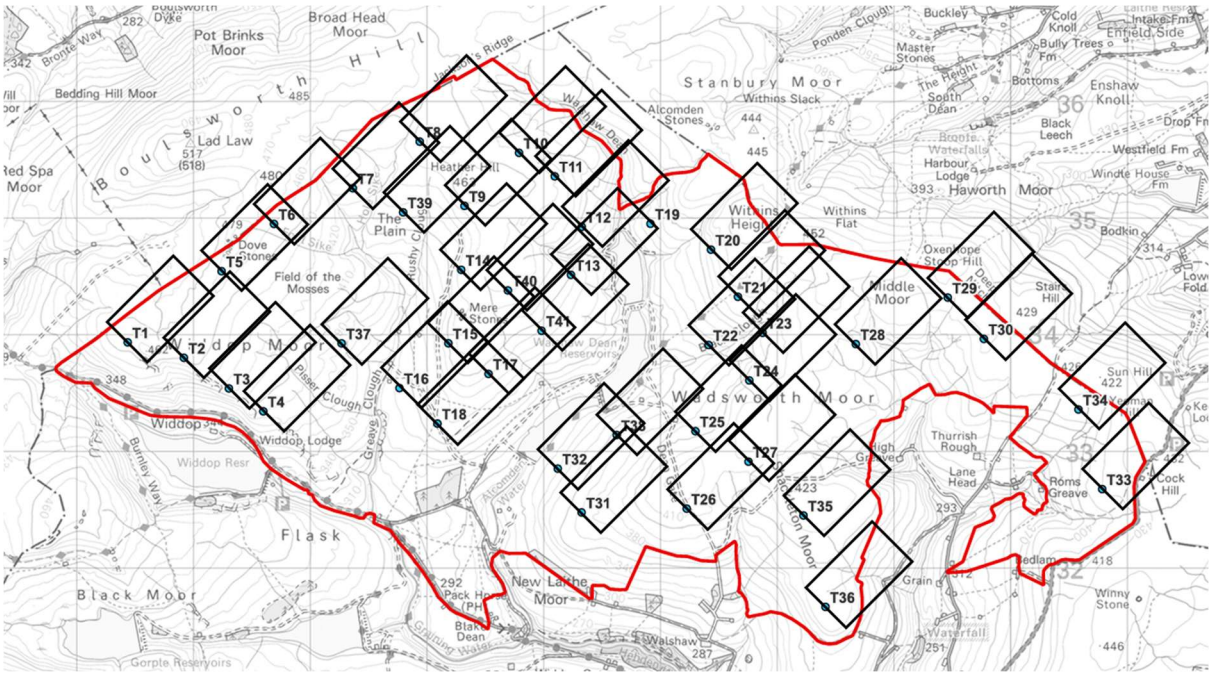
*"**13.3.5** In order to determine noise sensitive receptors for which it was suitable to undertake background noise monitoring for the wind turbine operational noise assessment preliminary desktop noise modelling was undertaken using EMD windPRO software290. An initial indicative wind turbine layout based on the layout presented at the non-statutory consultation was input into the software and, using noise data for a candidate turbine representative of the type that could be installed on the site[291], a noise contour plot was produced (shown on **Figure 13-1**)."*

Note 291 reads:

"Candidate turbine used for predictions is the Vestas V162 7.2MW with a 119 m hub and 200 m tip."

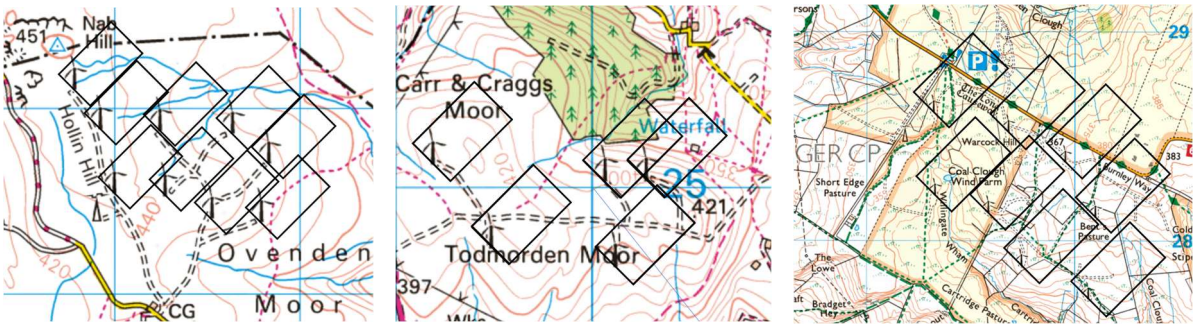
13.6 Overcrowded wind farms can generate penetrating noise and damaging vibration through resonance and by the amplitude modulation effect known as acoustic beats. This is mitigated by proper turbine spacing and is not found to a problem on existing properly spaced wind farms. The minimum spacing used in practice in all consented UK wind farms is 3 RD (across the prevailing wind) by 5 RD (downwind). The 5 RD downwind spacing is to allow the slow-moving turbulent wake behind a turbine to dissipate somewhat before the next downwind turbine. The 3 RD crosswind spacing is to prevent turbulence thrown off sideways by a turbine from affecting its neighbour in the row.

13.7 When the layout described in **13.3.5** is combined with the turbine type described in **note 291** (rotor diameter (RD) 162 metres) the result is gross overcrowding, particularly on Heather Hill and around Black Clough. One or other of the modelling assumptions in **13.3.5** must have been incorrect because the outcome of both assumptions used together is a grossly overcrowded wind farm. The figure below shows the minimum 3 RD by 5 RD footprints using the assumptions of the noise model in **13.3.5**. In correctly spaced wind farms, there is almost no overlap between the footprints.



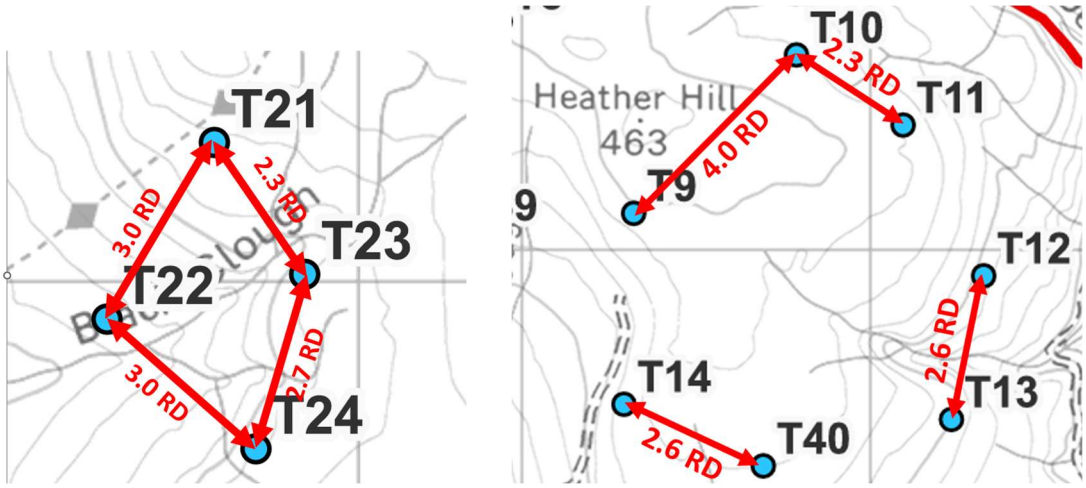
Map 13.7 When both assumptions of **13.3.5** are used, an unviable over-crowded wind farm results. Note the extreme overcrowding on Heather Hill (around T40) and especially in Black Clough (the cluster T21-T24).

13.8 For comparison, the 3 RD by 5 RD spacings of the three real wind farms (Todmorden Moor, Coal Clough and Ovenden Moor) in the study area of **13-2** are shown below.



Maps 13.8 a,b,c. The real wind farms shown in **13-2** are well spaced on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints.

13.9 The simplistic windPRO modelling used in **13-1** cannot identify potential resonance tonal noise and amplitude modulation noise caused by the tight-packed turbines, especially those in Black Clough and on Heather Hill,



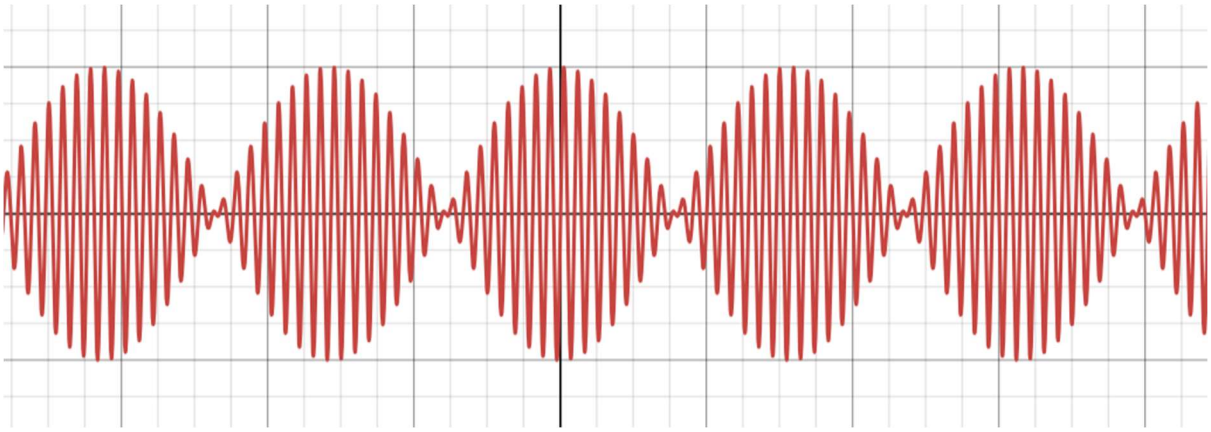
Map 13.9 Gross overcrowding in Black Clough and on Heather Hill.

13.10 The modelling method of **13-1** is simplistic and finds noise intensity by the inverse-square-distance weighted average noise intensities of the array turbines. Some noise due to a grossly overcrowded array will usually be tonal noise in narrow frequency bands at resonant harmonics; or amplitude modulation noise caused by acoustic beats, the interference pattern of two sound sources of similar frequency in proximity. Neither of these array-determined features can be captured by the averaging method of **13-1**.

Amplitude modulation (AM)

13.11 The paragraphs **13.5.2-13.5.20** constitute a cut-and-paste argument for scoping out AM noise. The argument is unsound because it adduces studies made on correctly spaced actual wind farms, but the layout mapped and modelled here is grossly overcrowded. **13.5.20** concludes: 'At present, it seems evident that reliable predictions of AM in the context of development planning and noise assessment guidance are unlikely to be practically feasible in the near future.'

This conclusion is wrong in the case of the overcrowded wind farm modelled in the SR, because there is an a priori mechanism for AM when the turbines are so close together, the familiar acoustic beats used by piano tuners.
If two turbines are close together the frequency and amplitude of their noise can be almost the same. To illustrate the a priori mechanism of AM in CEP by acoustic beats, we show the result of adding two sine waves with similar frequencies and equal amplitude. One is at 16 Hz (four octaves below middle C) and the other at 18 Hz.



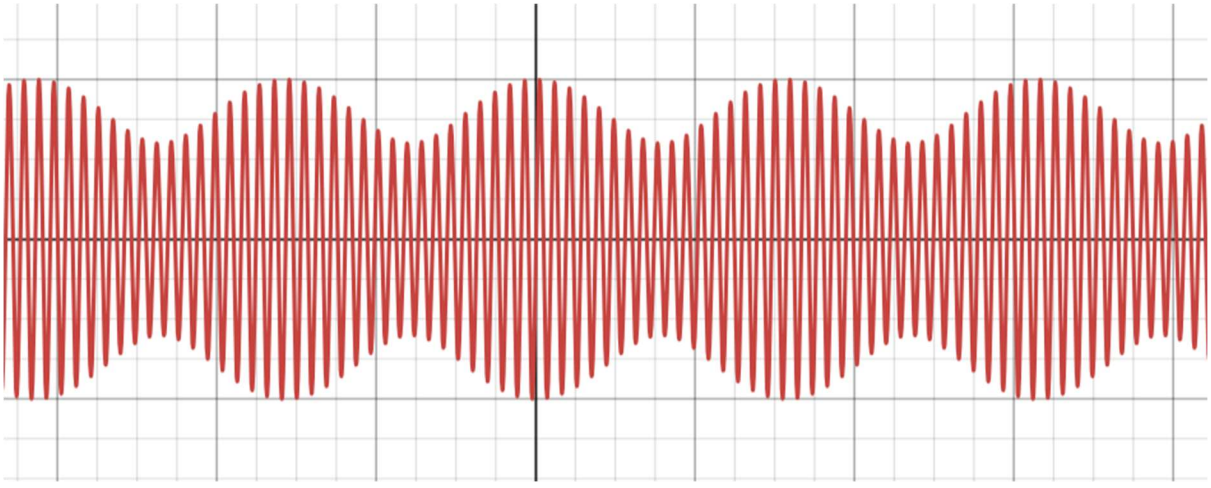
The resulting sound wave exhibits the amplitude modulation called acoustic beats. The envelope of the wave form can be calculated using a standard identity:

$$\sin A + \sin B \equiv 2 \sin\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{A-B}{2}\right)$$

.

The two waves with frequency 16 Hz and 18 Hz combine to give a wave form whose pitch will be 17 Hz but whose amplitude will modulate with a frequency of 1 Hz. The piano tuner knows the strings have the same pitch when no AM occurs when they are played together.

If the turbines are further apart, then the amplitudes of interfering waves will be more varied. In the diagram below we show sum of 16Hz and 18Hz wave forms but with different amplitudes. There will still be AM, but less extreme.



The grossly over-crowded wind farm modelled in Chapter 13, advanced at the non-statutory consultation, mapped throughout the SR except where other layouts are erroneously inserted, and used for modelling in SR Chapter 13, would make AM likely, a priori. AM must remain scoped in while the layout is overcrowded.

By international norms the layout is even more overcrowded

13.12 The upwind spacing in the 21-24 cluster is about half the traditional UK minimum of 5 RD. This minimum is itself well below the 6 RD-10 RD typical in countries with a higher regard for energy wastage, noise and vibration damage to turbines in onshore wind farms. Without ever being justified, wake losses through a skimped 5 RD spacing are now accepted in UK onshore wind farms, with the costs borne ultimately by electricity bill payers. It is not the intention of this comment to open a discussion of systemic wake losses in UK wind farms, but to highlight that 5 RD is already a bare minimum and the 2.6 RD upwind spacing in the 21-24 cluster in the model is thus far below the international norm.

13.13 Overcrowded wind farms have larger wake losses and generate less electricity from the expensive plant, with the wasted kinetic energy expressed as excess noise in turbulent air. The costs are borne by electricity bill-payers. Everyone pays for the noise.

13.14 Before further comments can be made on the noise modelling methods of 13.3.5, a correct revision of the SR should assess noise using modelling assumptions that do not result in a grossly overcrowded wind farm, and revised maps that all relate to the correct proposal. Critical thinking must always be used when deploying cut-and-paste research.

Vibration

13.15 The tone of **13.5.22** is polemical, as though the SR is picking a fight with itself. **13.5.22** does not mention that the principal victim of excessive operational vibration caused by resonance in an overcrowded wind farm is the wind farm itself. We all pay for resonance vibration in overcrowded wind farms.

As well as resonance tonal noise and AM noise, the impacts of the layout and turbine size modelled in **13.3.5** will include to some extent:

a) Higher vibration and bending stress on rotor blades
b) Uneven torque and dynamic forces in main shaft and bearings
c) Increased mechanical stress in the gearbox and generator

These impacts should be scoped into the Noise and Vibration baseline while the proposed layout remains grossly overcrowded. The mechanical costs of vibration in overcrowded wind farms are ultimately borne by electricity bill-payers.

Tendency to overcrowd by uprating

13.16 Developers and turbine manufacturers have strong incentives to overcrowd onshore wind farms. It should be nipped in the bud at Scoping, and consultees and regulators must pay attention to uprating consequences throughout the consent pathway, especially since UK onshore wind farms that use a 5 RD downwind spacing are already overcrowded by international norms.

13.17 Overcrowding is especially likely to occur when turbine uprating is implemented between proposals inside the same boundary, as it has been between Calderdale Wind Farm (4.8 MW turbines correctly spaced) and Calderdale Energy Park (7.2 MW turbines grossly overcrowded).

13.18 Overcrowding can inflate curtailment payments, about which Prime Minister Starmer has said "It's a problem that wasn't fixed over the last 14 years, but a problem that we are determined to fix as we go forward". As it happens, CWF Ltd. proposed a correctly spaced wind farm under the Conservatives and a grossly overcrowded one under Labour.

13.19 Some large wind farms built or consented on the Scottish islands (for which no Westminster government was responsible) form useful examples of overcrowding by uprating with which some CWF Ltd. consultants will be familiar. The uprating between CWF (65 4.8 MW turbines correctly spaced on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints) and CEP (41 7.2 MW turbines grossly overcrowded on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints) should be justified by Logika and CWF Ltd.

Maps drawn by 'ST'

13.20 Following the inconsistency found in **13-1** and **13-2**, the other drawings by 'ST' were tracked across the SR.

13.21 There is a very serious omission concerning storm runoff in Greave Clough in the hydrology maps **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** (drawn by 'ST' and checked by 'SM'). These omissions relate to **4.3.11** and the acknowledged

large area at risk of surface water flooding "on the western side of the turbine area, around Waterfall Syke and Cross Dike." The maps **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** omit the sluice and tunnel to Widdop Reservoir from Greave Clough. Normal outflow and storm outflow from the Greave Clough catchment are entirely different if the sluice and tunnel are overwhelmed. The correct normal outflow from Greave Clough is not as shown in the three maps.

13.22 Note that **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** are all less useful than the single hydrology map published in the consultation brochure [CB p 19], which showed the indicative layout on the hydrology map and thus gave early warning of the flood danger potential, though the sluice and tunnel were also absent. CEP is dangerous for flooding because it is overcrowded. This has pushed infrastructure onto steep edges which will accelerate runoff. Consultees who want to remark in detail on the flood danger of CEP as laid out would have to refer to the Consultation Brochure for the Non-statutory Consultation because the maps in the SR, as well as being incomplete, are inadequate for that purpose.

13.23 **18-1** on Shadow Flicker (drawn by 'ST' and checked by 'MT') has a T42 but no T38. The same error on all seven maps published for the non-statutory consultation on 29 April 2025 was brought to the attention of the CWF Ltd Project Director on 1 May 2025 by a member of the public, who was thanked in writing. The error was then corrected on seven maps produced for non-statutory consultation, with a pop-up notification of the corrections to seven erroneous maps that has recently been taken down but is shown below.

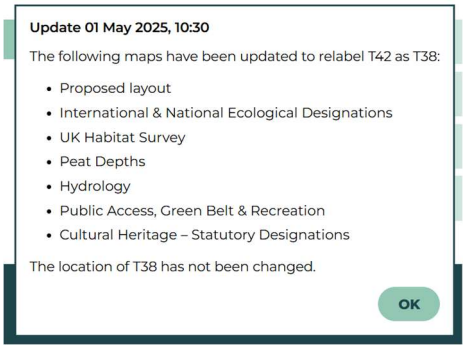


Fig 13.23 Pop-up notification of the T42 error. Image: CWF Ltd

The revision dates on **18-2** all long postdate the acknowledgment of the error by the Project Director, and why the error persists in **18-2** should be explained by the Project Director, but expert users of windPRO will know how a poorly trained user with no overall understanding of the proposal and

its document history might make this error. Logika should explain why the error was not caught by the more experienced chapter and volume editors, and CWF Ltd. should explain why it was not caught by the Project Director, who was acutely aware of the T42 problem following the events of 29 April-1 May 2025.

13.24 Across the SR, 'ST' drew, 'MT' checked, and clients were able to make comments on three maps (**13-1, 13-2, 18-2**) each having a final revision date of 29/08/2025 which used three different turbine layouts. It is not plausible that checker 'MT' could have missed these three variations if these maps were in fact checked on 29/08/2025 as stated, so they seem not to have been checked at any point.

13.25 Logika and CWF Ltd. should want to guarantee the correctness of all the maps in subsequent revisions of the SR submitted to the Secretary of State. Consultees and investors whose time and money has been wasted by this SR should be given an explanation for the authorship, drafting and checking failures, and clear lines of management and accountability at Logika should be published in subsequent revisions of the SR.

13.27 13.6.18 is a disclaimer. It states:

"An indicative layout and candidate turbine have been used to inform this Scoping Report, including predicted noise levels and the identification of noise sensitive receptors, and it is anticipated that these could differ from the candidate turbine and layout submitted with the DCO application."

CWF Ltd. and Logika should explain why Chapter 13 models a layout that should not be built. Comments on what CWF Ltd. hoped to gain from the incompetent chapter are reserved pending that explanation.

13.28 The noise analysis in Chapter 13 is neither competent nor scientific.

a) Two different layouts have been presented in adjacent drawings **13-1** and **13-2**. This is because the drafter 'ST' selected two layouts from the windPRO library, both with titles beginning "Calderdale" one of which was for Calderdale Energy Park and the other was for Calderdale Wind Farm. This is simple carelessness that should have been picked up by the chapter editor and by the senior management of Logika and CWF Ltd. during checking and proofreading.

b) Because Calderdale Energy Park is grossly overcrowded, including a cluster with a downwind spacing as low as 2.3 RD, the intensity averaging algorithm supplied by windPRO and used to draw the contours in **13-1** will not capture the resonance and AM noise phenomena.

c) The SR is oblivious to the overcrowding despite stating the model rotor diameter in the assumptions. The SR is modelling a wind farm that should never be built, and which would have noise properties that the simplistic modelling by inverse-square weighted averages cannot predict.

d) In **13.5.2-13.5.20** the SR presents some cut-and-paste research into Amplitude Modulation. Because that research was done with a sample of actual wind farms, they will not usually be grossly overcrowded, so the evidence adduced is irrelevant to SR's argument.

e) The cut-and-pasted research concludes that "At present, it seems evident that reliable predictions of AM in the context of development planning and noise assessment guidance are unlikely to be practically feasible in the near future."

For the SR grossly overcrowded model the reverse is the case. Acoustic beats will make AM predictable a priori in the grossly overcrowded CEP layout used in the model.

f) The studies adduced may be scientific. They way they are used is not scientific. Science is not a cut-and-paste activity. It always requires critical thinking.

g) Government policy on renewable energy is complex and expensive and depends on maintaining a widespread belief in scientific process among the electorate. It is essential that the modelling and the use of scientific research in any Scoping Report for a wind farm should be competent and scrupulous. This is not the case in Chapter 13 of the SR and this is not excused by the disclaimer **13.6.18**. All published modelling should have been delayed until a correct layout was available so that public confidence in the proposal was maintained.

13.29 Consultees include councils who are very short of money for basic activities, and charities that depend on public generosity. They should not have to spend money responding in a very short timeframe to a Scoping

Report that is riddled with errors and models a wind farm layout that should not be built.

(Author: NIPM 16/09/25)

15: Socio-economics and tourism

(For Peat's Sake)

Overall, this section leans towards overstating the benefits of CEP and understating its costs, both tangible & intangible.

15.2.1 *'No legislation specific to socioeconomics & tourism'* … leading to interpretation and bias towards CEP.
Much of the rationale in this section is based on broad brush regional/national secondary data, lacking focus on the more relevant local economy. To capture meaningful input primary research needs to be conducted supported by more targeted secondary data.
Some parts are void of specific relevance and true understanding of the area and its many tourist assets and unique South Pennine cultural heritage.
There are flaws in the BiGGAR's Economics Wind Farm Methodology. Using broad ONS data is limiting, missing out small local businesses and voluntary contributions. Regional averages don't focus on local impact. There's a bias towards project positives for CEP with client-commissioned reports/research. The broad approach masks local impacts, the tourism trade-offs hidden and cultural heritage and landscape effects diluted.

15.3.2 Regarding 'Study Areas' … other 'relevant' local authority areas is vague. This should clearly specify inclusion of all communities bordering Walshaw Moor and Brontë Country, with input from constituents, parish councils and bordering local authorities (in accordance with the Aarhus Convention).

15.3.3 Economic impacts and key tourism assets should be quantified in communities bordering Walshaw Moor and Brontë Country. They are inter connected.

15.3.4/5 Baseline data is macro level and not tailored to the communities the proposal impacts. This is too abstract to give clear understanding of the local economy surrounding the proposed development.

15.3.16 What is the relevance of this reference to fuel poverty? It is to be expected that populations in more northern or exposed locations will face higher fuel bills.

15.3.18 *"These figures indicate that tourism in Calderdale is no more important to the local economy than is the case for Yorkshire and the Humber and England as a whole".* What is the source for this misleading statement. Hebden Bridge/Haworth and surrounding communities are tourist hotspots. What percentage of tourism revenue in Calderdale (tangible & intangible) does Hebden Bridge tourism assets account for? What percentage of Bradford for Haworth?

15.3.20

Active should include several fell running events, winter Spine race, mountain biking, wild swimming, connection with nature/mental health/retreat/reflection/wellbeing. Ancient Packhorse/trekking routes, Calderdale Way, Pennine Way.

Discovery also Lumb Falls, Wuthering Heights & Bronte Moor, Gibson Mill, Hardcastle Crags, National Trust, Cragg Vale, Bell House Coiners/ 'King' David Hartley, the Arvon Foundation Centre at Lumb Bank, Heptonstall, Jerusalem Farm, the unique cultural heritage landscape, churches and farmsteads.

Events many village fetes celebrating cultural heritage & tradition, Hebden Bridge Open Studios events celebrating arts drawing inspiration from the uniqueness of surrounding South Pennine landscapes and poets like Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, besides the Brontës. Wainsgate Chapel music and spoken word events, the Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever on Penistone Hill in Haworth.

Films several film and tv versions of Wuthering Heights with a new one to be released in February 2026; Jane Eyre, The Gallows Pole, Gentleman Jack, Last Tango in Halifax, Happy Valley, Riot Women, God's Own Country.

There is a vibrant social economy locally with tourists supporting cafes, shops, pubs, restaurants and many local businesses in both Hebden Bridge, Haworth and neighbouring communities.

15.5.2 More emphasis should be placed on the relevance of Bradford, which is UK City of Culture 2025. In terms of the wider context of Brontë Country, Keighley, Thornton and Ilkley are just as relevant as communities directly bordering the site of the proposed wind farm.

'It is proposed that the decommissioning phase is scoped out of the socio-economics assessment as described in 15.9' This should be scoped in to the socio-economics assessment.

(Author: CS 18/09/25)

16: Human health

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

16.4.5

'Proposed permissive paths' have never been mentioned. At the moment most of the proposed wind farm site is open access land under CRoW: will this no longer be the case if the development goes ahead?

Table 16-14

This is NOT scoped in in Chapter 12 Access, Traffic and Transport.

16.5.4

'it is ***uncertain*** whether this land is important for access to open space, leisure and play': this needs to be established

(Author: LM 18/09/25)

17: Aviation

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

The Scoping Report has not included Oxenhope Airfield GB-0151. To be found at OS grid SE 045 344 this airfield is 4.3km from the nearest turbine on Yeomans Hill, has a number of regular local users and should definitely be scoped.

(Author: LM 18/09/25)

18: EIA Other Matters (Shadow Flicker)

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

Fig 18-1

The map for the 'Study Area' for shadow flicker shows no Turbine 38 but includes a Turbine 42 (there are only 41 proposed turbines). The latter error appeared on the CEP website at the Launch on 29 April 2025 and was pointed out to CWF Ltd. on 1 May 2025 by a member of the public. The error was corrected by CEP, and a pop-up notification was put on the website which has only recently been taken down. Since the same error has now been perpetrated in the SR, CWF Ltd would do well to reinstate the correction notification for their own benefit. As CWF Ltd. acknowledge in para 10.4.2 of the current SR, 'the layout of the Proposed Development is a vital part of the EIA process'.

(Author: LM 10/09/25)

City of BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN
Only sent by E-mail
calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Department of Place

Planning, Transportation and Highways
Development Services

Bradford Team
Britannia House, Hall Ings
Bradford, BD1 1HX

Contact: [redacted]
E-Mail: [redacted]@bradford.gov.uk
Ward: Bowling And Barkerend (ward 05)

Our Ref : 25/03401/CON

23 September 2025

Dear Katherine King

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11. Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park (the proposed development). Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

Detailed below is the response by Bradford Councils Local Planning Authority to the consultation received on the 1 September 2025, for comments on the scoping request received by the Secretary of State for the Proposed Calderdale Energy Park, which will include 41-wind turbines, an onsite Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) an onsite substation and associated ancillary infrastructure, under the above provisions.

Bradford Council have previously provided a response (our ref: 23/03569/CON) to Calderdale Council on the 18 October 2023, following a consultation by Calderdale Council to Bradford regarding a formal Scoping Opinion request by the Developer in September 2023 to Calderdale Council (Calderdale ref: 23/06010/EIA). Bradford Councils response on the 18 October 2023 is appended below (appendix 1) and should be read in conjunction with the following updated comments.

It is noted that the proposal no longer includes Solar PV.

Bradford Councils comments on the scoping report are set out below – in which we respond to each section of the scoping report.

1.Introduction

No Comments

2. Planning Policy Context

As previously noted, the proposal is on the boundary of Bradford and therefore, it is considered (in general terms) that the following adopted planning documents are still applicable and relevant and should be referenced. Additionally, for land within the cable corridor that is within Bradford and/or any land within Bradford used for construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning should reference these adopted documents should be referenced :

Replacement Unitary Development Plan (RUDP) for the Bradford District - https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/replacement-unitary-development-plan/

Bradford Core Strategy - https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/core-strategy-dpd/

Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (2017) - https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/city-centre-action-plan-documents/

Shipley & Canal Road Area Action Plan (2017) - https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/shipley-and-canal-road-corridor-area-action-plan-dpd/

Waste Management DPD (2017) - https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/waste-management-dpd/

Adopted/Made Neighbourhood Plans – Burley-in-Wharfedale (2018); Addingham (2020); Haworth, Cross Roads & Stanbury (2021); and Steeton with Eastburn & Silsden (2021), Oxenhope (2022), Ilkley (2022), Harden (2023) and Wilsden (2025).

The emerging Bradford District Local Plan (2020 to 2038) is currently being prepared and was subject to community and stakeholder consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

It is noted that the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach is to be adopted, which allows developers to define a range of parameters—such as maximum and minimum dimensions, locations, or capacities—within which the final design of a project will fall. Bradford acknowledges that this is useful for large infrastructure projects where certain elements may evolve due to market conditions, technology, or design refinements and concurs with the approach, albeit this approach does leave Bradford with no clear understanding at this point in time where the cabling will run and whether there will be any likely significant effects due to this.

Bradford notes that elsewhere within the scoping report it is suggested that the detailed assessment of the cabling corridors is scoped out. However, Bradford

would seek the ‘scoping in’ of the whole cabling corridor within the Bradford District to a level that ensures any likely significant effects are sufficiently assessed – this is particularly noted under the biodiversity section below. Similarly, we seek the ‘scoping in’ of the site access areas within Bradford/bordering on Bradford to a level that ensures any likely significant effects are sufficiently assessed

The reminder of this chapter describes the general approach to EIA, for which Bradford do not raise any concerns/comments.

4. Description of Scoping Boundary and the Surrounding Area

No Comments

5. The Proposed Development

The number of turbines and associated infrastructure is substantial and likely to have significant effects on the Bradford District, including—among other concerns—detrimental views from numerous areas within the district. Bradford seeks to ensure that the full range of likely significant effects on the district is properly scoped into the Environmental Statement (ES), and that comprehensive and appropriate mitigation measures are provided.

We remain concerned about the limited information regarding the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and the substation, particularly their proposed locations. In addition, there is insufficient detail provided on the identified borrow pits.

The BESS and substation are noted as occupying 35,200 m² (3.5 ha), which is a considerable size for such infrastructure and likely to involve a substantial number of BESS units. The footprint, lighting, CCTV, fencing, and ancillary infrastructure associated with the BESS and substation could have significant effects on this sensitive landscape, including detrimental views from areas within the Bradford District. Bradford seeks full consideration and scoping-in of the likely significant effects on the district arising from the BESS and substation, along with comprehensive and appropriate mitigation measures within the Environmental Statement (ES).

As noted, in the previous response to Calderdale, there is very limited information on the borrow pits. There is still no indication of the scale and volumes of minerals, and we note that multiple large borrow pits could have significant permanent environmental impacts. There is no indication on the decommissioning phase (in the 35yrs) how these will be left. It is noted that information on the borrow pits and identification of aggregate requirements for the Proposed Development will be presented in the ES, but Bradford would note that the scale and number of Borrow Pits and the likely significant effects could be substantial and if so, then the likely significant impacts should be fully scoped in.

As noted in the previous response to Calderdale, there is very limited information regarding the borrow pits. There remains no indication of the scale or volumes of minerals involved, and it is noted that multiple large borrow pits could result in significant and potentially permanent environmental impacts. Furthermore, there is no information on how these pits will be treated during the decommissioning phase.

While it is stated that details on the borrow pits and the identification of aggregate requirements for the Proposed Development will be included in the Environmental Statement (ES), Bradford notes that the scale and number of borrow pits—and their likely significant effects—could be substantial. If so, these impacts should be fully scoped into the ES.

6. Ornithology

The assessment should include the data for surveys during the breeding bird season and non-breeding season. Any shortfalls should be made up with surveys to cover the periods that may have been missed in previous years.

VP surveys should include 72 hours of survey from each VP. Where survey effort doesn't meet this at this time, further survey work must be carried out. Outside the breeding season each vantage point must have been surveyed for at least 36 hours. Any shortfall should be made up with further surveys.

The potential for displacement of breeding SPA birds, including Annex 1 but also the assemblage must be carried out along with calculations of strike risk for resident and passage species passing over and stopping on or close to the site.

No targeted surveys for nightjar have been detailed. Why have specific surveys not been considered for nightjar, a Schedule 1 species?

Operational windfarm must monitor bird strike deaths, breeding displacement and impacts on bats.

There should be assessment of the impacts of land use changes on the abundance of waders. Current rotational burning and predator management will maintain higher wader and grouse populations. This changes to management may compound impacts on waders resulting from the direct development related degradation of the habitat.

It is concerning that the sensitivity of the site is discussed as justification for a reduced survey coverage for bats. Disturbance related to the deployment of static detectors should be negligible, especially in comparison with the proposed development.

Site clearance. 6.4.8 Given the likely abundance of ground nesting bird species, the open nature of the site and the scale of works, buffers for avoidance of disturbance or damage to nests may well be extensive in size.

Ornithology – Off Site

Functionally Linked Land

5.13.2 A stand-alone shadow HRA will be submitted within the DCO Application. For the purposes of Scoping Figure 4-3 shows the current area of search for off-site biodiversity compensation measures.

The HRA must include identification of and assessment of impacts on functionally linked land. If the main elements are consented then can appropriate avoidance and

mitigation be built in for the other elements. These impacts should be assessed prior to consent of the main development.

An appropriate level of bird surveys, inside and outside the breeding season must be carried out. This must include an assessment of impacts on functionally linked supporting habitat which may be affected, even on a temporary basis. Surveys of habitat within 3km of the SPA must include habitat suitability assessments for suitable foraging habitat. This must be robust assessment.

Where suitable habitat is present and will be affected by works even on a temporary basis surveys must be carried out in accordance with WYE Foraging Bird Survey Methodology. Due to potential for variation of use of supporting habitat, this should cover a minimum of two years of survey data. Bird surveys of suitable supporting habitat should cover the pre and post breeding period to pick up stopping off points for migrating birds.

Breeding and wintering birds

Locations of construction or disturbance to potential breeding and wintering bird habitats must be identified and appropriate surveys carried out where impacts can't be avoided. Survey methodology should follow guidance https://birdsurveyguidelines.org/

7. Biodiversity

Designated Sites – On/ close to main site

The main application site is located within the South Pennine Moors SSSI/ SPA and SAC. These designations highlight the importance of the site for nature conservation and their value within the Wildlife Habitat Network as nodes of wildlife value that increase the value of the connecting habitats across West Yorkshire.

Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve – Penistone Hill

Designated for its proximity to the Bronte Moors within the South Pennine SSSI/SPA/SAC and its nature conservation value but importantly the public enjoyment of nature. Impacts on the surrounding moors may affect the quality of the habitats and species assemblage, reducing value for enjoyment of nature.

Locally designated sites

Table 7-5 details the local site designations within 5km of the windfarm. The desk study request to WYERC should have included these citations however the table states that the information is not publicly available and contains no detail of the LWS. Details of the designation criteria are required in order to properly assess the zone of influence and identify impacts.

Habitats – On Site

5.16.1 After up to approximately 35 years of operation, it is anticipated that decommissioning will commence. Equipment will be removed over a period of time, typically over 24 months. The foundations and cabling are likely to remain in-situ and will be confirmed within the ES. Any additional enhancement or compensation measures will be left in place. Above ground

infrastructure will be dismantled and recycled or disposed of in accordance with best practice policy and requirements at that time. As detailed in the Commitments Register (see Appendix A).

It is of serious concern that even after decommissioning the habitats and landscape will never be fully restored.

Compensation and Habitat Biodiversity Net Gain
Due to extensive impacts on Irreplaceable habitat, blanket bog, the application will not be able to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain in line with legislation. Biodiversity Net Gain requires that avoidance of impacts be the first priority for development that may impact habitats and this requires assessment of the potential of other sites.

Bespoke compensation strategies will be required for the destruction of blanket bog. Biodiversity Net Gain habitats and bespoke compensation strategies must be delivered close to the communities who will lose access to moorland habitats. Delivery of compensation should focus on Calderdale, then West Yorkshire and Lancashire, then the wider South Pennines.

5.13.1 The Proposed Development is anticipated to include off-site compensation measures that will compensate for the loss of bog habitat; and will include opportunities for mitigating and restoring biodiversity within the Turbine Area. Consultation with Natural England has commenced on the approach to mitigation, compensation, restoration and enhancement and the measures will be included within the DCO Application.

The following questions should be answered as part of the assessment process: Has any assessment been made of the availability of a suitable amount of degraded bog, heathland and grass moorland to be restored or enhanced? Where would this take place? How will this element of the project be costed by the applicant and how would it be funded and managed on an on-going basis. Would this investment in ecological restoration be investment lost to Calderdale and West Yorkshire in favour of East and North Yorkshire.

Tree felling
Any trees required to be felled for any element of the scheme must be subject to bat and other protected species surveys as appropriate. Barn owls as a Schedule 1 species must be considered as should tawny owls.

Species – on site
Great crested newt and amphibian
Results from eDNA surveys are inconclusive, although one pond returned a positive result. Employment of standard survey methodologies of all the ponds will be required in order to identify population size class, assess impacts and design appropriate mitigation for the European Protected Species licence that would be required. Calderdale is not part of the District Level Licensing scheme.

There appears to be no discussion of impacts on other amphibian species such as common toad, smooth and palmate newt and common frog. These must be considered in further assessments.

Reptiles
Discussion of results of reptile survey appear to be inconclusive on species, range and population size. If better survey data cannot be obtained then and extensive, robust precautionary approach to reptile mitigation must be employed across the site.

White-clawed crayfish
Further survey work is required to identify presence or absence of White-clawed crayfish in watercourses on and hydrologically linked to the site. Assessment of impacts must include impacts down the catchment as a result of contamination with material carried in run off.

Biodiversity – On/Off-site
For the cable routes, borrow pits, substations and all other permanent or temporary infrastructure. Habitat creation is requested.

Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR
Any other NNR sites must have similar consideration as Penistone Hill in terms of degradation of local's appreciation of nature. Absence of human structures is a positive indicator for people's enjoyment of nature, where the proposal introduces new built infrastructure close to reserves and sites these impacts should be assessed.

Other Designations
All impacts on designated sites including SSSIs, priority and BAP habitats, strategic corridors such as the Wildlife Habitat Network must be identified and direct and indirect impacts identified and assessed. Reference to the developing Local Nature Recovery Strategy should be made when identifying the strategic significance of protected sites.

Other Species
Any other scoped in protected species survey work must follow standard guidance and be based on robust scoping of sites and habitats.

The absence of detail in relation to the cable routes leaves the potential for the consented development to require impacts that might otherwise be unacceptable.

Great crested newts
Neither Calderdale nor Bradford are part of District Level Licensing schemes. Identification of constraints will require identification of ponds within 250m and 500m of the cable routes and where there is the potential for impacts on great crested newt habitat, population size class assessments will be required, based on traditional GCN survey methodologies.

Bats
All surveys relating to the cable routes must follow BCT guidance It is concerning that the sensitivity of the site is discussed as justification for a reduced survey coverage for bats. Disturbance related to the deployment of static detectors should be negligible in comparison with the proposed development.

Otter and water vole
Surveys of watercourses crossed or otherwise potentially affected by the cable routes must be carried out in accordance with standard guidance unless methods for installation can be designed to avoid impacts on suitable habitats.

White-clawed crayfish
Affected watercourses must be assessed for their suitability for white-clawed crayfish and direct and indirect impacts identified and avoided or appropriately mitigated. This should include potential impacts in the catchments as a result of particulates released due to run off construction areas.

CHEGD
Calderdale is a stronghold for CHEGD fungi but moorland and grassland habitats in the west of Bradford also support novel communities of fungi unique to the south Pennines. Habitat assessment must consider the potential for CHEGD species and involve seasonal surveys as eDNA surveys lack robustness.

Assessment Methodology
Magnitude of impact should follow the geographic scale of feature value as a three tier classification lacks the necessary granularity. This may be appropriate for other areas of assessment but inadequate for ecological assessment.

Elements scoped out
7.6.9 It is assumed that there will be no operational effects associated with the cable connection or selected access routes once constructed. The current proposals assume a buried cable which will remain in situ for the duration of the operational period. Access routes, once established will be subject to low levels of use by operational staff and therefore and not considered likely to result in impacts on ecological receptors.

It is our understanding that cable routes would need to be free of substantial areas of vegetation to permit prompt repairs should they be necessary. This would require removal of woodlands and scrub over the corridors in the long term and would present an operational effect of the cable routes. This should be identified and assessed.

Whilst EIA regulations require only the assessment of significant effects, compliance with CIEEM guidance for EcIA requires detailed discussion of justification for scoping out of effects on ecological features.

8. Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat
The LLFA considers that any flooding and/or drainage impacts associated with the proposed development will not extend to land or watercourses within the Bradford Council boundary.

As such, we do not have any comments on the scope, or requirements, of an EIA.

9. Carbon and Climate Change

No further comments to those given to Calderdale (as set out in Bradfords letter of the 18 Oct 2023 appended) for Calderdale's scoping opinion re: 23/06010/EIA.

10. Landscape and Visual

We do note that Bradfords comments have been included in this section and noted that viewpoints requested have been added. We are generally happy with the proposed approach.

However, the interface between cultural heritage, landscape and tourism in relation to the significance of the literary legacy of the Bronte family must be fully recognised, and impacts on this cultural significance cannot be considered in isolation under the discrete topic areas. It must also be reiterated that many of the receptors relative to this aspect are intangible and not specific heritage assets. The method of assessment of impact which the scoping report identifies as yet to be defined must respond to this and be bespoke to its purpose.

11. Cultural Heritage

The Scoping Report is assessed as properly includes relevant content and approaches which will be included in the Environmental Statement in relation to Cultural Heritage.

However, the interface between cultural heritage, landscape and tourism in relation to the significance of the literary legacy of the Bronte family must be fully recognised, and impacts on this cultural significance cannot be considered in isolation under the discrete topic areas. It must also be reiterated that many of the receptors relative to this aspect are intangible and not specific heritage assets. The method of assessment of impact which the scoping report identifies as yet to be defined must respond to this and be bespoke to its purpose.

12. Access, Traffic and Transport

The scope is acceptable, but please reference the comments regarding access points in section 3. Approach to EIA.

13. Noise and Vibration

We note that Bradford's comments in response to the Calderdale scoping request have been included in this section. We also acknowledge that a Bradford Council Officer from Environmental Health has agreed to the proposed noise monitoring locations and attended the installation of equipment at one of the monitoring sites (NML6 – Harbour Lodge), located within Bradford. However, we are unable to provide any further expert opinions at this stage of the process.

14. Air Quality

The proposed approach to the assessment of air quality and it is on the whole acceptable.

Construction dust - We will need to have sight of this CEMP and an opportunity to comment on it before it is approved, especially with regards to the cable routing works that may take place within the Bradford District. We will expect any NRMM machinery used in the Bradford district to meet the London standards as already suggested in this scoping document.

Construction traffic emissions – noted that the predicted HGV AADT flows to be screened against EPUK/IAQM guidance and detailed assessment to be undertaken if >100 per day outside AQMAs or >25 within AQMAs. This is acceptable but we need to know how they will screen for any construction movements within the Bradford CAZ. Consideration should be given to treating this as an AQMA. We would expect that any vehicles passing through the Bradford CAZ to meet the CAZ standards. It won't be acceptable to have non-compliant vehicles paying to drive through the CAZ to support this project given its scale and duration. The Environmental Statement would benefit from a section about the Bradford CAZ including its extent, access restrictions and expectation from CBMDC about the emission standard of any construction vehicles likely to pass through it. It should also be noted that there are some places within the Bradford CAZ that still exceed the national air quality standards. These are different to the LAQM objectives / exceedances so not all of these are immediately obvious within the ASR report produced for LAQM purposes. We would strongly advise that the person(s) preparing the Environmental Statement obtains a copy of the Bradford 2025 ASR report from ourselves and has a conversation with us about the CAZ and how to model any future construction-based movements within it.

Operational impacts - we accept that the wind farm once built will generate very few operational vehicle movements and that the turbines and associated equipment will not have any direct emissions to air. On this basis we agree operational emissions to air can be scoped out of the ES. The only exception to this would be if any back up STOR that included on site combustion was to form part of the scheme.

We would like to request that prior to modelling the impact of any construction traffic within the Bradford district we are further consulted on the proposed modelling methodologies and the location of modelled receptor locations within the Bradford district.

15. Socio-Economics and Tourism

As previously noted to Calderdale, the potential impacts on Bradford are considered significant. We would note again that this area of moorland is hugely important culturally and recreationally. Significant international and national features straddle the site - namely the locations associated with the Bronte Sisters and the Pennine Way National Trail. There are other regional and locally important routes also (Bronte Way plus local well-used footpath network and access land).

The proposed location is in close proximity to the primary Bronte “shrine” – regarded as the setting/inspiration for “Wuthering Heights”. Other Bronte locations also sit within 1-2kms (Ponden Kirk, Bronte Falls, Ponden Hall etc). These sites attract

significant numbers of visitors per annum and support the local tourist economy to a substantial degree – particularly in Haworth and nearby villages.

The Pennine Way National Trail passes Top Withens and runs through the middle of the development site once it has climbed over Haworth Moor and entered Calderdale from the Bradford side.

The development has the potential to fundamentally alter, long-term, the cultural and recreational experience for visitors and needs proper consideration.

The cultural, recreational and footpath impacts of the proposal are noted as being scoped in via several Chapters - 10: Landscape and Visual, 11: Cultural Heritage and 12: Access, Traffic and Transport

However, we remain concerned that the interface between cultural heritage, landscape and tourism in relation to the significance of the literary legacy of the Bronte family has not been fully recognised, and impacts on this cultural significance cannot be considered in isolation under the discrete topic areas.

Bradford notes that under 'receptors identified' in this section (15.3.22) include the economy of Calderdale and tourism economy of Calderdale. Bradford, consider that the specific impacts on the economy of Bradford and Bradford tourism economy should be fully scoped into the ES due the likely significant effects on Bradfords economy and tourism economy, form this proposal that is on the boarder of on of Bradfords most visited areas.

16. Human Health

Noted that includes Bradford in baseline data. No other comments at this juncture of the process.

17. Aviation

No Comments

18. EIA Other Matters (Shadow Flicker)

We are unable to provide any expert opinions at this juncture of the process

19. Environmental Aspects Scoped Out

It is difficult to comment on the need to scope in/out minerals, as it is still unclear if the extent of the impacts of the proposed borrow pits and whether they need to form part of the ES (as noted above).

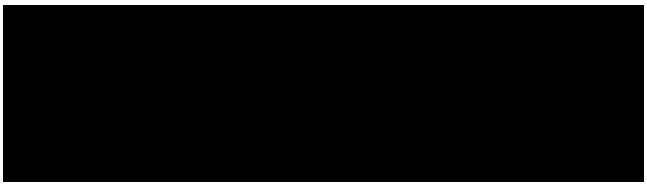
It is also difficult for Bradford to comment on the scoping out of "Risk of major accidents and/or disasters". The location, number of BESS units and layout of the BESS is unknown. It would appear to be a fairly large BESS covering 3.5ha, which in the event of a fire may give rise to emissions and polluted spent firefighting water, which could give rise to significant environmental impacts on a number of mattes including groundwater, habitats, air quality, flora and fauna. It is acknowledged that

various documentation will be submitted with the DCO to address BESS and the accident/fire risks, but due to the lack of information, we are unable to comment as to whether this should be scoped in or out.

Bradford wishes to fully engage in the process and seeks to ensure that its views are taken fully into account, given the likely significant effects of this proposal on the Bradford District across a range of topic areas.

If you have any queries in relation to the above matters do not hesitate to contact Carole Howarth at the above e-mail address.

Yours faithfully,



Assistant Director (Planning, Transportation and Highways)
Department of Regeneration and Culture

Appendix 1

Letter to Calderdale RE: 23/06010/EIA - Scoping opinion - Walshaw Moor Estate Widdop Road Heptonstall Hebden Bridge Calderdale

City of BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Calderdale Council Planning Services
Calderdale Council,
Town Hall,
Crossley Street
Halifax
HX1 1UJ

consultsandreps@calderdale.gov.uk

Department of Place

Planning, Transportation and Highways
Development Services

Bradford Team
Britannia House, Hall Ings
Bradford, BD1 1HX

Contact: [redacted]
[redacted]@bradford.gov.uk
Ward: Bowling And Barkerend (ward 05)

Our Ref : 23/03569/CON

18 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

23/06010/EIA - Scoping opinion - Walshaw Moor Estate Widdop Road Heptonstall Hebden Bridge Calderdale

Detailed below is the response by Bradford Councils Local Planning Authority to the consultation received from Calderdale Council on the 26 Sep 2023, for comments on the scoping request received by Calderdale Council for the Proposed Development of a Wind Farm on Walshaw Moor Estate, under the provisions of Part 4 Regulation 15 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the Regulations) in the Calderdale District.

As the proposal is on the boundary of Bradford, it is considered (in general terms) that the following adopted planning documents should be referenced:

Replacement Unitary Development Plan (RUDP) for the Bradford District
https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/replacement-unitary-development-plan/

Bradford Core Strategy
https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/core-strategy-dpd/

The emerging Bradford District Local Plan (2020 to 2038) is currently being prepared and was subject to community and stakeholder consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

With regards to the specific sections of the scoping request Bradford Council LPA have the following comments, for those sections and questions not included we have no specific commentary to make on the scoping document.

Para 3.2 Solar PV
The size, scale and number of the solar panels are not noted in the scoping request. Large scale solar PV arrays are not expressly listed in Schedule 2 to the EIA Regulations; but such developments may have a significant effect on the environment, particularly if located environmentally sensitive or vulnerable locations (which it is considered this is) and if large scale solar PV are proposed then these should be fully scoped in and the cumulative effects noted. We are unable to comment any further due to the limited information on this matter.

Para 3.3 Battery storage
The information on the battery storage is limited, but we note form the limited information nit is unlikely to be a significant Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). However the cumulative effects of this additional infrastructure should be noted.

Para 3.6 Borrow Pits – the scale and volumes of minerals are note provided, but multiple large borrow pits could have significant environmental impacts, particularly when considered in combination with the other ongoing activities, albeit the duration is noted a short term. We are unable to comment any further due to the limited information on this matter.

Section 6 – Ornithology

The site to which this screening request relates is located within the South Pennine Moors Phase II Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest. It supports internationally important Irreplaceable Habitat, Annex 1 Priority Blanket Bog habitat, upland heathland and purple moor and rush pasture grass among others. The upland habitats of the South Pennine Moors support rare and declining species of birds and other groups including reptiles and amphibians.

The blanket bog provides habitats for species and also valuable ecosystem services. It holds water and regulates flood waters in the valleys and holds and absorbs carbon from the atmosphere.

Wind power offers a low carbon source of electricity and will help the UK reach its Net Zero goals intended to slow the adverse effects of climate change. Appropriate siting of windfarms is essential in order to avoid adverse outcomes on habitats and species that would undermine the goals of reducing carbon inputs into the atmosphere.

In response to the question poised for Ornithology

Question 1: Do consultees have any comments regarding the EIA only concentrating on those receptors which may be subject to significant effects from the Proposed Development (either directly or indirectly)?

The Ornithology Section of the EIA should follow CIEEM guidance on EcIA. This means it should include description of the process by which individual ecological features are judged to be important or not. It also means the EIA should include explanation for how the conclusion of no significant effect has been arrive at for each ecological feature judged to be important.

Whilst we believe that the description of the assessment methodology in the scoping document fits our preferred approach we are unclear that it matches what is suggested by this question.

Question 2: Do consultees agree with the survey methodologies undertaken to date and proposed?

We need to understand how much survey effort has been carried out at dusk periods and if that has allowed for an appropriate assessment of the potential impacts on foraging golden plover which may move into and out of the site. This is also important for crepuscular and nocturnal species.

Movements of whooper swan and pink-footed geese have been identified. As much of their migration is at night and due to the fact that the site surrounds reservoirs which may offer stopping off points for the species, the assessment needs to be clear that the level of effort in relation to these species, including the timing of surveys is suitable to identify and quantify risk of strike.

No species specific surveys for nightjar have been carried out to date. Has the potential for impacts on nightjar been properly considered when scoping the surveys? They can often be missed without targeted surveys.

Question 3: Do consultees have any comment / requirements regarding additional survey effort of methodologies that they would require to be undertaken over subsequent months?

The survey effort for vantage point surveys in the 2022/23 seasons falls short of the required 72 hours from each vantage point. 2023/24 survey effort should ensure it meets the required 72 hours for each vantage point. Survey effort should be increase in 2023/24 or extended into 2024/25 to cover the shortfall. Any coverage to make up the shortfall should be focussed on those months where effort has been reduced.

Collision risk calculations should not be made based on a reduced survey effort.

See above in relation to golden plover, whooper swan and pink-footed geese and nightjar.

Infra-red surveys supported by acoustic surveys would allow a more complete assessment of passage activity over and into the site at night to be made.

Question 4. Do the consultees have any comment / requirements regarding the duration of the proposed survey period?

Survey effort should constitute a minimum of two full years of breeding, wintering, passage, vantage point and species specific survey as discussed in the scoping document. In accordance with guidance, transect surveys should all be carried out in

the same season. If the effort for each vantage point falls below the required 72 hours then it may be necessary to continue surveys into the next year.

If there are significant differences in weather conditions between the two years (as a result of either being unusual) which has the potential to significantly alter bird movements from the expected then a third year of survey data may be necessary.

Question 5: Do consultees agree with what is proposed to be scoped out of the EIA?

Generally we are satisfied with the scope in relation to ornithology. However, please see Question 3 for species we would like to see additional survey effort for or further justification for their omission.

Question 6: Are the consultees satisfied with the proposed methodology of analysis of survey data to inform the EIA, or would they require amendments or additions to the proposed methods and/or scope?

Assessment methodology should follow CIEEM guidance on EcIA as discussed in the scoping document. The assessment should provide information on the assessment of effects judged to be not significant.

The scoping document explains that grouse shooting and management are to end on the moor. Given this will result in changes to habitats and overall suitability for moorland birds we are concerned that the assessment will not adequately be able to assess the impacts on birds in the changing habitat, particularly raptors and owls.

The assessment must properly quantify the effects on the internationally important bird populations of (but not exclusively) wading birds of the degradation of blanket bog, heath and other habitats.

Effects of habitat loss and displacement on breeding, foraging, passage and wintering areas caused by tree planting should be fully explored along with impacts from the creation of wind, solar farm and battery storage.

Question 7: Do consultees agree that the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on ornithology should be considered in a Statement to inform an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations?

Yes. The application site is within the South Pennines Moors SPA. A Habitat Regulations Assessment Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment will be the minimum requirement under the Habitat Regs and Bird Directive.

Question 8: Do the consultees have any requests or requirements with regard to ornithology mitigation.

There will be a requirement to provide habitat mitigation and compensation for the loss of irreplaceable blanket bog habitat within the site. It is essential that this habitat provides functional habitat which provides an enhanced resource for the upland breeding, wintering and passage birds that the site currently supports.

Section 7 - Landscape and Visual

There are some concerns that the cumulative impacts might be more significant than what is being indicated and we seek to ensure this is robustly addressed.

In response to the question poised for Landscape and Visual

Question 9: Do you agree with the Methodology to be used for the LVIA?
Yes

Question 10: Do you agree with the proposed Study area for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment?

Yes. This looks ample at 40km.

Question 11: Are there key data sources, references or guidance documents that should be used in the preparation of the LVIA?

Landscape Character, Supplementary Planning Document – Local Development Framework for Bradford (City of Bradford MDC, October 2008) is noted in the scoping document. This should be referenced along with the relevant policies in the Bradford RUDP and Bradford Core Strategy.
It would have been helpful if there was a capacity study for the wider area – there is mention of the South Pennines capacity study, but we are unclear if it covers this area.

Question 12: Do you agree with the proposed viewpoint locations?

Some very important visual receptors have not been included, it is considered that a further review undertaken to ensure that all relevant viewpoints are included. Those we consider that need to be added are

Lad Law on top of Boulsworth Hill. To the west of the site.
High Brown Knoll. To the east of the site.
Stoodley Pike.
Pennine Way as it goes from Oldfield to Cowling.
Pennine Way at the high point south of Top Withens.

Question 13: Do you have any specific expectations in relation to the approach that should be taken the preparation of visualisations for the Proposed Development?

We would expect that there to be a render of the wireframes and insertion into the photos. It's not clear form the description if this would be done.

Question 14: Are you aware of emerging developments that should form part of the cumulative assessment; and

No

Question 15: Do you agree that the matters described in Section 7.10 can be scoped out of the LVIA?

Yes for the height/ aviation and decommissioning elements, but it is not clear if there are sensitive urban areas that could be impacted. Visibility from historic centres such as Haworth could be significant. We would suggest that this such sensitive urban receptors needs to be considered and if not more justification given for their exclusion. There is significant concern raised regarding the impacts on Haworth and the surrounding Bronte countryside, which is noted in the cultural heritage and tourism sections below.

Question 16: Do you agree that the potential measures described in Section 7.8 provide a suitable means of mitigating the potential effects of the Proposed Development?

Those mitigation matters noted are standard approach, it is not possible to define if they are a suitable means of mitigating without all the details, but any mitigation should seek to go beyond the minimum.

Section 8 – Ecology

The Catchment Recovery Plan being implemented on Walshaw Moor aims to restore Irreplaceable Blanket Bog Habitats. EIA of effects on habitats and other ecological features should consider the improving baseline habitat conditions that would be expected if the CRP was to continue in the absence of the wind farm scheme. The assessment of impacts and effects should include consideration of habitat condition and species distribution changes likely to occur as a result of the cessation of grouse moor management.

As the site includes Irreplaceable Habitats and Very High and High Distinctiveness habitats and the scheme would adversely affect significant areas of these protected and valuable habitats, it will not be able to achieve an overall Biodiversity Net Gain, which will be mandatory after January 2024. A minimum 10% BNG for habitats of lower distinctiveness will be required. The EIA should assess and describe how habitat restoration works, whether part of bespoke compensation and enhancement strategies or as required for BNG will result in positive outcomes for habits and associated species. Habitat function for protected and notable species as well as other ecosystem services like water storage and carbon capture should be referenced in the Ecology section of the EIA.

In response to the question poised for Ecology

Question 17: Do consultees have any comments regarding the EIA only concentrating on those receptors which may be subject to significant effects from the Proposed Development (either directly or indirectly)?

The Ecology Section of the EIA should follow CIEEM guidance on EcIA. This means it should include description of the process by which individual ecological features are judged to be important or not. It also means the EIA should include explanation for how the conclusion of no significant effect has been arrive at for each ecological feature judged to be important.

Whilst we believe that the description of the assessment methodology in the scoping document fits our preferred approach, we are unclear that it matches what is suggested by this question.

Question 18: Table 8.4 above notes the receptors and potential impact proposed to be included within the EIA. Do consultees agree with the list of receptors and impacts to be included within the EIA Report?

No. Reptiles and amphibians should be scoped into the assessment. These are declining species, with additional legal protection. The EIA should offer a means by which beneficial effects of the required habitat enhancements for reptiles can be described.
We understand that the scheme may involve the planting of a large number of trees. The EIA should assess the adverse impacts of this tree planting on blanket bog and heathland habitats as well as lower priority habitats. Calderdale supports areas of long term pasture with internationally significant populations of CHEGD fungi. Tree planting and woodland creation schemes often overlook the impacts of the loss of these diverse and increasingly rare habitats.

Question 19: Do consultees have any comment regarding this sufficiently covering the potential impacts on features from the Proposed Development and what is proposed to be scoped out?

Assessment of effects on species should look at the impacts of habitat changes likely to occur in the short, medium and long term. Changes to site hydrology have the potential to affect blanket bog habitats over differing time frames with the resulting changes to habitat composition and suitability for different species. It will be important to consider the findings of hydrological and hydrogeological assessments in the assessment of effects on habitats and species.

Question 20: Are consultees satisfied that the use of 23 bat detectors during the spring deployment is sufficient to support a robust assessment of bat activity at the Proposed Development for that season?

The location of the bat detectors to date focusses on the central band of the site, in general. There are unsurveyed areas in the south west around Widdop Moor and along the north of the site around Middle Moor and Heather Hill. There would appear to be watercourses that could offer commuting and foraging routes. We feel that an increased coverage in these areas should be included in coming surveys. Good justification for continued omission of these areas from the static surveys will be required if they are not included.

Question 21: Do consultees agree that a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) will likely be required to support the AA for the Proposed Development?

Undoubtedly. An AA will be required as a minimum. We would anticipate that a Derogation test would be required. The HRA should be very clear, if IROPI are invoked at Stage 3 that the carbon reduction benefits of the scheme outweigh the adverse effects of carbon release and habitat loss from degraded peat.

Question 22: In lieu of Ecobat do the consultees have a preferred method of quantitatively comparing the bat activity recorded on site to comparable sites in the local area?

Survey neighbouring sites alongside surveys at Walshaw.

Section 9 - Geology Peat Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The Contents of Section 9. Geology Peat Hydrology and Hydrogeology are very extensive and Section 9.10. States: At this stage it is proposed that all matters relating to Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology are scoped into the EIA so that they can be given full consideration.

As such, the response to questions 23 and 24 is YES to both.

Question 23: Do consultees agree with the topics included under the Proposed Scope of the Assessment?

Question 24: Do consultees agree with the assessment methodology?

Section 10 – Noise

It is noted that onshore wind turbines are rare due to government intervention, and we understand that this is in part related to noise. The case of a wind turbine planning application submitted by Princes Soft Drinks, Bradford in 2010 in which it was successfully argued by Bradford Council that the recognised criteria (ETSU-R-97) used for assessing wind turbines' noise impact was not fit for purpose.

There is also a review of noise guidance for onshore wind turbines dated Sep 2023 by WSP for the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy – which also notes the shortcomings of ETSU-R-97 and the IOA GPG. However, we recognise that ETSU-1997 currently remains the criteria for wind turbine noise. As part of the assessments reference should be made to the "West Yorkshire PLANNING CONSULTATION, GUIDANCE, Noise & Vibration" document dated May 2016.

Question 25: Can the consultees confirm that they agree with the proposed assessment methodologies, specifically the use of ETSU-R-97 and the IOA GPG to assess operational noise and BS5228 to assess construction noise?

See commentary above.

Question 26: Can consultees agree that assessment of vibration, infrasound, low frequency noise and amplitude modulation be scoped out of the EIA?

See commentary above.

Section 11 Cultural Heritage

The proposed methodology for designated heritage assets is considered acceptable.

However, no methodology or suggestions are made in respect of assessing how the proposal would impact upon the intangible heritage significance in relation to the Bronte landscapes and cultural heritage.

This is hugely significant, a landscape inseparably connected to literary and cultural heritage of international importance. It draws visitors in substantial numbers from across the globe to the landscape and our District, bringing significant revenue and recognition. The proposal could result in profound harm to this internationally recognised cultural asset. The significance is such that there has been previous very serious exploration of promoting the landscape including the application site and its immediate surroundings for World Heritage Site status, on the basis of the literary importance.

Question 27: The intangible heritage associated with the Bronte landscape will be a key consideration for this assessment, are there any key locations or walks in the area which need to be included within the assessment?

See commentary above.

Question 28: Are the proposed Study Areas sufficient to determine likely significant effects on designated heritage assets?

See commentary above.

Question 31: Are there other organisations the Consultees wish us to consult (who may have knowledge useful to inform the assessment)?

Approach should be made to The Bronte Society to understand further the significance of the landscape and to help in establishing a method for comprehensively evaluating potential impacts on the cultural heritage.

Question 32: Are there specific assets which the Consultees have specific concerns with at this time and which they wish to ensure are considered in the assessment?

See commentary above.

<u>Section 13 Socio Economics, Land Use, Tourism and Recreation</u>

This area of moorland is hugely important culturally and recreationally. Significant international and national features straddle the site - namely the locations associated with the Bronte Sisters and the Pennine Way National Trail. There are other regional and locally important routes also (Bronte Way plus local well-used footpath network and access land).

On the Bradford side of the boundary (which forms one side of the development site) sits Top Withens which is @300m from the nearest proposed turbine. This is the primary Bronte “shrine” – regarded as the setting/inspiration for “Wuthering Heights”. Other Bronte locations also sit within 1-2kms (Ponden Kirk, Bronte Falls, Ponden Hall etc). These sites attract significant numbers of visitors per annum and support the local tourist economy to a substantial degree – particularly in Haworth and nearby villages.

The Pennine Way National Trail passes Top Withens and runs through the middle of the development site once it has climbed over Haworth Moor and entered Calderdale from the Bradford side. The figures for use of this route should be available (Pennine Way Project Officer based with Yorks Dales National Park can probably provide them).

The development has the potential to fundamentally alter, long-term, the cultural and recreational experience for visitors and needs proper consideration. The cultural and recreational impacts of the proposal are appropriate for inclusion in an EIA and the potential impacts on these assets and the visitor experience (with the associated socio-economic impacts) are, as significant as any environmental impacts and need a comprehensive and exhaustive assessment as part of the EIA.

Question 41: Do you agree that the scope of the proposed assessment is appropriate?

See commentary above.

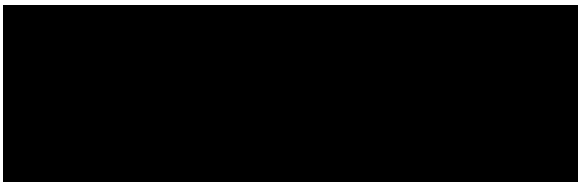
Question 42: Are there any particular sources of information or effects that should be considered?

See commentary above.

This letter represents Bradford Councils Local Planning Authority's views based on the information available.

If you have any queries in relation to the above matters do not hesitate to contact Carole Howarth at the above address.

Yours faithfully,



Assistant Director (Planning, Transportation and Highways)
Department of Regeneration and Culture

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

Our Ref: 25/06014/EIA
PINS Ref: EN0110023
Please Contact: [redacted]
Website: www.calderdale.gov.uk
Email: [redacted]@calderdale.gov.uk
Date: 29th September 2025

Regeneration and Strategy

Princess Buildings
Halifax
HX1 1TS

Dear Sir/Madam

The Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (CWFL) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park (the Proposed Development)

Thank you for your letter of 1st September 2025 relating to the consultation on the Applicant's request for a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Having reviewed the 'Calderdale Energy Park Scoping Report' (September 2025) (Doc Ref 16617A-30-R01-F01) ("SR"), I am writing on behalf of Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council ("CMBC") to provide the Council's response in relation to the proposed scope of the Environmental Statement ("ES") and the information it considers should be provided in the ES.

The response is provided in the attached document, which comprises two tables; CMBC1) the Council's main response to the EIA Scoping Report and CMBC2) a summary of the assessment scope – CMBC's response to items proposed to be Scoped Out of the ES, along with the following appendices.

Appendix CMBC SR.1 – CMBC Consultee Comments
Appendix CMBC SR.2 – CMBC Prior Scoping Response (Dec, 2023)

For ease, I have identified the key aspects where CMBC currently consider aspects proposed by the Applicant to be Scoped Out should be included in the ES where a likely significant effect may occur.

best company 'one to watch' 2017 | Inclusive Employers | Stonewall DIVERSITY CHAMPION | disability confident | MINDFUL EMPLOYER

Given programme constraints and the absence of a Planning Performance Agreement, access to specialist consultee input has been limited. Accordingly, the absence of specific comment should not be taken as endorsement, particularly where matters are proposed to be scoped out. The Council reserves the right to provide further representations as information becomes available

SR Chapter	Table	Topic	Comment
Ornithology	Table 6-4	Non-target species (i.e. species not afforded additional legislative protection or included on any lists of conservation importance).	Not Agreed
Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat	Table 8-6	Changes to flood risk associated with the Cable Route (during operation)	Not Agreed
		Effects on groundwater abstractions located over 250m from infrastructure (excavations > 1m depth) associated with the Turbine Area, Cable Corridor Search Area and Site Access Search Area (during construction, operation and decommissioning)	Not Agreed
		Effects on GWDTEs located over 250m from infrastructure excavations >1m (during construction, operation and decommissioning)	Not Agreed
		Erosion and Sedimentation (during operation)	Not Agreed
Landscape and Visual	Table 10-5	LCTs/LCAs outside the ZTV, or where limited theoretical visibility is predicted, will not be assessed.	Not Agreed
		Townscape character assessment work will not be undertaken for urban parts of the Study Area	Not Agreed
		Effects arising during decommissioning in relation to landscape and visual receptors are likely to be comparable with those arising during construction and will be scoped out of the LVIA.	Not Agreed
Cultural Heritage	Table 11-7	Effects on the settings of heritage assets from the construction of the Turbine Area	Not Agreed
		Effects on the settings of heritage assets from the construction or operation of the cable routes	Not Agreed
		Effects on archaeological remains from the operation of the Proposed development	Not Agreed
		Effects on heritage assets from the decommissioning of the Proposed Development	Not Agreed
Noise and Vibration	Table 13-4	Decommissioning Noise	Not Agreed
		Vibration (Construction and Decommissioning Phases)	Not Agreed
		Infrasound and Low Frequency Noise	Not Agreed
		Amplitude Modulation (AM)	Not Agreed
		Cable Corridor Route – Construction Noise	Not Agreed
Air Quality	Table 14-4	Dust and particulate matter creation from ground, excavation and profiling works during construction	Not Agreed
		Construction phase plant and machinery (NRMM) air quality effects	Not Agreed
		Operational phase BESS fire HF effects	Not Agreed
		Dust and particulate matter creation from ground, excavation and profiling works during decommissioning	Not Agreed
		Decommissioning phase delivery vehicles, plant and machinery (NRMM) air quality effects	Not Agreed
Aviation	Table 17-3	Effects on non radar equipped unlicensed aerodromes with a runway length of less than 800m	Not Agreed
		Secondary surveillance radars	Not Agreed
		Effects on licensed and certificated aerodromes	Not Agreed
		Effects on the RAF Leeming PSR	Not Agreed
		Effects on the MoD Staxton Wold PSR	Not Agreed
EIA Other Matters (Shadow Flicker)	Table 18-1	Shadow Flicker During Construction	Not Agreed
		Shadow Flicker effects on people with epilepsy	Not Agreed

The Council would also highlight that they have previously commented on an EIA Scoping Opinion for Walshaw Moor Estate in 2023 (Reference Number 23/0610/EIA). This Scoping Opinion is attached in Appendix **CMBC SR.2.** This response draws upon previous comments

and the responses and further information provided by the applicant within the submitted Scoping Report.

In particular the Council would highlight in relation to the biodiversity comments given that the ornithology, biodiversity and peat sections of the Scoping Report rely on some of the same material in addition to new surveys or information, where relevant and where they have not been addressed, the previous points made by the Biodiversity Team have therefore been reiterated. Additional points or comments have been raised regarding new information, legislation, policy and guidance which has been provided or published since the previous response.

In preparation of this response the Council would also emphasis that there has been no pre-application discussion between Council Consultees and the applicants to date and in absence of an agreed Planning Performance Agreement, technical expertise has not been procured and therefore it is likely further information on technical details will be requested by the Council subsequent to this Scoping Response. In particular for Topic Areas such as Human Health the Council does not have the expertise in house, therefore comments are limited.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Principal Planning Officer
For and on behalf of
Director of Regeneration and Strategy

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council's Comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (September 2025) (Doc Ref. 16617A-30-R01-F01) (First Issue)

Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (CWFL) (the Applicant

PINS Case Reference EN0110023

Submitted on Monday 29 September 2025

This document provides in table form Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council's ("CMBC") response to the EIA Scoping Report ("SR"), in respect of Calderdale Wind Farm Limited ("CWFL") ("the Applicant") application for development consent for the Calderdale Energy Park ("the Proposed Development"). This response provides details of the information CMBC considers should be provided in the environmental statement as referred to in Regulation 10 (11) of the EIA Regulations 2017. CMBC's comments for PINS deadline of 29 September 2025 are entered below.

There are appendices, providing context and additional comment from internal consultees:

Appendix CMBC SR.1 – CMBC Consultee Comments
Appendix CMBC SR.2 – CMBC Prior Scoping Response (Dec, 2023)

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

Table CMBC 1 – CMBC Response to EIA Scoping Report

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
1. Introduction		
1.1.1–1.1.3	Review of Policy, Legislation and Relevant Guidance	The ES must clearly define project parameters (turbine tip, hub, rotor, BESS capacity, operational life) to ensure consistency across the ES. This should include confirmation that all associated works and ancillary infrastructure fall within the DCO Order Limits and that no elements will be consented separately under the TCPA without justification.
1.1.3	Off-site compensation	The ES should detail the type, location, delivery mechanism, and assessment of impacts of moorland restoration or other off-site compensation, making clear whether these measures lie within or outside the Order Limits, how their construction/maintenance impacts will be assessed and monitored. The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comments: *The Applicant has stated "Consultation with Natural England has commenced on the approach to mitigation, compensation, restoration and enhancement and the measures will be included with the Environmental Statement (ES). "* *Paragraph 5.4.30 of the EN1 states "Applicants should work closely at an early stage in the pre-application process with SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government to develop a compensation plan for all protected sites adversely affected by the development. Applicants should engage with the relevant Local Planning Authority at an early stage regarding the proposed location of compensatory measures. Applicants should also take account of any strategic plan level compensation plans in developing project level compensation plans."* *The Local Planning Authority has not had any engagement on the proposed location of compensatory measures, it is imperative this is done as soon as possible as we enter the pre-application stage*

		The Council considers the comments provided by the Biodiversity Officer, as set out above, to be applicable to all sections of the SR.
1.3.3	The need for EIA	Whilst the turbines fall under Schedule 2, para 3(i) of the EIA Regulations, the BESS element and associated infrastructure should also be clearly categorised, most appropriately under Schedule 2, para 3(a) as associated energy infrastructure. The ES should clarify the applicable Schedule paragraph for each component of the development, confirm that that component is EIA development and that the EIA covers the full scope of development.
1.4	Transboundary effects	Transboundary effects are not identified nor addressed in the Scoping Report. Even if the conclusion is that none are likely, the ES should provide a short justification to this effect in line with PINS Advice Note 12 to ensure transparency and completeness.
1.4.8	HRA	The Council notes that a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be submitted alongside the ES. To avoid selective reporting and ensure full integration, particularly for the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC and any functionally linked land, the ES should include an HRA interface statement that: • Explains the relevance criteria: findings are "relevant" to the ES where; (i) any impact pathway to a European site is identified (alone or in-combination); (ii) any avoidance, mitigation or monitoring is relied upon in HRA screening/appropriate assessment; (iii) any assumptions about programme, methods or design parameters underpin HRA conclusions; or (iv) any uncertainty remains that needs adaptive management. • Summarises clearly (within the ES) the European sites' qualifying features, conservation objectives, zones of influence, impact pathways, in-combination projects, the mitigation/monitoring package, and the residual conclusions of the HRA.

		• Confirms the same Rochdale parameters/ reasonable worst case are used in both HRA and ES, and that topic chapters (i.e. ornithology, hydrology/peat, air quality, recreation) assess and secure any HRA measures they rely on. • Maps each HRA measure to the ES Commitments Register and the proposed DCO Requirements/management plans (i.e. CEMP, LEMP, Peat/Hydrology and Ornithology Monitoring Plans) with triggers, responsibilities and reporting, so measures are not overlooked or left solely in the HRA document.
Table 1-3	Project Team and Description of Competence	A named consultation/community engagement lead would be welcomed.

Scoping Report Reference	**Topic / Issue**	**CMBC Response**
2. Planning Policy Context		
2.1.1–2.2.3	National Policy Statements	The Council notes the identification of NPS EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 (including draft revisions). The ES should state, at the point of submission, which NPS documents are designated (extant) and which, if any, are draft, and explain the weight afforded to drafts (i.e. material but less than designated policy). To demonstrate compliance with the primary policy basis for an NSIP, the ES should include a concise Policy Compliance Framework, comprising: • A Policy Compliance Matrix mapping each relevant policy/paragraph in EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 to the ES chapters/DCO documents that address it, stating how compliance is achieved (or, if not fully, what the residual policy tension is and how this is managed/mitigated).

		• A brief statement on other material considerations (i.e. Local Plan/SPDs, Conservation Area Appraisals, National Park/National Landscape "special qualities" documents), clarifying their role where they add detail to NPS tests. Regarding the SRs phrase "where relevant" (para 1.3.11), the ES should set out a clear relevance test and apply it consistently. The Council expects the following as a minimum: • Treat an NPS provision as relevant unless plainly inapplicable to the proposal's technology (onshore wind/BESS), scale or location. • Where a provision is judged not relevant, provide justification. • Where overlapping policy could apply, assume relevance and assess compliance, or explain any divergence. The Council request that the Policy Compliance Matrix is included in the ES to ensure that policy relevance, weight, and compliance are transparent and auditable.
2.3.20	Principle of proposal	The Councils Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The Applicant refers to Draft EN-3 Paragraph 2.12.149 "The designation of an area as a protected site (including SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites and SSSIs) does not necessarily restrict the construction or operation of onshore wind farms in, near, or through that area" We would highlight that the final omitted sentence of Paragraph 2.12.149 is particularly relevant in this case which states "However, it may make consent for such construction more difficult to secure."*
2.3.31-2.3.33	Local Planning Policy	The Council emphasises that the Local Development Plan (Calderdale Local Plan) and related SPDs/Appraisals are key material considerations, particularly where they identify or define sensitive receptors (i.e. Green Belt, Special Landscape Areas, Wildlife Habitat Network, PRoW/Access Land, townscape/Conservation Areas). Local policy is central to understanding local

		environmental effects and must be fully integrated into the ES, not treated as secondary background to the NPSs. The Council requests that the ES provides: • A Local Policy Compliance Matrix summarising all relevant Local Plan policies and, where cross-boundary effects arise, relevant neighbouring LPA policies. • A balanced review of Local Plan policies, with emphasis on renewable/low-carbon energy, Green Belt, biodiversity/WHN, landscape/SLA, heritage/townscape, hydrology, transport/PRoW, and climate change. • Clear signposting of how local policy informs receptor value/susceptibility and how it shapes mitigation. • Inclusion of relevant supplementary planning documents (i.e. Landscape Character Assessments, Conservation Area Appraisals/Management Plans) within the ES policy review and baseline, with cross-references in the LVIA/Ecology/Heritage/Transport chapters. The Council reiterates that local policy is a material consideration that should be used to help define receptor sensitivity, inform mitigation, and support a locally robust assessment. Where a policy is judged not relevant, the ES should provide a justification, where relevant, show how the ES addresses it and how any trade-offs have been managed.

Scoping Report Reference	**Topic / Issue**	**CMBC Response**
3. Approach to EIA		
3		The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Turbine Area Comment* *Given the potential impact on Designated Sites (South Pennines SPA, SAC, SSSI), in particular birds, irreplaceable habitat and deep peat, the consideration of alternative sites is key to the principles*

		of the mitigation hierarchy (paragraph 180 of the NPPF / CMBC LP Policy GN3) in terms of avoiding significant harm in the first instance (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts). A robust justification of the site selection process must be provided and is a key component of the ES and the HRA process. *Cable/Access Route Comment* *All of the possible cable and access routes also pass through areas of the designated sites and other sensitive habitats, although these have not yet been refined. The process of selecting the preferred routes for both access and cabling must adhere to the mitigation hierarchy and choose avoidance of sensitive ecological receptors in the first instance. Iterative design and justification for the route selection process must be provided as evidence of this.* The Council considers that the above comment applies to Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Scoping Report.
3.2	Rochdale Envelope, RWC and controls	The ES should define and justify the parameter envelope. Provide a single Design Parameters Schedule covering all components (turbine tip/hub/rotor, turbine numbers/layout, foundation type/footprint, access track widths, crane pads, BESS unit numbers/height/compound dimensions, substation heights/footprint and lighting). For each parameter, explain the engineering/OEM basis, land control and constructability, and confirm the parameters are realistic (reflecting available technology) and not so broad as to represent multiple different schemes (Rochdale principle). The ES should set out a Reasonable Worst Case (RWC) method and include a topic-specific RWC matrix identifying which parameter (or combination) creates the greatest adverse effect for each topic (i.e. LVIA: tallest tip height/largest rotor/maximum infrastructure footprint). Where the RWC differs by topic, provide the justification and undertake intra-project checks to confirm that no unassessed combined worst-case would arise. The ES should present the Design Parameters Schedule and the RWC matrix up-front in the ES and confirm consistent application across all technical chapters. Explain the post-consent change-

		control mechanism and commit that any future adjustment will remain within the assessed envelope and will not give rise to new or worse significant effects.
3.5.1	Defining Study Areas	The Council notes that para 3.5.1 confirms study areas are defined individually for each topic (Sections 6–18). For key topics (ornithology, biodiversity, hydrology, LVIA), the study areas are described with reference to published guidance and appear appropriately justified. However, for other chapters (heritage, noise, air quality, socio-economics), the methodology for study area definition is less clearly explained. The ES should therefore provide a consolidated table of study areas and explain the criteria for each, to ensure consistency across topics and transparency in cumulative assessment.
3.6	Baseline and future baseline	Para 3.6.2 states that for the majority of environmental aspects, baseline conditions will reflect existing conditions at the Turbine Area and locally. The Council requests clarification on which topics this does not apply to, and the justification for adopting alternative baseline definitions. The applicant should identify and justify the area surrounding the Turbine Area which is to be included in the assessment/baseline. The ES should provide a consolidated baseline table setting out for each topic the baseline year, whether current or projected, and how this approach ensures consistency across the ES
3.7.4	Operational assessment period	Para 3.7.4 states that effects will be assessed for the first full year of operation. While this is a standard approach, the ES should justify why year 1 is representative of the entire operational lifespan. The ES should also set out monitoring and mitigation trigger points, including for ornithology, noise, hydrology/peat and habitat management, to ensure that unforeseen or evolving effects over the lifetime of the scheme can be identified and addressed. Operational monitoring commitments should be secured through the DCO. Para 3.7.4 also states that a further assessment scenario for the operational period where mitigation has been established will also be set out for relevant environmental aspects including Landscape and Visual and Cultural Heritage. There needs to be clear identification of the

		environmental aspects which will warrant further assessment for the operational period and the justification for this.
3.8.2	Policy Context	Para 3.8.2 states that the ES will set out relevant legislation, policy and guidance. The Council considers that this must be done with clarity for each environmental topic, covering national (Energy NPSs, primary legislation), regional (Combined Authority strategies) and local (Calderdale Local Plan 2023, SPDs) levels. The ES should also reference relevant statutory duties and set out how legal tests are met (i.e. Habitats Regulations, Environment Act, Climate Change Act, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act). Each technical chapter should include a clear section summarising the applicable policy and legal requirements, against which effects are assessed. This is essential to provide consistency and transparency across the ES
3.9	Cumulative effects	There are likely to be projects being undertaken within the search area under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), some of which may not require Prior Approval from the LPA to be undertaken. Development being undertaken under Permitted Development Rights should also be included in the assessment of the cumulative impacts of the proposal in the ES. It is recommended that pre-application engagement with adjacent landowners and statutory undertakes is carried out to ascertain the scope and potential cumulative impacts of nearby Permitted Development works.
3.9	Intra-project cumulative effects	The Report does not explicitly commit to assessing intra-project effects (i.e. interaction of access tracks with hydrology, or bunds creating heritage/visual impacts). The ES should assess these cross-topic interactions, consistent with PINS Advice Note 17.

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
4. Description of Scoping Boundary and the Surrounding Area		
4.1.3-4.1.4	Cable Corridor Search Areas & Site Access Search Areas	The ES should set out the selection methodology and justification for the Cable Corridor Search Areas (2 km buffer) and the Site Access Search Areas (1 km buffer), including the criteria used (engineering feasibility/AIL routing, land control, environmental/heritage/PRoW constraints, topography/peat/hydrology, settlements, HDD feasibility). Apply this method consistently to all current export-cable options and access corridors, and provide mapped corridor widths/limits of deviation with a worst-case parameter set for assessment.
4.1.11	Site access and corridors	The Council expects the preferred site access, any highway improvements, and internal access tracks to be shown on the ES Parameter Plans, supported by a concise design-evolution narrative and the embedded mitigation (i.e. earthworks minimisation, drainage/SuDS, and lighting controls). The ES should also summarise the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) measures, set out PRoW management/diversions, and include route-based (sequential) LVIA viewpoints along the access corridors.
4.1.7	Point of Connection (PoC)	The ES should state the Point of Connection (PoC) status and list the four options. For each, present export route scenarios with worst-case parameters (i.e. corridor width, limits of deviation, installation method (open cut v HDD), compounds, lighting, programme) and assess effects accordingly. Commitment should be made to consult CMBC and affected LPAs/National Trail bodies on the preferred route and include a transparent options appraisal in the ES with parameter plans and limits of deviation to control delivery.
4.3.7	Grouse shooting activities – abeyance/management status	The Council requires clarification of the current status of grouse shooting on the moor and whether it is proposed to be placed in abeyance as a consequence of the development. If so, please set out the anticipated timescales and any resulting changes to moorland management (i.e. burning regime, predator control, access arrangements), and reflect these in the baseline, survey timing and topic assessments.

Fig. 4.1	Proposed Turbine Area map	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: The map is at a scale which makes it difficult to interpret the exact proposed boundary of the turbine area. The boundary should be shown on a 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey map.
Fig. 4.2	Calderdale Cable Search Areas and Access Routes map	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: Maps at 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey scale should be provided to accompany this overview map, which is too large to meaningfully interpret.

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
5. The Proposed Development		
5.1–5.3	Design envelope, change control	The Council accepts the need for design flexibility and welcomes the adoption of the Rochdale Envelope and intention to define maximum/minimum parameters and limits of deviation with assessment of a reasonable worst case. Please provide a parameter schedule covering all components (turbines: tip/hub/rotor, numbers, layout envelope, lighting, BESS, substation, compounds, borrow pits, access/cables) and an explanation of the post-consent change-control mechanism (DCO Requirements, design code/parameter plans, micro-siting limits, and how any future adjustments will remain within the assessed envelope).
5.4–5.6	BESS description and parameters	The Council consider the description of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be limited. The ES should provide clear parameters including capacity (MW/MWh), physical dimensions, layout, building heights, acoustic barriers, fencing (type/height/colour), security measures, cooling/fire suppression systems, CCTV, lighting strategy, drainage/containment and access/parking, all of which should be shown on plan, and operational characteristics such as noise emissions and lighting. The ES should also clarify how the BESS is categorised under the EIA Regulations (likely Schedule 2, 3(a)) and demonstrate assessment of worst-case impacts and any proposed mitigation.

		The ES should confirm whether the BESS and substation share the approx. 35,200 m² compound, if so, include elevations/materials/colours and noise assumptions. Specification for the permanent office/ancillary buildings (heights, finishes, services, lighting) should be detailed within the ES.
5.14.3	Demolition	The Council notes the statement that no demolition is proposed but seeks explicit clarification of the proposals for The Lodge (para. 4.2.3), which lies within the centre of the Turbine Area. The ES should confirm whether it is to be retained, its occupancy/status and any change of use/land control. If retained, the ES must robustly assess effects on residential amenity, significant environmental impacts and safety across all phases and identify separation/buffer distances, any curtailment/micrositing constraints, and mitigations. If demolition/removal is contemplated at any stage, this should be scoped and assessed within the ES.
5.1.7, 5.13	Stakeholder role in mitigation & enhancement	CMBC should be a named consultee on all mitigation, compensation, restoration and enhancement, including any off-site/out-of-boundary measures.
5.2.3	Aviation lighting & reduced-lighting scheme	The Council support a reduced-lighting scheme subject to safety, consultation must include CAA, NATS and MoD/DIO (and relevant aerodromes). The ES should assess night-time effects (aviation/site lighting) in LVIA and set out mitigation options.
5.2.4, 5.2.1	Micrositing & array composition	The Council recognises the practical need for micrositing, but any adjustment must be strictly controlled. Movements should be limited to <50 m (unless otherwise agreed) with no movement closer to sensitive receptors, outside the Order Limits, or into mapped exclusion zones (deep peat, designated habitats, watercourse/setback buffers, known archaeology) which should be prepared in consultation with the LPA (and relevant statutory bodies) prior to construction. The ES should confirm that micrositing will not increase environmental effects beyond the assessed reasonable worst case (LVIA/ZTV, noise, hydrology/peat, ecology, heritage). A Micrositing Plan should be provided, setting out limits, exclusions/buffers and the approval route.

		The scheme should adopt clear layout/massing principles to maintain a coherent array (i.e. consistent spacing), protect valley-rim skylines, and safeguard PRoW/townscape view cones.
5.2.5–5.2.6	Crane hardstandings & laydown	The Council requests that plans and coordinates for all crane hardstanding's and laydown areas are provided. The plans should state maximum dimensions/areas, levels, and construction build-ups (depths, materials, geogrid/geotextile where used). The resultant effects should be assessed within the ES for LVIA (including visibility of temporary platforms), peat/hydrogeology, surface-water/flood risk, and biodiversity. Design should minimise cut-and-fill, avoid deep peat/exclusion zones, and specify restoration outcomes compatible with local moorland character.
5.7–5.9	Ancillary development (substation, access, compounds)	The Scoping Report provides insufficient detail on ancillary development. The ES should describe and assess all associated works, including substations, transformers, cable routes, access tracks, laydown areas, construction compounds, and borrow pits. Parameters should include physical dimensions, construction methods, and likely operational requirements (i.e. lighting, security). Potential environmental effects from these components should be integrated into topic assessments rather than treated separately.
5.10.4	Access strategy & AIL routing	The Council request clarification as to whether any additional operational/maintenance/AIL accesses lie within the Access Search Corridors, if not, expand the corridors and assess.
5.11, 5.14.1–5.15.1	Grid connection status & programme realism	The Council request that the grid connection point is identified and that current offer status (offer/accepted/TEC), anticipated lead-in and critical-path dependencies are stated in the ES. The ES should explain how the 30-month construction and earliest start Q2 2029 have been derived, and whether grid availability could extend the programme. If the export route (on/off-site) is not fixed, the ES should present scenarios and worst-case parameters for assessment, with a commitment to consult CMBC and affected authorities on the preferred solution. The SR anticipations the proposed development will become operational in 2031; for context, a recent Government/Ofgem/NESO press release notes that companies are waiting up to 15 years for connections and that the connections

		queue has grown tenfold in five years, underlining the need for a transparent programme-risk narrative in the ES
5.16.1, 5.16.3	Decommissioning strategy	The Council do not consider it reasonable to assumes that foundations and cables will remain in situ without an options appraisal. The ES should assess removal vs retention (LVIA, peat/hydrology, GHG, ecology, land-use). The Council request that the ES includes a Resource Recovery Plan (RRP) that commits to a waste hierarchy approach (re-use, refurbishment, recycling, energy recovery, disposal) for all major components across the scheme (i.e. rotor blades, towers, foundations, cables, BESS unis, transformers, fencing etc). The RRP should specify intended end-of-life routes (i.e. metals recycling, blade treatment, oil handling, cable/foundation removal, cell/module removal, hazardous waste chains). Where feasible UK/EU treatment routes should be identified, with monitoring/reporting obligations at decommissioning. Should elements remain in situ (i.e. cables/foundations) these should be justified on environmental grounds and the residual effects assessed.

Scoping Report Reference	**Topic / Issue**	**CMBC Response**
6. Ornithology		
6	Ornithology	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *All of the raw data used in to inform the impact assessment must be supplied alongside the PEIR and/or ES to allow consultees to examine the conclusions.* *The operation of the BESS on-site does not appear to have been scoped into the ES.*

6, 6.3.12, Fig 6.1	Designated Sites: Inconsistencies within Scoping Report.	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *There is some confusion in the report over the SPAs which are relevant. For example, in Fig 6.1 the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase1) is named South Pennine Moors (Phase 2). These are still 2 separate SPA with JNCC references UK9007021 and UK9007022 and have slightly different qualifying species. There have been discussions about merging these two sites which would add an additional Annex II species peregrine falcon to the lists. This is therefore a candidate site and should be treated the same way as a fully designated SPA for planning purposes. This matter requires written input from Natural England. The North Pennine Moors SPA reference UK900272 also falls within the Zone of Influence and again has slightly different priority species. The treatment of short-eared owl, which is an Annex II species of the SPM (Phase 2) is not always included correctly in the "upland breeding bird assemblage". Golden plover, also an Annex II SPM (Phase 2) is not included in 6.3.12. This requires checking a clarifying throughout the document.*
6	Bird survey methodology: Nocturnal surveys undertaken for target species (Golden plover)	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Turbine Area Comments* *Regrettably, survey effort has been variable across the seasons, with surveys not having been conducted in each April, May and June for any year and it is not evident that sufficient survey work has been undertaken. A comprehensive record of all surveys carried out to support the PEIR, ES and HRA will be required to ensure that the level of survey effort and methodology conforms to NatureScot's Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore windfarms (2025). Where limitations occur, these should be stated as a constraint and justified in the subsequent assessment. It is critical that this matter is addressed, and any necessary further surveys undertaken prior to the production of the ES/HRA.* *Cable/Access Route Comments* *No evening / nocturnal surveys for target species (golden plover) for search areas for Site Access and Cable Corridors and buffers. All potentially suitable habitat should be surveyed, following to NatureScot's guidance.*

6	Bird survey methodology: Appears to have been restricted access for 2022 survey season (possibly due to the management plan for site during nesting and the estate shooting season)	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Turbine Area Comments* *Regrettably, survey effort has been variable across the seasons, with surveys not having been conducted in each April, May and June for any year and it is not evident that sufficient survey work has been undertaken. A comprehensive record of all surveys carried out to support the PEIR, ES and HRA will be required to ensure that the level of survey effort and methodology conforms to NatureScot's Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore windfarms (2025). Where limitations occur, these should be stated as a constraint and justified in the subsequent assessment. It is critical that this matter is addressed and any necessary further surveys undertaken prior to the production of the ES.* *Cable/Access Route Comments* *It is concerning that bird surveys within the Search Areas for Site Access and Cable Corridors have not been comprehensive due to access not being secured.* *When the access and cabling route has been finalised, all suitable habitat should be surveyed, following to NatureScot's guidance.*
Table 6-2	Bird survey methodology: No comparative area surveyed (required for monitoring purposes).	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The report states that "due to land access restrictions, it has not been possible to undertake comparative control area surveys." No details of sites considered or consultation with the LPA, NE and RSPB have been provided. A comparative area should be selected and surveyed.*

6.4.7	Ornithological assessment: "Non-target birds scoped out"	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Target bird species should include all Calderdale Priority Species and Red / Amber species likely to be affected by the proposed development (such as crossbill, little-ringed plover, raven, whinchat) Section 6.4.7 states that "construction work will avoid the peak nesting period (April – May) wherever practicable" and that "this will be prioritised wherever practicable". This period should be extended to cover the entirety of the breeding season i.e. include pre- and post-nesting times. It is important that construction work in this period is completely avoided. If there is a necessity for construction in this period, details of the type of construction, location and reason should be specified, together with details why this work is essential.*
Table 6-4		West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment: ***North Pennine Moors SPA*** *We have reviewed the Nature Scot website for foraging distances of the Annex II species, Assessing connectivity with special protection areas.pdf* *Hen harrier Core range of 2km with maximum range of 10km* *Merlin Within 5km* *Peregrine Core range of 2km with maximum recorded distance in Britain of 18km* *Golden plover Core range of 3km with maximum range of 11km* *It would appear at the distances of different development elements stated that the impact on this species is likely to be minimal.*
6	Proposed mitigation	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The applicant has set out several proposed mitigative measures within the ornithology and biodiversity sections, including a construction environmental plan and the various elements to be contained within this. However, as very limited results for all receptors have been provided, it is not possible to assess whether these are appropriate. All possible impact pathways on all receptors which are scoped in, throughout all phases of the proposal must include appropriate mitigative measures based on the findings of further survey effort proposed.*

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
7. Biodiversity		
7, Fig 7-3, Table 7-5	Locally designated sites: Not all local wildlife sites included	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Local Wildlife Site (LWS) details and spatial information not provided but should have been obtained in data search with West Yorkshire Ecological Services (WYES). Data must also be obtained for Cable Access routes. Noted it is stated these will be obtained prior to the PEIR being produced.* *As previously highlighted in the 2023 Prior Scoping Report, many LWSs within 5km are still not included within the Scoping Report – this must be factored into the ES.* *LWSs in Calderdale are regularly being designated. Prior to publication of the PEIR, a check for recently designated LWS should be undertaken* *Colden Clough, Norland Moor and Shibden Park & Cunnery Wood, Northcliffe Park LNRs should be added to the map (Figure 7-3)* *The scoping report states "Information not publicly available" to include reasons for LWS designation. This information should be obtained from WYES, added to Table 7-5 and fully considered.*
7, Table 7-10	Locally designated sites: Impacts to Calderdale Wildlife Habitat Network	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Table 7-10 states "Impacts and potential benefits will also be considered against the objectives of the Calderdale Wildlife Habitat Network to ensure that mitigation or compensation is sympathetic to the objectives of the network and enhances connectivity."*

		Welcomed that impacts to the Calderdale Wildlife Habitat Network (CWHN) are now to be considered within the ES and CMBC would welcome discussion on this. *The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment 'by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures' (NPPF Para 174). This will need be demonstrated through the ES and consider the proportion of network to be affected, the connections with other ecological networks within adjacent LPAs and the potential for future pressures such as Climate Change.*
7, Table 7-9	Species receptors: Reptiles and amphibians	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *It is stated ponds within 250m of site were subject to survey for Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptile surveys were carried out, however, the survey report has not been provided, so an assessment of coverage and assessment of the adequacy of these surveys has not been possible. It is stated in Table 7-9 that reptile surveys were undertaken between July – September 2024. Surveys must be spread across the survey season from March to September with a minimum of seven visits. The applicant should also have regard to the following guidance: Survey protocols for the British herpetofauna (2013) produced by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC). The applicant notes that artificial refugia may not be an effective survey mechanism due to the presence of natural refugia on the site, in which case natural refugia should have also been searched during the survey.* *As presence of GCN has been identified via eDNA surveys, further surveys of the ponds will be required to establish the population size. These do not appear to be mentioned in Table 7-15. As Calderdale is not part of any district level licensing scheme this will be required to inform any subsequent licence application to NE. Surveys for other amphibians should also be extended to the ponds where GCN have not been detected.*

7, 7.6.8, Table 7-2, Table 7-9	Species receptors: Badgers	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Turbine Area Comments:* *Badger records do not appear to have been obtained from Calderdale Badger Group and the survey for badgers should have included a 30m buffer around the turbine site. Therefore, is not agreed that badger can be scoped out of the EIA until further information is provided.* *Cable/Access Route Comments* *Badger surveys will be required for the access and cable routes. These should also be informed by up-to-date records from the local badger group.*
7, Table 7-2	Species receptors: Invertebrates	The Councils Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *It has been stated in Table 7-2 that a bespoke approach to invertebrate surveys and assessment is proposed.* *There is no detailed information about the assessment that took place to rate different areas of site for invertebrates' value or any maps illustrating the areas surveyed, so the scope of this cannot be assessed until further information on the surveys undertaken is provided.* *We suggest that surveys and assessment are in accordance with Natural England's guidance 'Organising surveys to determine site quality for invertebrates' and 'Surveying Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrates for Conservation and Evaluation'.* *Assessment should also include impacts or opportunities for Calderdale Priority Species.*
7, Table 7-2, Table 7-10	Habitat receptors: CHEGD Fungi	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Turbine Area Comments:* *It has been stated in Table 7-2 that a bespoke methodology has been used for CHEGD surveys. In response to the Previous Scoping Request in 2023 CMBC stated, "Survey methodology has not yet been standardised and should involve consultation with Calderdale MBC, Natural England and the National Trust." No such discussions have been undertaken with the LPA and consultation with other*

		bodies is not referred to in the Scoping Report. In addition, no maps of any surveyed areas have been provided therefore the scope of this cannot be assessed. It would be beneficial for this methodology to be publicised and agreed with consultees as soon as possible given surveys could be updated if required soon (September – November). Given that the proposed survey methodology has not been agreed and the lack of standardised methodology the scope of this cannot currently be assessed. *Table States surveys were undertaken in 2023/24 within table 7-10 but only 2024 in Table 7-9. We would support surveys across several years given that presence of CHEGD is highly influenced by conditions year on year. Clarification is required.* *Scoping report states "4.3.17 The Turbine Area contains internationally significant fungi, within a group of fungi called the CHEGD Fungi" but no clarification on assessment of this is provided.* *Land surveyed for CHEGD should be assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site criteria.* *Cable/Access Route Comments* *As cable and access routes also pass through habitats likely to support CEHGD fungi these surveys should be extended and aid micro-siting of these to avoid impacts to sensitive species assemblages. Due to the long time taken to recover from damage, impacts to CHEDG are unlikely to be temporary even following restoration effort.* *Land surveyed for CHEGD should be assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site criteria.*
7, Table 1-3, Table 7-2, Table 7-15, Fig 7-6, Fig 7-5.	Habitat receptors: Habitat surveys	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Turbine Area Comments:* *Table 7-2 states the UK Habs classification was done to version 1.1. UK Habs Version 2.01 was released in 2023 and should be the agreed methodology for all surveys undertaken after this point.*

		Table 7-2 also states that NVC and UK Habs surveys were carried out in non-optimal seasons across 2023 and 2024 (September/October/November). Although some upland habitats are still identifiable at this time of year it is not the optimal season to undertake such surveys. NatureScot and Gov.uk SFI Guidance states that surveys of higher plants/ferns should be undertaken between April-October (ideally avoiding peak breeding bird season mid-march to mid-July). The planned further vegetation surveys should be done in the optimal season. *Figure 7-6 shows the number of NVC surveys undertaken to date – which is a relatively limited sample area. Although further surveys are planned the number or extent of these is not illustrated and therefore coverage cannot be assessed. It is recommended that NVC surveys will be required in all areas where direct or indirect impacts are possible. As per Natural England's advice on the 2023 Scoping request, a new map of the site (in addition to the UK Habs Map at Figure 7-5) should also be produced showing more detailed NVC habitat communities.* *No botanists are included in Table 1-3. Habitat surveys, including UK Habs to support BNG and NVC surveys, must be completed by surveyors who demonstrate experience at an appropriate level of competence for the habitat. CIEEM advises a capable level for preliminary habitat surveys may be demonstrated by accreditation such as FISC level 3 or 4 or equivalent. For NVC surveys an accomplished level would be more suitable (FISC level 4 or 5 or equivalent).* *Land surveyed should also be assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site criteria.* *It is noted that peat depth surveys have not been supplied or carried out for the whole of the site in the Scoping Report at this point. We highlight that where peat over 0.3m is identified, the habitat should be classified as active or degraded blanket bog in accordance with UK Habs methodology. Therefore, it is likely that habitat classifications will need revisiting after peat depth surveys. This is supported by Natural England's "Definition of Favourable Conservation Status of Blanket Bog" published March 2025 which states "Where peat over 0.3m depth habitat should be classified as active or degraded blanket bog". Habitat surveys will need revisiting after peat depth surveys* *Cable/Access Route Comments*

		UK Habs surveys will be required for all land affected by the proposed cable/access route. *Table 7-15 states that when cable and access routes are finalised, additional habitat surveys will be conducted in these locations. NVC and fungi surveys may also be required and would need to be conducted during optimal seasons.* *Where sensitive habitats are identified (priority/irreplaceable/designated features) further NVC surveys should be undertaken to aid micro-siting of the routes (i.e. to avoid damaging particularly valuable habitats).* *Land surveyed should also be assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site criteria.*
7, 7.4.20, Table 1-3, Table 7-2.	Habitat receptors: Watercourse survey	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Turbine Area Comments:* *Table 7-2 states that only watercourses within the Turbine Area are to be surveyed. In accordance with the BNG User Guide all watercourses within 10m and ditches within 5m of the red line boundary should be scoped in for surveys.* *None of the professionals mentioned in Table 1-3 have accreditation to undertake MoRPH surveys – or this information has not been provided.* *The watercourses referred to in Paragraph 7.4.20 are not local to the scheme (both Scottish watercourses). There are far in excess of 11 watercourses within the Turbine Area but it is recognised that many of these may be classed as ditches and therefore will not require River Condition Assessments (also known as MoRPH). However, the reference to watercourses from a different project does not instil confidence in the results presented. The ES must outline all of the watercourses on the site, which ones have been surveyed via River Condition Assessment and justification for alternative survey methods if not.* *Information on the River Condition Assessments of each watercourse will be required. River condition is assessed using 32 condition indicators that are automatically extracted from MoRPh5*

		field surveys once the data have been uploaded into the information system. Each river condition indicator is assigned a score of 0 to +4 (positive indicators) or 0 to -4 (negative indicators). These river condition indicator scores are automatically extracted from MoRPh5 field surveys and provide the preliminary condition score for a MoRPh5 subreach before it is translated into a final condition score according to the river type. The excel spreadsheets of these 32 indicator scores will be required during determination where a River Condition Assessment has been undertaken. If the final condition score has been reduced due to the channel being considered over-deep, this will need to be supported by the professional judgement of a Geomorphologist. *Cable/Access Route Comments* *As with the Turbine Area, all watercourses within 10m or ditches within 5m of the proposed cable/access routes will need to be scoped in for surveys.*
7	Habitat receptors: Watercourse impacts	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Watercourse crossings are proposed which will be presented in the ES. It is highlighted that new culverts would not be supported in accordance with CMBC Local Plan Policy GN3, and other less damaging mechanisms should be explored in the first instance and evidence of this provided. Any proposed watercourse crossings will need to be evaluated in the post-development calculations of the MoRPH BNG Assessment.* *This is supported by the draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Paragraph 2.12.65 states "Culverting existing watercourses/drainage ditches should be avoided. Where culverting for access is unavoidable, applicants should demonstrate that no reasonable alternatives exist and where necessary it will only be in place temporarily for the construction period."*
7, Table 7-10	Bat survey methodology: No transect/vantage point surveys carried to complement acoustic static detectors.	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Table 7-10 within the Scoping Report states "Positioning of static detectors at height is not possible within the Turbine Area due to the absence of suitable structure (such as masts)". However, this was a key request of CMBC within the previous EIA Scoping Response. It has not been stated at what*

		height the static monitoring was undertaken; this should be provided and the lack of at height monitoring included as a constraint on the surveys/assessment. *It has been stated that access for bat activity surveys has been limited due to a lack of permission to survey the site during breeding bird surveys and other on-going usage of the site for grouse shooting. A comprehensive record of all surveys carried out to support the PEIR and ES will be required to ensure that the level of survey effort and methodology conforms to NatureScot's Bats and onshore wind turbines - survey, assessment and mitigation. Where limitations occur, these should be stated as a constraint and justified in the subsequent assessment.*
7, Table 7-9	Bat survey methodology: Need to carry out roost assessments of buildings + rock faces (hibernation potential)	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The Scoping Report details that roost assessments of buildings and trees have been undertaken but does not detail whether hibernation potential of other features on site such as rock face has been carried out.*
7	Bat survey methodology: Core sustenance zones	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Any assessment of potential roosting features should be undertaken within a 500m buffer of the site. Impact to potential bat flight lines between any identified roosting, hibernation features and core sustenance zones for bats, such as Hardcastle Crags, should be considered within the assessment.*
7	Bat survey methodology: Swarming/breeding sites	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *As per CMBC comments on the previous EIA Scoping request - Recent surveys within West and South Yorkshire have identified important bat swarming (breeding) sites, which may qualify for Local Wildlife Site (LWS) designation, located on similar habitat and topography to the application site. This indicates that disused quarries are an important feature for local bat populations and the assessment should consider whether similar features exist within the impact zone for the proposed development and carry out any necessary surveys.*

7	EIA analysis: In combination effects and recreational disturbance.	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The applicant will need to assess a potential increase in recreational pressure and disturbance as a result of the new infrastructure, particularly where birds may be displaced to new areas by turbines, in combination with the wider impacts of the proposed wind farm. This is likely to require visitor surveys of the site and on-going monitoring or comparative surveys from other wind farm developments nearby.*
7	EIA analysis: Supporting data	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *All of the raw data used in to inform the impact assessment must be supplied alongside the PEIR and/or ES to allow consultees to examine the conclusions.*
7	EIA analysis: Impacts of BESS	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The operation of the BESS on-site does not appear to have been scoped into the ES. The Council does not accept this and requests this is assessed in ES.*
7	BNG: Statutory legislation requirements for BNG.	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *Turbine Area Comments:* *Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as a statutory requirement for NSIPS is due to apply from May 2026, according to the latest consultation on BNG for nationally significant infrastructure projects by Defra in May 2025. Therefore, the applicants must be aware of the changing landscape of BNG and have regard to all legislation updated/published by Defra in regard to how BNG is to apply in the NSIP regime. For example, ensuring that all of the red line boundary of the DCO application has been included within the on-site baseline calculation* *Cable/Access Route Comments* *Any land required for cable or access routes if part of the red line boundary of the DCO application will need to be included in the BNG assessment.*

7	BNG: Impacts on irreplaceable habitats or designated features.	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *It is noted that the applicant has acknowledged that BNG will not apply to designated features which are covered by a restore objective or which are already covered by the Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan, which is agreed.* *However, we would also highlight that where irreplaceable habitat is lost or damaged, any retained irreplaceable habitat on-site cannot be enhanced to contribute towards the overall net gain for other habitats.* *This approach is outlined by Defra's "Irreplaceable habitats and BNG: what you need to know" published October 2023.* *As stated, any losses to irreplaceable habitat will result in failure to achieve the Biodiversity Objective. However, a minimum 10% net gain must be achieved on other non-irreplaceable habitats regardless of this. It is disappointing to note the applicant is only targeting the minimum 10% net gain and the Council would encourage a more ambitious target given the scale, scope and sustainability objectives of the project.* *The applicant will need to provide within the Biodiversity Gain Plan.* • *a description of any irreplaceable habitat on site at the date of the planning application* • *a plan of existing irreplaceable habitat on site at the date of the planning application* *It is also noted that the Scoping Report makes several references to areas of blanket bog being degraded due to previous management and Molinia dominance. However, this habitat is still regarded as irreplaceable and therefore avoidance of impacts/restoration should be prioritised.*
7	BNG: Additionality related to designated features which are	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment:

	covered by the restore objective and the Natural England Walshaw Catchment Restoration Plan (2017-2042).	*As above, it is noted that the applicant has acknowledged that BNG will not apply to designated features which are covered by a restore objective or which are already covered by the agreed Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan.* *The applicant has stated the relevant baseline for the site, given the current restoration plan, is to be agreed with consultees and CMBC would welcome discussion on this point.* *It is also noted that the existing restoration plan is likely to be out of date and may not reflect the future land use of the site therefore any proposed restoration measures should be based on up-to-date research.*
7	BNG: Design of BNG	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *It is noted that the applicant no longer refers to tree planting across the estate as part of their mitigation proposals. However, should this be a possibility CMBC's previous comments submitted in with the 2023 Prior Scoping Response in relation to this are applicable.* *Design of BNG should be informed by a full suite of species and habitat surveys, landscape character, peat depth analysis, soil sampling, hydrology and geology to ensure interventions proposed are suitable. Tree planting has the potential to have negative effects on the condition and ecological function of areas of peat, grassland suitable for CHEGD species or of high botanical interest and in-bye grassland suitable for nesting or feeding wading birds. Proposed interventions will also need to meet all of the habitat trading rules required by the Biodiversity Metric User Guide*.
7, Fig 4-3	BNG: Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The applicant has stated that off-site gains may be required. Whilst this is acknowledged, the applicant must follow the biodiversity gain hierarchy in regard to on and off-site gain, as set out by the BNG PPG Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 74-008-20240214. There must also be a clear legal mechanism of securing on and off-site gains, i.e. through s106 obligation.*

		We note the search area outlined within Figure 4-3 and that this area spans across various Local Planning Authorities, National Character Areas and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. It is not clear if this is the search area for both off-site BNG and/or land required for compensation. The applicant should have regard to the spatial hierarchy in regard to BNG and the local impacts on the wildlife habitat network when selecting potential off-setting sites. *Although the West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has not yet been published at the time of this response, should this be published prior to the DCO application and the strategy to deliver BNG and mitigation will need to align with the LNRS. Given the scale of the application and the impacts/opportunities it presents, it is recommended that engagement is undertaken with the relevant LPAs, Responsible Authorities (such as West Yorkshire Combined Authority) and other consultees (including Natural England) to ensure that proposed habitat enhancements are aligned with emerging plans and policies relating to LNRS*.
7	BNG: Biodiversity Gain Plan	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The applicant has stated that they intend to submit a Biodiversity Gain Plan alongside the DCO application. Whilst this is welcomed, the level of information provided within the Biodiversity Gain Plan does not provide all of the information required for the LPA to make a comprehensive assessment in regard to Biodiversity Net Gain. The applicant should submit a Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy in accordance with Calderdale's BNG SPD. All of the information outlined within Appendix 1 of the SPD must be included within the strategy.* The Council would add that both the Biodiversity Gain Plan should be assessed in the context of the Health Impact Assessment and Hertiage Impact Assessment.
7	BNG: Information to support the application	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *In addition to the Biodiversity Gain Plan outlined above, which in itself will need to include a certain level of information to be determined by Defra in due course, the following information is required:*

		• *Condition assessment sheets should be completed and submitted, identifying which criteria are currently met by on-site habitats. Additional detail and explanation should be provided to justify decisions about habitat condition. Where habitat of varying condition is found within a site it should be clear which areas and mapped polygons or lines correspond to different condition assessments.* • *The excel spreadsheets of these 32 indicator scores will be required during determination where a River Condition Assessment has been undertaken.* *GIS shapefiles for pre- and post-development habitats, for on-site and off-site (where necessary), should be provided alongside the Biodiversity Gain Plan.*
7	BNG: Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The applicane has stated that a draft Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and an Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) will be submitted. These two documents must be prepared together alongside the Biodiversity Gain Plan and correspond to ensure there are no conflicting actions.* *We highlight that, dependant on the actions to create/enhance habitats, it may take longer than 30 years to achieve the target habitat or condition. The biodiversity metric will flag this where it is likely to be the case, however this will need to be reflected in the HMMP, and an appropriate length of management agreed with consultees.* *The HMMP must be prepared within the Natural England Template (accessed online here: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5813530037846016) and include the following information as a minimum in accordance with Calderdale BNG SPD:* • *How retained habitats will be protected through construction and how management will maintain their condition post-development.* • *A plan or map, of the habitats to be created and managed as part of the HMMP. Each habitat parcel should be mapped using UKHab with a habitat parcel reference number.*

		• *How initial habitat enhancement or creation will be carried out and when this will be considered complete. The initial habitat creation or enhancement is the actions required to first implement the habitat.* • *The management prescriptions to be implemented for baseline habitats to reach and maintain the planned habitat type and/or condition criteria targets* • *Detailed assessments of the risks and challenges (technical and administrative) associated with achieving the planned condition and how management will overcome them* • *Aims and objectives in non-technical terms that are understandable to the general public* • *Roles and responsibilities for initial creation or enhancement and on-going management as well as contingencies if those individuals or organisations are unable to carry out their responsibilities at any point* *Information relating to how funding has been agreed to deliver management is required*.
7	BNG: Off-site BNG	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The applicant has stated there may be a need to utilise off-site BNG however, no further details on the strategy for this have been provided. If off-site BNG is to be secured via the S106 agreement, Calderdale have set out specific criteria land must meet in order for the LPA to agree to secure it. These criteria are outlined in Section 7 (off-site Delivery of BNG) and further detail is provided within Calderdale's guidance note "Habitat Bank Criteria for Landowners/Habitat Banks in Calderdale seeking to enter into a s106 with the Council for the purpose of Registering land on the National Biodiversity Gain Sites Register - Dec 2024". This guidance can be provided to the applicant to aid discussion*.
7, Table 7-10	Ecosystem Services: Ecosystem services/natural capital	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The applicant has stated within Table 7-10 that "The restoration plan will seek to identify opportunities to enhance connectivity and habitat function for key species and habitats and also, identify other ecosystem services which are addressed through its delivery."*

		No further information on how ecosystem services will be quantified or measured has been provided. The applicant should also consider the impacts on wider environmental receptors both on and off-site. The use of tools designed for this purpose, such as Natural England's Environmental Benefits from Nature (EBN) Tool, may be beneficial. *In addition, as part of the requirements under Schedule 4(3) of the EIA Regulations, the applicant should measure the ecosystem services provided by existing baseline, the future baseline without the development in place and the future baseline if the development was to go ahead. This should also be used to inform any proposed mitigation/compensation/restoration plans.* *Future monitoring post-construction should include assessment of wider ecosystem services beyond biodiversity.* The Council notes that the above applies to Section 8.
7	Proposed mitigation	The Council's Biodiversity Officer has provided the following comment: *The applicant has set out several proposed mitigative measures within the ornithology and biodiversity sections, including a construction environmental plan and the various elements to be contained within this. However, as very limited results for all receptors have been provided, it is not possible to assess whether these are appropriate. All possible impact pathways on all receptors which are scoped in, throughout all phases of the proposal must include appropriate mitigative measures based on the findings of further survey effort proposed.*

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
8. Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat		
8, 8.3.12, 8.3.13, 8.3.28	Sandstone Mineral Safeguarding	The Council Minerals Officers has provided the following comment: *Part of the site forms a sandstone mineral safeguarding area in the Calderdale Local Plan. It is noted that there is to be information supplied about the use of borrow pits for the provision of aggregates for the project. As the use of natural resources or the sterilisation of such is a material consideration under the required ES, the details provided should be expanded to include a Mineral Resource Assessment. The Assessment should include information detailing whether sandstone is present, in what quantity and whether or not the proposed development would sterilise the resource, with an assessment as to the significance of the impact. The applicant is also referred to Policy MS2 of the Calderdale Local Plan for further information.* The Council notes that the proposed Turbine Area contains a Sandstone Mineral Safeguarding Area in the southern end adjacent to the north of Widdop Road and south-east of Pennine Way. Further instances of Sandstone are noted within the cable corridor and site access search areas. A Mineral Resource Assessment, including assessment of underlying sandstone resources, should be undertaken.
8, Table 8-6		The Lead Local Flood Authority has provided the following comment: *The LLFA recommends conducting assessments for slope stability, geotechnical risks and contamination to inform the ES and confirm no adverse flood risk/drainage interactions*.
8, 8.3.46-8.3.49. 8.3.55, 8.3.60, Table 8-2, 8.4.6	Surface Water Flood Risk	The Lead Local Flood Authority has provided the following comment: *A Construction Phase Surface Water Management plan will be required. The construction phase surface water scheme will need to cover each phase of the proposal (including decommissioning) for the duration of construction with escalation and backup measures during storm events along*

		with contact details for normal working hours, out of hours, weekends and holidays. The Construction Phase Surface Water Management plan shall include the following as a minimum: • *Measures to prevent uncontrolled runoff affecting adjacent third party land* • *Measures to maintain/improve water quality* • *Measures to prevent siltation* • *A design drawing showing the on-site location of the proposed measures* • *An emergency escalation procedure in case of a rain storm* • *Design calculations to show that the scheme can retain the runoff volume for the critical 1 in 100 year storm*
8.5.3, Table 8-6	Effects Scoped Out of Detailed Assessment.	The Lead Local Flood Authority has provided the following comment: *The potential effect of changes to flood risk/drainage/sub surface flows associated with cable routing has been scoped out of the detailed assessment. There is potential for hydrological disruption with the introduction of trenches and creation of alternative preferential flow paths, over the lifetime of the development and post decommissioning. The potential effect of cabling should be included in Table 8-7 and included in the detailed assessment.* In line with the above, the Council considers that the potential effects associated with cable routing should be scoped in. The Councils Minerals Officer has provided the following comment: *The impacts on the hydrology and hydrogeology of the area of mineral extraction should also be considered.* In line with the above, the Council considers that site-specific hydrology and hydrogeology assessment on the potential effects upon existing and consented mineral workings, covering [inter alia] ground water levels, flow paths, dewatering risks, private water supplies/abstractions and water dependent habitats across the construction, operation and decommissioning phases should be scoped in.

		West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment: ***Hydrology/peat – Erosion and sedimentation during operation*** *We do not agree that this matter should be scoped out. Impacts on the hydrology of the peat dominated habitats are likely to continue for the full expected life of the development resulting in wind and water erosion of the degraded peat. Other impacts to peatland habitats are likely to result from erosion and deposition of exposed mineral soils favouring minerotrophic species such as Juncus effusus. See NECR032 edition 1 - Part 1 Report.pdf page 28.* *"Loss of both water and solids from roads has to be managed during construction and operation of the wind farm. Runoff (a potential cause of peat erosion) may be routed away from the road and possibly through culverts beneath the road. Road surfaces are drained to avoid ponding of water or interception of large volumes of water. Sloping tracks may act as conduits for water even if they do not have drains on either side. Runoff from tracks may carry a high sediment load, depending upon the construction and maintenance of the road. Splatter from vehicles can also spread sediment into adjacent water courses. Methods for managing runoff and sediment include best practice design of tracks and drains, use of some SUDS techniques, and methods such as swales, silt traps, geotextile fences, settlement ponds and buffer strips (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2005)".* *We would particularly draw attention to the conclusions in section 5.3 of this report page 95 Impacts of Wind Farms on Blanket Bog.* • *"The physical properties of the peat are fundamental in determining the impact of any drainage on its water levels and stability. The hydraulic conductivity, or permeability to water movement, is one of the most important factors. Where the peat has a low permeability and water movement is slow then the impact of drainage associated with tracks and hardstanding areas may be only 2-10m from the infrastructure, though it will vary seasonally. Where the permeability of the peat is higher, or peat pipes are intersected the zone of influence may be much wider.* • *Roads change surface water flow patterns and can concentrate them so as to start peat erosion. The growth of Sphagnum mosses, one of the major peat forming plants, may*

		become starved of its water supply when surface water is channelled by roads and associated drainage. • *A wind farm development will have the greatest impact on intact blanket bog, by affecting its structure and biodiversity. Conversely, where the peat body is already completely dissected by gullies, new tracks across them could be designed to reduce the runoff rates from the site, particularly if in combination with measures to slow down the flow of water or to spread it over the surface for the benefit of peat-forming Sphagnum. However, the peat stability impacts of blocking gullies would also have to be assessed.* • *Drainage around the turbine base and other infrastructure such as roads will change the current water flow patterns across and through the peatland. Its impact is likely to be negative on intact bogs, but both negative and positive in degraded bogs, depending on the extent and nature of Maslen Environmental part of the JBA Group www.maslen-environmental.com 82 Natural England Assessing Impacts of Wind Farm Development on Blanket Peatland in England Project Report and Guidance existing damage. In particular changes to the chemical composition of drainage water can result in changes in vegetation, and discharge of drainage water over peat can result in liquifaction.* • *Increased risk of peat slide is likely on intact and degraded sites as a consequence of excavations, installations, lorry movements and changed water flow patterns.* *To this we would add the need for consideration of the potential impact of fire on peatland stability. The Ovenden Moor fire and impact on peatland habitats and species would be worth investigation.* In line with the above, the Council considers that the potential effects associated erosion and sedimentation should be scoped in.
8, 8.6.17-8.6.20, 8.4.2,	Flood Risk Assessment	The Lead Local Flood Authority has provided the following comment: *The Environmental Statement and Flood Risk Assessment should be informed by a detailed modelling study to assess subsurface flows given the site's characteristics. Risk of hydrological disruption could occur, both short and long term as certain features will remain in situ such as extensive hardstanding, foundations and cabling.*

		I note the lifespan is stated to be 35 years, nevertheless a number of features will remain in situ. Based on this the ES, FRA and any modelling study should look at the long term risks and also use appropriate climate change factors.
8	Condition surveys and baseline information (peat)	West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment: *We request to see a full copy of the Walshaw Moor Estate Catchment Restoration Plan 2017-2024 and addendum (2019). It would also be valuable to know the results of peat and habitat condition surveys which have been undertaken and the geographical spread of peatland restoration work for the first 8 years. This would provide very valuable baseline data to inform the Environmental Statement.*
Table 8-2	Floating tracks (peat)	West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment: Table 8-2 makes reference to "*floated (non-excavated) construction*" of access routes. This was an option used at Bellcrag Flow, Northumberland by the Forestry Commission for logging haul roads across deep valley mire. The weight of the wagons caused the road to ripple and concern that the road would swallow the trucks resulted in very large qualities of stone being tipped into the mire from adjacent borrow pits quarries. This suggests that this is unlikely to be a viable option. The document also indicates that cable routes will follow the access tracks where possible which would require excavation to a minimum of 0.9m. The Draft EN-3 Paragraph 2.12.66 also states "*Applicants should provide geotechnical and hydrological information (such as identifying the presence of peat at each site and impacts on soil and hydrology) including the risk of landslide connected to any development work. Where relevant, this should also include the potential risks to flood defences*."
8	Peat avoidance (peat)	West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment: *This needs to be explored in more detail within the Environmental Statement. "Avoiding where possible" and "prioritising deep peat for temporary infrastructure" seem erroneous for a project designed to reduce carbon emissions. It is vital to avoid all deep peat areas by identifying it in*

		good time and building this into the site layout. We would add that peat depth surveys and other preliminary surveys need to minimise vehicles crossing more sensitive peatland areas.
8	Patch repair of bare ground (peat)	West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment: *It is important to begin with a consideration of the hydrology. If it is not possible to get the reinstated peat almost permanently under water it will oxidise, degrade and blow away in the wind until you are back to mineral soil. It might be used to backfill existing drainage ditches if combined with regular dams, provided that machines moving the peat have very low ground pressure or they will increase the problem with wheelings. The ES needs to ensure that it does not propose inappropriate attempts at solutions which will not work in the short to medium term. Needs more details and examples of "appropriate engineering solutions" which have resulted in peatland restoration in the medium to long term. Note that water which flows will rapidly erode peat particularly if the ground is sloping.* *Peat is not a uniform substance. Trace elements start in the underlying mineral soils, are drawn up be rooted plants and eventually as the peat gets deeper with plants not decomposing, continue to be drawn up the peat column. If the top of the peat is removed along with the trace elements then re-establishing the active blanket bog or heath may be impossible without addition of these elements. This process needs to be understood and built into restoration plans*
8	Surface water runoff management (peat)	West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment: *The infiltration concept seems to be flawed. If it rains heavily the peat will become saturated, leaving nowhere for the road water to go. SuDS schemes require basins with freeboard (no water) so that they have capacity when it rains. Peatlands need the water to be close to the surface for much of the year or the peat will oxidise and turn to CO2. The SuDS basins would need to be constructed outside of the peatland if they are not to contribute to the degradation of the neighbouring habitats.*
8	Borrow pit location (peat)	West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment:

		All borrow pits need to consider the impact on the hydrology of nearby peatland habitat. This is particularly problematic for deep peat mire and wet heath habitats where small drops in the water table can have significant impacts over large distances spreading dry heath and species poor acid grassland.
Table 8-8	Sensitivity of environment (peat)	West Yorkshire Ecology Services Senior Ecologist has provided the following comment: *With Table 8-8 the very high sensitivity column needs to include ancient and species rich grassland and associated CHEGD fungi (waxcaps and their allies) which can be of international importance. Need to ensure that the move away from the peatland (which is good) does not compromise these important, rare grassland habitats.*
8	private water supplies	The Councils Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comment: *The EIA needs to consider all private water supplies and distribution network which serve properties within and outside the development site needs to be considered. Many of the supplies are surface water or within 1-2m below ground, and are located within the development site. The construction of foundations and hardstanding are likely to effect these supplies.* *There will be welfare facilities for the staff/construction phase and where how these will be provided with water needs to be considered. In addition any drainage should not contaminate any water supplies.* *The storage water provisions that will be used for fire, clarification needs to be sought as where this water will come from.*

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
9 Carbon and Climate Change		
9, 9.5.11-9.5.21	Carbon and Climate Change	The Council's Climate and Environment Team have provided the following comment: *Regarding the counterfactual set out in sections 9.5.11 to 9.5.21 of the scoping report, all counterfactuals appear to assume that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) will be deployed on gas electricity generation. However, from the data presented in the scoping report, it is not clear what the assumptions are around the % deployment of this technology; the deployment date for this technology; or the % of carbon which would be successfully captured by CCS technology. There is still significant market uncertainty regarding the rollout of this technology.* *We would therefore ask the scheme developers to develop and set out a more diverse and nuanced set of counterfactuals which can then be compared with the anticipated emissions form the Calderdale Energy Park – e.g.* • *An optimistic gas CCS counterfactual; whereby CCS installation is assumed at the earliest possible deployment date with widespread adoption and with the highest possible success rate for carbon capture and these emissions are compared to the Calderdale Energy Park* • *A pessimistic CCS counterfactual whereby CCS installation is assumed at a later deployment date, with a slow uptake rate and a with lower end of the success rate for carbon capture and these emissions are compared to the Calderdale Energy Park* • *A no CCS counterfactual; whereby CCS is assumed to not be deployed and the Calderdale Energy park displaces unabated gas station generation of electricity* • *An alternative renewable energy counterfactual. This would assume similar construction and operational impacts as for the Calderdale Energy Park but higher transmission losses for energy generated, assuming that this generation might be more distant from the energy users than the Calderdale Energy Park (i.e. that a counterfactual renewable energy and battery supply would come from an energy park in Scotland or Offshore)* • *A nuclear energy counterfactual which assumes that in the absence of the Calderdale energy park additional nuclear or micro-nuclear facilities are needed and would be built*

		onshore in the UK (noting the long lead time for this technology but assuming deployment at an optimistic timeframe).
9.511, 9.5.18	Peat Emissions	The Council welcome the inclusion of peatland emissions, however, the scope must cover construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The Council request that the peatland GHG accounting is extended to include operational and decommissioning phases. It is considered that [inter alia] drainage effects, oxidation risk, moisture regime changes and track/run-off interactions pose risks to existing peat deposits. The Outline Peat Management Plan (oPMP) is welcomed, the Council request that the oPMP is augmented with operational controls and monitoring with mitigation triggers to prevent beat becoming a net carbon source.
9.5.13 and 9.5.7	Methodology	The Council welcome the commitment to quantify renewable generation benefits and habitat sequestration, however the methodology remains unclear, especially for BESS and non-peat habitat. The ES should set out a transparent accounting method for carbon benefits, including wind generation, BESS and habitat sequestration and include scenarios/sensitivity tests and justify all factors with cited datasets.
9.3.2, 9.5.5 and Table 9-1	Whole-lifecycle approach	The Council welcome a whole-lifecycle approach, however, the ES must go beyond embodied carbon in components to include fabrication/manufacture and installation, use/maintenance/replacement and decommissioning.
9.2.1	CMBCs Local Area Energy Plan	The Council requests a standalone Climate Change Statement that sets out explicit alignment with CMBCs Local Area Energy Plan.
9.5.3	Matters Scoped Out	The Council welcomes the commitment that no carbon/climate effects are presently scoped out. Should additional emission sources emerge during PEIR or ES preparation, the ES should apply a clear, consistent scoping protocol for each source. Where a source is scoped out on de minimis grounds, state the quantitative threshold and rationale. Any new or material sources identified post-PEIR must be assessed proportionately, with scoping judgements applied consistently across related chapters.

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
10. Landscape and Visual		
10.2	Review of Policy, Legislation and Relevant Guidance	The policy/legislation list should be expanded to include CMBCs and neighbouring LPAs Landscape Character Assessments/SPDs, Conservation Area Appraisals/Management Plans and relevant National Park/National Landscape (AONB) 'special qualities' documents/Management Plans within the study area. These documents should be cross-referenced within the LVIA so effects are assessed explicitly against them. The Council consider this a necessity to ensure that the LVIA is policy-led, transparent and defensible. Receptor value and susceptibility must be evidence from published character assessments, local LCAs/SPDS and CA Appraisals provide an authoritative benchmark for sensitivity and significance. Given the extent of the proposed development at ZTV radius, the Council consider it necessary to ensure consistent and robust cross-boundary assessment.
10.3.2	ZTV radius: Study Area	The Council consider the proposed ZTV radius as insufficient. The SR lacks justification to support the application of a 45km radius. SNH (2017) para 3.21 notes 100–150m turbines can be visible up to 40–50km in some conditions. Given the greater height so proposed (200m), longer-range checks (>50 km) are required for designated landscapes/iconic viewpoints. The LVIA should consider a wider cumulative search (i.e. 60km) or targeted long-range checks, such has been applied on comparable schemes. The LVIA should explain and evidence why landscape character effects are limited to 15km when visibility study extends to 45km. Provide criteria/mechanism (i.e. diminution of magnitude with distance, receptor value/susceptibility, special qualities) and confirm consultee agreement. The Council considers that the residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) should be undertaken within an area extending to 5km from the proposed turbine area alongside the cable corridor and site access search areas. Given the proposed turbine scale and the open moorland/valley context, potentially significant residential visual effects can reasonably extend beyond the 2–3km often used on smaller

		schemes, a precautionary 5 km RVAA around the turbine area is therefore proportionate and consistent with GLVIA3 professional judgment. The RVAA should also include residential properties along the site access and cable corridor (using route-based buffers) so that all project components capable of materially affecting residential amenity are assessed.
10.3.10	Refinement of relevant character areas	The Council acknowledged the practicability of refinement, however the methodology for such remains unclear. The LVIA should set a transparent criteria for filtering LCAs (i.e. ZTV coverage thresholds, susceptibility/value, relationship to special qualities). The LVIA should map all retained/excluded LCAs and provide a justification note for exclusion to be agreed with CMBC, relevant neighbouring local planning authorities (i.e. Bradford Council), and the relevant National Park authorities.
10.3.5, 10.5.4	Non-turbine components in LVIA scope	The LVIA risks under-assessing the impact of non-turbine elements. The LVIA should clarify that non-turbine infrastructure can also be main sources of landscape/visual impact. These components should be assessed explicitly. The LVIA should include, and give equal weight to, all visible components: BESS, substation/transformers, compounds/laydown, access/haul roads, borrow pits, cable routes/joint bays, security fencing, lighting (construction/operational), and aviation lighting. Each component should have parameters and be included in ZTV/visualisation assumptions.
Table 10-1	Landscape Designations	As a National Landscape, the Nidderdale AONB should be included in table 10-1.
Figure 10-1 – 10-4		The Councils Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *These maps are not at a scale which can be easily understood.* The Council requests additional plans at appropriate scales (i.e. 1:25,000 and 1:10,000).
10.3.11, Figure 10-4 & Table 10-4	Green Belt	The Council notes that, as set out in Table 10-4, that the Green Belt will be an important consideration for the proposed development, the Council do not consider the impacts upon the openness of the Green Belt to be clearly addressed.

		The proposed development is not a recognised exception for appropriate development in the Green Belt under local and national Green Belt Policy. In turn, the LVIA should provide a qualitative appraisal of effects on Green Belt openness (visual and spatial), cross-referenced to planning policy. The LVIA should make clear where this is assessed and summarised.
10.3.22 & 10.6.35	Viewpoint Assessment & Visualisation commitments	The Council notes the intention to use a combination of wirelines and photomontages. Wirelines are appropriate for the iterative/design-testing and viewpoint-agreement stage, however, for the final ES the applicant should provide fully rendered, NatureScot (SNH, 2017) compliant photomontages/CGIs from all agreed representative, illustrative and specific viewpoints, including night-time imagery where aviation or construction lighting is relevant.
10.3.17 - 10.3.21, 10.3.24 & Table 10-2, Figure 10-7	Key receptors & sensitivities (coverage)	The Council does not consider the viewpoints set out in Table 10-2 to enable a sufficient and robust assessment of impact. The Council accept the practicalities of a proportionate approach to secure focus throughout the LVIA and accept that it may not be feasible to illustrate all receptors within the total study area. However, the council considered the viewpoint locations, as set out in Table 10-2: Proposed Viewpoint Locations, to be incomplete. Given the scale and complexity of the proposed development, a receptor typology is considered necessary to ensure consistent and transparent judgements of receptor value and susceptibility in line with GLVIA3. Such a typology provides an auditable framework for representative viewpoint selection and avoids omission such that robust assessment is secured. In line with CMBC prior comments, as set out in Table 10-4, LVIA should augment the suggested receptor list set out in Table 10-2 with sequential views from all footpaths/cycleways/bridleways within 5km of the proposed development area. Additionally, owing to the extent of open access land, users of open access land are consider key visual receptors and should be included. The visual receptors set out in paras 10.3.17-10.3.21 should be incorporated into Table 10-2. Important viewpoints such as Stoodley Pike, Top Withens, Parsons Field, Brontë Parsonage Museum, and Haworth, Yorkshire Three Peaks (Pen y Ghent, Ingleborough and Whernside)

		alongside the Trig Points of Bridestones, Sheepstones, Standing Stone, Hoof Stones, High Brown Knoll and Lad Law should be included within the viewpoint assessment. Additional key viewpoints from within important cultural receptors should form part of the assessment, notable those within Brontë Countryside, an internationally recognised literary landscape and tourist attraction. The Councils Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *It is suggested that Heptonstall old church and church, within Heptonstall Conservation Area, should be added as viewpoint locations. These are identified in the Cultural Heritage section, and are also key visitor destinations.* The Council requests that viewpoints are selected and assessed with regard to both their distance from the turbine array and their proximity to the proposed access road corridors, junctions and associated earthworks. Given the potential for access road formation/widening, cut-and-fill, vegetation removal and lighting to give rise to notable landscape and visual effects, the ES should include route-based viewpoints along the access corridors (including key bends, gradients and settlement interfaces) and present sequential assessment where appropriate, in addition to turbine-focused viewpoints. All public rights of way/bridleways and cycle routes (national, regional and local) and residential receptors within 5 km of the turbine array (and within appropriate buffers of the site access and cable corridors) should be identified and assessed. It is currently unclear whether the full PRoW network within 5 km has been captured. The visual receptors should also consider specific 'Key Viewpoints' which are destination spots in the landscape where commanding and wide panoramic views are the purpose of the journey for the receptor, and the sensitivity to change may be higher than for a transient user of a footpath (for instance). The Council considers it necessary to provide larger-scale mapping of the proposed viewpoint locations. Figure 10-7 (1:440,000) in isolation would not enable accurate assessment and agreement of viewpoints. Please supply plans at appropriate scales (i.e. 1:25,000 and 1:10,000). The Councils Public Rights of Way Officer has provided the following comment:

		Public Rights of Way are acknowledged in several sections of the Calderdale Energy Park Scoping Report, 10 – Landscape and Visual, 12 – Access Traffic and Transport, 15 – Socio-Economic and Tourism and 16 – Health, indicating multiple potential effects on this well used resource. *The Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails are impacted by the proposals and are mentioned in the Scoping Report. The Calder-Aire Link is a regionally important route linking population centres in the Bradford District to the Pennine Bridleway. It runs through the development site. I would like to see the Calder-Aire Link named and recognised alongside the Pennine Bridleway in the relevant sections.* *I would like to see more visual receptors on the Pennine Bridleway, and inclusion in the EIA of information regarding to the safety impact on horse riders as well as the visual impact.*
10.3.24	Consultation and engagement on viewpoint selection	The Council welcomes the stated commitment to seek stakeholder feedback but notes that the mechanism is unclear. The LVIA should set a formal mechanism for securing stakeholder feedback. The following actions are highly recommended: issue a draft viewpoint list with maps, hold a consultee workshop (CMBC, National Parks, Natural England and others), publish an agreement log summarising responses and final agreed viewpoints.
10.3.25	Cable Corridor Search Area and Site Access Search Area	An adequate LVIA of the Site Access Search Area and the Cable Corridor Search Area is required. The ES should commit to agreeing a receptor-led viewpoint list (representative, illustrative and route-sequencing viewpoints) with CMBC and relevant stakeholders to ensure the visual and landscape effects of the proposed site access and the cable route (including any widening, visibility splays, earthworks, vegetation removal, structures, compounds and lighting) are fully assessed. Night-time/lighting effects should be addressed where relevant. The siting and detailed design of the site access in particular should be informed by visual sensitivities and local landscape character, with a clear design-evolution narrative and embedded mitigation (i.e. alignment, earthworks strategy, planting compatible with character). Where alternatives have been considered, the ES should explain the options appraisal and demonstrate that the selected solution minimises material landscape and visual impacts.

10.4.1-10.4.40	Design evolution and embedded mitigation	The Council welcomes the stated mitigation hierarchy but requires a clearer, evidence-led approach that distinguishes embedded design parameters from additional/management measures, demonstrates genuine design evolution, and secures commitments through the DCO. The ES should provide a design-evolution narrative and a mitigation commitments schedule. Where LVIA-recommended embedded mitigation is not adopted such divergence should be robustly justified in the ES. Accordingly, the Council expects the following: • Prioritise avoidance/minimisation of cut-and-fill, earthworks and vegetation removal, adopt peat-appropriate track solutions and careful siting of compounds/borrow pits. • Replace generic woodland screening with character-appropriate moorland restoration/ghyll-side planting only where typical, use locally native seed mixes and specify temporary lighting controls in the oCEMP. • Add a clear aviation lighting strategy and site-lighting controls for BESS/substation. • Set layout/micro-siting principles (i.e. skyline/valley-rim setbacks, PRoW/townscape view cones, coherent massing), evidenced through the agreed viewpoints and sequential assessment. • Scope in townscape/CA receptors (i.e. Brontë settlements such as Haworth/Oxenhope) where open moorland skylines underpin character, provide rendered photomontages from agreed townscape/CA viewpoints. • In addition to an oDEMP, scope in decommissioning and post-decommissioning LVIA, define the asset removal strategy (tracks/foundations), assess temporary and residual effects (compounds, haul roads, lighting removal), and present an outcomes-led restoration strategy with monitoring/aftercare aligned to moorland character.
Table 10-5.3 and Table 10-5	Effects Scoped Out of the Detailed Assessment	The Council consider the phase 'limited theoretical visibility' to be vague and risks excluding high-value receptors on a desk basis. Given the proposed scale and the sensitivity of nearby landscapes/routes, evidence-based criteria must be set out and applied consistently. The Council

		expects transparent, criterial led scoping. A blanked 'limited theoretical visibility' test is wholly inadequate for the scale of the proposed developments and its high value landscape context. Townscape/settlement receptors appear underrepresented. Several settlements derive character from an open rural/moorland backdrop, note able within the Bronte Cultural Landscape (i.e. Haworth, Oxenhope and Trawden). The landscape is a defining attribute of nearby townscapes, omitting townscape under-represents potential character and visual change. The Council consider the impact of decommissioning to have been downplayed. Temporary compounds, haul roads, earthworks and reinstatement will generate landscape/visual change and residual elements (i.e. tracks, foundations) if left in situ, or altered landform/vegetation, may persist. The LVIA should ensure whole lifecycle coverage, decommissioning will create material landscape activity and potential residual effects. The Council considers that the effects arising during decommissioning and townscape character assessment work should be scoped in. Additionally, any proposal to scope out receptors on the basis of "limited theoretical visibility" must be underpinned by clear, published screening criteria and targeted field verification, theoretical intervisibility alone is not a sufficient basis to exclude effects, and high-value receptors should still receive a proportionate assessment.

Scoping Report Reference	**Topic / Issue**	**CMBC Response**
11. Cultural Heritage		
11	Cultural Heritage	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *Attention is drawn to Policy HE1 (I) of the Calderdale Local Plan, which identifies elements of the historic environment 'which make a particularly important contribution to the identity, sense of place and local distinctiveness of Calderdale', and which development proposals should pay especial regard to conserving and, where appropriate, enhancing. These include:*

		a) *Calderdale's textile/industrial heritage and landscapes* b) *Yeoman Houses of the 16th and 17th centuries* c) *Nonconformist chapels and graveyards* d) *Historic farmsteads and barns, and* e) *Civic buildings* *Calderdale's topography of multiple steep-sided, narrow, valleys with hilltops containing farms, settlements and moorlands (with evidence of pre-historic occupation) means that there is a high degree of intervisibility between the proposed hilltop turbine area and many other valleys and hilltops. The height of the proposed wind turbines (proposed maximum tip height of 200 metres) will affect the zone of theoretical visibility and this will need to be fully set out in the ES, with maps of a scale which allow this to be clearly understood.* *The open hilltop and moorland setting of much of Calderdale's historic environment contributes to its significance by illustrating the historic conditions and relatively remote and challenging context within which past generations lived, worked and worshipped. There is a lack of noticeable infrastructure such as pylons in the Upper Calder Valley, and the vast majority of buildings are historic. This means that the historic environment continues to be experienced to a substantial extent in its historic setting.* ***Calderdale's textile/industrial heritage and landscapes** includes pre-Industrial Revolution housing where textiles were produced on a domestic scale, and landscape-scale remains of mills, chimneys, millponds and associated man-made water works such as leats. These are present across valleys including Crimsworth Dean, Colden Clough, Jumble Hole Clough and Luddenden, and on hilltops, for example the grade II listed Old Town Mill and Pecket Well Mill on the hillside opposite the proposed turbine area. The remains are in different states of repair and may or may not be designated, but all have heritage significance. The railway and the Rochdale Canal are also important contributors to Calderdale's industrial heritage.* ***Yeoman Houses of the 16th and 17th centuries** are generally located on hillsides and are the high-status dwellings of wealthy yeomen (a social distinction of those below gentlemen) who had made money through a combination of upland farming and domestic textile production. Examples of*

		important yeoman houses with intervisibility of the turbine area include Greenwood Lee (grade II, List Entry Number 1226793), Akroyd Farmhouse (grade II*, 1226935) and Lower Purprice (grade II, 1265382).* ***Nonconformist chapels and graveyards** reflect historic settlement patterns, with many located on hilltops. Their relatively isolated setting highlights the historic level of demand for places of worship. Examples on hilltops opposite the proposed turbine area include Wainsgate Baptist Church and attached Sunday School (grade II*, List Entry Number 1227399), Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Heptonstall (grade II*, 1226441), Former Baptist Chapel and attached Manse, Heptonstall Slack (grade II, 1226265) and Former Sunday School (grade II, 1265896) and the associated burial ground.* *Multiple **Historic farmsteads and barns** are located across Calderdale's upland areas. The majority of these will be listed grade II or NDHAs. They may be derelict but the impact on their significance should be fully assessed. The open hillside landscape around them contributes to their significance, indicating the difficult land which historic farmers were working within. As raised in the previous Conservation scoping opinion, notable groups of Grade II listed agricultural buildings likely to be affected by the proposal are the hamlet of Horsehold and surrounding farms on the plateau below Erringden Moor (Erringden Grange Model Farm is also a locally designated Historic Park and Garden), and the farms on Haworth Old Road, opposite Shackleton Knoll and the high ground between Heptonstall and Todmorden, including Blackshawhead and Colden.* ***Civic buildings** are generally located in the valley bottoms and within urban settings, and so are so less likely to be affected by the proposal, but impact should still be assessed. Todmorden Town Hall is a grade I listed building (List Entry Number 1228980).* *The assets above are identified as examples and the list is by no means exhaustive.*
11	Cultural Heritage	The following comments have been provided by the Senior Archaeological Officer for the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service:

		The scoping document is based on an original scoping document that was originally submitted to Calderdale council as the planning authority that would normally cover the proposed development site prior to the proposal being submitted to the planning inspectorate as a National Infrastructure Project. Comments were originally made on the scoping document submitted for the earlier scheme and these appear to have been incorporated into the updated document in particular for cultural heritage the potential impact of the proposed development on the Bronte countryside and the impact of the development on peat deposits and the archaeology buried or incorporated in the peat. *The proposed site for the windmills lies within the 'Bronte countryside' literary landscape. Provision is now made for detailed engagement with the Bronte society and specialists to assess the impact of the proposed development on the Bronte countryside and sites such as Top Withens.* *The peat that covers a large area of the proposed development site is a significant factor in preserving archaeological remains across the development site. The peat has buried many earlier prehistoric sites such as Mesolithic flint scatters and has developed around many later prehistoric sites. The Mesolithic sites in the Pennines are of national significance due to the concentration of sites and there preservation under the peat. The comments on the initial scoping study said that the proposal's potential impacts on peat hydrology, dewatering and changing drainage patterns could detrimentally impact on any remains across the whole site not just the location of wind turbines, The developer has therefore agreed that further study is made of the sites stratigraphic sequence. A Paleo-environmental Assessment with scientific dating and deposit modelling of the blanket bog is required to review the significance of any buried deposits and help form mitigation strategies to prevent loss of cultural heritage A Geoarchaeological Desk Based Assessment will be prepared to support the ES. This will inform an approach to subsequent data collection and mitigation.* *The significance of the Mesolithic sites on the peat uplands is demonstrated by the number of Mesolithic sites recorded in the proposed area for development 11 out of 15 prehistoric sites are Mesolithic. These sites are generally only identified when erosion of the peat exposes artifacts*

		from these sites and consultation with the team at York university studying these sites is now included in the scoping comments . This ties in with the geoarchaeological desk based study. *The additional works proposed for the Heritage Statement on the Bronte countryside and the peat geoarchaeological assessment will add to and improve the initial Desk-based assessment stage of the heritage assessment.* *The spread of medieval and post medieval settlement and farming across the peat upland is another issue that should be considered in the desk-based assessment*. The Council supports the views of West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service and request that the measures recommended are included within the ES.
11.2.4	National Guidance	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *The following guidance should also be used:* • *Historic England 2021: Commercial renewable energy development and the Cultural Heritage Historic England Advice Note 15.* • *Historic England 2024: Peatlands and the Historic Environment: An Introduction to their Cultural and Heritage Value.* • *Historic England 2020: HEAG272 Deposit Modelling and Archaeology Guidance for Mapping Buried Deposits.* • *Historic England Advice Note 12: Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets.*
11.3.2	Study area	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *This section reports on the study areas which have already been used for scoping the baseline cultural heritage assessment. There are anomalies between what is specified here and the 'receptors identified' in later sections of this report.*

		• ***Unknown archaeological remains*** *were scoped into the 2023 report for the '5km radius from the centre point of the Turbine Area to provide adequate context to sufficiently assess archaeological remains', however table 11-1, Receptors Identified within the Turbine Area, only sets out* ***Archaeological Recorded Features/Finds****. A methodology will need to be provided for unknown archaeological remains within the turbine area, with the approval of West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service and Historic England.* • *'A 15km buffer around the Turbine Area to capture* ***any designated or non-designated heritage assets*** *likely to be affected by a change in their setting' is identified. It would be welcomed if all designated and non-designated heritage assets within a 15k buffer around the site were identified, however, Section 11.3.6 and Figure 11-1 only includes* ***grade I and II* listed buildings*** *within the 15k study area despite stating that the 30km buffer would be for highly designated heritage assets only.* • *No details of highly designated heritage assets within a 30k buffer have been provided in the relevant sections or maps, yet this section says they have been scoped in the baseline assessment: 'A 30km buffer around the Turbine Area to capture any very highly designated heritage assets for which there is a potential for an effect (upon their Heritage Significance) through a change in their setting.'* • *The 2023 Scoping Report also included 'A 5 km buffer around the site to capture any designated or non-designated heritage assets for which there is a potential for likely significant effects (upon their Heritage Significance) caused by a change in their setting. The stated change to increase this radius to 15k is an obvious improvement, but as noted above, the section 11.3.6 and Figure 11-1 does not include all designated and non-designated heritage assets.*
11.3.3	Study area	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *The Cable Corridor and Site Access Search Areas 'are still being refined through the options appraisal and therefore the detailed assessment will be included within the next stages of assessment, and within the Environmental Statement'. Consideration will need to be given to the direct impact on all designated and non-designated heritage assets, and the impact on their settings. Both would have potential to harm heritage assets*.

11.3.9, Table 11-6	Bronte Associations	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *The impact of the proposal on the intangible heritage of the Bronte landscape will need to be assessed and understood. A methodology for assessing this will need to be developed, and agreed with relevant parties, including the Bronte Society, Historic England and Bradford and Calderdale Conservation teams. While many historic places with Bronte associations are listed buildings or located within Haworth Conservation Area, the impact on the wider cultural landscape will need to be understood. In many cases the landscape is part of the setting of designated heritage assets and contributes to their significance. Table 11-6 confirms the intention to analyse impact at a landscape level, and this is welcomed. It will be important to ensure that the methodology is robust and is agreed by relevant parties*
11.3.13	Receptors Identified within the 5k Study Area	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *Text says 13 Conservation Areas were identified, but Fig. 11.2 map shows additional Conservation Areas within 5k of the turbine area, in Calderdale and neighbouring districts. In particular in Calderdale the significance of Mytholmroyd, Mill Bank & Cottonstones, Luddenden and Warley could theoretically be affected due to the proposed height of the turbines, and the impact would need to be assessed. Views into and out of conservation areas can contribute to their significance.* *Other Conservation Areas in Calderdale could be affected by the site access and cabling routes and again impact would need to be assessed.*
11.3.16	Receptors Identified within the 15k Study Area	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *Conservation Areas should also be identified so that the impact on them can be fully assessed and understood. As raised in comments on the 2023 scoping report, the impact on Todmorden and Lumbutts & Mankinholes (which are just outside the 5k area) will need to be assessed. The wind turbines would likely be visible in the backdrop to these historic settlements, and the landscape within which they are experienced contributes to their significance.*

Fig 11.3	Non-designated heritage assets and findspots within 5km of the Turbine Area	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *Calderdale does not have a published Local List of Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs), so the information in this map is not complete. Todmorden and Sowerby Neighbourhood Plans identify NDHAs in their areas but these lists are not exhaustive. As part of the assessment, the consultant should identify non-designated heritage assets within the study areas.*
11.4.2	Construction	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: • *How will 'significant effects' be determined?* • *The impact of **any** harm to heritage assets will need to be assessed, justified and outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal in line with national and local planning policy.* • *At what stage would the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy be produced?* *These factors need to be clarified and assessed.* *Listed Building Consent would be required for the proposed 'removal and re-siting (either temporary or permanent)' of listed historic buildings or structures. Removal or re-siting of a non-designated heritage asset would require justification in a heritage statement.*
11.4.3	Operation and Maintenance	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: • *How will 'significant effects' be determined?* • *The impact of **any** harm to heritage assets will need to be assessed, justified and outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal in line with national and local planning policy.* • *How will the design 'seek to minimise as far as reasonable the scale of the change' 'where changes to the setting of a heritage asset cannot be avoided'?* •

Table 11.5	CMBC Scoping Opinion	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment:
		
		• *We reiterate that we consider that the effect on **all designated heritage assets and their settings within 15k of the boundary of the turbine area should be scoped in to detailed assessment**. The response says that the scope of assessment is set out in 11.5, but this section does not provide enough clarity on scope.*
		• *Table 11.8 specifies that the effect from the operational phase on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings would be scoped into the detailed assessment, which is welcomed, but does not specify the proposed radius.*
		• *When will the scope and methodologies for assessing impact on heritage assets be agreed with the relevant heritage bodies? How will the relevant heritage bodies be identified? We reiterate the point made in the table.*
		• *We reiterate that heritage assets should not be de-scoped from detailed assessment of impact on their setting if they are not thought to have 'a potential for likely significant effect'. This does not comply with standard practice and the consultant cannot know if there will not be a likely significant effect if a full assessment has not been undertaken. The consultant should be demonstrating through assessment within the Environmental Statement that a heritage asset will not have a likely significant effect.*
		• *Methodology for identification of non-designated heritage assets is not considered to be set out comprehensively enough.*
		• *It is welcomed that the effect of the proposal on the setting of Stoodley Pike will be given specific consideration. We also raised specific concerns about the following heritage assets in our previous response, when asked to identify specific assets which we wished to ensure were considered in the assessment:*
		  ○ *CHURCH OF ST THOMAS A' BECKET, Heptonstall, List Entry Number 1226170*
		  ○ *Old Church of St Thomas Becket, 210m north east of Daisy Field Farm, Heptonstall, LEN 1016948*
		  ○ *CHURCH OF ST THOMAS, Heptonstall LEN 1226171*
		  ○ *View from Horsehold hamlet (multiple grade II listed buildings) looking towards Lumb Bank (NDHA with literary associations with Ted Hughes), Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall Conservation Areas.*

Table 11.6	Consultation Undertaken to Date	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *The proposed study areas for assessment of impact on setting are not considered adequate, as previously set out. The 15k boundary from the turbine area should also include grade II listed buildings and conservation areas. This directly conflicts with Section 11.3.2 which states that both non-designated and designated heritage assets within 15km, and high value assets within 30km, will be assessed. Additionally, as Historic England states, the ES should demonstrate that the area is of an appropriate size to ensure all historical sites have been included and properly assessed.*
Table 11.7	Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment	The Councils Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: • *Effects on the settings of heritage assets from the construction of the turbine area should be scoped in. The different effects of construction and the duration of the construction phase would need to be fully understood in order to assess the impact on heritage assets. Elements such as access roads, while theoretically temporary, may be in place for many years and such details would need to be understood to fulfil the requirements of the NPPF and Calderdale Local Plan to assess the impact of the proposal and any harm it may cause to heritage assets.* • *Effects on buried archaeological remains from the operation of the proposed development could occur due to changes to ground conditions, and should be scoped in.* • *Not all archaeological remains are buried. The operational phase could affect scheduled monuments or undesignated archaeological remains directly or through changes to their setting.* • *Effects on heritage assets from the decommissioning of the proposed development could occur, for example physical damage to heritage assets through the transportation of materials. These risks should be identified.*
Table 11.8	Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment	The Councils Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: • *Effects which could harm heritage assets should be scoped in, regardless of likelihood. For example, effects on other heritage assets (not just buried archaeological remains) from the construction of the proposed development (including access and cable routes).*

		Physical damage to listed buildings, NDHAs and conservation areas could occur, and these risks should be identified in the ES. • *Schedule 4 Regulation 18 (3) (Information for Inclusion in Environmental Statements) paragraph 5 d) requires the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters) to be described.* • *Direct impacts on designated and non-designated heritage assets from the operation of the development should be scoped in. There are two listed buildings and multiple scheduled monuments within the proposed turbine area, and NDHAs may be present.* • *Effects on the settings of designated and non-designated heritage assets will definitely need to be assessed- Table 11.8 says 'To be agreed'.* • *It is standard practice to assess temporary effects. These must be considered as those effects could be mitigated or avoided entirely if they are properly identified and assessed*
11.6.1	Study Area	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: • *The impact on all designated and non-designated heritage assets (not just buried archaeology) within the whole turbine area must be assessed.* • *The 5k buffer around the Turbine Area and Site Access Search Areas should assess the impact on all designated and non-designated heritage assets, not just those for which there is potential for likely significant effect. The ES will need to provide a clear explanation for any heritage assets scoped out of the assessment, to ensure that potential impacts have been captured and considered. The impact of the proposed cable routes will also need to be assessed.* • *The 15k buffer around the turbine area and site access search areas should include all designated heritage assets, not just highly graded listed buildings and registered parks and gardens. Grade II listed buildings, Grade II registered parks and gardens conservation areas and scheduled monuments should also be included. As above, The ES will need to provide a clear explanation for any heritage assets scoped out of the assessment, to ensure that potential impacts have been captured and considered. The impact of the proposed cable routes will also need to be assessed.*

		• *A proposed 30k buffer is mentioned in an earlier section of the report for highly graded assets. This would be welcomed. The ES will need to demonstrate that potential impacts on heritage assets have been properly considered.*
11.6.2	Approach to Collection of Baseline Data	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *The following should also be included, as set out in the 2023 Scoping Report: '• detailed site walkovers; and • dedicated settings assessment visits.'* *Local studies library in Calderdale should also be consulted*

11.6.3	Further Baseline Data	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment:
		
		• *When will the collection of field data be agreed with relevant stakeholders, and how will the relevant stakeholders be identified?*
		• *The field survey data results will be crucial and the results should be interpreted as part of the main body of the ES report, not simply included as appendices as proposed.*
		• *The 2023 Scoping Report also proposed including the following technical appendices. These are not mentioned in the 2025 report and should be included:*
		  ○ *'An Archaeological DBA undertaken in line with industry standard and guidance set out by CIfA (2020);*
		  ○ *A Historic Environment Settings Assessment which will be supported by illustrative material and carried out in accordance with national and local policy, and using the staged process set out within GPA 3; and*
		  ○ *A detailed walkover survey report focusing on areas likely to be directly impacted by the Proposed Development to identify and assess the significance of any visible archaeological remains.'*

11.6.29	Decommissioning	The Council's Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: • *If an negative effect has resulted from construction then there will be positive effects resulting from decommissioning, not no effect, and this needs to be assessed. These effects may be likely significant effects.*
Table 11.9	Levels of Heritage Significance	The Councils Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: • *As raised in previous comments, 'we have concerns about the accuracy of this table. All heritage assets have significance, and many buildings and Conservation Areas have different levels of significance in different parts of them. It is not right to state that listed buildings of a lower grade or in a poor condition are of lower significance: all listed buildings are of special interest. For example the statement in Table 11.5 that Grade II listed buildings are of Medium significance is not correct. It is very much not accurate to say that assets in poor condition are of Low significance. As stated by Historic England 'Listing marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations.* ○ *' Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, only 2.5% of listed buildings are Grade I* ○ *' Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; 5.8% of listed buildings are Grade II** ○ *' Grade II buildings are of special interest; 91.7% of all listed buildings are in this class and it is the most likely grade of listing for a home owner.'* *These levels of interest apply regardless of the physical condition of the listed building.'* • *'Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor contextual association' should not be identified as having Negligible Heritage Significance. A listed building in a poor state of repair is not of lower significance than one in good condition.* • *Conservation Areas are designated by Local Planning Authorities, but this does not mean they are only regionally important. They are statutory designated heritage assets.*

		• *Standard practice is to have all designated heritage assets as High Heritage Significance or above, with a Very High category for Grade II* and Grade I listed/registered, Scheduled Monuments, and World Heritage Sites.*
11	Historic Landscape Chararcterisation	The Council requests that an assessment of Historic Landscape Chararcterisation (HLC) must be scoped in and fully assessed within a 15km study area. Assessment should be aligned with the European Landscape Convention.
Table 11.11	Significance of Effect	The Councils Conservation Officers have provided the following comment: *This table rates effects as Major, Moderate, Minor or Negligible. How does this relate to "likely significant effect" which is referred to throughout the report? Please detail this part of the methodology and the criteria for likely significant effect based on major, moderate, minor or negligible descriptors.*

Scoping Report Reference	**Topic / Issue**	**CMBC Response**
12. Access, Traffic and Transport		
12.3, Figure 4-2,	Proposed Site Access Strategy	The Council Highways Officer has provided the following comment: *The site access routes close to the site and highway improvements have not yet been determined but that there is a search area extending east from the site. A plan showing the rights of ways affected by the construction vehicle routes should be provided.* *It is also noted that it is proposed to route the Abnormal Indivisible Loads from the west, via Lancashire, so those impacts would not be reviewed by Calderdale highway authority.*

12, 12.3.3, 12.4.16 (5.10, 10.3.19)	Impacts on the A6033	The Council Highways Officer has provided the following comment: *The A6033 would be used for general traffic from the east. Vehicles would pass through the length in Calderdale to and from the A646. The largest environmental impacts will be through the settlements on those roads. The A6033 through Hebden Bridge is particularly sensitive given its alignment, gradient, narrow footways, on-street parking and use by pedestrians and cyclists. This is acknowledged in the scoping report.*
12.7.3, 12.7.11,	IEMA Environmental Assessment	The Council Highways Officer has provided the following comment: *The use of the IEMA Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement document is acceptable. It includes a 30% HGV threshold for assessing the impact of construction traffic.*
12.7.8	National Road Traffic Forecast (NRTF) assumptions	The Council Highways Officer has provided the following comment: *The use of NRTF (low growth) is acceptable for determining future traffic growth.*
12	PRoW	The Council Highways Officer has provided the following comment: *The site access routes close to the site and highway improvements have not yet been determined but that there is a search area extending east from the site. A plan showing the rights of ways affected by the construction vehicle routes should be provided.*

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
13. Noise and Vibration		
Section 13.3.2	Study Area	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *There are several residential properties within the development site, and 2 properties in the middle of the site, adjacent to a reservoir which will reflect any sound emission higher than calculated.* *Figure 13-1. shows over 60 noise sensitive receptors (NSR's)*
13.3.4	Study area	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *The cable corridor search areas are too vast to make any recommendations*
Figure 13.1 & 13.2	Study Area	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *The figures do not reflect the same turbines. What does the noise contours on Figure 13.1 represent? Predicted background noise levels or levels at the NSR what parameter is this?*
13.3.6	Approach to the collection baseline Data for scoping	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *The following parameters are not familiar please expand for: 'with predicted turbine noise measured in Decibels (dB(A)[292], L90[293])*
13.3.7	Consultation Transparency	The Councils Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *CMBC did not see this information, please provide this.*
13.3.8	Baseline Noise Survey: Background levels	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *Please provide the actual background noise levels*

13.4	Assessment Criteria & significance thresholds	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *The design criteria or the impact of the development should not be allowing significant effects to be acceptable as this is at a level which causes critical health effects. The NOEL or LOAEL should be the level reached.*
Table 13.2	CMBC Scoping Opinion	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *Frequency spectrum analysis and in particular low frequency noise should be considered for the BESS and Substation, as these are known to have higher noise levels within the lower frequency octave bands. In addition, consideration should be taken into account for the corrections due to the topography of the area i.e. 'across a valley effects'.*
13.5.3	Scoped out	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *Although studies show that there is no adverse effect from wind turbines. Low frequency noise shall be considered for the BESS and Substation. Consideration should be taken into account for the corrections due to the topography of the area i.e 'across a valley effects'. The assessment should also consider the noise transmission inside the property via the chimneys, this is very common at present in Calderdale.*
13.5.12	Amplitude Modulation	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *This should be considered within the assessment and not disregarded, if a planning condition is recognised to be required. Then this should be considered.*
Table 13.4	Effects scoped out	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *Decommissioning should be considered as there will removal of concrete and possibly using a pecking method which will amplify around the valley, and there will be the vehicles movement.*

		There are properties adjacent to the turbines so vibration should be considered during the construction and decommissioning phase *Infrared and low frequency noise should be considered for the BESS and Sub station* *Amplitude Modulation should also be considered* *Traffic movement and noise should be considered as there will be considerable amount during the construction and decommissioning phase*
13.6.8 & 13.6.11	Operational and maintenance	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *Due to the number of and the close proximity of the noise sensitive receptors and the more stringent level should be used i.e. the lower level of 5 dBA above the prevailing background level should be adopted as opposed . Total ETSUR-97 Noise Limits' for the assessment will be based on a 40 dB fixed lower noise limit during the daytime period and a 43 dB fixed lower noise limit during the night. There is no justification for these values, and the lower level should be considered.*
13.6.13	Cross-boundary governance	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *The Turbine Area is located entirely within Calderdale; however it borders the Local Authority districts of Bradford, Pendle, and Burnley. There should be a working group with Bradford, Pendle and Burnley, to agree the methodology.*
13.6.15	Methodology	The Council's Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments: *In addition to BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 methodology, Low frequency noise from the BESS and substation should be considered in one third octave bands, as previously mentioned. BS 4142 standard will give a rating level and although this consider tones, given the sensitivity of the application and the close proximity of the noise sensitive receptors and the distance that lower frequency wavelengths can travel, this needs to be considered.*
13.6.18	Technological and location specific inputs	The Councils Environmental Health Officer has provided the following comments:

		Agree the assessment has to be specific to the actual turbines, Substation, BESS etc that will be used, and the exact locations. The Council agrees the assessment must be specific to the actual turbine model(s), substation and BESS plant and their final siting. As the SR notes these elements are currently indicative, the ES should adopt a parameterised, reasonable-worst-case approach, and include a sensitivity test for alternative substation/BESS locations within Order Limits and along cable route variants.
13	Noise and Vibration	The Councils Public Right of Way Officer has provided the following comment: *There is no mention of the impact of noise on path users, in particular horse riders, so I would like to see recognition of this, and inclusion of noise sensitivity receptors on the Pennine Bridleway and Calder-Aire Link.*

Scoping Report Reference	**Topic / Issue**	**CMBC Response**
14. Air Quality		
14.3.4, 14.3.2–14.3.3, 14.6.2, 14.6.4	Study area distances for particulate matter	Given the exposed, elevated moorland context, the Council does not accept limiting construction dust assessment to 250 m. A precautionary approach is justified using the IAQM 2014/2016 screening distances (human receptors within 350 m of active works and within 50 m of construction traffic routes and track-out up to 500 m from site exits). The assessment should be augmented by targeted downwind extensions where local wind conditions indicate.
Table 14-2, 14.3.12	Human receptors	The Council request that the receptor list be expanded and mapped to include [inter alia] care homes, GP/health facilities, tourist accommodation, community facilities, and route-based users (National Trails/PRoW). Committed developments within the dust/track-out zones should be identified and included in the receptor list.

Table 14-3, 14-4, 14.6.2, 14.4.2, 14.4.4	Scoping out construction/decommissioning	The Council disagrees with scoping out construction and decommissioning dust/particulate effects from the ES. Whilst the SR identifies the inclusion of a Construction Dust Risk Assessment, the ES must summarise risk, mitigation and residual significance (pre/post mitigation) and commit measures via oCEMP/oDEMP. For Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) a screened appraisal is required where near-field receptors exist (including isolated dwellings within/near the Turbine Area). The ES should present plant inventories/locations, nearest receptors and a clear mitigation/monitoring set. A mirrored approach should be applied at decommissioning. The Council agree that operational traffic and turbine operation air-quality effects can be scoped out with a short justification note retained in the ES.
14.4.2–14.4.4	Mitigation securing across phases	The Council welcome the commitment to produce a oCEMP and oDEMP. The ES should include a phase-specific mitigation table (dust, track-out, NRMM controls, monitoring/inspections, trigger-based adaptive measures) and list these in the Commitments Register tied to DCO Requirements.
14.4.3 & Table 14-4	Unplanned atmospheric emissions (BESS fire)	The Council welcomes the Unplanned Atmospheric Emissions from BESS Report; however, the Air Quality chapter must summarise the worst-case plume (HF and other combustion products), receptor impacts, and mitigation/response (cross-refer to Health and Major Accidents & Disasters), with commitments secured in the DCO.

Scoping Report Reference	**Topic / Issue**	**CMBC Response**
15. Socio-Economics and Tourism		
15	Socio-Economics and Tourism	The Council's Senior Lead for Investment has provided the following comment: *In order to assess the significant Socio-Economic Impacts on the current economic landscape the applicant's scoping report correctly identifies that the proposed Calderdale Energy Park must be assessed in the context of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1, 2023; draft*

		2025), the Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3, 2025), the National Planning Policy Framework (2025), and regional/local plans including the West Yorkshire Plan 2040 and the Calderdale Inclusive Economy Strategy (2024). *However, the applicant's assessment must move beyond general references to potential benefits and demonstrate, in a quantifiable manner, how the proposed development will deliver measurable economic gains for Calderdale and West Yorkshire. In line with the West Yorkshire Growth Plan 2040 and the Calderdale Inclusive Economy Strategy (2024), and in order to assess the likely significant socio-economic effects, the Environmental Statement (ES) must set out:* • *The projected Gross Value Added (GVA) at Calderdale and West Yorkshire levels, disaggregated for construction, operation, and decommissioning.* • *The proportion of project expenditure retained within Calderdale and the region, including commitments to use local supply chains, SMEs and anchor institutions.* • *Mechanisms to ensure that benefits are not one-off but locked into the local economy over the long term, e.g. through community benefit funds, shared ownership models, and reinvestment into local skills and enterprise.* *In order to assess the significance of the employment Benefits across the whole project lifecycle, the ES must provide an assessment of the likely significant socio-economic effects across all phases of the project, including the decommissioning stage.* *The Environmental Statement should also include a clear and proportionate assessment of the potential negative socio-economic impacts of the proposed windfarm development. This assessment should consider negative effects, including but not limited to potential impacts on local employment, tourism, community wellbeing, and the use of local infrastructure and services. Where adverse effects are identified, the applicant is expected to provide a mitigation strategy outlining practicable measures to minimise or offset such impacts, with particular reference to the resilience and sustainability of Calderdale's local economy and communities*
15.2	Relevant Regional and Local Policy Context	The Council's Senior Lead for Investment has provided the following comment:

		We would question the relevance of the Hull and East Yorkshire Economic Strategy (2024), and the Leeds City Council Core Strategy (2017-2033).
15.2	Relevant Regional and Local Policy Context	The Council's Senior Lead for Investment has provided the following comment: *The Bradford Core Strategy and adopted Neighbourhood Plans may be of relevance given the proximity to the Bradford boundary.*
15.3.3	Study Area	The Council's Senior Lead for Investment has provided the following comment: *Paragraph 15.3.3 references the quantification of economic impacts on three study areas, plus the identification of key tourism assets. Impacts should also be assessed on the identified tourism assets.*
15.3.4	Approach to the Collection of Baseline Data for Scoping	The Council's Senior Lead for Investment has provided the following comment: *Paragraph 15.3.4 lists the baseline data which has been collected. Given this section also considers economic impacts, a greater number of economic datasets should be listed. It is noted that other data is discussed later in this section but these are not listed at Para 15.3.4; for completeness all datasets used by listed together.*
15, Table 15-6	CMBC Scoping Opinion	The Council VisitCalderdale Team have provided the following comment: *VisitCalderdale has concerns about the scale and location of the proposed development, the adverse effect it may have on local viewpoints, landscape, ornithology and biodiversity and any potential impact on Calderdale's visitor economy, worth £649.65 million in 2024.* *Throughout the Scoping Report there is much that is "yet to be identified" and many elements due to be "refined as the scheme evolves." VisitCalderdale looks forward to more clarity on these points in the future and in particular to seeing the tourism and recreation assessment referenced*

		in Table 15-6 for more information on the impact of the proposed development on tourism assets - all of which will hopefully give a clearer indication of the effect the proposed development may have, enabling clearer observations to be made about it.
15.9	Matters to be scoped out.	The Council considers that decommissioning (including removal of turbines, BESS, substation/transformers, tracks/foundations where relevant, temporary compounds and reinstatement) should be scoped into the socio-economic and tourism assessment. The tourism and recreation assessment must show how the proposal affects the local economy during each phase—construction, operation, decommissioning and site restoration—and consider any lasting reputational impacts arising from the proposal. This is particularly important given that decommissioning is expected 25–30 years after construction, when baseline conditions and visitor patterns may differ materially. The Councils position is founded as follows: - CMBC's Prior Scoping comments required effects to be assessed across construction, operation and decommissioning, with an indicative decommissioning schedule, because decommissioning will generate a material programme of works akin to a shorter construction phase; - EIA significance is not determined by economic discounting but by magnitude of change and receptor sensitivity, and decommissioning can plausibly create adverse and beneficial effects (i.e. local spend and jobs vs. temporary disruption to tourism); - the applicant already anticipates project-wide management plans at decommissioning (i.e. oDEMP, DTMP, oPROWMP, oESSMP), which confirms there will be meaningful activity needing assessment and secured mitigation/commitments (timing, routing, communications, visitor management) via the DCO; and, - the asset removal strategy (i.e. extent of track/foundation removal) directly affects duration, intensity and routing, and therefore must be assessed to avoid under-estimating likely significant effects.
15, 15.3.22	Study Area	The Council considers that the study area for Chapter 15 must extend into adjacent local authority areas where receptors and functional/economic linkages could be affected. In particular, Bradford District and the Brontë Cultural Landscape should be treated as named receptors. The ES should

		assess cross-boundary effects on the visitor economy, tourism assets and route connectivity. The assessment should not be constrained to Calderdale-only effects.
Table 15-6	CMBC Scoping Opinion	The Council requests that effects on the usability and desirability of National Trails and key strategic routes that traverse or pass near the site — including the Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway and the Calder-Aire Link — are explicitly assessed across construction, operation and decommissioning. This should be underpinned by quantitative baseline usage data and route-specific analysis of temporary diversions, access management and potential displacement of visitors. The applicant should engage with the Pennine Way Project Officer at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (and relevant National Trail/PRoW managers) to obtain robust data and agree assumptions. It is welcomed that impacts on communities (including fuel poverty and community empowerment) are to be included. The Council further requests explicit assessment of cost-of-living and health impacts on people living and working in and around the site for each project phase. The ES should also consider options for shared/community ownership or equivalent community-benefit mechanisms, with a clear explanation of delivery pathways and how any such commitments would be secured.
15.7	Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement	The Council welcomes the proposed production of an Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan to be submitted with the DCO application. The Council would wish to see consideration made to local procurement and employment and training opportunities, particularly during the construction phase. Consideration should be given to including focused/targeted initiatives in relation to the immediate surrounding settlements in terms of enhancing employment and training opportunities.

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
16. Human Health		
16.3.5, 16.6.3–16.6.4	Health study area led by LVIA	The Council does not accept a default reliance on a 45 km LVIA radius for health without justification, noting CMBCs Section 10 comments that question the logic of a fixed 45km ZTV. However, The Council accepts the LVIA-led maximum study area for perceptual/amenity pathways (i.e. landscape-related wellbeing), subject to a clear signposting of which health determinants rely on the study area extent and why. The ES should provide a map showing the LVIA radius and explain the specific health pathways that might plausibly operate at this scale (i.e. amenity/visitor behaviour) versus topic-specific topic zones of influences (Zol) for noise, air quality, water, and traffic effects.
16.3.6	cable corridors & access corridors	The Council requests confirmation that all realistic construction traffic routes and sensitive receptors (schools, care homes, health facilities, PRoW/National Trails) outside 2km will still be captured where topic zones of influences (Zol) indicate potential effects. Receptor mapping along confirmed HGV routes should be provided once fixed.
16.3.12–16.3.13, 16.2	JSNA/Health & Wellbeing Strategy and local policy	The Council welcomes the incorporation of CMBCs Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JNSA) and Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2027) and expects these to be operationalised in the ES (receptor sensitivity, inequality lenses, mitigation priorities). Please also integrate relevant Local Plan policies on Health & Wellbeing to frame receptor sensitivity and mitigation.
16.3.14–16.3.16	Receptors list	The Council supports inclusion of vulnerable groups and National Trails (Pennine Way/Bridleway), and requests explicit inclusion of the Calder–Aire Link and equestrian users as receptors given local usage and sensitivity. A receptor schedule and mapping should be provided.

16.4.1–16.4.8	Environmental measures across phases	The oCEMP, oPROWMP, oOEMP and oDEMP are supported in principle. Please ensure the Health chapter sets out the health-relevant controls to be secured (dust/noise management, HGV timing and routing, community liaison/complaints protocol, PRoW/Bridleway safety management including for equestrians, construction lighting controls), with cross-references to Requirements/Plans in the Commitments Register.
16.5.2–16.5.3, Table 16-3	Effects scoped out	The Council does not agree that decommissioning can be scoped out for Health. Decommissioning can generate traffic, noise, air quality, PRoW access/safety and community amenity effects and should be assessed proportionately with phase-specific mitigation/monitoring commitments. Please retain decommissioning within the Health scope and align with relevant topic chapters. Effects at decommissioning must be assessed on magnitude and receptor sensitivity, notwithstanding their future timing, with proportionate mitigation/monitoring secured. The Council consider that the impact of traffic and particulate matter should be scoped in (see CMBC comments Section 14).
16.5.4, Table 16-4	Effects scoped in	The Council requests that physical activity and community access effects explicitly consider National Trails (Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway), the Calder–Aire Link, Access Land and key community facilities (schools/GPs) along cable/access corridors.
16.6.7–16.6.9, 16.6.13–16.6.16, Table 16-5	significance framework; cumulative & intra-project	The Council consider the use of the IEMA significance framework as appropriate. Significance should be reported both pre and post mitigation, with cumulative/intra-project effects presented and summarised for each receptor group drawing on topic outputs (i.e. noise, air quality, LBIA, traffic, shadow flicker). Explicit monitoring/trigger points should be outlined and secured.
16.6.10–16.6.12	sensitivity & magnitude	The Council accepts the definitions but requests a justification note as to how qualitative judgements will be calibrated with topic evidence (i.e. measured dB, concentrations, traffic change, PRoW closure), and how vulnerability/inequalities will be weighted in determining sensitivity.

16.6.17	Alternative boundaries	The Council consider the option to adjust boundaries as reasonable, however, any adjustment should be set out in an 'Alternative Boundaries Log' detailing what changed, why, which receptors are affected, cross-topic consistency. Alternative boundaries should be agreed with CMBC and affected LPAs.

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
17. Aviation		
17, Table 17-3, Table 17-1	Study Area and Effects Scoped Out	The aviation study area should be justified with CAP 764 (asset-led) and include all relevant radar/aerodromes/low-flying stakeholders. The Council notes the Defence Infrastructure Organization (DIO) are consultee on matters scoped into the detail assessment. Formal consultation with Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)/RAF/MOD must be evidenced. Line-of-sight (LOS) modelling alone is insufficient to scope out RAF Leeming PSR and MoD Staxton Wold PSR. The ES should present operator-endorsed modelling and/or a written position from DIO/RAF. The Council consider it unjustified to scope out potential effects on defence assets or organisations without formal consultation and evidence from the relevant operators, this approach accords with NPS EN-1, which expects early engagement with statutory consultees and an evidence-led assessment. The Met Office has confirmed as with the previous Scoping Opinion that they require a suitable assessment within an ES to fully consider the potential effects from the proposed development on the Met Office weather radar at Hameldon Hill. The assessment should confirm which turbines are in the line of sight of the radar antenna, including the provision of ground heights and tip height (AOD) of the turbines. It should also indicate which turbines are in the beam of the radar at the 2 lowest scan elevations (0.5 deg and 1.0 deg), noting the beam width of 1 deg. The radar antenna is located at NGR: 381030,428750 and at height: 402.5m AOD.

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
18. EIA Other Matters (Shadow Flicker)		
18.2.1–18.2.3, 18.2.4	Policy/guidance basis for Shadow Flicker (SF)	The Council notes the absence of statutory limits but expects the ES to summarise relevant local amenity policies (Calderdale and neighbouring LPAs) national policies and international guidance and explain how SF findings will inform the policy tests. The ES should include a balanced review of local policy on residential/worker amenity and PRoW users and show where SF outcomes are secured via the DCO/management plans.
18.3.2–18.3.4, 18.2.2 and 18.6.3	Study area radius	The Council does not accept limiting the shadow-flicker (SF) study to 10 × rotor diameter (10×D). For the candidate rotor of 163m, 10×D equates to 1,630m (1.63km), which is too restrictive given the turbine scale (200m tip), the absence of statutory UK thresholds, and the potential for cumulative amenity effects (visual/noise) to elevate overall significance beyond 10×D. The ES should adopt a precautionary study framework as follows: • Use a primary study radius of 5km around the turbine array for receptor identification and screening, applying the maximum rotor diameter and other Rochdale maxima (hub/tip, layout) in all inputs. • Undertake property-level modelling (worst-case and cloud-corrected "real-case" for all occupied buildings within at least 2 km of any turbine. For 2–5km, apply an orientation/topography screening and run targeted models where geometry indicates potential exposure. • Provide a justification for departing from a 5km radius if the applicant proposes a smaller core and include a 5km screening map to evidence that no at-risk receptors have been omitted.

		• Explain how magnitude and significance are determined in the absence of formal UK thresholds, setting out the chosen criteria (i.e. daily/annual hour bands) and any management triggers used for mitigation control. • Include a cumulative SF check and acknowledge that even moderate SF could, in combination with visual or noise effects, result in a significant overall amenity impact at distances beyond 10×D. This approach ensures the assessment is transparent and precautionary.
18.3.6	External receptors	While shadow flicker is an internal effect, external users of PRoW and bridleways may experience glint/glare and visual strobing/motion distraction from turbine blades. The ES should therefore: ○ confirm that SF modelling is limited to internal receptors; and, ○ Assess external visual distraction within LVIA, using a route-based (sequential) method for the Pennine Bridleway, Pennine Way and the Calder–Aire Link. Set out potential mitigation/management (i.e. setbacks/micrositing, screening consistent with character, temporary route management during construction, signage/wayfinding, lighting controls) and agree the approach with CMBC and National Trail/PRoW managers. The Councils Public Rights of Way Officer has provided the following comment: *The impact of shadows on horse riders on bridleways including the Pennine Bridleway and Calder-Aire Link should be included in the relevant section. Information from the British Horse Society here (https://www.bhs.org.uk/media/lqwdbphr/wind-turbines-0525.pdf).(18) *Whilst indoor shadow flicked is scoped to buildings, outdoor equestrian safety can be affected by alternating light/shade, with cross-ref to LVIA and Human Health, in LVIA and Human Health, commit to assessing equestrian specific sensitivity and to proposed route specific mitigation where needed (screening, set backs, temporary management)*

18.3.8–18.3.9	Receptor identification and classification	The Council requires a property-level receptor schedule and plan set for all receptors within the study area. The schedule should include: unique ID, name/address (or anonymised ID where required), coordinates, use/classification (i.e. dwelling, school, workplace), relevant façades/orientation and glazing assumptions, storey/eye-level used, distance to nearest turbine, and screening/terrain notes. All assumptions and data sources should be stated. The inclusion of commercial/education/community buildings and any committed developments within the study area should be confirmed.
18.4	Mitigation/Operational Shadow Flicker Management Strategy (SFMS)	The Council welcomes the commitment to an Operational Shadow Flicker Management Strategy (SFMS). The ES should set out the Shadow Flicker Control System (SFCS) in detail and define clear trigger thresholds. The SFMS should include a property-level mitigation protocol, data logging and annual reporting, a complaints/intake and response procedure with timescales, and review/adaptive management if thresholds are approached or exceeded. The SFMS should be secured via a DCO Requirement and listed in the Commitments Register, with roles, triggers, and monitoring responsibilities clearly assigned.
18.5.3	Effects scoped out	The Council does not accept scoping out construction by default. During late construction/erection and pre-commissioning tests turbines may rotate before the SF Management System (SFMS) is live, potentially giving rise to SF at nearby properties. It is therefore necessary to treat any commissioning/rotational testing as “operational” for SF purposes and include it within the SF assessment and SFMS controls, and secure within CEMP controls that rotors remain braked/locked until the SFMS is active and the complaints protocol is in place. The Council consider it reasonable that, subject to these controls, a separate construction-phase SF assessment can be scoped out.
10, 16, 18	Cross-topic integration	The Council requires clear cross-topic integration. The LVIA (Section 10) should assess glint/glare and motion-related visual distraction for external receptors, including pedestrian and equestrian users on the Pennine Bridleway, Pennine Way and the Calder–Aire Link, using a route-based (sequential) method.

		All controls should be secured via DCO Requirements and listed in the Commitments Register with clear triggers, responsibilities and reporting.
14.4.3, 5.15.3, Tables 14-4, 19-1	Fire and Explosion Risk (BESS, Substation, Turbines)	The Council considers that fire and explosion risk must be assessed as a standalone ES topic, not relegated to a later addendum or scoped out. Fire risk creates cross-cutting impact pathways (Air Quality/Health from smoke/PM, Ground/Water from fire-water, Transport from hazardous loads, and Major Accidents & Disasters/emergency response) and the ES needs a single, integrated assessment with secured mitigation (DCO Requirements) available for statutory consultation. Deferring to an addendum weakens transparency and could preclude stakeholders (including the Fire & Rescue Service) from scrutinising scenario modelling, risk zoning and response plans at the appropriate stage. The ES must include an integrated Fire & Explosion Risk Assessment for the BESS, substation/transformers and turbines, with clear pull-through to relevant topic areas. All fire-safety measures (design/procedural) should be mapped into the Commitments Register with triggers, responsibilities and monitoring. Further detailed comments will be provided in Section 19.

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
19. Matters to be Scoped Out		
Table 19.1	Agricultural Land	The majority of the site lies within Agricultural Land Classification Grades 4 (Poor Agricultural Land) and 5 (Very Poor-Quality Agricultural Land), with some areas of defined non-agricultural land. Given this, the Council considers that this assessment of BMV agricultural land can be scoped out of the ES.
Table 19.1	Land contamination and minerals	The Lead Local Flood Authority has recommended conducting assessments for slope stability, geotechnical risks and contamination to inform the ES and confirm no adverse flood risk/drainage interactions. With the presence of peat, slopes, deep excavations, culverted and open watercourses, significant effects are plausible. Existing slope stability could be impacted as a result of construction (build and decommissioning) activities or resultant hydrological changes- particularly considering deep excavations and extensive cabling proposed. These comments on conducting an assessment for contamination concerns mobilisation of pollutants into waterbodies or ground during construction, appreciate some of these risks would be captured in an Environmental Management Plan and the requested Construction Phase Surface Water Management plan. The Council's Environmental Health Officer has confirmed that land contamination and minerals should be considered as there is at least one disused quarry which has been infilled on the application site. A Phase One with A walkover survey will identify any further disused quarries. Furthermore, The Council's Mineral Officer has confirmed in the previous Scoping Opinion that no information has been submitted within the Scoping Report regarding the scale, size, number frequency, and locations of the proposed borrow pits likely to be required to win mineral and aggregate/ballast materials for use within the site. Additionally, no information has been submitted regarding the type and volume of materials required and where it would be used within the site. Therefore, all matters in relation to borrow pits and the winning of minerals and underlaying materials within the site are scoped in.

		It was also confirmed that as part of an ES, a Mineral Resource Assessment (MRA) would be required along with borrow pits being considered in other ecological and landscape assessments outlined in this Scoping response. As the dimensions, frequency, and location of the borrow pits are unknown, the LPA cannot scope out land stability issues resulting from the use of the pits. This could be particularly prevalent for those pits located near existing and proposed on-site infrastructure such as trails, buildings, and roadways. The topographical changes to the site resulting from the borrow pits is also likely to be extensive and would need to be assessed in the relevant assessments. In order to avoid the sterilisation of an existing mineral resource the MRA should identify whether a mineral is present and in what quantity and should assess the viability and potential impacts of its extraction. Therefore, the Council disagrees that a standalone ES chapter on contaminated land and minerals is not required.
Table 19.1	Risk of major accidents and/or disasters	The previous Scoping Opinion confirmed that the installation of substantially large and electricity generating/storage infrastructure, as well as other infrastructure such as borrow pits, on the site has the potential to introduce significant risks in terms of health and safety. An ES should consider the measures to be taken to allow safe use of the site by all users and fauna. The assessment should also consider emergency management procedures in cases of fire, breakage and dislodgement, impacts of gale force winds, and other such phenomena, as these would be likely to have significant and/or disastrous impacts on the site and its surroundings. As has already been confirmed the Council considers that the issue of fire and explosion risk associated with the battery storage facilities must be assessed as a standalone ES topic and relevant mitigation should be set out and secured in the DCO. Appropriate site-specific mitigation measures identified during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases and during an occurrence of fire incident, the residual effects on both human receptors and ecological receptors should be considered. The Council's Environmental Health Officer has also emphasised that although the SR suggests this topic should be scoped on the risk of major accident risk register- wild fires is on that register. Given the peat and the heather over this area this should be considered. The site is also a triple SSI.

		For this reason the Council does not consider that the Risk of major accidents and/or disasters can be scoped out.
Table 19.1	Transboundary Effects	The Council, based on the information provided in Table 19.1 agrees that a standalone ES chapter for Transboundary Effects is not required.
Table 19.1	Materials and Waste	The Council's Mineral Officer has confirmed that details would be required to how the pits would be made safe for people and fauna during the lifetime of the development and how they would be restored during the decommissioning phase. Information would also be required in a Site Waste Management Plan under an ES to detail how excess and unneeded spoil and other materials would be dealt with from the borrow pits, as well as any other excavated materials from the site from activities such as digging foundations, crane pads, roadways, and underground cabling. The likely hydrological impacts of reinstatement of the groundworks should also be considered with an ES as part of the required hydrological assessments. Therefore, the Council disagrees that a standalone ES chapter on materials and waste is not required.

Appendix CMBC SR.1 – CMBC Consultee Comments

CMBC SR.1.1– West Yorks Ecology Service (WYES) (11.09.2025)
CMBC SR.1.2– West Yorks Ecology Service (WYES) (23.09.2025)
CMBC SR.1.3 – CMBC Biodiversity Officer
CMBC SR.1.4 – CMBC Investment Officer
CMBC SR.1.5 – CMBC VisitCalderdale
CMBC SR.1.6 – West Yorks Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAS) (10.09.2025)
CMBC SR.1.7 – CMBC Public Right of Way Officer (18.09.2025)
CMBC SR.1.8 – CMBC Conservation Officer
CMBC SR.1.9 – CMBC Environmental Health
CMBC SR.1.10 – CMBC Local Highway Authority
CMBC SR.1.11 – CMBC Lead Local Flood Authority
CMBC SR.1.12 – CMBC Minerals Officer
CMBC SR.1.13 – Met Office
CMBC SR.1.14 – CMBC Climate and Environment Team

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

CMBC SR.1.1– West Yorks Ecology Service (WYES) (11.09.2025)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 September 2025 20:50
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: [External] RE: EIA Scoping Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Amy and Ruth

Comments on chapter 8 with main focus on Peat.

1) Please can we see a full copy of the Walshaw Moor Estate Catchment Restoration Plan 2017-2024 and addendum (2019). It would also be valuable to know the results of peat and habitat condition surveys which have been undertaken and the geographical spread of peatland restoration work for the first 8 years. This would provide very valuable baseline data to inform the Environmental Statement.
2) Table 8-2 makes reference to "floated(non-excavated) construction" of access routes. This was an option used at Bellcrag Flow, Northumberland by the Forestry Commission for logging haul roads across this deep valley mire. The weight of the waggons caused the road to ripple and concern that the road would swallow the trucks resulted in very large qualities of stone being tipped into the mire from adjacent borrow pits quarries. This suggests that this is unlikely to be a viable option. The document also indicates that cable routes will follow the access tracks where possible which would require excavation to a minimum of 0.9m.
3) Table 8-2 Peat avoidance – this need to be explored in far more detail within the Environmental Statement. "Avoiding where possible" and "prioritising deep peat for temporary infrastructure" seem way off the mark for a project designed to reduce carbon emissions. Avoiding all deep peat areas by identifying them in good time and building this into the site layout. We would add that peat depth surveys and other preliminary surveys need to minimise vehicles crossing more sensitive peatland areas.
4) Patch repair of bare ground? Start with consideration of the hydrology. If it is not possible to get the reinstated peat almost permanently under water it will oxidise, degrade and blow away in the wind until you are back to mineral soil. It might be used to backfill existing drainage ditches if combined with regular dams provided that machines moving the peat have very low ground pressure or they will increase the problem with wheelings. The ES needs to ensure that it does not propose inappropriate attempts at solutions which will not work in the short to medium term. Needs more details and examples of "appropriate engineering solutions" which have resulted in peatland restoration in the medium to long term. Note that water which flows will rapidly erode peat particularly if the ground is sloping.
5) Peat is not a uniform substance. Trace elements start in the underlying mineral soils, are drawn up be rooted plants and eventually as the peat gets deeper with plants not decomposing, continue to be drawn up the peat column. If the top of the peat is removed along with the trace elements then re-establishing the active blanket bog or heath may be impossible without addition of these elements. This process needs to be understood and built into restoration plans.

6) Surface water runoff management. The infiltration concept seems to be flawed. If it rains heavily the peat will become saturated, so where is the road water to go? SUDS schemes require basins with freeboard (no water) so that they have capacity when it rains. Peatland need the water to be close to the surface for much of the year or the peat will oxidise and turn to CO2. The SUDs basins would need to be constructed outside of the peatland if they are not to contribute to the degradation of the neighbouring habitats.
7) All borrow pits need to consider the impact on the hydrology of nearby peatland habitat. This is particularly problematic for deep peat mire and wet heath habitats where small drops in the water table can have significant impacts over large distances spreading dry heath and species poor acid grassland.
8) Table 8-8 sensitivity of environment – very high needs to include ancient and species rich grassland and associated CHEGD fungi (waxcaps and their allies) which can be of international importance. Need to ensure that the move away from the peatland (which is good) does not compromise these important, rare grassland habitats.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

I will be back in the office on 22 September 2025.

Regards

Robert

CMBC SR.1.2– West Yorks Ecology Service (WYES) (23.09.2025)

From: [redacted]>
Sent: 23 September 2025 17:53
To: [redacted]>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: EIA Scoping Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.
Hi Amy

We have considered the statements from the developer and have the following comments:

North Pennine Moors SPA
We have reviewed the Nature Scot website for foraging distances of the Annex II species, Assessing connectivity with special protection areas.pdf

Hen harrier	Core range of 2km with maximum range of 10km
Merlin	Within 5km
Peregrine	Core range of 2km with maximum recorded distance in Britain of 18km
Golden plover	Core range of 3km with maximum range of 11km

It would appear at the distances of different development elements stated that the impact on this species is likely to be minimal.

Hydrology/peat – Erosion and sedimentation during operation
We do not agree that this matter should be scoped out. Impacts on the hydrology of the peat dominated habitats are likely to continue for the full expected life of the development resulting in wind and water erosion of the degraded peat. Other impacts to peatland habitats are likely to result from erosion and deposition of exposed mineral soils favouring minerotrophic species such as Juncus effusus. See NECR032 edition 1 - Part 1 Report.pdf page 28.

"Loss of both water and solids from roads has to be managed during construction and operation of the wind farm. Runoff (a potential cause of peat erosion) may be routed away from the road and possibly through culverts beneath the road. Road surfaces are drained to avoid ponding of water or interception of large volumes of water. Sloping tracks may act as conduits for water even if they do not have drains on either side. Runoff from tracks may carry a high sediment load, depending upon the construction and maintenance of the road. Splatter from vehicles can also spread sediment into adjacent water courses. Methods for managing runoff and sediment include best practice design of tracks and drains, use of some SUDS techniques, and methods such as swales, silt traps, geotextile fences, settlement ponds and buffer strips (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2005)".

We would particularly draw attention to the conclusions in section 5.3 of this report page 95 Impacts of Wind Farms on Blanket Bog.

- "The physical properties of the peat are fundamental in determining the impact of any drainage on its water levels and stability. The hydraulic conductivity, or permeability to water movement, is one of the most important factors. Where the peat has a low permeability and water movement is slow then the impact of drainage associated with tracks and hardstanding areas may be only 2-10m from the infrastructure, though it will vary seasonally. Where the permeability of the peat is higher, or peat pipes are intersected the zone of influence may be much wider.

•Roads change surface water flow patterns and can concentrate them so as to start peat erosion. The growth of Sphagnum mosses, one of the major peat forming plants, may become starved of its water supply when surface water is channelled by roads and associated drainage.

- A wind farm development will have the greatest impact on intact blanket bog, by affecting its structure and biodiversity. Conversely, where the peat body is already completely dissected by gullies, new tracks across them could be designed to reduce the runoff rates from the site, particularly if in combination with measures to slow down the flow of water or to spread it over the surface for the benefit of peat-forming Sphagnum. However, the peat stability impacts of blocking gullies would also have to be assessed.
- Drainage around the turbine base and other infrastructure such as roads will change the current water flow patterns across and through the peatland. Its impact is likely to be negative on intact bogs, but both negative and positive in degraded bogs, depending on the extent and nature of Maslen Environmental part of the JBA Group www.maslen-environmental.com 82 Natural England Assessing Impacts of Wind Farm Development on Blanket Peatland in England Project Report and Guidance existing damage. In particular changes to the chemical composition of drainage water can result in changes in vegetation, and discharge of drainage water over peat can result in liquifaction.
- Increased risk of peat slide is likely on intact and degraded sites as a consequence of excavations, installations, lorry movements and changed water flow patterns.

To this we would add the need for consideration of the potential impact of fire on peatland stability. The Ovenden Moor fire and impact on peatland habitats and species would be worth investigation.

If you have further questions please let us know.

Regards

Robert

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

CMBC SR.1.3 – CMBC Biodiversity Officer

Application Summary
Application Number: 25/06014/EIA
Address: Walshaw Dean Widdop Road Heptonstall Hebden Bridge Calderdale
Proposal: Scoping opinion - Consultation
Case Officer: Henry Collison

Biodiversity Team Comments for 25/06014/EIA

The Biodiversity Team has previously provided comments on an EIA Scoping Opinion for Walshaw Moor Estate in 2023 (23/06010/EIA). This response draws upon these previous comments made and the responses and further information provided by the applicant within the submitted Scoping Report. As the ornithology, biodiversity and peat sections of the Scoping Report rely on some of the same material in addition to new surveys or information, where relevant and where they have not been addressed, the previous points made by the Biodiversity Team have therefore been reiterated. Additional points or comments have been raised regarding new information, legislation, policy and guidance which has been provided or published since the previous response. The full comments made by the Biodiversity Team on the 2023 Scoping Opinion are also appended to this response.

In preparation of this response the Biodiversity Team have reviewed Chapters 1-8 of the Scoping Report, however, as there has been no pre-application discussion between Council Consultees and the applicants to date and in absence of an agreed Planning Performance Agreement, technical expertise has not been procured and therefore it is likely further information on technical details will be requested by the Council subsequent to this Scoping Response.

The Biodiversity Team's issues and general comments are set out in the below table in relation to both the proposed "Turbine Area" and the cable/access route options:

Key issue ref	Topic	Issue Summary	Turbine Area Comments	Cable/Access Route Comments
1	Application of the mitigation hierarchy	Site selection process must evidence application of the mitigation hierarchy.	Given the potential impact on Designated Sites (South Pennines SPA, SAC, SSSI), in particular birds, irreplaceable habitat and deep peat, the consideration of alternative sites is key to the principles of the mitigation hierarchy (paragraph 180 of the NPPF / CMBC LP Policy GN3) in terms of avoiding significant harm in the first instance (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts). A robust justification of the site selection process must be provided and is a key component of the ES and the HRA process.	All of the possible cable and access routes also pass through areas of the designated sites and other sensitive habitats, although these have not yet been refined. The process of selecting the preferred routes for both access and cabling must adhere to the mitigation hierarchy and choose avoidance of sensitive ecological receptors in the first instance. Iterative design and justification for the route selection process must be provided as evidence of this.
2	Designated sites	Inconsistencies within Scoping Report.	There is some confusion in the report over the SPAs which are relevant. For example, in Fig 6.1 the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase1) is named South Pennine Moors (Phase 2). These are still 2 separate SPA with JNCC references UK9007021 and UK9007022 and have slightly different qualifying species. There have been discussions about merging these two sites which would add an additional Annex II species peregrine falcon to the lists. This is therefore a candidate site and should be treated the same way as a fully designated SPA for planning purposes. This matter requires written input from Natural England. The North Pennine Moors SPA reference UK900272 also falls within the Zone of Influence and again has slightly different priority species. The treatment of short-eared	

			owl, which is an Annex II species of the SPM (Phase 2) is not always included correctly in the "upland breeding bird assemblage". Golden plover, also an Annex II SPM (Phase 2) is not included in 6.3.12. This requires checking a clarifying throughout the document.	
3	Locally designated sites	Not all local wildlife sites included	Local Wildlife Site (LWS) details and spatial information not provided but should have been obtained in data search with West Yorkshire Ecological Services (WYES). Data must also be obtained for Cable Access routes. Noted it is stated these will be obtained prior to the PEIR being produced. As previously highlighted in 2023, many LWSs within 5km are still not included within the Scoping Report – this must be factored into the ES. LWSs in Calderdale are regularly being designated. Prior to publication of the PEIR, a check for recently designated LWS should be undertaken Colden Clough, Norland Moor and Shibden Park & Cunnery Wood, Northcliffe Park LNRs should be added to the map (Figure 7-3) The scoping report states "*Information not publicly available*" to include reasons for LWS designation. This information should be obtained from WYES, added to Table 7-5 and fully considered.	
4	Locally designated sites	Impacts to Calderdale Wildlife Habitat Network	Table 7-10 states "*Impacts and potential benefits will also be considered against the objectives of the Calderdale Wildlife Habitat Network to ensure that*	

			mitigation or compensation is sympathetic to the objectives of the network and enhances connectivity." Welcomed that impacts to the Calderdale Wildlife Habitat Network (CWHN) are now to be considered within the ES and CMBC would welcome discussion on this. The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment '*by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures'* (NPPF Para 174). This will need be demonstrated through the ES and consider the proportion of network to be affected, the connections with other ecological networks within adjacent LPAs and the potential for future pressures such as Climate Change.	
5	Species receptors	Reptiles and amphibians	It is stated ponds within 250m of site were subject to survey for Great Crested Newts (GCN) and reptile surveys were carried out, however, the survey report has not been provided, so an assessment of coverage and assessment of the adequacy of these surveys has not been possible. It is stated in Table 7-9 that reptile surveys were undertaken between July – September 2024. Surveys must be spread across the survey season from March to September with a minimum of seven visits. The applicant should also have regard to the following guidance: Survey protocols for the British herpetofauna (2013) produced by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC). The applicant notes that artificial refugia may not be an effective survey	

			mechanism due to the presence of natural refugia on the site, in which case natural refugia should have also been searched during the survey. As presence of GCN has been identified via eDNA surveys, further surveys of the ponds will be required to establish the population size. These do not appear to be mentioned in Table 7-15. As Calderdale is not part of any district level licensing scheme this will be required to inform any subsequent licence application to NE. Surveys for other amphibians should also be extended to the ponds where GCN have not been detected.	
6	Species receptors	Badgers	Badger records do not appear to have been obtained from Calderdale Badger Group and the survey for badgers should have included a 30m buffer around the turbine site. Therefore, is not agreed that badger can be scoped out of the EIA until further information is provided.	Badger surveys will be required for the access and cable routes. These should also be informed by up-to-date records from the local badger group.
7	Species receptors	Invertebrates	It has been stated in Table 7-2 that a bespoke approach to invertebrate surveys and assessment is proposed. There is no detailed information about the assessment that took place to rate different areas of site for invertebrates' value or any maps illustrating the areas surveyed, so the scope of this cannot be assessed. We suggest that surveys and assessment are in accordance with Natural England's guidance '*Organising surveys to determine site quality for invertebrates'* and '*Surveying Terrestrial and*	

			Freshwater Invertebrates for Conservation and Evaluation'. Assessment should also include impacts or opportunities for Calderdale Priority Species.	
8	Habitat receptors	CHEGD Fungi	It has been stated in Table 7-2 that a bespoke methodology has been used for CHEGD surveys. In response to the previous Scoping Request in 2023 CMBC stated, "*Survey methodology has not yet been standardised and should involve consultation with Calderdale MBC, Natural England and the National Trust*." No such discussions have been undertaken with the LPA and consultation with other bodies is not referred to in the Scoping Report. In addition, no maps of any surveyed areas have been provided therefore the scope of this cannot be assessed. It would be beneficial for this methodology to be publicised and agreed with consultees as soon as possible given surveys could be updated if required soon (September – November). Table States surveys were undertaken in 2023/24 within table 7-10 but only 2024 in Table 7-9. We would support surveys across several years given that presence of CHEGD is highly influenced by conditions year on year. Clarification is required. Scoping report states "*4.3.17 The Turbine Area contains internationally significant fungi, within a group of fungi called the CHEGD Fungi*" but no clarification on assessment of this is provided.	As cable and access routes also pass through habitats likely to support CEHGD fungi these surveys should be extended and aid micro-siting of these to avoid impacts to sensitive species assemblages. Due to the long time taken to recover from damage, impacts to CHEDG are unlikely to be temporary even following restoration effort. Land surveyed for CHEGD should be assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site criteria.

			Land surveyed for CHEGD should be assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site criteria.	
9	Habitat receptors	Habitat surveys	Table 7-2 states the UK Habs classification was done to version 1.1. UK Habs Version 2.01 was released in 2023 and should be the agreed methodology for all surveys undertaken after this point. Table 7-2 also states that NVC and UK Habs surveys were carried out in non-optimal seasons across 2023 and 2024 (September/October/November). Although some upland habitats are still identifiable at this time of year it is not the optimal season to undertake such surveys. NatureScot and Gov.uk SFI Guidance states that surveys of higher plants/ferns should be undertaken between April-October (ideally avoiding peak breeding bird season mid-march to mid-July). The planned further vegetation surveys should be done in the optimal season. Figure 7-6 shows the number of NVC surveys undertaken to date – which is a relatively limited sample area. Although further surveys are planned the number or extent of these is not illustrated and therefore coverage cannot be assessed. It is recommended that NVC surveys will be required in all areas where direct or indirect impacts are possible. As per Natural England's advice on the 2023 Scoping request, a new map of the site (in addition to the UK Habs Map at Figure 7-5) should also be produced showing more detailed NVC habitat communities.	UK Habs surveys will be required for all land affected by the proposed cable/access route. Table 7-15 states that when cable and access routes are finalised, additional habitat surveys will be conducted in these locations. NVC and fungi surveys may also be required and would need to be conducted during optimal seasons. Where sensitive habitats are identified (priority/irreplaceable/designated features) further NVC surveys should be undertaken to aid micro-siting of the routes (i.e. to avoid damaging particularly valuable habitats). Land surveyed should also be assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site criteria.

			No botanists are included in Table 1-3. Habitat surveys, including UK Habs to support BNG and NVC surveys, must be completed by surveyors who demonstrate experience at an appropriate level of competence for the habitat. CIEEM advises a capable level for preliminary habitat surveys may be demonstrated by accreditation such as FISC level 3 or 4 or equivalent. For NVC surveys an accomplished level would be more suitable (FISC level 4 or 5 or equivalent). Land surveyed should also be assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site criteria. It is noted that peat depth surveys have not been supplied or carried out for the whole of the site in the Scoping Report at this point. We highlight that where peat over 0.3m is identified, the habitat should be classified as active or degraded blanket bog in accordance with UK Habs methodology. Therefore, it is likely that habitat classifications will need revisiting after peat depth surveys. This is supported by Natural England's "Definition of Favourable Conservation Status of Blanket Bog" published March 2025 which states "*Where peat over 0.3m depth habitat should be classified as active or degraded blanket bog"*. Habitat surveys will need revisiting after peat depth surveys.	
10	Habitat receptors	Watercourse survey	Table 7-2 states that only watercourses within the Turbine Area are to be surveyed. In accordance with the BNG User Guide all watercourses within 10m and ditches within 5m of the red line boundary should be scoped in for surveys.	As with the Turbine Area, all watercourses within 10m or ditches within 5m of the proposed cable/access routes will need to be scoped in for surveys.

			None of the professionals mentioned in Table 1-3 have accreditation to undertake MoRPH surveys – or this information has not been provided. The watercourses referred to in Paragraph 7.4.20 are not local to the scheme (both Scottish watercourses). There are far in excess of 11 watercourses within the Turbine Area but it is recognised that many of these may be classed as ditches and therefore will not require River Condition Assessments (also known as MoRPH). However, the reference to watercourses from a different project does not instil confidence in the results presented. The ES must outline all of the watercourses on the site, which ones have been surveyed via River Condition Assessment and justification for alternative survey methods if not. Information on the River Condition Assessments of each watercourse will be required. River condition is assessed using 32 condition indicators that are automatically extracted from MoRPh5 field surveys once the data have been uploaded into the information system. Each river condition indicator is assigned a score of 0 to +4 (positive indicators) or 0 to -4 (negative indicators). These river condition indicator scores are automatically extracted from MoRPh5 field surveys and provide the preliminary condition score for a MoRPh5 subreach before it is translated into a final condition score according to the river type. The excel spreadsheets of these 32 indicator scores will be required during determination where a River Condition Assessment has been undertaken. If the final condition	

			score has been reduced due to the channel being considered over-deep, this will need to be supported by the professional judgement of a Geomorphologist.	
11	Habitat receptors	Watercourse impacts	Watercourse crossings are proposed which will be presented in the ES. It is highlighted that new culverts would not be supported in accordance with CMBC Local Plan Policy GN3, and other less damaging mechanisms should be explored in the first instance and evidence of this provided. Any proposed watercourse crossings will need to be evaluated in the post-development calculations of the MoRPH BNG Assessment. This is supported by the draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Paragraph 2.12.65 states "*Culverting existing watercourses/drainage ditches should be avoided. Where culverting for access is unavoidable, applicants should demonstrate that no reasonable alternatives exist and where necessary it will only be in place temporarily for the construction period.*"	
12	Bird survey methodology	Nocturnal surveys undertaken for target species (Golden plover)	Regrettably, survey effort has been variable across the seasons, with surveys not having been conducted in each April, May and June for any year and it is not evident that sufficient survey work has been undertaken. A comprehensive record of all surveys carried out to support the PEIR, ES and HRA will be required to ensure that the level of survey effort and methodology conforms to NatureScot's Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore windfarms (2025). Where limitations occur, these should be stated as a	No evening / nocturnal surveys for target species (golden plover) for search areas for Site Access and Cable Corridors and buffers. All potentially suitable habitat should be surveyed, following to NatureScot's guidance.

			constraint and justified in the subsequent assessment. It is critical that this matter is addressed, and any necessary further surveys undertaken prior to the production of the ES/HRA.	
13	Bird survey methodology	Appears to have been restricted access for 2022 survey season (possibly due to the management plan for site during nesting and the estate shooting season)	Regrettably, survey effort has been variable across the seasons, with surveys not having been conducted in each April, May and June for any year and it is not evident that sufficient survey work has been undertaken. A comprehensive record of all surveys carried out to support the PEIR, ES and HRA will be required to ensure that the level of survey effort and methodology conforms to NatureScot's Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore windfarms (2025). Where limitations occur, these should be stated as a constraint and justified in the subsequent assessment. It is critical that this matter is addressed and any necessary further surveys undertaken prior to the production of the ES.	It is concerning that bird surveys within the Search Areas for Site Access and Cable Corridors have not been comprehensive due to access not being secured. When the access and cabling route has been finalised, all suitable habitat should be surveyed, following to NatureScot's guidance.
14	Bird survey methodology	No comparative area surveyed (required for monitoring purposes).	The report states that "due to land access restrictions, it has not been possible to undertake comparative control area surveys." No details of sites considered or consultation with the LPA, NE and RSPB have been provided. A comparative area should be selected and surveyed.	
15	Ornithological assessment	"Non-target birds scoped out"	Target bird species should include all Calderdale Priority Species and Red / Amber species likely to be	

			affected by the proposed development (such as crossbill, little-ringed plover, raven, whinchat) Section 6.4.7 states that "*construction work will avoid the peak nesting period (April – May) wherever practicable*" and that "*this will be prioritised wherever practicable*". This period should be extended to cover the entirety of the breeding season i.e. include pre- and post-nesting times. It is important that construction work in this period is completely avoided. If there is a necessity for construction in this period, details of the type of construction, location and reason should be specified, together with details why this work is essential.	
16	Bat survey methodology	No transect/vantage point surveys carried to complement acoustic static detectors.	Table 7-10 within the Scoping Report states "*Positioning of static detectors at height is not possible within the Turbine Area due to the absence of suitable structure (such as masts)"*. However, this was a key request of CMBC within the previous EIA Scoping Response. It has not been stated at what height the static monitoring was undertaken; this should be provided and the lack of at height monitoring included as a constraint on the surveys/assessment. It has been stated that access for bat activity surveys has been limited due to a lack of permission to survey the site during breeding bird surveys and other on-going usage of the site for grouse shooting. A comprehensive record of all surveys carried out to support the PEIR and ES will be required to ensure that the level of survey effort and methodology conforms to NatureScot's Bats	

			and onshore wind turbines - survey, assessment and mitigation. Where limitations occur, these should be stated as a constraint and justified in the subsequent assessment.	
17	Bat survey methodology	Need to carry out roost assessments of buildings + rock faces (hibernation potential)	The Scoping Report details that roost assessments of buildings and trees have been undertaken but does not detail whether hibernation potential of other features on site such as rock face has been carried out.	
18	Bat survey methodology	Core sustenance zones	Any assessment of potential roosting features should be undertaken within a 500m buffer of the site. Impact to potential bat flight lines between any identified roosting, hibernation features and core sustenance zones for bats, such as Hardcastle Crags, should be considered within the assessment.	
19	Bat survey methodology	Swarming/breeding sites	As per CMBC comments on the previous EIA Scoping request - Recent surveys within West and South Yorkshire have identified important bat swarming (breeding) sites, which may qualify for Local Wildlife Site (LWS) designation, located on similar habitat and topography to the application site. This indicates that disused quarries are an important feature for local bat populations and the assessment should consider whether similar features exist within the impact zone for the proposed development and carry out any necessary surveys.	

20	EIA analysis	In combination effects and recreational disturbance.	The applicant should consider assessment of a potential increase in recreational pressure and disturbance as a result of the new infrastructure, particularly where birds may be displaced to new areas by turbines, in combination with the wider impacts of the proposed wind farm. This may require visitor surveys of the site and on-going monitoring or comparative surveys from other wind farm developments nearby.	
21	EIA analysis	Supporting data	All of the raw data used in to inform the impact assessment must be supplied alongside the PEIR and/or ES to allow consultees to examine the conclusions.	
22	EIA Analysis	Impacts of BESS	The operation of the BESS on-site does not appear to have been scoped into the ES.	
23	Peat	Condition surveys and baseline information	We request to see a full copy of the Walshaw Moor Estate Catchment Restoration Plan 2017-2024 and addendum (2019). It would also be valuable to know the results of peat and habitat condition surveys which have been undertaken and the geographical spread of peatland restoration work for the first 8 years. This would provide very valuable baseline data to inform the Environmental Statement.	
24	Peat	Floating tracks	Table 8-2 makes reference to "*floated (non-excavated) construction*" of access routes. This was an option used at Bellcrag Flow, Northumberland by the Forestry	

			Commission for logging haul roads across deep valley mire. The weight of the wagons caused the road to ripple and concern that the road would swallow the trucks resulted in very large qualities of stone being tipped into the mire from adjacent borrow pits quarries. This suggests that this is unlikely to be a viable option. The document also indicates that cable routes will follow the access tracks where possible which would require excavation to a minimum of 0.9m. The Draft EN-3 Paragraph 2.12.66 also states "*Applicants should provide geotechnical and hydrological information (such as identifying the presence of peat at each site and impacts on soil and hydrology) including the risk of landslide connected to any development work. Where relevant, this should also include the potential risks to flood defences*."	
25	Peat	Peat avoidance	This needs to be explored in more detail within the Environmental Statement. "*Avoiding where possible*" and "*prioritising deep peat for temporary infrastructure*" seem erroneous for a project designed to reduce carbon emissions. It is vital to avoid all deep peat areas by identifying it in good time and building this into the site layout. We would add that peat depth surveys and other preliminary surveys need to minimise vehicles crossing more sensitive peatland areas.	
26	Peat	Patch repair of bare ground	It is important to begin with a consideration of the hydrology. If it is not possible to get the reinstated peat almost permanently under water it will oxidise, degrade and blow away in the wind until you are back to mineral soil. It might be used to backfill existing drainage ditches if combined with regular dams, provided that	

			machines moving the peat have very low ground pressure or they will increase the problem with wheelings. The ES needs to ensure that it does not propose inappropriate attempts at solutions which will not work in the short to medium term. Needs more details and examples of "*appropriate engineering solutions*" which have resulted in peatland restoration in the medium to long term. Note that water which flows will rapidly erode peat particularly if the ground is sloping. Peat is not a uniform substance. Trace elements start in the underlying mineral soils, are drawn up be rooted plants and eventually as the peat gets deeper with plants not decomposing, continue to be drawn up the peat column. If the top of the peat is removed along with the trace elements then re-establishing the active blanket bog or heath may be impossible without addition of these elements. This process needs to be understood and built into restoration plans.	
27	Peat	Surface water runoff management.	The infiltration concept seems to be flawed. If it rains heavily the peat will become saturated, leaving nowhere for the road water to go. SuDS schemes require basins with freeboard (no water) so that they have capacity when it rains. Peatlands need the water to be close to the surface for much of the year or the peat will oxidise and turn to CO2. The SuDS basins would need to be constructed outside of the peatland if they are not to contribute to the degradation of the neighbouring habitats.	
28	Peat	Borrow pit location	All borrow pits need to consider the impact on the hydrology of nearby peatland habitat. This is	

			particularly problematic for deep peat mire and wet heath habitats where small drops in the water table can have significant impacts over large distances spreading dry heath and species poor acid grassland.	
29	Peat	Sensitivity of environment	With Table 8-8 the very high sensitivity column needs to include ancient and species rich grassland and associated CHEGD fungi (waxcaps and their allies) which can be of international importance. Need to ensure that the move away from the peatland (which is good) does not compromise these important, rare grassland habitats.	
30	BNG	Statutory legislation requirements for BNG.	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as a statutory requirement for NSIPS is due to apply from May 2026, according to the latest consultation on BNG for nationally significant infrastructure projects by Defra in May 2025. Therefore, the applicants must be aware of the changing landscape of BNG and have regard to all legislation updated/published by Defra in regard to how BNG is to apply in the NSIP regime. For example, ensuring that all of the red line boundary of the DCO application has been included within the on-site baseline calculation.	Any land required for cable or access routes if part of the red line boundary of the DCO application will need to be included in the BNG assessment.
31	BNG	Impacts on irreplaceable habitats or designated features.	It is noted that the applicant has acknowledged that BNG will not apply to designated features which are covered by a restore objective or which are already covered by the Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan, which is agreed. However, we would also highlight that where irreplaceable habitat is lost or damaged, any retained irreplaceable habitat on-site cannot be enhanced to contribute towards the overall net gain for other habitats.	

			This approach is outlined by Defra's "*Irreplaceable habitats and BNG: what you need to know*" published October 2023. As stated, any losses to irreplaceable habitat will result in failure to achieve the Biodiversity Objective. However, a minimum 10% net gain must be achieved on other non-irreplaceable habitats regardless of this. It is disappointing to note the applicant is only targeting the minimum 10% net gain and would encourage a more ambitious target given the scale, scope and sustainability objectives of the project. The applicant will need to provide within the Biodiversity Gain Plan. • a description of any irreplaceable habitat on site at the date of the planning application • a plan of existing irreplaceable habitat on site at the date of the planning application It is also noted that the Scoping Report makes several references to areas of blanket bog being degraded due to previous management and *Molinia* dominance. However, this habitat is still regarded as irreplaceable and therefore avoidance of impacts/restoration should be prioritised.	
32	BNG	Additionality related to designated features which are covered by the restore	As above, it is noted that the applicant has acknowledged that BNG will not apply to designated features which are covered by a restore objective or which are already covered by the agreed Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan.	

		objective and the Natural England Walshaw Catchment Restoration Plan (2017-2042).	The applicant has stated the relevant baseline for the site, given the current restoration plan, is to be agreed with consultees and CMBC would welcome discussion on this point. It is also noted that the existing restoration plan is likely to be out of date and may not reflect the future land use of the site therefore any proposed restoration measures should be based on up-to-date research.	
33	BNG	Design of BNG	It is noted that the applicant no longer refers to tree planting across the estate as part of their mitigation proposals. However, should this be a possibility CMBC's previous comments submitted in response to the 2023 Scoping Response in relation to this are applicable. Design of BNG should be informed by a full suite of species and habitat surveys, landscape character, peat depth analysis, soil sampling, hydrology and geology to ensure interventions proposed are suitable. Tree planting has the potential to have negative effects on the condition and ecological function of areas of peat, grassland suitable for CHEGD species or of high botanical interest and in-bye grassland suitable for nesting or feeding wading birds. Proposed interventions will also need to meet all of the habitat trading rules required by the Biodiversity Metric User Guide.	
34	BNG	Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy	The applicant has stated that off-site gains may be required. Whilst this is acknowledged, the applicant must follow the biodiversity gain hierarchy in regard to	

			on and off-site gain, as set out by the BNG PPG Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 74-008-20240214. We note the search area outlined within Figure 4-3 and that this area spans across various Local Planning Authorities, National Character Areas and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. It is not clear if this is the search area for both off-site BNG and/or land required for compensation. The applicant should have regard to the spatial hierarchy in regard to BNG and the local impacts on the wildlife habitat network when selecting potential off-setting sites. Although the West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has not yet been published at the time of this response, should this be prior to the DCO application, the strategy to deliver BNG and mitigation will need to align with the LNRS. Given the scale of the application and the impacts/opportunities it presents, it is recommended that engagement is undertaken with the relevant LPAs, Responsible Authorities (such as West Yorkshire Combined Authority) and other consultees (including Natural England) to ensure that proposed habitat enhancements are aligned with emerging plans and policies relating to LNRS.	
35	BNG	Biodiversity Gain Plan	The applicant has stated that they intend to submit a Biodiversity Gain Plan alongside the DCO application. Whilst this is welcomed, the level of information provided within the Biodiversity Gain Plan does not provide all of the information required for the LPA to make a comprehensive assessment in regard to Biodiversity Net Gain. The applicant should submit a	

			Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy in accordance with Calderdale's BNG SPD. All of the information outlined within Appendix 1 of the SPD must be included within the strategy.	
36	BNG	Information to support the application	In addition to the Biodiversity Gain Plan outlined above, which in itself will need to include a certain level of information to be determined by Defra in due course, the following information is required: • Condition assessment sheets should be completed and submitted, identifying which criteria are currently met by on-site habitats. Additional detail and explanation should be provided to justify decisions about habitat condition. Where habitat of varying condition is found within a site it should be clear which areas and mapped polygons or lines correspond to different condition assessments. • The excel spreadsheets of these 32 indicator scores will be required during determination where a River Condition Assessment has been undertaken. • GIS shapefiles for pre- and post-development habitats, for on-site and off-site (where necessary), should be provided alongside the Biodiversity Gain Plan.	
	BNG	Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan	The applicated has stated that a draft Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and an Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) will be submitted. These two documents must be prepared together and correspond to ensure there are no conflicting actions.	

			We highlight that, dependant on the actions to create/enhance habitats, it may take longer than 30 years to achieve the target habitat or condition. The biodiversity metric will flag this where it is likely to be the case, however this will need to be reflected in the HMMP, and an appropriate length of management agreed with consultees. The HMMP must be prepared within the Natural England Template (accessed online here: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5813530037846016) and include the following information as a minimum in accordance with Calderdale BNG SPD: • How retained habitats will be protected through construction and how management will maintain their condition post-development. • A plan or map, of the habitats to be created and managed as part of the HMMP. Each habitat parcel should be mapped using UKHab with a habitat parcel reference number. • How initial habitat enhancement or creation will be carried out and when this will be considered complete. The initial habitat creation or enhancement is the actions required to first implement the habitat. • The management prescriptions to be implemented for baseline habitats to reach and maintain the planned habitat type and/or condition criteria targets • Detailed assessments of the risks and challenges (technical and administrative) associated with	

			achieving the planned condition and how management will overcome them • Aims and objectives in non-technical terms that are understandable to the general public • Roles and responsibilities for initial creation or enhancement and on-going management as well as contingencies if those individuals or organisations are unable to carry out their responsibilities at any point • Information relating to how funding has been agreed to deliver management.	
37	BNG	Off-site BNG	The applicant has stated there may be a need to utilise off-site BNG however, no further details on the strategy for this have been provided. If off-site BNG is to be secured via the S106 agreement, Calderdale have set out specific criteria land must meet in order for the LPA to agree to secure it. These criteria are outlined in Section 7 (off-site Delivery of BNG) and further detail is provided within Calderdale's guidance note "Habitat Bank Criteria for Landowners/Habitat Banks in Calderdale seeking to enter into a s106 with the Council for the purpose of Registering land on the National Biodiversity Gain Sites Register - Dec 2024". This guidance can be provided to the applicant to aid discussion.	
38	Ecosystem Services	Ecosystem services/natural capital	The applicant has stated within Table 7-10 that "*The restoration plan will seek to identify opportunities to enhance connectivity and habitat function for key species and habitats and also, identify other ecosystem services which are addressed through its delivery*."	

			No further information on how ecosystem services will be quantified or measured has been provided. The applicant should also consider the impacts on wider environmental receptors both on and off-site. The use of tools designed for this purpose, such as Natural England's Environmental Benefits from Nature (EBN) Tool, may be beneficial. In addition, as part of the requirements under Schedule 4(3) of the EIA Regulations, the applicant should measure the ecosystem services provided by existing baseline, the future baseline without the development in place and the future baseline if the development was to go ahead. This should also be used to inform any proposed mitigation/compensation/restoration plans. Future monitoring post-construction should include assessment of wider ecosystem services beyond biodiversity.	

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

CMBC SR.1.4 – CMBC Investment Officer

Written Opinion: Socio-Economics (Scoping Opinion Response)

In order to assess the significant Socio-Economic Impacts on the current economic landscape the applicant's scoping report correctly identifies that the proposed Calderdale Energy Park must be assessed in the context of the *Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1, 2023; draft 2025)*, the *Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3, 2025)*, the *National Planning Policy Framework (2025)*, and regional/local plans including the *West Yorkshire Plan 2040* and the *Calderdale Inclusive Economy Strategy (2024)*.

However, the applicant's assessment must move beyond general references to potential benefits and demonstrate, in a quantifiable manner, how the proposed development will deliver measurable economic gains for Calderdale and West Yorkshire. In line with the *West Yorkshire Growth Plan 2040* and the *Calderdale Inclusive Economy Strategy (2024)*, and in order to assess the likely significant socio-economic effects, the Environmental Statement (ES) must set out:

- The projected Gross Value Added (GVA) at Calderdale and West Yorkshire levels, disaggregated for construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- The proportion of project expenditure retained within Calderdale and the region, including commitments to use local supply chains, SMEs and anchor institutions.
- Mechanisms to ensure that benefits are not one-off but locked into the local economy over the long term, e.g. through community benefit funds, shared ownership models, and reinvestment into local skills and enterprise.

In order to assess the significance of the employment Benefits across the whole project lifecycle, the ES must provide an assessment of the likely significant socio-economic effects across all phases of the project, including the decommissioning stage.

The Environmental Statement should also include a clear and proportionate assessment of the potential negative socio-economic impacts of the proposed windfarm development. This assessment should consider negative effects, including but not limited to potential impacts on local employment, tourism, community wellbeing, and the use of local infrastructure and services. Where adverse effects are identified, the applicant is expected to provide a mitigation strategy outlining practicable measures to minimise or offset such impacts, with particular reference to the resilience and sustainability of Calderdale's local economy and communities.

Additional points:

1. We would question the relevance of the Hull and East Yorkshire Economic Strategy (2024), and the Leeds City Council Core Strategy (2017-2033).
2. The Bradford Core Strategy and adopted Neighbourhood Plans may be of relevance given the proximity to the Bradford boundary.
3. Paragraph 15.3.3 references the quantification of economic impacts on three study areas, plus the identification of key tourism assets. Impacts should also be *assessed* on the identified tourism assets.
4. Paragraph 15.3.4 lists the baseline data which has been collected. Given this section also considers economic impacts, a greater number of economic datasets should be listed. It is noted that other data is discussed later in this section but these are not listed at Para 15.3.4; for completeness should all datasets used by listed together?

CMBC SR.1.5 – CMBC VisitCalderdale

VisitCalderdale Observations on Planning Application:

25/06014 Economic Impact Assessment – (temporary UPRN)

From our position of having no expert knowledge of the planning regulations, these are the observations of the VisitCalderdale Team:

VisitCalderdale has concerns about the scale and location of the proposed development, the adverse effect it may have on local viewpoints, landscape, ornithology and biodiversity and any potential impact on Calderdale's visitor economy, worth £649.65 million in 2024.

Throughout the Scoping Report there is much that is "yet to be identified" and many elements due to be "refined as the scheme evolves." VisitCalderdale looks forward to more clarity on these points in the future and in particular to seeing the tourism and recreation assessment referenced in Table 15-6 for more information on the impact of the proposed development on tourism assets - all of which will hopefully give a clearer indication of the effect the proposed development may have, enabling clearer observations to be made about it.

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

CMBC SR.1.6 – West Yorks Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAS) (10.09.2025)

From: [redacted]>
Sent: 10 September 2025 11:45
To: [redacted]
Subject: [External]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Archaeology
I have examined the cultural heritage chapter of the environmental aimpact assessment scoping report. This was submitted to the planning inspectorate on 1st Sept 2025.

The scoping document is based on an original scoping document that was originally submitted to Calderdale council as the planning authority that would normally cover the proposed development site prior to the proposal being submitted to the planning inspectorate as a National Infrastructure Project. Comments were originally made on the scoping document submitted for the earlier scheme and these appear to have been incorporated into the updated document in particular for cultural heritage the potential impact of the proposed development on the Bronte countryside and the impact of the development on peat deposits and the archaeology buried or incorporated in the peat.

The proposed site for the windmills lies within the 'Bronte countryside' literary landscape. Provision is now made for detailed engagement with the Bronte society and specialists to assess the impact of the proposed development on the Bronte countryside and sites such as Top Withens.

The peat that covers a large are of the proposed development site is a significant factor in preserving archaeological remains across the development site. The peat has buried many earlier prehistoric sites such as Mesolithic flint scatters and has developed around many later prehistoric sites. The Mesolithic sites in the Pennines are of national significance due to the concentration of sites and there preservation under the peat. The comments on the initial scoping study said that the proposal's potential impacts on peat hydrology, dewatering and changing drainage patterns could detrimentally impact on any remains across the whole site not just the location of wind turbines, The developer has therefore agreed that further study is made of the sites stratigraphic sequence. A Paleo-environmental Assessment with scientific dating and deposit modelling of the blanket bog is required to review the significance of any buried deposits and help form mitigation strategies to prevent loss of cultural heritage A Geoarchaeological Desk Based Assessment will be prepared to support the ES. This will inform an approach to subsequent data collection and mitigation.

The significance of the Mesolithic sites on the peat uplands is demonstrated by the number of Mesolithic sites recorded in the proposed area for development 11 out of 15 prehistoric sites are Mesolithic. These sites are generally only identified when erosion of the peat exposes artifacts from these sites and consultation with the team at York university studying these sites is now included in the scoping comments . This ties in with the geoarchaeological desk based study.

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

The additional works proposed for the Heritage Statement on the Bronte countryside and the peat geoarchaeological assessment will add to and improve the initial Desk-based assessment stage of the heritage assessment.

The spread of medieval and post medieval settlement and farming across the peat upland is another issue that should be considered in the desk-based assessment.

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service

[redacted] | Senior Archaeological Officer

[redacted]

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service , West Yorkshire Joint Service, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 7JQ

www.wyjs.org.uk/archaeologyadvisory

West Yorkshire Joint Services

CMBC SR.1.7 – CMBC Public Right of Way Officer (18.09.2025)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 September 2025 17:12
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Scoping Request for Calderdale Energy Project

Hello Henry, please find my comments below,

Public Rights of Way are acknowledged in several sections of the Calderdale Energy Park Scoping Report, 10 – Landscape and Visual, 12 – Access Traffic and Transport, 15 – Socio-Economic and Tourism and 16 – Health, indicating multiple potential effects on this well used resource.

The Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails are impacted by the proposals and are mentioned in the Scoping Report. The Calder-Aire Link is a regionally important route linking population centres in the Bradford District to the Pennine Bridleway. It runs through the development site. I would like to see the Calder-Aire Link named and recognised alongside the Pennine Bridleway in the relevant sections.

An assessment of how the proposals will impact the use of Access Land should be included (land designated under the CROW Act 2000).

I would like to see more visual receptors on the Pennine Bridleway, and inclusion in the EIA of information regarding to the safety impact on horse riders as well as the visual impact – should this be in the health section?

There is no mention of the impact of noise on path users, in particular horse riders, so I would like to see recognition of this, and inclusion of noise sensitivity receptors on the Pennine Bridleway and Calder-Aire Link.

The impact of shadows on horse riders on bridleways including the Pennine Bridleway and Calder-Aire Link should be included in the relevant section. Information from the British Horse Society here (https://www.bhs.org.uk/media/lgwdbphr/wind-turbines-0525.pdf).

Regards,

[redacted]

Public Rights Of Way Officer (DMMO)

Calderdale Council

Mulcture House

Tel: [redacted]

Calderdale's Rights of Way network can be viewed here Leisure and culture map | Calderdale Council
Please enable Rights of Way on the left hand side legend.

The Definitive Map and Statement can be viewed at Halifax Central Library

CMBC SR.1.8 – CMBC Conservation Officer

Scoping Opinion 25/06014/EIA Conservation Team comments (Cultural Heritage)

The proposal is for 41 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 200 metres, battery energy storage system and substation with indicative compound size of 220 metres x 160 metres, office, warehouse and plant storage and associated cabling and access routes.
Detailed comments were provided on the 2023 Walshaw Moor Estate Scoping Opinion (23/06010/EIA). This NSIP submission provides an updated scoping report. The Cultural Heritage chapter reuses much of the same material as the 2023 report, with some alterations and responses to some of the points raised in the previous Conservation Team comments on the scoping opinion. The full 2023 Conservation scoping opinion is appended to these comments. These comments respond to new matters raised and identify matters previously raised which still need to be addressed.

Scoping Report paragraph no.	**Header**	**Comment**
Fig. 4.1	Proposed Turbine Area map	The map is at a scale which makes it difficult to interpret the exact proposed boundary of the turbine area. The boundary should be shown on a 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey map.
Fig. 4.2	Calderdale Cable Search Areas and Access Routes map	Maps at 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey scale should be provided to accompany this overview map, which is too large to meaningfully interpret.
Figs 10.1-10.4	Zones of Theoretical Visibility	These maps are not at a scale which can be easily understood.
11.2.4	National Guidance	The following guidance should also be used: • Historic England 2021: Commercial renewable energy development and the Cultural Heritage Historic England Advice Note 15 • Historic England 2024: Peatlands and the Historic Environment: An Introduction to their Cultural and Heritage Value • Historic England 2020: HEAG272 Deposit Modelling and Archaeology Guidance for Mapping Buried Deposits • Historic England Advice Note 12: Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets
11.3.2	Study area	This section reports on the study areas which have already been used for scoping the baseline cultural heritage assessment. There are anomalies between what is specified here and the 'receptors identified' in later sections of this report.

		• **Unknown archaeological remains** were scoped into the 2023 report for the '5km radius from the centre point of the Turbine Area to provide adequate context to sufficiently assess archaeological remains', however table 11-1, Receptors Identified within the Turbine Area, only sets out **Archaeological Recorded Features/Finds**. A methodology will need to be provided for unknown archaeological remains within the turbine area, with the approval of West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service and Historic England. • 'A 15km buffer around the Turbine Area to capture **any designated or non-designated heritage assets** likely to be affected by a change in their setting' is identified. It would be welcomed if all designated and non-designated heritage assets within a 15k buffer around the site were identified, however, Section 11.3.6 and Figure 11-1 only includes **grade I and II* listed buildings** within the 15k study area despite stating that the 30km buffer would be for highly designated heritage assets only. • No details of highly designated heritage assets within a 30k buffer have been provided in the relevant sections or maps, yet this section says they have been scoped in the baseline assessment: 'A 30km buffer around the Turbine Area to capture any very highly designated heritage assets for which there is a potential for an effect (upon their Heritage Significance) through a change in their setting.' • The 2023 Scoping Report also included 'A 5 km buffer around the site to capture any designated or non-designated heritage assets for which there is a potential for likely significant effects (upon their Heritage Significance) caused by a change in their setting;'- this will need to be scoped back in.
11.3.3	Study area	The Cable Corridor and Site Access Search Areas 'are still being refined through the options appraisal and therefore the detailed assessment will be included within the next stages of assessment, and within the Environmental Statement'. Consideration will need to be given to the direct impact on all designated and non-designated heritage assets, and the impact on

		their settings. Both would have potential to harm heritage assets.
11.3.13	Receptors Identified within the 5k Study Area	Text says 13 Conservation Areas were identified, but Fig. 11.2 map shows additional Conservation Areas within 5k of the turbine area, in Calderdale and neighbouring districts. In particular in Calderdale the significance of Mytholmroyd, Mill Bank & Cottonstones, Luddenden and Warley could theoretically be affected due to the proposed height of the turbines, and the impact would need to be assessed. Views into and out of conservation areas can contribute to their significance. Other Conservation Areas in Calderdale could be affected by the site access and cabling routes and again impact would need to be assessed.
11.3.16	Receptors Identified within the 15k Study Area	Conservation Areas should also be identified so that the impact on them can be fully assessed and understood. As raised in comments on the 2023 scoping report, the impact on Todmorden and Lumbutts & Mankinholes (which are just outside the 5k area) will need to be assessed. The wind turbines would likely be visible in the backdrop to these historic settlements, and the landscape within which they are experienced contributes to their significance.
Fig 11.3	Non-designated heritage assets and findspots within 5km of the Turbine Area	Calderdale does not have a published Local List of Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs), so the information in this map is not complete. Todmorden and Sowerby Neighbourhood Plans identify NDHAs in their areas but these lists are not exhaustive. As part of the assessment, the consultant should identify non-designated heritage assets within the study areas
11.4.2	Construction	• How will 'significant effects' be determined? • The impact of **any** harm to heritage assets will need to be assessed, justified and outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal in line with national and local planning policy. • At what stage would the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy be produced? • Listed Building Consent would be required for the proposed 'removal and re-siting (either temporary or permanent)' of listed historic buildings or structures. Removal or re-siting of a non-designated heritage asset would require justification in a heritage statement.
11.4.3	Operation and Maintenance	• How will 'significant effects' be determined? • The impact of **any** harm to heritage assets will need to be assessed, justified and

		outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal in line with national and local planning policy. • How will the design 'seek to minimise as far as reasonable the scale of the change' 'where changes to the setting of a heritage asset cannot be avoided'?
Table 11.5	CMBC Scoping Opinion	• We reiterate that we consider that the effect on **all designated heritage assets and their settings within 15k of the boundary of the turbine area should be scoped in to detailed assessment**. The response says that the scope of assessment is set out in 11.5, but this section does not provide enough clarity on scope. • Table 11.8 specifies that the effect from the operational phase on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings would be scoped into the detailed assessment, which is welcomed, but does not specify the proposed radius. • When will the scope and methodologies for assessing impact on heritage assets be agreed with the relevant heritage bodies? How will the relevant heritage bodies be identified? We reiterate the point made in the table. • We reiterate that heritage assets should not be de-scoped from detailed assessment of impact on their setting if they are not thought to have 'a potential for likely significant effect'. This does not comply with standard practice and the consultant cannot know if there will not be a likely significant effect if a full assessment has not been undertaken. The consultant should be demonstrating through assessment within the Environmental Statement that a heritage asset will not have a likely significant effect. • Methodology for identification of non-designated heritage assets is not considered to be set out comprehensively enough. • It is welcomed that the effect of the proposal on the setting of Stoodley Pike will be given specific consideration. We also raised specific concerns about the following heritage assets in our previous response, when asked to identify specific assets which we wished to ensure were considered in the assessment:

		○ CHURCH OF ST THOMAS A' BECKET, Heptonstall, List Entry Number 1226170 ○ Old Church of St Thomas Becket, 210m north east of Daisy Field Farm, Heptonstall, LEN 1016948 ○ CHURCH OF ST THOMAS, Heptonstall LEN 1226171 ○ View from Horsehold hamlet (multiple grade II listed buildings) looking towards Lumb Bank (NDHA with literary associations with Ted Hughes), Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall Conservation Areas. •
Table 11.6	Consultation Undertaken to Date	The proposed study areas for assessment of impact on setting are not considered adequate, as previously set out. The 15k boundary from the turbine area should also include grade II listed buildings and conservation areas. This directly conflicts with Section 11.3.2 which states that both non-designated and designated heritage assets within 15km, and high value assets within 30km, will be assessed. Additionally, as Historic England states, the ES should demonstrate that the area is of an appropriate size to ensure all historical sites have been included and properly assessed.
Table 11.7	Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment	• Effects on buried archaeological remains from the operation of the proposed development could occur due to changes to ground conditions, and should be scoped in. • Not all archaeological remains are buried. The operational phase could affect scheduled monuments or undesignated archaeological remains directly or through changes to their setting. • Effects on heritage assets from the decommissioning of the proposed development could occur, for example physical damage to heritage assets through the transportation of materials. These risks should be identified.
Table 11.8	Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment	• Effects which could harm heritage assets should be scoped in, regardless of likelihood. For example, effects on other heritage assets (not just buried archaeological remains) from the construction of the proposed development (including access and cable routes). Physical damage to listed buildings, NDHAs and conservation areas could occur,

		and these risks should be identified in the ES. • Schedule 4 Regulation 18 (3) (Information for Inclusion in Environmental Statements) paragraph 5 d) requires the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters) to be described. • Direct impacts on designated and non-designated heritage assets from the operation of the development should be scoped in. There are two listed buildings and multiple scheduled monuments within the proposed turbine area, and NDHAs may be present. • Effects on the settings of designated and non-designated heritage assets will definitely need to be assessed- Table 11.8 says 'To be agreed'. • It is standard practice to assess temporary effects. These must be considered as those effects could be mitigated or avoided entirely if they are properl;y identified and assessed.
11.6.1	Study Area	• The impact on all designated and non-designated heritage assets (not just buried archaeology) within the whole turbine area must be assessed. • The 5k buffer around the Turbine Area and Site Access Search Areas should assess the impact on all designated and non-designated heritage assets, not just those for which there is potential for likely significant effect. The ES will need to provide a clear explanation for any heritage assets scoped out of the assessment, to ensure that potential impacts have been captured and considered. The impact of the proposed cable routes will also need to be assessed. • The 15k buffer around the turbine area and site access search areas should include all designated heritage assets, not just highly graded listed buildings and registered parks and gardens. Grade II listed buildings, Grade II registered parks and gardens conservation areas and scheduled monuments should also be included. As above, The ES will need to provide a clear explanation for any heritage assets scoped out of the assessment, to ensure that potential impacts have been captured and

		considered. The impact of the proposed cable routes will also need to be assessed. • A proposed 30k buffer is mentioned in an earlier section of the report for highly graded assets. This would be welcomed. The ES will need to demonstrate that potential impacts on heritage assets have been properly considered.
11.6.2	Approach to Collection of Baseline Data	The following should also be included, as set out in the 2023 Scoping Report: '• detailed site walkovers; and • dedicated settings assessment visits.' Local studies library in Calderdale should also be consulted
11.6.3	Further Baseline Data	• When will the collection of field data be agreed with relevant stakeholders, and how will the relevant stakeholders be identified? • The field survey data results will be crucial and the results should be interpreted as part of the main body of the ES report, not simply included as appendices as proposed. • The 2023 Scoping Report also proposed including the following technical appendices. These are not mentioned in the 2025 report and should be included: ○ 'An Archaeological DBA undertaken in line with industry standard and guidance set out by CIfA (2020); ○ A Historic Environment Settings Assessment which will be supported by illustrative material and carried out in accordance with national and local policy, and using the staged process set out within GPA 3; and ○ A detailed walkover survey report focusing on areas likely to be directly impacted by the Proposed Development to identify and assess the significance of any visible archaeological remains.'
11.6.29	Decommissioning	• If an negative effect has resulted from construction then there will be positive effects resulting from decommissioning, not no effect, and this needs to be assessed. These effects may be likely significant effects.
Table 11.9	Levels of Heritage Significance	• As raised in previous comments, 'we have concerns about the accuracy of this table. All heritage assets have

		significance, and many buildings and Conservation Areas have different levels of significance in different parts of them. It is not right to state that listed buildings of a lower grade or in a poor condition are of lower significance: all listed buildings are of special interest. For example the statement in Table 11.5 that Grade II listed buildings are of Medium significance is not correct. It is very much not accurate to say that assets in poor condition are of Low significance. As stated by Historic England 'Listing marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations. ○ ' Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, only 2.5% of listed buildings are Grade I ○ ' Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; 5.8% of listed buildings are Grade II* ○ ' Grade II buildings are of special interest; 91.7% of all listed buildings are in this class and it is the most likely grade of listing for a home owner.' These levels of interest apply regardless of the physical condition of the listed building.' • 'Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor contextual association' should not be identified as having Negligible Heritage Significance. A listed building in a poor state of repair is not of lower significance than one in good condition. • Conservation Areas are designated by Local Planning Authorities, but this does not mean they are only regionally important. They are statutory designated heritage assets. • Standard practice is to have all designated heritage assets as High Heritage Significance or above, with a Very High category for Grade II* and Grade I listed/registered, Scheduled Monuments, and World Heritage Sites.
Table 11.11	Significance of Effect	This rates effects as Major, Moderate, Minor or Negligible. How does this relate to "likely significant effect" which is referred to

		throughout the report? Please detail this part of the methodology.

Attention is drawn to Policy HE1 (I) of the Calderdale Local Plan, which identifies elements of the historic environment 'which make a particularly important contribution to the identity, sense of place and local distinctiveness of Calderdale', and which development proposals should pay especial regard to conserving and, where appropriate, enhancing. These include:

a) Calderdale's textile/industrial heritage and landscapes
b) Yeoman Houses of the 16th and 17th centuries
c) Nonconformist chapels and graveyards
d) Historic farmsteads and barns, and
e) Civic buildings

Calderdale's topography of multiple steep-sided, narrow, valleys with hilltops containing farms, settlements and moorlands (with evidence of pre-historic occupation) means that there is a high degree of intervisibility between the proposed hilltop turbine area and many other valleys and hilltops. The height of the proposed wind turbines (proposed maximum tip height of 200 metres) will affect the zone of theoretical visibility and this will need to be fully set out in the ES, with maps of a scale which allow this to be clearly understood. The open hilltop and moorland setting of much of Calderdale's historic environment contributes to its significance by illustrating the historic conditions and relatively remote and challenging context within which past generations lived, worked and worshipped. There is a lack of noticeable infrastructure such as pylons in the Upper Calder Valley, and the vast majority of buildings are historic. This means that the historic environment continues to be experienced to a substantial extent in its historic setting.

Calderdale's textile/industrial heritage and landscapes includes pre-Industrial Revolution housing where textiles were produced on a domestic scale, and landscape-scale remains of mills, chimneys, millponds and associated man-made water works such as leats. These are present across valleys including Crimsworth Dean, Colden Clough, Jumble Hole Clough and Luddenden, and on hilltops, for example the grade II listed Old Town Mill and Pecket Well Mill on the hillside opposite the proposed turbine area. The remains are in different states of repair and may or may not be designated, but all have heritage significance. The railway and the Rochdale Canal are also important contributors to Calderdale's industrial heritage.

Yeoman Houses of the 16th and 17th centuries are generally located on hillsides and are the high- status dwellings of wealthy yeomen (a social distinction of those below gentlemen) who had made money through a combination of upland farming and domestic textile production. Examples of important yeoman houses with intervisibility of the turbine area include Greenwood Lee (grade II*, List Entry Number 1226793), Akroyd Farmhouse (grade II*, 1226935) and Lower Purprice (grade II, 1265382).

Nonconformist chapels and graveyards reflect historic settlement patterns, with many located on hilltops. Their relatively isolated setting highlights the historic level of demand for places of worship. Examples on hilltops

opposite the proposed turbine area include Wainsgate Baptist Church and attached Sunday School (grade II*, List Entry Number 1227399), Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Heptonstall (grade II*, 1226441), Former Baptist Chapel and attached Manse, Heptonstall Slack (grade II, 1226265) and Former Sunday School (grade II, 1265896) and the associated burial ground.

Multiple **Historic farmsteads and barns** are located across Calderdale's upland areas. The majority of these will be listed grade II or NDHAs. They may be derelict but the impact on their significance should be fully assessed. The open hillside landscape around them contributes to their significance, indicating the difficult land which historic farmers were working within. As raised in the previous Conservation scoping opinion, notable groups of Grade II listed agricultural buildings likely to be affected by the proposal are the hamlet of Horsehold and surrounding farms on the plateau below Erringden Moor (Erringden Grange Model Farm is also a locally designated Historic Park and Garden), and the farms on Haworth Old Road, opposite Shackleton Knoll and the high ground between Heptonstall and Todmorden, including Blackshawhead and Colden.

Civic buildings are generally located in the valley bottoms and within urban settings, and so are so less likely to be affected by the proposal, but impact should still be assessed. Todmorden Town Hall is a grade I listed building (List Entry Number 1228980).
The assets above are identified as examples and the list is by no means exhaustive.

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

CMBC SR.1.9 – CMBC Environmental Health

Scoping Report Reference	Topic / Issue	CMBC Response
Section 13.3.2	Study Area	There are several residential properties within the development site, and 2 properties in the middle of the site, adjacent to a reservoir which will reflect any sound emission higher than calculated. Figure 13-1. shows over 60 noise sensitive receptors (NSR's)
13.3.4	Study area	The cable corridor search areas are to vast to make any recommendations
Figure 13.1 & 13.2	Study Area	The figures do not reflect the sane turbines. What does the noise contours on Figure 13.1 represent? Predicted background noise levels or levels at the NSR what parameter is this?
13.3.6	Approach to the collection baseline Data for scoping	The following parameters are not familiar please expand: 'with predicted turbine noise measured in Decibels (dB(A)[292], L90[293])
13.3.7		CMBC did not see this information
13.3.8		Please provide the actual background noise levels
13.4		The design criteria or the impact of the development should not be allowing significant effects to be acceptable as this is at a level which causes critical health effects. The NOEL or LOAEL should be the level reached.
Table 13.2		Frequency spectrum analysis and in particular low frequency noise should be considered for the BESS and Substation, as these are known to have higher noise levels within the lower frequency octave bands. In addition, consideration should be taken into account for the corrections due to the topography of the area i.e 'across a valley effects'
13.5.3	Scoped out	Although studies show that there is no adverse effect from wind turbines . Low frequency noise shall be considered for the BESS and Substation. Consideration should be taken into account for the corrections due to the topography of the area i.e 'across a valley effects'. The assessment should also consider the noise transmission inside the property via the chimneys, this is very common at present in Calderdale.
13.5.12	Amplitude Modulation	This should be considered within the assessment and not disregarded, if a planning condition is recognised to be required. Then this should be considered.

Table 13.4	Effects scoped out	Decommissioning should be considered as there will removal of concrete and possibly using a pecking method which will amplify around the valley, and there will be the vehicles movement . There are properties adjacent to the turbines so vibration should be considered during the construction and decommissioning phase Infrared and low frequency noise should be considered for the BESS and Sub station Amplitude Modulation should also be considered Traffic movement and noise should be considered as there will be considerable amount during the construction and decommissioning phase
13.6.8 & 13.6.11	Operational and maintenance	Due to the number of and the close proximity of the noise sensitive receptors and the more stringent level should be used i.e. the lower level of 5 dBA above the prevailing background level should be adopted as opposed . Total ETSUR-97 Noise Limits' for the assessment will be based on a 40 dB fixed lower noise limit during the daytime period and a 43 dB fixed lower noise limit during the night. There is no justification for these values, and the lower level should be considered.
13.6.13		The Turbine Area is located entirely within Calderdale, however it borders the Local Authority districts of Bradford, Pendle, and Burnley. There should be a working group with Bradford, Pendle and Burnley, to agree the methodology.
13.6.15		In addition to BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 methodology, Low frequency noise from the BESS and substation should be considered in one third octave bands, as previously mentioned. BS 4142 standard will give a rating level and although this consider tones, given the sensitivity of the application and the close proximity of the noise sensitive receptors and the distance that lower frequency wavelengths can travel, this needs to be considered.
13.6.18		Agree the assessment has to be specific to the actual turbines, Substation, BESS etc that will be used, and the exact locations.
Table 19.1	Contaminated land	This should be considered as the is at least one disused quarry which has been infilled. A phase one with walkover survey will identify any further disused quarries.

Table 19.1	Risk of major accident	It says it will be scoped out however on the risk of major accident risk register- wild fires is on that register. Given the peat and the heather over this area this should be considered. The site is also a triple SSI.
Section 8-	private water supplies	The EIA needs to consider all private water supplies and distribution network which serve properties within and outside the development site needs to be considered. Many of the supplies are surface water or within 1-2m below ground, and are located within the development site. The construction of foundations and hardstanding are likely to effect these supplies. There will be welfare facilities for the staff/construction phase and where how these will be provided with water needs to be considered. In addition any drainage should not contaminate any water supplies. The storage water provisions that will be used for fire, clarification needs to be sought as where this water will come from.

CMBC SR.1.10 – CMBC Local Highway Authority

Consultee Comments for Planning Application 25/06014/EIA

Application Summary

Application Number: 25/06014/EIA

Address: Walshaw Dean Widdop Road Heptonstall Hebden Bridge Calderdale

Proposal: Scoping Opinion - Consultation

Case Officer: Henry Collison

Consultee Details

Name: Mr Andrew Dmoch

Address: Calderdale MBC, Mulcture House, Westgate Halifax, Halifax HX1 1PS

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Highways Section

Comments

Most of the transport impacts of the proposal would be during the construction phase for the turbines, BESS substation and other associated infrastructure. Colleagues in Environmental Health would assess the majority of the environmental impacts of the construction traffic such as noise, dust and vibration. The highway authority would assess impacts such as severance, fear & intimidation and road safety.

That would include the impact on users of public rights of way and Open Access Land. Separate comments have been produced by Rights of Way.

The site access routes close to the site and highway improvements have not yet been determined but that there is a search area extending east from the site. A plan showing the rights of ways affected by the construction vehicle routes should be provided.

It is also noted that it is proposed to route the Abnormal Indivisible Loads from the west, via Lancashire, so those impacts would not be reviewed by Calderdale highway authority.

The A6033 would be used for general traffic from the east. Vehicles would pass through the length in Calderdale to and from the A646. The largest environmental impacts will be through the settlements on those roads. The A6033 through Hebden Bridge is particularly sensitive given its alignment, gradient, narrow footways, on-street parking and use by pedestrians and cyclists. This is acknowledged in the scoping report.

The use of the IEMA Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement document is acceptable. It includes a 30% HGV threshold for assessing the impact of construction traffic.

The use of NTRF (low growth) is acceptable for determining future traffic growth.

CMBC SR.1.11 – CMBC Lead Local Flood Authority

Consultee Comments for Planning Application 25/06014/EIA

Application Summary

Application Number: 25/06014/EIA

Address: Walshaw Dean Widdop Road Heptonstall Hebden Bridge Calderdale

Proposal: Scoping Opinion - Consultation

Case Officer: Henry Collison

Consultee Details

Name: Mohammed Amjid

Address: Calderdale MBC Parking Services, Mulcture House, Mulcture Hall Road Halifax, Calderdale HX1 1SP

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Lead Local Flood Authority

Comments

The contents of Chapter 8 particularly Section 8.6 are noted. Additional comments are as follows;

A Construction Phase Surface Water Management plan will be required. The construction phase surface water scheme will need to cover each phase of the proposal (including decommissioning) for the duration of construction with escalation and backup measures during storm events along with contact details for normal working hours, out of hours, weekends and holidays. The Construction Phase Surface Water Management plan shall include the following as a minimum:

o Measures to prevent uncontrolled runoff affecting adjacent third party land o Measures to maintain/improve water quality o Measures to prevent siltation o A design drawing showing the on-site location of the proposed measures o An emergency escalation procedure in case of a rain storm o Design calculations to show that the scheme can retain the runoff volume for the critical 1 in 100 year storm

The potential effect of changes to flood risk/drainage/sub surface flows associated with cable routing has been scoped out of the detailed assessment. There is potential for hydrological disruption with the introduction of trenches and creation of alternative preferential flow paths, over the lifetime of the development and post decommissioning. The potential effect of cabling should be included in Table 8-7 and included in the detailed assessment.

The Environmental Statement and Flood Risk Assessment should be informed by a detailed modelling study to assess subsurface flows given the sites characteristics. Risk of hydrological disruption could occur, both short and long term as certain features will remain in situ such as extensive hardstanding, foundations and cabling.

I note the lifespan is stated to be 35 years, nevertheless a number of features will remain in situ. Based on this the ES, FRA and any modelling study should look at the long term risks and also use appropriate climate change factors.

The LLFA recommends conducting assessments for slope stability, geotechnical risks and contamination to inform the ES and confirm no adverse flood risk/drainage interactions.

INFORMATIVES

Under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act any works to an ordinary watercourse [every river, stream, ditch, drain, cut, dike/dyke, sluice, sewer (other than a public sewer) and passage through which water flows and which does not form part of a main river] will require consent from the Lead Local Flood Authority, Calderdale MBC, prior to works on the watercourse commencing. This is required for both temporary and permanent works and is separate to any planning permission granted or other consents issued. Please visit http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/environment-planning-andbuilding/flooding/watercourses-land-drainage for further information and an application form.

Alternatively, please contact llfa@calderdale.gov.uk for an application form.

The applicant will be required to ensure the development complies with the adopted Flood Risk & Drainage SPD - https://calderdale-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/event/38086. The applicant should be mindful of the National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) (July 2025)

CMBC SR.1.12 – CMBC Minerals Officer

Consultee Comments for Planning Application 25/06014/EIA

Application Summary

Application Number: 25/06014/EIA

Address: Walshaw Dean Widdop Road Heptonstall Hebden Bridge Calderdale

Proposal: Environmental Impact Assessment|cr|(temporary UPRN) Case Officer: null

Consultee Details

Name: minerals officer

Address: Calderdale Mbc, Westgate House, Westgate Halifax, Calderdale HX1 1PS Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Minerals Officer

Comments

Part of the site forms a sandstone mineral safeguarding area in the Calderdale Local Plan. It is noted that there is to be information supplied about the use of borrow pits for the provision of aggregates for the project. As the use of natural resources or the sterilisation of such is a material consideration under the required ES, the details provided should be expanded to include a Mineral Resource Assessment. The Assessment should include information detailing whether sandstone is present, in what quantity and whether or not the proposed development would sterilise the resource, with an assessment as to the significance of the impact. The applicant is also referred to Policy MS2 of the Calderdale Local Plan for further information.

CMBC SR.1.13 – Met Office

Planning Services
Calderdale Council
Town Hall, Crossley Street
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX1 1UJ

FAO: Planning Services

BY EMAIL consultsandreps@calderdale.gov.uk
Your Ref: **25/06014/EIA** (Ward No. 2, Area Team North)
Our Ref**: MO771**

22 September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Environmental Impact Assessment at Walshaw Dean, Widdop Road, Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge, Calderdale

We refer to your email of 4th September in respect of the above application given the proximity of the proposal to the Met Office weather radar at Hameldon Hill.

I am writing to confirm that Met Office have concerns in respect of the proposal.

The proposal is within the consultation zone for the Met Office weather radar at Hameldon Hill, the closest proposed turbine is approximately 13 km distant.

As a consequence, we may object to a planning application for the development in its current form.

A key requirement for the Hameldon Hill weather radar is to provide advance warning of severe weather and real-time information which is vital to the continued operation of military and civilian aviation as well as to forecasters as part of the UK Weather Radar Network, including input to flood forecasting. As such the Met Office is a Category 2 Responder.

Wind turbines have been shown to have detrimental effects on the performance of Met Office weather radars and the accuracy of the products and services derived from the data. These effects include the blocking of radar data in the vicinity of the turbines and the creation of false 'clutter' returns and such effects can imitate or obscure real precipitation signals.

Met Office have reviewed the EIA Scoping Report and in particular 'Chapter 17 – Aviation' and having carried out some initial basic analysis of the proposal, we confirm that the proposed turbines may be in line of sight and in the beam of the Hameldon Hill weather radar.

Met Office therefore confirm that we would expect to be included in a suitable assessment by the applicant to fully consider the potential effects from the proposed development on the Met Office weather radar at Hameldon Hill.

Met Office expect the assessment to confirm which turbines are in the line of sight of the radar antenna, including the provision of ground heights and tip height (AOD) of the turbines. It should also indicate which turbines are in the beam of the radar at the 2 lowest scan elevations (0.5 deg and 1.0 deg), noting the beam width of 1 deg. The radar antenna is located at NGR: 381030,428750 and at height: 402.5m AOD.

Met Office have concerns about any turbines which are located in line of sight and in the beam of the weather radar and request that any such proposed turbines are relocated to lower ground and/or the turbine height is reduced to remove them from the beam of the weather radar where possible. The Met Office wishes to be consulted and notified about the progress of any submissions relating to this proposal to verify that it will not adversely affect Met Office interests.

I hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. Further information about the effects of wind turbines on Met Office interests can be obtained from the following website: Protecting our observing capability - Met Office

Met Office Safeguarding

Email: metofficesafeguarding@metoffice.gov.uk

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

CMBC SR.1.14 – CMBC Climate and Environment Team

Dear Planning Services

Re: Environmental Impact Assessment (temporary UPRN)

Grid Ref: East: 396378 North: 433561at Walshaw Dean Widdop Road Heptonstall Hebden Bridge Calderdale

In response to your request for observations on the above;

Regarding the counterfactual set out in sections 9.5.11 to 9.5.21 of the scoping report, all counterfactuals appear to assume that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) will be deployed on gas electricity generation. However, from the data presented in the scoping report, it is not clear what the assumptions are around the % deployment of this technology; the deployment date for this technology; or the % of carbon which would be successfully captured by CCS technology. There is still significant market uncertainty regarding the rollout of this technology[1].

We would therefore ask the scheme developers to develop and set out a more diverse and nuanced set of counterfactuals which can then be compared with the anticipated emissions form the Calderdale Energy Park – e.g.

- An optimistic gas CCS counterfactual; whereby CCS installation is assumed at the earliest possible deployment date with widespread adoption and with the highest possible success rate for carbon capture and these emissions are compared to the Calderdale Energy Park
- A pessimistic CCS counterfactual whereby CCS installation is assumed at a later deployment date, with a slow uptake rate and a with lower end of the success rate for carbon capture and these emissions are compared to the Calderdale Energy Park
- A no CCS counterfactual; whereby CCS is assumed to not be deployed and the Calderdale Energy park displaces unabated gas station generation of electricity
- An alternative renewable energy counterfactual. This would assume similar construction and operational impacts as for the Calderdale Energy Park but higher transmission losses for energy generated, assuming that this generation might be more distant from the energy users than the Calderdale Energy Park (i.e. that a counterfactual renewable energy and battery supply would come from an energy park in Scotland or Offshore)
- A nuclear energy counterfactual which assumes that in the absence of the Calderdale energy park additional nuclear or micro-nuclear facilities are needed and would be built onshore in the UK (noting the long lead time for this technology but assuming deployment at an optimistic timeframe)

References

1 Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage

Yours

Climate & Environment Team

Calderdale Council

Calderdale Council | everyone different everyone matters

Appendix CMBC SR.2 – CMBC Prior Scoping Response (Dec, 2023)

Calderdale Council

www.calderdale.gov.uk

Our Ref: 23/06010/EIA
Contact: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]@calderdale.gov.uk
Date: 14 December 2023

Regeneration and Strategy
Planning Services
c/o Town Hall
Crossley Street
Halifax
HX1 1UJ

c/o [redacted]
Natural Power
The Green House
Forrest Estate Dairy
Castle Douglas
DG7 3XS

Dear Alison

Description: EIA Scoping Opinion for the construction of an up to 65 turbine wind farm, solar photovoltaic array, Battery Storage System (BESS), and associated infrastructure
Location: Walshaw Moor Estate, Widdop Road, Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge, Calderdale

EIA Scoping Opinion made in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

I write in connection with the above EIA Scoping application received by Calderdale Council on 25 September 2023 (reference 23/06010/EIA), specifically in connection with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 *['the EIA Regulations'].*

The EIA Regulations enable an applicant – who is minded to make an EIA application – to ask the relevant planning authority to state in writing their opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the Environmental Statement.(ES) via a Scoping Opinion.

Regulation 15(2) of the EIA Regulations states that a request for a Scoping Opinion must include:

a) In relation to an application for planning permission

(i) A plan sufficient to identify the land;
(ii) A brief description of the nature and purpose of the development, including its location and technical capacity;
(iii) An explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment; and,

(iv) Such information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make.

The Local Planning Authority considers that this has been provided in the applicant's Scoping Report, dated September 2023.

The Local Planning Authority has a duty under Regulation 15(4) of the EIA Regulations to consult the 'consultation bodies' before adopting a Scoping Opinion. National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) for Environmental Impact Assessment Paragraph: 042 (Reference ID: 4-042-20170728, dated 28/07/2017) identifies the consultation bodies as including Natural England, Environment Agency, and Marine Management Organisation. The MMO is not considered to be a relevant consultee for this proposal.

Paragraph 042 also states that the term 'consultation bodies' can also include other bodies designated by statutory provision as having specific environmental responsibilities and which the relevant local planning authority or the Secretary of State considers are likely to have an interest in the application. A full list of the consultation bodies and others consulted under this EIA Scoping is provided at Appendix A.

The ES submitted by the applicant should demonstrate consideration of the points raised by the consultation bodies. It is recommended that a table is provided in the ES summarising the scoping responses from the consultation bodies and how they are, or are not, addressed in the ES.

Any consultation responses received after the date this Scoping Opinion is published will not be taken into account within this Opinion. Late responses will be made available on the Council's website and to the applicant directly. The applicant should also give due consideration to those comments in preparing an ES.

Structure of this Scoping Opinion

1. The Proposal
2. EIA Approach and Topic Areas
3. Other Information

1. The Proposal

The proposed development would comprise of:

- Up to 65no. wind turbines ranging between 150 – 200m to blade tip height
- Ground-mounted Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panel array
- External transformer housing
- Crane pads
- Access tracks
- Underground electricity cables
- Battery storage units
- Permanent anemometry mast
- Borrow pits
- Temporary construction and storage compound and ancillary infrastructure
- On-site substation
- Temporary construction gatehouse

- Drainage and drainage attenuation measures (as required)

The lifespan of the proposal would be at least 25-30 years after which time the project would be decommissioned.

The site is located within the Walshaw Moor Estate, close to the northern boundary of Calderdale with Bradford, and would measure c. 2,352 hectares. The site lies within the nationally designated South Pennines Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and within the internationally designated South Pennine Moors Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA). The site also lies in a number of other national and local designations including Green Belt, Special Landscape Areas, and the Wildlife Habitat Networks.

2. EIA Approach and Topic Area

The applicant's submitted Scoping Report sets out the following areas for consideration:

- The Proposed Development
- Project Design
- Cumulative Developments
- Planning and Energy Context
- Ornithology
- Landscape and Visual
- Ecology
- Geology, Peat Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Noise
- Cultural Heritage
- Access, Traffic and Transport
- Socio-Economics, Land Use, Tourism and Recreation
- Aviation
- Other Issues
    - Shadow Flicker
    - Carbon Calculator
    - Telecommunications
    - Air Quality

Limitations of Scoping Response

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) for Environmental Impact Assessment applications defines a Scoping as *determining the extent of issues to be considered in the assessment and reported in the Environmental Statement. The applicant can ask the local planning authority for its opinion on what information needs to be included.* Furthermore, Paragraph: 034 (Reference ID: 4-034-20170728, dated 28/07/2017) of the NPPG states that *the applicant is responsible for the preparation of the Environmental Statement. In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the Environmental Statement, the applicant must ensure that it is prepared by competent experts and that it is accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant expertise, or qualifications of such experts, sufficient to demonstrate that this is the case.*

A number of questions for each matter for consideration have been raised by the applicant in framing their Scoping Report. Whilst some of these shall be indirectly answered within this Scoping response, some areas of questioning are considered to fall outside of the scope of an EIA Scoping

and would be better answered through a pre-application process under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Matters such as the required scope and methodologies of the necessary technical assessments are one such case. This is due to the capacity and technical expertise available within the Council, the available capacity within the Planning Department to provide such detailed and extensive advice at the Scoping stage, and the potential for technical consultees not providing a substantive response within the relevant timeframes, potentially leading to key information being missed. Notwithstanding this, some consultee responses directly answer the applicant's questions and give specific technical advice on the expected scope and methodologies to be used. The consultee responses should be read in conjunction with this Scoping response.

For the avoidance of doubt, a lack of a consultee response does not rule out any Likely Significant Effects in that area of technical expertise, nor does it preclude information and/or assessments relevant to that consultee's area of expertise from being included within an ES.

The LPA notes that some areas for consideration have not been included with the submitted Scoping Report and some which the applicant has requested to be scoped out. However, due to a lack of substantive information and assessment at this stage and the largely unknown impacts around the size and scale of the proposal and likely locations of all the on-site infrastructure, most of these matters have been scoped in by the LPA as Likely Significant Effects in EIA terms cannot be ruled out. Unless expressly cited in this Scoping response, no matters for consideration have been scoped out at this stage. Similarly, unless expressly cited in this this Scoping response, all matters scoped in shall be assessed across the construction, operation, and decommissioning and site restoration phases of development.

Key areas scoped into this response include:

- Solar Photovoltaic panel array infrastructure
- Battery storage (BESS) infrastructure
- Other on-site infrastructure necessary for the installation, operation, and decommissioning of the proposal.
- Mitigative tree planting

The LPA notes that the precautionary principle has been applied when assessing the potential impacts of the proposal in EIA terms within this Scoping response.

The applicant is advised to be aware and have regard to any subsequent research or guidelines produced by statutory bodies in the intervening time prior to application to ensure all assessment is undertaken in accordance with the latest advice and research.

Proposed Development and Project Design

An ES must contain the full details of all proposed development. This should include – but is not limited to – full existing and proposed plans and elevations, technical specifications of all temporary and permanent infrastructure, site layout with existing and proposed topographical information, means of site access and internal road and Public Rights of Way layouts (including any proposed temporary or permanent diversions and closures (with appropriate diversions)), underground cabling routes and depths and details of any other underground infrastructure, and full details and locations and temporary access routes of temporary construction compounds and a timescale for implementation and removal.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (including Construction Method Statement) would be required, as would a development timeline for the proposed development including details of proposed start dates, the construction period and phasing of development, operational timeframes, and decommissioning / removal of infrastructure from the site and site restoration. A Site Waste Management Plan would be required as part of an ES to demonstrate how all site waste produced during construction would be dealt with in a sustainable manner. This should include materials excavation, re-use of materials, and off-site management of materials.

The LPA notes that the submitted Scoping Report is inconsistent in how the applicant intends to undertake site restoration. Within some sections, all on-site infrastructure is to be removed and within others, foundations and roadways are to be left in situ. For the avoidance of doubt, the LPA is considering this Scoping response on the assumption that all on-site infrastructure would be removed at the decommissioning stage as this would likely be a condition of any planning permission. In doing so, the LPA notes that the National Policy Statement confirms there may be some instances where it would be more harmful to the ecology of the site to remove elements of the development, such as the access tracks or underground cabling, than to retain them. Therefore, a schedule of decommissioning would be required as part of ES for the LPA and consultees to quantify the likely impacts of decommissioning on the matters scoped in within this Scoping response.

The applicant is proposing to end grouse shooting and vegetation burning on the site. Confirmation of the permanence of ended these practices and full details of all proposed land management techniques, roles and responsibilities should be detailed in an ES, including details of any physical site barriers or other hard landscaping requirements / means of enclosure to ensure the safety of the site and other users, such as those using the on-site PRoW networks. Changes in the current management of the site as a result of the proposals will need to be assessed in terms of the positive and negative impacts on habitats and species. The applicant should also consider the impacts on wider environmental receptors both on and off-site. The use of tools designed for this purpose, such as Natural England's Environmental Benefits from Nature (EBN) Tool, may be beneficial.

An ES should also provide detailed information on the site selection processes and demonstrate consideration of alternative sites. A sequential approach should be demonstrated, using the whole of England as a starting point for the assessment of suitable sites which shows that alternative sites have been considered and why they were ruled out, and why this site has been selected.

Further to this, a sequential approach to the design evolution of the proposal and layout of the site should be included within an ES. This should demonstrate that the proposed quantum of on-site infrastructure is necessarily required to achieve the proposed levels of electricity generation and storage. It should also demonstrate why the proposed levels of electricity generation (c. 300MW) and storage are required and are considered to be appropriate. Additionally, the ES should also demonstrate that alternative arrangements could not generate and store a similar amount of electricity and whether this could be achieved in a less impactful way on the site and its surroundings in EIA terms. Consideration of alternatives' likely significant effects in EIA terms should be included as a comparison with those of the proposal.

A Community Engagement Plan should be included within an ES to demonstrate how local communities affected by the proposal, including those outside of Calderdale, have been consulted and been able to aid in shaping the scope of the necessary assessments affecting their amenities through local knowledge. Recent changes to the NPPF require community support for onshore wind developments to proceed through the planning process. This would need to be demonstrated as part of a planning application.

Richard Seaman
Corporate Lead

Cumulative Impacts

There are some known largescale infrastructure projects which are currently in the proposal design stage in the vicinity of the site. These include Environment Agency Flood Alleviation Schemes along the River Calder at Hebden Bridge and further afield. The cumulative impacts of all approved, pending consideration, and other known projects at pre-application or EIA Screening and Scoping stages should be taken into consideration within an ES. It is noted that Calderdale LPA only has GIS data for planning applications within its defined boundaries. An ES would need to consider the cumulative impacts of developments from neighbouring LPAs to provide a full assessment of the cumulative impacts of the proposal.

Additionally, there are likely to be projects being undertaken in the vicinity of the site under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), some of which may not require Prior Approval from the LPA to be undertaken. Some known recent PA applications include proposed Yorkshire Water works at Gorple Lower and Widdop Reservoirs. Developments being undertaken under Permitted Development Rights should also be included in the assessment of the cumulative impacts of the proposal in an ES. It is recommended that pre-application engagement with adjacent landowners and statutory undertakers is carried out to ascertain the scope and potential cumulative impacts of nearby Permitted Development works.

Climate Change

The submitted Scoping Report identifies that a Carbon Balance Assessment would form part of an ES and would be undertaken in accordance with the Scottish Government's Carbon Calculator Tool, as there is no England or UK equivalent. This would quantify the CO_2 emissions savings over the life of the Proposed Development against the release of CO_2 from other energy generation methods as a result of implementing the project. It also reports on the time it takes to pay back any carbon debt and the potential effects of the Proposed Development on climate change in terms of carbon savings produced. Additionally, the ES would assess the impact on the peat on-site and to assess the potential effects in terms of CO_2 emissions against the total potential carbon savings of the proposal.

The LPA considers that the use of the Scottish Government's Carbon Calculator Tool is broadly acceptable. However, this does not include methodology for calculating the carbon benefits and carbon impacts of the battery energy storage element of the scheme, the carbon benefits and carbon impacts which land-based PV would entail, and the carbon sequestration that additional tree planting (i.e., above replacement planting) would present (this would depend upon the tree species and forest management proposed). The LPA further considers that assessment of CO_2 production during the fabrication and supply chain phases of development should be calculated to give a robust and full picture of the likely carbon impacts of the proposal.

Demonstration of how the proposal would help to deliver the UK's statutory climate change targets on the way to net zero, and the aims of Calderdale's Local Area Energy Plan (plus any other relevant statutory and non-statutory climate change action plans), should be set out within an ES as part of a Climate Change Statement.

More attention needs to be paid to the impact on peat and what damage will be caused, as detailed later in this Scoping response. Peat if wet will absorb carbon. However, if it dries out because of building the wind turbines and associated concrete pads with excavation down to 4m and other on-site infrastructure such as borrow pits, foundations, and underground cable routes etc., it will become a net carbon emitter.

Bradford Council note that they consider that an HRA derogation test would be required and that the HRA should be very clear, if imperative reasons of overriding public importance (IROPI) are invoked at Stage 3 that the carbon reduction benefits of the scheme outweigh the adverse effects of carbon release and habitat loss from degraded peat.

Notwithstanding the comments made by Bradford Council, as the competent authority, the LPA would need to undertake a HRA Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment before it can determine any further courses of action which may or may not be required. For the avoidance of doubt, the LPA is not pre-determined on this, or any others matters arising from this EIA Scoping or any future considerations under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Landscape and Visual

Landscape Visual Impact

The submitted Scoping Report is predicated on the installation of turbines of no more than 149.9m in height, whereas the proposal is for up to 200m tall turbines. The LPA considers that they additional c 50m in height across 65 turbines would likely have substantially greater impacts than has been assessed at this stage. It is therefore considered that the information submitted at this stage is of little relevance to the proposed development. Additionally, the LPA is not aware of an existing assessment framework for the satisfactory assessment of onshore wind turbines of this size and scale in relation to their landscape visual impacts.

As such, under an ES, a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (including photomontages) would be required to demonstrate that assessment of the proposal's landscape visual impacts has been sufficiently and robustly undertaken using existing guidance as a baseline given the unprecedented nature of the proposal. Once the final heights of the proposed turbines are known, the study area, suitable receptors and viewpoints, and Zones of Theoretical Visibility should be confirmed with the relevant technical consultees. This should include sequential views from local footpaths and other viewpoints, both in and out of Calderdale, such as Stoodley Pike, Top Withens, Bronte Parsonage Museum, and Haworth, and other areas as set out in the consultee responses, including the Yorkshire Three Peaks of Pen y Ghent, Ingleborough and Whernside.

The LVIA should also include Conservation Area within the assessment as CAs contribute to the landscape character of an area. There are also a number of Trig Points which are targets for walkers etc and these include fine views across Calderdale's natural and historic environment which should be considered as LVIA viewpoints. These are Bridestones, Sheepstones, High Brown Knoll and Lad Law. The individual and cumulative impacts of all on-site infrastructure should be considered in the LVIA, alongside the cumulative visual impacts of other developments within landscape.

The site lies within defined Special Landscape Areas as set out in the Calderdale District Landscape Character Assessment and Review of Special Landscape Area Designation (October 2016). These SLAs have been identified for their scenic qualities and important and distinctive views. The site also lies in the settings of defined landscape areas within neighbouring Local Authorities which should also be taken into consideration in an LVIA. Frameworks to aid in the assessment of the proposal's likely significant impacts on the special qualities of these areas, such as Bradford's Landscape Character, Supplementary Planning Document – Local Development Framework for Bradford (October 2008) can be found on the relevant LPA's websites as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) or as Local Plan Background Papers.

The LPA considers that the proposal as a whole would have a likely significant impact in landscape and visual terms, not just the proposed turbines. As such, an LVIA would need to consider all proposed on-site infrastructure – especially solar PV array[s] and BESS – and topographical changes (including borrow pits and internal road layouts) to the site given its exposed and readily viewable nature by a range of users, including those using the extensive on-site PRoW network. The landscape visual impacts during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of development are likely to be different given the different on-site needs such as security fencing and site compounds. Given this, all matters of the proposal's landscape and visual impacts are scoped in.

The LVIA should set out suitable mitigation measures to reduce the landscape visual impacts of the proposal. Any measures, both by themselves and cumulatively with the proposed development, should also be assessed in landscape and visual impact terms given the open nature of the moorland. The proposed extensive tree planting as mitigation is likely to cause significant impacts in this regard in its own right and would need to be considered as part of an ES.

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The proposal would likely be visible from, and therefore have detrimental impacts on, the nearby Peak District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks and the Forest or Bowland and Nidderdale AONBs (now known as National Landscapes). These designated landscapes are given the highest status of protection for their landscape and scenic beauty by the NPPF and would need to be assessed accordingly within an LVIA.

Natural England note that the statutory purposes of the National Park are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the park; and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the park by the public. The proposal should assess its likely impacts as to whether it would have a significant impact on or harm those statutory purposes. Relevant to this is the duty on public bodies to 'have regard' for those statutory purposes in carrying out their functions (section 11 A(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended)). The Planning Practice Guidance confirms that this duty also applies to proposals outside the designated area but impacting on its natural beauty.

Natural England also note that the statutory purpose of the AONB / National Landscapes is to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty. The proposal should be carefully assessed as to whether it would have a significant impact on or harm that statutory purpose. Relevant to this is the duty on public bodies to 'have regard' for that statutory purpose in carrying out their functions (S85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000). The Planning Practice Guidance confirms that this duty also applies to proposals outside the designated area but impacting on its natural beauty.

Green Belt

The site lies within the Green Belt. This type of proposal does not form a recognised exception for appropriate development in the Green Belt under local and national Green Belt Policy. The applicant would, therefore, need to demonstrate a Very Special Circumstances case for consideration. An assessment into the proposal's impacts on the openness (both in terms of its visual and spatial impacts) of the Green Belt should form part of an ES. Similarly, the site also affects the defined Area Around Todmorden, which is noted for its character and openness. Assessment of the proposal's impacts on the openness of this designation should also be included in an ES.

Ecology and Biodiversity

Ornithology

The LPA considers that the information submitted in the Scoping Report with regards to the scope and methodologies of assessments pertaining to ornithology to be inadequate and not in accordance with the relevant national and local guidance. The technical scope and methodologies of the required suite of ornithological assessments are set out in fuller terms in the relevant consultee responses from CMBC Biodiversity, Natural England, RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts, and Bradford MBC. As such, the LPA considers that all matters pertaining to ornithology are scoped in.

The relevant ornithological assessments required under an ES include:

- Shadow HRA (detailed later in this Scoping response)
- Ecological Impact Assessment (in accordance with CIEEM guidance)
- Nocturnal surveys, particularly for Golden Plover and crepuscular species surveys for Golden Plover, Short Eared Owl, Hen Harrier, and Snipe
- Assessment of impacts on other SPA species including (but not limited to) Whooper Swan, Pink-Footed Geese, Merlin, and Nightjar
- Diurnal, evening and nocturnal surveys, including infra-red, night vision, and acoustic surveys
- Vantage point surveys for appropriate survey effort and durations and covering the whole site plus a 500m buffer outside the site boundaries
- Breeding birds surveys
- Comparative control area surveys
- Recreational impact and disturbance assessment and visitor surveys
- Wind turbine collision risk modelling
- Solar PV and borrow pit risk modelling
- Evidence of how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied regarding site selection and project design
- Assessment of north south movements of birds along the Pennine chain as the proposed development is located at the highest point of the South Pennines, and as birds are known to follow strong topological features, the moorland spine may represent a very important corridor. We do not know, for instance, what impact low frequency noise and infrasound might have on migrating birds.

The LPA expects adequate survey effort, including the coverage of VPs and breeding bird transects, be undertaken, given the large site of the site, to provide a comprehensive overview of bird activity across all relevant seasons. Surveys will be required to cover all areas of the development and a suitable buffer from the site to encompass functionally linked land important for the survival of mobile species which are qualifying features of the SPA.

The survey period should be a minimum of 2 years covering all relevant survey seasons. As the surveys carried out to date do not meet the guidelines for the minimum effort required, the LPA would expect the survey duration be extended to reflect this, to produce a minimum two full years (covering all relevant survey seasons) of comprehensive survey data.

The submitted Scoping Report details that grouse shooting and management are to end on the moor. The ending of shooting and burning would result in changes to habitats and overall suitability for moorland birds. As previously noted, confirmation of the permanence of these measures would be required in an ES as any resumption of shooting or burning on the site post-decommissioning of the proposal would likely impact on site restoration and its future ecological and hydrological

management. The assessment should adequately assess the impacts on birds in the changing habitat, particularly raptors and owls. The assessment must properly quantify the effects on the internationally important bird populations of (but not exclusively) wading birds of the degradation of blanket bog, heath and other habitats.

Habitat Designations

The site lies within an SAC, SPA and SSSI. Given the likely significant impacts of the proposal on these designated habitats site, a HRA must form part of an ES to assess the proposal's likely significant impacts on the conservation objectives of these designated sites. The proposal would also directly impact irreplaceable habitats such as blanket bog and peatland. Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The site also lies within the Calderdale Wildlife Habitat Network where the proposal's potential impacts have not been referenced within the Scoping Report and should be assessed within the ES. The site and the majority of the surrounding area falls within the CWHN and provides ecological connectivity through the landscape including connecting nearby local wildlife sites to the wider network of the SAC, SPA and SSSI.

The LPA notes that the following Local Wildlife Sites are missing from the Scoping Report and should be assessed for potential impacts as part of the EIA process:

- High Hirst Meadows
- New High Laithe Farm (CHEGD)
- Crimsworth Dean Pastures (CHEGD)
- Clough Hole Pasture (CHEGD)
- Hollin Hall (CHEGD)
- Lower Height Farm
- Ridings
- Hoyle Grasslands
- Acre Mill Meadow

The assessments undertaken as part on an ES should be informed by a suitable level of surveys, including an EcIA, National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys, peat depth surveys and hydrological surveys. The assessments should also include any land outside the designated site which has a critical function to a habitat feature within a designated site, e.g., by being linked hydrologically. Further information should be provided on how the degraded blanket bog and blanket bog habitat types have been differentiated in the EIA Habitat Survey Map.

Assessment of effects on species should look at the impacts of habitat changes likely to occur in the short, medium and long term (for each phase of development). Changes to site hydrology have the potential to affect blanket bog habitats over differing time frames with the resulting changes to habitat composition and suitability for different species. It will be important to consider the findings of hydrological and hydrogeological assessments in the assessment of effects on habitats and species.

The RSPB considers that the likely effects of the proposal would be so significant that the project would lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the designated sites and would, therefore, need to address the Habitats Regulations derogations. As the competent authority, the LPA would need to undertake a HRA Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment before it can determine any further courses of action which may or may not be required.

Richard Seaman
Corporate Lead

Reptiles and Amphibians

The LPA considers that all matters pertaining to ecology and biodiversity are scoped in, including consideration of reptiles and amphibians as some known local species priority species and species of local importance and are afforded additional legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The LPA considers that, for the reasons set out in the Scoping Report, assessment of Great Crested Newts can be scoped out. The LPA requires reptile surveys are undertaken and mitigation for both reptiles and amphibians are considered within an ES.

There is no reference to potential impacts to invertebrates as a result of the proposals in the Scoping Report. The habitats within the South Pennine Moors SAC support a rich invertebrate assemblage and as identified within the Scoping Report. The proposed development is likely to result in habitat loss and therefore impacts to invertebrates associated with these will need to be assessed within an ES. It should be noted that a range of invertebrates and plants within the South Pennines SAC require bare ground/peat where it is not too frequently disturbed by vehicles or feet.

Bats

The LPA considers that 23 bat detectors are likely to be adequate for Spring deployment. However, it is noted that the locations of the bat detectors to date focusses on the central band of the site only. There are un-surveyed areas in the south west around Widdop Moor and along the north of the site around Middle Moor and Heather Hill. There would appear to be watercourses that could offer commuting and foraging routes. The LPA considers that an increased coverage in these areas should be included in the surveys. Good justification for continued omission of these areas from the static surveys will be required if they are not included.

Notwithstanding the proposed locations, the scope and methodologies of bat surveys and assessments set out in the submitted Scoping Report are considered to be inadequate. Calderdale's Biodiversity team have set out the technical aspects for consideration in their consultee comments. These primarily relate to the requirements for further information regarding the height the detectors are placed, the undertaking of relevant species records to aid the design of the survey methodology and detector locations, assessment of potential bat roosts on or near the site (to include all buildings on the site and those within a 500m buffer, plus any trees with moderate-high potential as roost sites), consideration of hibernation sites on or near the site (scoped in due to the presence of traditional stone buildings and rock faces in and around the site), and the potential impacts to potential bat flight lines between any identified roosting, hibernation features and core sustenance zones for bats, such as Hardcastle Crags. The applicant is advised that zones of transitioning habitats in peatland can be biodiversity hot-spots and should be properly assessed and considered with regards to the layout and transport plans.

Additionally, the LPA notes that recent surveys within West and South Yorkshire have identified important bat swarming (breeding) sites, which may qualify for Local Wildlife Site (LWS) designation, located on similar habitat and topography to the application site. This indicates that disused quarries are an important feature for local bat populations and the assessment should consider whether similar features exist within the impact zone for the proposed development.

The applicant is advised that the agreed guidance on the Minimum Standards for Bats and Wind Turbines in West Yorkshire will need to be followed, which requires static detectors at the height of the proposed turbines in order to gather an accurate estimate for collisions and barotrauma. Bat records should be requested from West Yorkshire Ecology and the West Yorkshire Bat Group.

Other Protected Species

The ES should assess the impact across all phases of development on other protected species, including water voles, badgers, White Claw Crayfish, etc. which may be present on the site and its vicinity, which not already highlighted in this Scoping response. In doing so, consideration should also be given to the wider context of the site including in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area.

Fungi

The ES should assess the likely adverse impacts of the proposed habitat loss and tree planting on blanket bog and heathland habitats as well as lower priority habitats. Calderdale supports areas of long-term pasture with internationally significant populations of CHEGD fungi. Tree planting and woodland creation schemes often overlook the impacts of the loss of these diverse and increasingly rare habitats. Survey methodology has not yet been standardised and should involve consultation with Calderdale Council, Natural England and the National Trust. Surveys are seasonally constrained and will need to be carried out between September and December, depending on conditions that season.

Habitat Restoration

The Catchment Recovery Plan being implemented on Walshaw Moor in conjunction with Natural England aims to restore Irreplaceable Blanket Bog Habitats. Assessment of the impacts of the proposal on habitats and other ecological features should consider the improving baseline habitat conditions that would be expected if the CRP was to continue in the absence of the wind farm scheme. The assessment of impacts and effects should include consideration of habitat condition and species distribution changes likely to occur as a result of the cessation of grouse moor management, including shooting and burning.

The ES should assess and describe how habitat restoration works, whether part of bespoke compensation and enhancement strategies or as required for BNG will result in positive outcomes for habits and associated species. Habitat function for protected and notable species as well as other ecosystem services like water storage and carbon capture should be referenced in the Ecology section of the ES.

Biodiversity Net Gain

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment would be required as part of an ES and be accompanied by the working BNG Metric 4.0 (or latest version) Excel spreadsheets. The submitted Scoping Report details the provision of a full UKHab classification and condition assessment of the site. Whilst this is appropriate for the BNG Assessment, due to the presence of designated site features (including priority and irreplaceable habitat) assessment to National Vegetation Classification (NVC) will be required in all areas where direct or indirect impacts are possible.

In the likely event that there is a loss of any designated features, irreplaceable habitats (included degraded blanket bog) or habitats of very high distinctiveness (as measured by the Biodiversity Metric) resulting from the proposal, should be excluded from the BNG calculation as it will be impossible for the proposal to meet the BNG requirement and claim an overall net gain. A minimum 10% BNG will still need to be achieved on any other non-irreplaceable/very high distinctiveness habitat present on the development site and, given the scale of the proposals and the opportunities present, the LPA would expect the applicant to consider whether over 10% net gain on these habitats may be achievable.

As the majority of the site is designated as SAC, SPA and a SSSI, any habitats identified as a designated feature of these sites are subject to a restore objective required through the relevant legislation. It is noted that the site is also subject to the Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan in agreement with Natural England. The applicant will need to apply the principle of additionality when enhancing habitats for BNG to demonstrably exceed existing obligations (i.e., not to deliver something that would or should occur anyway). There will be a requirement to provide habitat mitigation and compensation for the loss of irreplaceable blanket bog habitat within the site. It is essential that this habitat provides functional habitat which provides an enhanced resource for the upland breeding, wintering and passage birds that the site currently supports.

The proposed quantum of tree planting as BNG mitigation is unlikely to be appropriate for the site as it would likely have detrimental impacts on the landscape, ecology, ornithology, and hydrology considerations. Impacts of proposed tree planting will need to be factored into the potential impacts on priority/irreplaceable habitat, peat, and breeding waders within the EIA. The design of BNG should be informed by a full suite of species and habitat surveys, landscape character, peat depth analysis, soil sampling, hydrology and geology to ensure interventions proposed are suitable. Proposed interventions will also need to meet all of the habitat trading rules required within the Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Calderdale Council is currently involved in the production of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) within West Yorkshire, which will agree priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in the locations where it would make a particular contribution to achieving those priorities. Any proposals for habitat creation, enhancement, and restoration should have regard to the forthcoming West Yorkshire LNRS, in addition to the Local Plan and strategies in Calderdale including the Draft Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document.

Given the points made above regarding the complexity of the delivery of BNG alongside bespoke habitat compensation and existing obligations, it is likely that the applicant will need to clearly demonstrate the delivery of 10% net gain using separate metrics. In the first instance, in accordance with national and local guidelines, BNG should be delivered on-site (within the site boundary). However, where this is demonstrated infeasible, off-site enhancement will be required. The applicant is advised to engage with the Council's BNG Officer at pre-application stage in this regard.

Geology, Peat Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Peat

As part of an ES, Hydrological, Geological and Hydrogeological Impact Assessments would be required. The submitted Scoping Report requests that where any likely non-significant impacts are identified, these are not carried forward for inclusion in the relevant EIA and are 'scoped out'. The LPA considers that given the scale of the site and several key unknown factors (including the locations of on-site infrastructure and volumes of materials to be won from borrow pits, etc.), it is unclear at this stage how 'non-significant' impacts can be reasonably determined. As such, all matters relating to hydrology and geohydrology across all phases of development are scoped in. Additionally, a Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment with the provision of a peat management plan would be required under an ES.

The LPA questions the methodology to how peat depth has been mapped in the development area within the submitted Scoping Report. Deep peat is classified as areas of peat with a depth greater than 40cm in England (in line with the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (England) Regulations 2023). However, 50cm has been used in the Scoping Report as the definition of deep peat. This is

contrary to the current approach advised by Natural England and DEFRA. The LPA advises that 40cm is used as the definition of deep peat for the modelling of peat maps.

Peat depth measurements should be taken at least every 200m across peat and clarification should be provided regarding the method of the preliminary peat depth survey. A map showing the actual depth recordings should be submitted under an ES. The actual measurements should be compared alongside the interpolated depths given using the Kriging modelling method. The raw data behind these interpolated depths should also be provided. Additionally, a record of the presence/absence of sphagnum species at each survey point should be provided. The target notes that correspond with the target note points from the walkover habitat survey plotted in map 8.2 should also be provided.

The DEFRA guidelines on undertaking surveys for peat, breeding waders and priority habitat for woodland creation should be referred to in the assessment of potential impacts from the tree planting proposals. For woodland creation proposals in upland moorland landscapes peat surveys are generally undertaken first as this typically rules out the greatest area. The peat survey provided has been undertaken broadly as per the specifications for large sites, i.e., based on a 100m x 100m grid. However, for woodland creation the threshold for planting is 30cm and mapping should indicate which points exceed this depth. Any peat of 30cm or more cannot be planted with trees and must be buffered from planting to prevent the likely hydrological impacts from nearby trees.

The applicant is advised that NPPF (Chapter 17) Paragraph 211(d) states that […] in considering proposals for mineral extraction, minerals planning authorities should not grant planning permission for peat extraction from new or extended sites. Although not strictly a matter for this Scoping response, this would form a material consideration in the assessment of a planning application.

Flood Risk

The site lies predominantly in Flood Zone 1 with some areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3 located throughout the site. The site is also over 1ha in size and therefore requires a Flood Risk Assessment to demonstrate that the development would be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere (including hydrologically connected areas downstream), and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall. The proposal would likely significantly impact on the existing surface and ground water capacity, functionality and performance within the site due to the matters raised throughout this Scoping Report. Additionally, the increase in areas of impermeable areas due to the number of bases and access roads across the site would likely increase the surface water runoff. Given this, consideration of flood risk has been scoped into an ES. It will be important to include consideration of potential off-site flood risk resulting from the proposal in neighbouring Districts as well as within Calderdale's boundaries. Flood risk modelling should demonstrate that the proposal would not increase off-site flood risk and actively seek to reduce it through the use of natural flood management and sustainable drainage techniques.

Furthermore, the development area includes many watercourses which will also include flood risk assets such as culverts, headwalls etc. The ES should consider the impact of the development on the watercourses within the development area and the impacts downstream in terms of flow paths and flood risk. It should also detail how theses watercourses will be protected from damage including blockage and siltation and any potential areas where watercourse diversions may be required. This would be subject to Ordinary Watercourse Consent. The EA encourages the applicant to assess the feasibility of opening up of culverts, improvement/naturalisation/creation of new watercourses, and the provision of other environmental infrastructure that would provide wider biodiversity benefits and help deliver Water Framework Directive (WFD) improvements. Existing

water quality and flow should be monitored throughout the assessment phase to provide a baseline for assessment and future management thereof, with continued monitoring being undertaken throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of development and suitably mitigated where required. The 50m buffer for all identified hydrological features is appropriate, so long as the integrity of hydrological connectivity of the whole unit is also given sufficient attention.

There is also a need to consider the impact of surface water runoff from turbine pads, tracks and roads which can result in erosion of delicate peat down to mineral soil and rock. The impact of the proposed turbine pads, tracks, roads, grid connection and service buildings could all impact on peatland habitats. The surface (catatelm) dries out for a significantly large distance than just the footprint and working area for the proposed structures. This depresses the water table leading first to a change from mire and wet heath to dry heath, then to acid grassland and finally to mineral soil and bare rock. As the peat dries out it is subjected to oxidation and wind erosion with larger scale damage in the longer term. There is a need to look for ways to maintain and if necessary, restore the water table across the area of potential impact from the development. A change from mire and wet heath to dry heath, even though it is an important European habitat, should not be seen as positive.

Drainage Assets and Water Supplies

Yorkshire Water note the presence of their drainage infrastructure throughout the site which would need to be appropriately safeguarded in the site layout with requisite standoff distances achieved. Private water supplies within and adjacent to the site would also need to be protected from pollutants resulting from the development.

The LPA considers that the construction phase of development is scoped in in this regard. The ES should include a Construction Surface Water Drainage Strategy, as well as a SuDS-based surface water drainage strategy post-construction; both of which should include requisite pollution mitigation measures to protect spring and private water sources and distribution networks. Temporary foul water drainage measures should be considered for the construction and decommissioning phases to prevent leachate into the moorland and blanket bog.

Amenity Impacts

Noise

Noise generated from the proposed turbines, transformer housing unit, BESS, and other ancillary plant and its impacts on nearby sensitive receptors should be considered within an ES. This should be undertaken as a Noise Impact Assessment for all phases of development given the scope and length of time intrusive groundworks, erection and installation of infrastructure, and removal of infrastructure and backfilling / site restoration would likely take and the likely significant impacts it would have on the health and wellbeing of local residents and other users of the site.

The LPA notes that review of noise guidance for onshore wind turbines, dated September 2023 by WSP for the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, which notes the shortcomings of ETSU-R-97 and the IOA GPG. However, it is recognised that ETSU-R-97 currently remains the agreed criteria for wind turbine noise. As part of the noise assessments, reference should be made to ETSU-R-97 and the IOA GPG in terms of low frequency, and to the “West Yorkshire Planning Consultation, Guidance, Noise & Vibration” document, dated May 2016. The procedure for the assessment of low frequency noise complaints set out in Salford University Guidance 2009 should be considered. In relation to ancillary plant and transformer, BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 should be referred to as part of the assessment.

Shadow Flicker

A Shadow Flicker Assessment would be required as part of an ES given the presence of dwellings within and adjacent to the site boundaries which would likely be significantly detrimentally affected by shadow flicker from the 65 proposed turbines. The assessment should be robust and take account of potential shadow flicker impacts from each of the proposed turbines on sensitive receptors, both on site and within a 5km distance from the site depending on the final height and directionality of the turbines. The assessment should demonstrate the impacts of shadow flicker throughout the day as the sun moves across the site which would affect different receptors and different times.

Glint and Glare

As no details of the proposed solar PV array[s] have been submitted at this time, an assessment of glint and glare would be required as part of an ES on nearby receptors, including dwellings, businesses, PRoWs, and the local highway network. Glint and glare should also be factored into the LVIA at receptor points within each of the ZTVs which have an outlook onto the proposed solar PV array[s].

Air Quality

The LPA considers that consideration of air quality should be scoped in for the construction and decommissioning phases of development due to the likely intensive use of the site for a prolonged period of time of large delivery vehicles and plant and machinery resulting in likely relatively largescale emissions outputs in a remote area, as well as dust creation from ground, excavation, and profiling works. An Air Quality Impact Assessment should be included in an ES and undertaken in accordance with the guidance contained in the West Yorkshire Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality & Emissions Technical Planning Guidance (or equivalent guidance). Air quality during the operational phase can be scoped out due to the likely much less intensive use of the site. The submitted Scoping Report details the provision of an Outline CEMP as part of the ES. The LPA concurs with this provision.

Archaeology and Conservation

Archaeology

Given the site's underlaying blanket peat bog and geology, the proposal is likely to have significant impacts on preserved archaeological remains across the site. Additionally, the proposal's likely impacts on peat hydrology, dewatering and changing drainage patterns could detrimentally impact on any remains across the whole site, not just those in areas to be excavated for turbine foundations, borrow pits, or other infrastructure and roadway foundations. A Palaeo-Environmental Assessment with scientific dating and deposit modelling of the blanket bog would be required to review the significance of any buried deposits and help form mitigation strategies to prevent loss of the resource. The deposit modelling would aid in assessing the archaeological potential of the buried deposits across the site. The parameters of this assessment should be defined and agreed in consultation with Historic England and West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Services and the results clearly presented in an ES.

WYASS require that the applicant studies the County archaeological research agenda for the Mesolithic and later periods when designing their archaeological studies and surveys according to the strategies outlined in these documents. A modelled and evaluated archaeological approach

should be undertaken and walkover surveys should be carried out over the whole site to inform an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment to be included within an ES. The applicant is also advised of a current University of York Mesolithic Study in the vicinity of the site which should be considered in the archaeological assessment design.

Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets

There are numerous designated and non-designated heritage assets within and in the vicinity of the site. To understand the proposal's likely significant impacts on the significance of these assets and their settings, an ES should contain a Site Walkover/Site Visit Survey to include all views and settings implications of the proposal – provided through a Settings Assessment – of designated and non-designated heritage assets identified across the whole site and within a 5km buffer of the site. The LPA also considers that assessment of all designated heritage assets with 15km of the site should also be scoped in and included in the assessment. Calderdale's topography of linear valleys and high plateaux means that views can be far-reaching and significant when far away, or conversely close views may be curtailed due to the steep valley edges.

Conservation Areas which would be affected by the proposal should also be assessed. This would be particularly relevant to Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge, Todmorden and Lumbutts & Mankinholes (plus any outside of Calderdale such as Haworth CA). The wind turbines would be visible in the backdrop to these historic settlements, and the landscape within which they are experienced contributes to their significance. Agricultural farmsteads and hamlets would be affected by the proposal as the wild open hillside landscape around them contributes to their significance, indicating the difficult land which these farmers and domestic-scale textile were working within.

The potential impacts of the construction and likely residual impacts during the operational phase of development should be assessed. The desk-based assessment would need to be enhanced with fuller site-based assessment in a later phase. The results of these assessment should be subsequently fed into a Heritage Impact Assessment which should also consider the cumulative impacts of existing and the proposed development on the identified designated and non-designated heritage assets. The scope and methodologies of the required assessments should be agreed with the relevant heritage bodies including Historic England, Calderdale Conservation, and West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Services.

Assessment of the contribution setting makes to significance is nuanced and requires careful consideration. It is welcomed that the Scoping Report sets out the intention to employ the methodology of GPA3 (The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning, prepared by Historic England). The study should be careful not to de-scope assets from consideration by employing a broad-brush approach in the early stages to only include those thought to have 'a potential for likely significant effect'.

As most of the heritage impact assessment work is yet to be undertaken, the LPA considers that assessment of the proposal likely significant impacts on designated and non-designated heritage assets during all phases of development should be scoped in, given the likelihood for changing material impacts and the magnitude of those impacts of the significance and settings of the heritage assets during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

The applicant is advised that the LPA does not have a local list. Therefore, assessment methodology should include the identification of non-designated heritage assets during site walkovers and from desk-based sources, using the professional judgement of the authors of the heritage chapter.

Access, Traffic and Transport

Site Access

Full details and assessment of the appropriateness of all proposed site accesses – including any outside of Calderdale Council's boundaries (which would require consultation and assessment with neighbouring LPAs) – should be clearly demonstrated within an ES. A Site Access Management Plan and HGV / Oversized Vehicle Access Route should also be included within an ES to manage the quantum of deliveries at the site and the impacts of site traffic on the local highway network. The timing of construction should be very carefully considered as the local highway network leading to the site is very steep and narrow with tight switchback turns which are likely to be ungritted during winter months leading to potentially dangerous road conditions for larger and heavy vehicles. An audit of the proposed access routes should be undertaken as part of an ES to demonstrate that they would be capable of taking the expected sizes and volumes of delivery traffic to and from the site.

The locations, sizes, and required works to facilitate all proposed site compounds during the construction and decommissioning phases of development should also be included in the relevant plans and assessments within an ES.

The National Trust notes that within the Hardcastle Crags property there are existing single width steep crushed stone estate roads run through the property (which the Trust has the responsibility to maintain), which are the only access routes for some tenant farmers up onto the moors. NT would not accept any access arrangements for construction and/or operation and maintenance of the windfarm using these constrained routes.

Local and Strategic Road Networks

A Transport Assessment, including an Access Route Assessment and Traffic Management Plan, would be required as part of an ES to assess the proposal's likely significant impacts on the local and strategic road networks. This is given the expected use oversized delivery vehicles with abnormal loads and likely high frequency of trips being made between Ports of Entry and the site during the construction and decommissioning phases. The likely timescales of the construction and decommissioning phases are expected to be lengthy. As such, a TA is required given the likely protracted impacts on the local and strategic road networks over a long period of time. The decommissioning period has also been scoped in as the applicant would be required to restore the site to its previous condition following the minimum 25-year operational phase. This would likely require the use of heavy plant and machinery and oversized delivery vehicles on-site to remove the built form and underground infrastructure associated with the proposal.

It is also noted that some of the local road network may be subject to weight restrictions due to land stability and other concerns, and the ability for large vehicles to safely navigate the roads. Any bridges along the proposed access route would need to be assessed for their suitability to accommodate oversized and heavy vehicles and mitigation proposed within an ES should there be no alternative functional routes available.

The LPA considers that the assessment of the proposal's impacts on the local and strategic road networks can be reasonably scoped out at this time as site access requirements during operation would likely be limited to maintenance and emergency access. Notwithstanding this, a schedule of maintenance for the lifetime of the proposal should be included in an ES to quantify the site access required during the site's operational phase.

Richard Seaman
Corporate Lead

National Highways recommends following the guidance set out in DfT Circular 01/2022 when considering the impact of the development at the Strategic Road Network when considering the assessment of the transport impacts of the development proposal.

On-Site Roads

The proposal would require the construction of an on-site road network between site accesses and the turbine and other infrastructure. As part of an ES, full details of all routing, construction methods (including floating roads), foundation volumes, and means of decommissioning and removal would be required. Assessments of the likely impacts of the roads on the other matters scoped in under this Scoping response should also be included in the relevant technical assessments.

Public Rights of Way

An extensive PRoW networks runs throughout the site, including local, waymarked, national trails, and national cycle trails. Any physical impacts on the functionality and/or accessibility of the PRoW networks should be considered under an ES. Consideration of the PRoW networks would need to include any likely impacts and wider cumulative impacts to the accessibility of the networks and landscape for all users, and full details of any proposed temporary or permanent diversions, closures, or extinguishments resulting from the final site layout. The applicant is advised that any required diversions, closures, or extinguishments would need to be consented through the relevant regulatory regimes outside of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation, and Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage

The site and wider area sit in Bronte country and was home to local author Ted Hughes (amongst others). The surrounding moorland is intrinsically linked with literature and is, therefore, considered to be internationally important in terms of its role in British culture and tourism. The sense of openness and wild, remote, landscape are fundamental to Wuthering Heights. While there are key locations associated with the Brontes, the sense of the vastness of the moors behind Haworth is equally as important as it immerses visitors into the landscape described in the novels. While there has been some change to the moors due to management for grouse shooting and reservoirs, the absence of tall infrastructure is notable. The outline of the hills rising up in the distance, and then the open tops with space all around them defines the skyline.

Stoodley Pike is a monumental obelisk built by public subscription. The monument was originally started in 1814 to commemorate the surrender of Paris to the allies, and finished after the Battle of Waterloo when peace was established. This monument collapsed, but was rebuilt in 1856 when peace was restored after the war with Russia. Stoodley Pike is located on the tip of a high moorland plateau above Todmorden. It is remarkable for its exposed moorland setting and affords views over the glaciated valley with its historic settlements and on towards the upland pastures, historic farmsteads and moorland beyond. Its remote setting contributes to its significance. Stoodley Pike is an icon of Calderdale. The monument and the moors around it attract many walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders and ornithologists. The effect of the development on the setting of this listed building should be fully understood.

Bradford Council notes that the proposal could result in profound harm to this internationally recognised cultural asset of the Bronte landscape. They consider that the significance is such that there has been previous very serious exploration of promoting the landscape, including the application site and its immediate surroundings for World Heritage Site status, on the basis of the

literary importance. Whilst the LPA acknowledges this exploration of further cultural designation, the site is not currently designated as a WHS and, therefore, cannot be assessed as such. Should the site's designations change between this Scoping response and the determination of a planning application, this would become a material consideration to be assessed at that time.

As part of an ES, a Cultural Heritage Assessment would be required. However, the LPA notes that no methodology or suggestions are made in respect of assessing how the proposal would impact upon the heritage significance in relation to the Bronte landscapes and cultural heritage. In general terms, the assessment should cover the visual and heritage impacts of the proposal on the experience and usability of the cultural landscape and its key sites, and its likely economic impacts on local tourism and the international reputation of the area. These matters should be qualified and quantified as part of the assessment. The LPA notes that some innovation is likely to be required to do so given the unprecedented nature of the proposal in an important cultural landscape such as this. The applicant is, therefore, advised to approach the Bronte Society and Calderdale and adjacent Councils at pre-application stage to understand further the significance of the landscape and to help in establishing a method for comprehensively evaluating potential impacts on the cultural heritage.

Tourism and Recreation

The submitted Scoping Report states that the link between onshore wind energy developments and the tourism sector has been a subject of debate and there is little evidence on the impact in England. This is likely due to the moratorium on new onshore wind development in England in 2015. The Scoping Report further notes that the most recent research [in Scotland] has not found a link between tourism employment, visitor numbers and onshore wind development. As part of a 2021 study, research identified 16 wind farms with a capacity of at least 10 megawatts that became operational between 2015 and 2019. Whilst this may be the case for wind farm of at least 10MW, the proposal would look to achieve 300MW which is substantially more than those areas looked at with the recent study. As such, the LPA considers that the emergency evidence base in this regard is inadequate to assess or rule out visitor number impacts from an onshore wind farm of such unprecedented scale. The LPA therefore considers that all matters relating to impacts on tourism and recreation are scoped in.

As part of an ES, a tourism and recreation assessment would be required to demonstrate how the proposal would impact on the local economy during each phase of development and whether there would be any lasting reputational impacts arising from the proposal. The assessment should look at the local economy of the surrounding towns and villages, as well as the impacts on the economies of Calderdale and surrounding affected Local Authority areas, particularly Bradford and its relationship with the Bronte cultural landscape, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the UK. Impacts on the usability and desirability of national trails which cross and run in the vicinity of the site should also be included within a relevant assessment. The figures for use of these routes should be available. The applicant is advised to contact the Pennine Way Project Officer based within the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in this regard.

It is unclear how the Scoping Report intends to define the sensitivity of an economy/tourism and recreation asset. The scope and methodologies to be used within the tourism and recreation assessment should be agreed at pre-application stage with the relevant departments and guidance available from Calderdale Council and neighbouring authorities, as well as relevant national guidance.

Socio-Economic Impacts

The submitted Scoping Report sets out that a socio-economic impact assessment would form part of an ES and its methodology would be predicated on the information provided in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). The LPA considers that the scope of assessment required by EN-1 to be broadly acceptable, although its scope should not be limited to the proposal's impacts within Calderdale, but also within adjacent Local Authority areas affected by it. Furthermore, the scope of the assessment should not be limited to construction and operational phases but should also include decommissioning and site restoration given the likely socio-economic impacts of this phase 25-30 years' after construction.

As well as those matters addressed in EN-1, a socio-economic assessment should also include assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the proposal on fuel poverty and the cost of living, the health impacts of people living and working in and around the site during each phase of development, and consideration of shared/community ownership of the infrastructure assets.

Aviation, Defence, Weather and Telecommunications

Aviation

Leeds Bradford Airport has raised concerns over the likelihood of the proposal to adversely impact on flight safety. LBA notes that several of the proposed wind turbines would be in line of sight of the airport's Watchman Primary Surveillance Radar (PRS). Concerns have also been raised with regards to the likely impacts on the safeguarding of all Instrument Flight Procedures (IFP). As such, the proposal would require an IFP safeguarding assessment completing which would be conducted by LBA's Approved Procedure Design Organisation (APDO). This, and any other LBA required assessments, should be undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application and form part of an ES. Full details of the proposed site layout and technical specifications of the turbines would also be required to assess the requirement for the positioning of aviation obstacle lighting, including proximity to and impact on IFPs. LBA would also require evidence of consultation between the developer and the CAA in relation to lighting requirements/schemes. Any proposed mitigations on LBA flight safety infrastructure would require CAA consultation and potentially technical approvals.

National Air Traffic Services (NATS) has identified likely adverse impacts resulting from the proposal on the safeguarding and operation of its radar and navigation aid infrastructure. They recommend pre-application engagement by the applicant to assess the likely impacts and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate. The LPA considers that as part of an ES, the likely impacts of the proposal on NATS's operational infrastructure should be assessed.

Other statutory consultees including the Civil Aviation Authority, Manchester and Humberside Airports have not submitted formal consultee comments. However, the LPA considers that similar assessments to those outlined in this report to assess the proposal's likely impacts on the radar, monitoring, and other such infrastructure and operational assets of these bodies should be duly assessed as part of an ES. Furthermore, pre-application consultation is advised with these bodies to ascertain the scope and methodologies of the assessments required.

Defence

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team (MoD) requires the inclusion of the specified aviation lighting to avoid physical obstruction resulting from the proposal on low flying aircraft as the site lies within Low Flying Area 8 (LFA 8). Whilst this is not a matter for inclusion within an ES, it should be demonstrated on the plans submitted in support of a planning application. The precise locations and grid references of the proposed wind turbines should form part of the plans submitted as part of an EIA planning application. The DIO note that their comments are

without prejudice and that any changes to the proposed site layout submitted under this EIA Scoping would require re-consultation with them.

Weather

The Met Office require a suitable assessment within an ES to fully consider the potential effects from the proposed development on the Met Office weather radar at Hameldon Hill. The assessment should confirm which turbines are in the line of sight of the radar antenna, including the provision of ground heights and tip height (AOD) of the turbines. It should also indicate which turbines are in the beam of the radar at the 2 lowest scan elevations (0.5 deg and 1.0 deg), noting the beam width of 1 deg. The radar antenna is located at NGR: 381030,428750 and at height: 402.5m AOD. A revised site layout should also be considered to demonstrate that the proposed turbines are located outside of the line of sight and the beam of the weather radar or the turbine height is reduced to remove them from the beam of the weather radar where possible.

Communications

The proposal is likely to have a significant impact in EIA terms on the strategic communications networks West Yorkshire Police (operated by Motorola Solutions) and other emergency services, as well as other telecommunications and radiocommunications services and receptors operated and/or overseen by OFCOM, BT Openreach, and other telecommunications service providers. Impacts on television transmission and reception are also considered to be likely. A Telecommunications Impact Assessment would be required as part of an ES to demonstrate the proposal's likely impacts on the strategic and other telecommunications assets and networks and propose suitable impact avoidance and/or mitigation measures so as to not functionally disrupt the operations of these networks or assets.

Other Issues

Borrow Pits and Mineral Resources

No information has been submitted within the Scoping Report regarding the scale, size, number frequency, and locations of the proposed borrow pits likely to be required to win mineral and aggregate/ballast materials for use within the site. Additionally, no information has been submitted regarding the type and volume of materials required and where it would be used within the site. Therefore, all matters in relation to borrow pits and the winning of minerals and underlaying materials within the site are scoped in.

As part of an ES, a Mineral Resource Assessment would be required along with borrow pits being considered in other ecological and landscape assessments outlined in this Scoping response. As the dimensions, frequency, and location of the borrow pits are unknown, the LPA cannot scope out land stability issues resulting from the use of the pits. This could be particularly prevalent for those pits located near existing and proposed on-site infrastructure such as trails, buildings, and roadways. The topographical changes to the site resulting from the borrow pits is also likely to be extensive and would need to be assessed in the relevant assessments.

Details would also be required to how the pits would be made safe for people and fauna during the lifetime of the development and how they would be restored during the decommissioning phase. Information would also be required in a Site Waste Management Plan under an ES to detail how excess and unneeded spoil and other materials would be dealt with from the borrow pits, as well as any other excavated materials from the site from activities such as digging foundations, crane pads, roadways, and underground cabling. The likely hydrological impacts of reinstatement of the

groundworks should also be considered with an ES as part of the required hydrological assessments.

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

The majority of the site lies with Agricultural Land Classification Grades 4 (Poor Quality Agricultural Land) and 5 (Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land), with some areas of defined non-agricultural land. Given this, the LPA considers that assessment of BMV agricultural land can be scoped out of an ES.

Microclimates

Given the size and scale of the proposal, an ES should consider the potential impacts of the proposal on local microclimates (e.g., surface air and ground temperatures, atmospheric conditions and humidity, air turbulence, etc.) and the effects these may have on factors such as designated habitats sites, the drying out of peatlands, protected species, and users of the site (including residents, workers, and recreational users), etc. across the lifespan of the proposal. The impacts of site restoration on microclimate considerations should also be included within and ES as after 25-30 years of operation as the climatic conditions during this time may have altered the site's [e.g.,] ecology and hydrology to a point where restoration could be damaging to the site and its surroundings.

Health and Safety

The installation of substantially large and electricity generating/storage infrastructure, as well as other infrastructure such as borrow pits, on the site has the potential to introduce significant risks in terms of health and safety. An ES should consider the measures to be taken to allow safe use of the site by all users and fauna. The assessment should also consider emergency management procedures in cases of fire, breakage and dislodgement, impacts of gale force winds, and other such phenomena, as these would be likely to have significant and/or disastrous impacts on the site and its surroundings.

3. Other Information

(i) The Habitats Regulations:

Calderdale Council has a statutory duty under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 *[the Habitats Regulations]* when carrying out its functions as the competent authority. Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the Council must consider if the development is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of relevant 'Natura 2000 sites', through undertaking a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA). Under Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations, a competent authority may not grant permission to a project which is likely to have an adverse effect unless appropriate mitigation measures are put in place and are demonstrated to be deliverable within the planning proposal.

The site lies in the South Pennines Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the South Pennine Moors Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA).

Under Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations, as the competent authority, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council has undertaken Stage 1 of a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA): Screening. The Stage 1 Assessment concludes that the potential for likely significant effects on

either of the European Sites as a result of the proposals cannot be excluded and therefore, the HRA must proceed to Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

Regulation 27 of the EIA Regulations and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) both expect the EIA and HRA processes to be undertaken in a coordinated manner when relevant, i.e., to a similar timescale and using similar information. As such, the Council is also formally requesting that further information should be provided in this regard through a 'Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment' (SHRA) to be assessed by the Local Planning Authority – as the competent authority – in consultation with Natural England as the relevant statutory body. This should include information on ornithology, habitats, botanical, hydrology, water quality and peat. It is important that all impact pathways, as outlined within Natural England's response, are considered including both direct and indirect impacts throughout all phases of the development including construction, operation and decommissioning. The potential impacts which are possible through woodland creation should also be considered in the SHRA.

(ii) Calderdale Council Validation Requirements:

Please be advised that the relevant validation information available here to support a planning application is required notwithstanding this determination that the proposal is considered EIA Development and an Environmental Statement should be prepared. Similarly, if the applicant does respond to confirm that a Screening Direction is being requested, or if they receive a Screening Direction response from the Secretary of State to the effect that an Environmental Statement is not required, this does not replace or supersede the requirement to provide the outstanding information to comply with the Council's Validation Checklist. Failure to provide the validation information will cause a delay to the determination of the application whether or not an Environmental Statement is required.

(iii) Environmental Statement Structure:

The ES report should include information regarding the planning history of the site and the summary of the policy context pertinent to the site. Within each of the assessment chapters, the main structure of the information presented, should include the following:

- Assessment Methodology
- Baseline Conditions
- Likely Significant Effects
- Mitigation and Enhancement
- Cumulative Effects
- Summary of Findings

The ES should be supported by technical appendices where appropriate and also include a non-technical summary providing summary of the Environmental Statement in non-technical language.

Note to Applicant

All consultee responses received by the LPA under this EIA Scoping shall be shared with the applicant alongside this Scoping response. The applicant is advised that pre-application advice should be sought from the relevant statutory and technical consultees regarding their respective areas of expertise and to agree the scope and methodologies of the required assessments where they have been not included in this Scoping response. Please note that consultees outside of the Council may have their own pre-application fee charging policies.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the case officer.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Principal Planning Officer

For and on behalf of
Director of Regeneration and Strategy
Corporate Lead for Planning

Appendix A – Consultations Carried Out under 23/06010/EIA

Calderdale Council	External Consultees
Countryside Services / Biodiversity	Burnley Council
Highways Section	Kirklees Council
Lead Local Flood Authority	Bradford Council
Spatial Planning	Pendle Borough Council
Environmental Services (Pollution Control)	Leeds City Council
Conservation	North Yorkshire Council
Tree Officer	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Minerals Officer	Natural England
Climate and Environment	Environment Agency
Economy, Housing and Investment	RSPB
Public Health	Historic England
Legal Officer	Coal Authority
Tourism and Rural Development	National Trust
Heptonstall Parish Council	CPRE
Wadsworth Parish Council	National Highways
Blackshaw Parish Council	The Ramblers Association
Erringden Parish Council	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Ripponden Parish Council	Yorkshire Water
	West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service
	West Yorkshire Ecology
	West Yorkshire Geology Trust
	West Yorkshire Police (Motorola Solutions)
	Calder and Colne Rivers Trust
	Moors for the Future
	Friends of the South Pennines
	White Rose Forest
	South Pennine Packhorse Trails Trust
	South Pennine Park
	The Bronte Society
	Leeds Bradford Airport
	Humberside Airport
	Manchester Airport
	Ministry of Defence
	National Air Traffic Services (NATS)
	Civil Aviation Authority
	Met Office
	National Grid
	OFCOM
	BT Openreach
	Slow the Flow
	Ban the Burn
	Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network

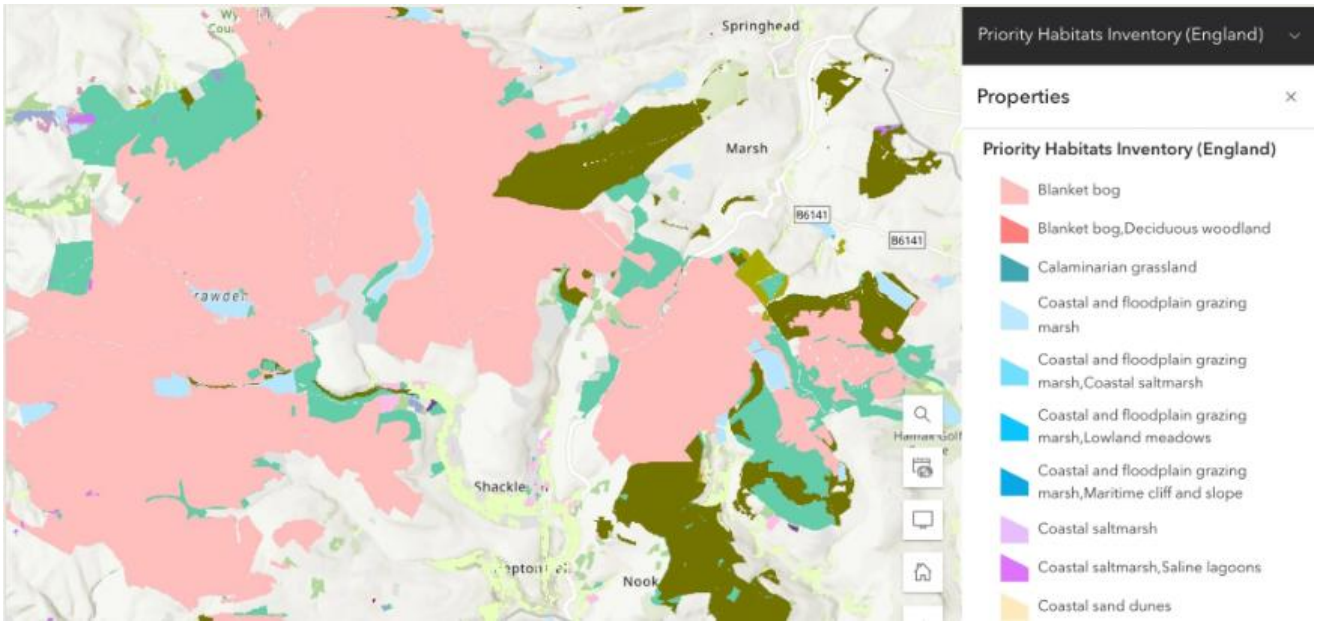
The LPA notes that other consultees may be consulted as part of a planning application if / as they become known throughout the pre-application process or otherwise.

Colne Town Council 25th September 2025

Response to the CEP Scoping Report

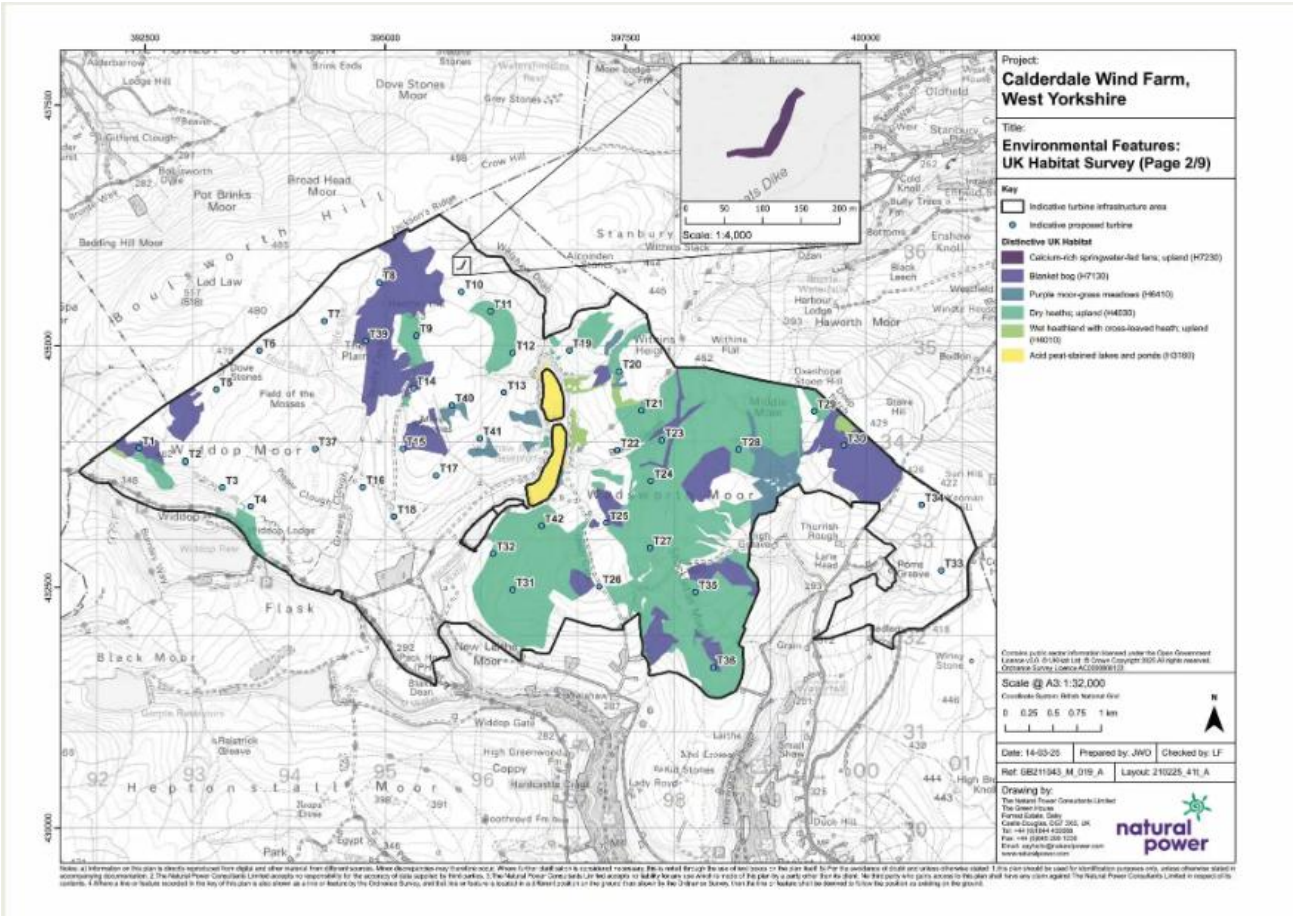
Colne Town Council is deeply concerned over the proposed location for the Calderdale Energy Park, given that Walshaw Moor is highly protected peatland and a site of national and international importance for birds and wildlife.

Below is the Priority Habitats Inventory (England) map of the Walshaw Moor Estate area.



This map shows that the area in question is predominantly blanket bog.

Compare this with the Calderdale Energy Park Habitats Map however, which shows very little blanket bog.



This discrepancy is quite alarming, given that this is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

It is imperative that the material composition of the land, which is fundamental to this development, is accurately identified, or any environmental statement will be meaningless.

Blanket Bog has the highest possible priority protected habitat for its climate-regulating, biodiversity-supporting, water quality and flood risk mitigation properties. It is built up over thousands of years and cannot be restored in a shorter timeframe following construction. It is simply irreplaceable.

The diversity of species that depend on blanket bog is limited, but the importance of blanket bogs for biodiversity lies in the fact that many of the animals that do rely on them are struggling. This makes the bogs vitally important refugees for the dwindling populations of wildlife, which is why Walshaw Moor is home to the red listed curlew, lapwing, golden plover, hen harrier, swift, various species of owl, bats and geese.

It is Colne Town Council's opinion that full studies of each species should be undertaken, relevant to their particular nesting dates and breeding patterns to allow the full extent of birds living, breeding, feeding, roosting and even crossing Walshaw Moor to be fully understood. This will allow the correct mitigation measures to be put in place to afford these species the protection they so badly need.

Looking at the priority habitats map, the premise that there is 'low potential for significant habitat loss and limited scale of land take' is preposterous. The siting of the wind turbines along with the miles and miles of construction and service trackways will slice right through it, altering the ecology and drainage forever.

Full depth peat holds four times more carbon per hectare than tropical rainforest. Studies have shown that infrastructure damage could:

- Make the blanket bog emit more CO^2 than it captures and stores
- Damage water quality
- Deplete the blanket bog's carbon store
- Increase flood risk in the catchment area
- Cause biodiversity loss

This development would clearly risk and undermine the Government's 30 by 30 nature and biodiversity commitment under the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

The Town Council has concerns over the construction traffic route shown. North Valley Road in Colne is already constantly congested and a designated AQMA, whilst the roads and lanes in Laneshawbridge are wholly unsuitable for this kind of traffic. There is no doubt that this would bring immense disruption to the residents of Pendle.

If this is the preferred route then a full traffic survey will need to be undertaken, (as opposed to merely a desk top study). The Town Council would suggest driving through the route in question on various different dates and times to fully understand the implications of this route.

It is clearly evident that the habitat map is not the only inaccuracy in the scoping report. From the mention of Scottish water courses to incorrect road identifications, there are far too many discrepancies for a project of this multitude, and they undermine the accuracy of the whole report.

It is imperative that all area studies undertaken are bespoke to the target area and not based on national or regional averages. Important aspects of relevant information can be easily missed this way. Indeed, it is increasingly obvious that this development will have a negative impact on tourism in the area.

In regard to viewpoint assessment, the Town Council is concerned over the dearth of visualisations in the recent consultation for the Energy Park. A project of this magnitude, with 200m turbines will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on long range views in Pendle. It is therefore requested that views to and from Pendle are included in any analysis.

It is understood that the final proposed locations for the 41 turbines are not yet known, however once these are determined, any studies on noise, vibration and lighting will need to be restarted and recalculated so that the potential effect on residents and wildlife can be accurately determined, and appropriate mitigation measures put in place.

Colne Town Council would ask that any further consultation be delayed, allowing these important studies and surveys to take place. Our peat upland area is simply too valuable for any decision on this to be rushed.

Current peat science is clear that restoration of peatland damage caused by windfarm construction is impossible over the net zero timeframe. If catastrophic damage is caused, this could not be restored at the end of a windfarm's 25-30 year life period. Similarly, there are numerous, well documented horror stories about on shore wind turbines and their impact on areas with rich bird life, such as this.

The forfeit of the Net Zero target, the loss of biodiversity and the detrimental effect on the wildlife in the area are all clear reasons why this development should not go ahead, and the negative impact on residents in both Lancashire and Yorkshire will far outweigh the benefit of the 300MW of wind powered energy generated. Given that an RSPB study last year found that there is plentiful land in England for all the wind

farms the government needs, even when protected peatland and other ecologically valuable sites are excluded, it begs the question as to why the government would even consider this area as a viable option.

Contact: [redacted]
[redacted]@durham.gov.uk
Your ref: EN0110023
Our ref: AACON/25/01811

The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

24 September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Proposed Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Regulations) 2017 (the EIA Regulations) Regulations 10 and 11.

Application by Calerdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calerdale Energy Park (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicants contact details and duty to make information available to the applicant if requested

At Calderdale Energy Park
For The Planning Inspectorate

Thank you for your letter dated 1 September 2025 regarding the above.

The proposed development lies within West Yorkshire and by virtue of its significant distance from County Durham would not have any adverse impact upon the County Durham's environment or the amenity of County Durham's residents. It is considered that the scope of the Environmental Statement should be determined taking into account the views of Local Planning Authorities in West Yorkshire and relevant statutory consultees.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Principal Planning Officer
Regeneration, Economy and Growth
Durham County Council, Planning Development (Strategic), PO BOX 274, Stanley, Co. Durham, DH8 1HG Main Telephone: 03000 262 830

From: Electricity North West Enquiries <ElectricityNorthWestEnquiries@enwl.co.uk>
Sent: 04 September 2025 14:02
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

You don't often get email from electricitynorthwestenquiries@enwl.co.uk. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting SP Electricity North West. The area you are enquiring about is not within our distribution area. Please could you direct your query to the distributor in your area.

Kind regards,

SP Electricity North West

[redacted] | Customer Service Advisor | **Contact Centre**

[redacted] |

POWER CUT? CALL 105

Katherine King
The Planning Inspectorate

[via email:
calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk]

Our ref: XA/2025/100434/01-L01
Your ref: EN0110023

Date: 29 September 2025

Dear Katherine

PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED) AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (THE EIA REGULATIONS) – REGULATIONS 10 AND 11. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY EIA SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSE. CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK, WEST YORKSHIRE.

Thank you for your consultation on the Scoping Report, submitted under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, in support of the Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park. This consultation was received on 1 September 2025.

We have reviewed the report, referenced 16617A-30-R01-F01, Revision 00, and dated September 2025, and can provide the following advice in relation to matters within our remit.

In summary:

- We do not agree with the scope of the Biodiversity chapter
- We do not agree with the scope of the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat chapter
- We do not agree that Land Contamination and Minerals should be scoped out
- We do not agree that Major Accidents & Hazards should be scoped out

Further detail on these matters is provided within the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Comments on the scope of the EIA
- Appendix B – General advice on the proposals and EIA content
- Appendix C – Additional advice for the Applicant
- Appendix D – Informatives

Please note this response does not represent our final view in relation to any future Development Consent Order (DCO), or any environmental permit applications made

to us. Our final views will be based on all relevant information including applications and guidance available at the time of submission.

We trust this advice is useful.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Planning Specialist - National Infrastructure Team

[redacted]@environment-agency.gov.uk

Appendix A - Comments on the scope of the EIA

Chapter 7: Biodiversity. Paragraphs 7.4.22 and 7.4.23	Issue:	Fish and aquatic species (other than white-clawed crayfish) have not been included in the scope, even though there is suitable habitat on site and adjacent to the draft Order Limits.
	Impact:	Risk to protected species and loss or damage to habitat, plus risk of deterioration in status under the Water Environment Regulations.
	Solution:	Fish and aquatic ecology should be scoped into the EIA as a receptor. Baseline data should be obtained through a desk study and field surveys. Impact-pathways should be identified and assessed in the EIA, which should include (but are not limited to): • impacts on fish from electro-magnetic fields where high voltage cables pass underwater watercourses • impacts from noise and vibration associated with construction • impacts from pollution and increased sedimentation • impacts from open cut crossing of watercourses and potential loss or damage to habitat • impacts from light pollution on watercourses and aquatic ecology Monitoring should be undertaken on any watercourses impacted.
Additional comments:	According to our records, watercourses within the draft Order Limits contain populations of brown/sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) a priority species listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Furthermore, the grid connection corridor crosses main watercourses, for example, the River Aire, River Spodden, Rochdale Canal, and River Calder, which contain notable populations of fish. However, risks to ordinary watercourses should also be considered due to impacts under the Water Environment Regulations.	

Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat. Table 8-6 Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment	Issue:	Erosion and sedimentation risk during operation has been scoped out.
	Impact:	Risk of changes to sedimentation loads and impact on water quality downstream. Additionally, gullying can lead to rapid erosion of the peat and may unzip the watercourse upstream for more than a km, so impacts on upstream areas should not be discounted. Gullying may also destabilise the entire peat deposit, leading to peat slides.

	Solution:	This should be scoped in for further assessment and should consider the installation of drainage features and the risk of new preferential flow developing.
Additional comments:	It is worth considering the risk of gully erosion that may result from potential degradation of the peat. Further modelling/assessment make be required to determine the downstream impact to flows and sediment.	

Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat. Table 8-6 Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment	Issue:	Effects on groundwater abstractions located over 250m from infrastructure (Excavations >1m depth) associated with the Turbine Area, Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Areas (during construction, operation and decommissioning) have been scoped out.
	Impact:	Potential for impact on groundwater abstractions to be incorrectly scoped out.
	Solution:	The Applicant should scope in impacts to groundwater abstractions where construction activities fall within a groundwater Source Protection Zone.
Additional comments:	The Applicant cites 'Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development on Groundwater Abstractions', August 2024 and 'Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems', August 2024 when scoping out impacts on groundwater abstractions and GWDTEs from construction activities over 1m in depth. These guidance documents were published by SEPA and do not apply to England. However, we agree that impacts from infrastructure excavations on groundwater abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Environments (GWDTEs) over 250m from the Turbine Area, Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Areas during the construction, operation and decommissioning are generally unlikely to be significant based on the scheme proposals. Where this infrastructure coincides with a groundwater Source Protection Zone, even at a distance beyond 250m, the potential for impacts to occur should be considered.	

Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat. Table 8-7 Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment	Issue:	Thermal impacts on groundwater receptors (including peat) not identified as a potential significant effect.
	Impact:	Risk to sensitive groundwater receptors (including hydraulically connected surface water bodies, GWDTEs and abstractions) from thermal emissions may not be identified and mitigated against.

	Solution:	The Applicant should scope in thermal impacts on groundwater receptors from the proposed development.
Additional comments:	Heat as a groundwater pollutant was introduced in 2023 via the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023 SI No.2023/651: ““pollutant”, in relation to England, means any— a) substance, b) heat, or c) biological entity or micro-organism, which is liable to cause pollution;” We are mindful that work is being carried out in this area in relation to heating of groundwater from ground source heating and cooling systems, but there is currently no guidance relating to the potential thermal implications of high voltage buried electricity cables. The Environment Agency’s Chief Scientist’s Group has published a report for Ground Source Heating and Cooling (GSHC) systems (Environmental Impacts of Temperature Changes from Ground Source Heating and Cooling Systems). In this study, a ‘thermal plume’ was defined as the region around a GSHC system that experiences a 1 degree C temperature change or greater. While the study is not directly applicable to thermal emission from underground cables, an equivalent benchmark could be considered when assessing heat pollution from underground HV cables. The Chief Scientist’s Group states that the environmental factors with the greatest influence on thermal plume development include groundwater flow and bulk thermal conductivity. It identifies that impacts may occur by direct (temperature change) and indirect (e.g. changes in water chemistry) means. Thermal emissions from buried high voltage cables in contact with Peat deposits may also cause local heating and degradation, which could potentially result in ground stability issues and release of previously peat-bound pollutants affecting groundwater and surface water quality. At this stage we require the potential thermal implications of buried cables, in relation to risks to groundwater and Peat deposits, to be considered further.	

Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology,	Issue:	Risks to the water environment from Horizontal Directional Drilling and from firewater contamination

Geology and Peat. Table 8-7 Likely Significant Effects Scoped into the Detailed Assessment		have not been identified as potential significant effects.
	Impact:	Frac-outs can result in bentonite being released into the environment, while firewater used to suppress fires within a Battery Energy Storage System or substation compound can result in the production of hydrofluoric acid. Both pose a significant risk to ground- and surface water receptors.
	Solution:	Impacts to water quality from HDD and firewater should be scoped in across all phases until it can be demonstrated that these aspects of the project would not cause impacts. The Applicant must take all the steps that are reasonably practicable to minimise pollution during HDD and should commit to a drainage strategy for the BESS and substation compounds incorporating measures to prevent release of contaminants via runoff in the event of a fire.
Additional comments:	Any proposed BESS should have a sealed drainage system in place to adequately contain and manage any fire-fighting effluent or contaminated surface waters generated by a fire at the site, to ensure that there is no discharge of polluted water to ground or surface water bodies. The adoption of an infiltration solution for surface water drainage at any BESS would not be acceptable. Any BESS compound and substation compounds should be preferentially sited away from sensitive controlled water receptors, including areas of high groundwater vulnerability. Any mitigation proposed to be implemented at the BESS should also be sufficient to prevent impacts on groundwater and surface water quality in the reasonable worst-case event of a combined flood event and catastrophic BESS fire. See also the following Guidance from National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System planning – Guidance for FRS. Pollutant release from the proposed BESS compound could be included in the scoped in impact 'Potential pollution events affecting groundwater and surface water quality (construction, operation, decommissioning)' in Table 8.7.	

Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat. Table 8-7 Likely Significant Effects	Issue:	Water demands have not been evaluated for construction or operational stages.
	Impact:	Risks that impacts around water supply are not fully understood at an early enough stage.
	Solution:	A water supply strategy should be produced that seeks to itemise consumptive water uses and

Scoped into the Detailed Assessment		appraise the options for potential water supply. Exact volumes of water required is not necessary, more information about water availability outside of public water supply can be found here.
Additional comments:	At the time of writing, much of the UK, including the Aire and Calder catchment, are experiencing prolonged dry weather and drought. This puts pressure on water companies to supply sustainably and on other abstractors who are restricted by licence conditions. Though the environmental impact of licensed abstraction is evaluated during the permitting process (which we are mindful not to duplicate here), a basic appraisal of the potential sources of supply available to the project can overcome problems which would otherwise cause delays in commencement. We recommend early engagement with Yorkshire water for any supply from them, as mains supply may not be practical in remote areas; tankering water adds HGVs to local roads and should be accounted for if intended. Whilst surface water availability in this catchment is good, abstraction licences may be restricted by conditions which limit abstraction during low flows and pose problems for access to water during the summer, prolonged dry weather or drought. Future detailed design stages may be affected by considerations for water supply if some options are found to be problematic. For example, temporary storage may be required to buffer periods of unavailability.	

Chapter 19: Environmental Aspects Scoped Out. Table 19-1 Technical Aspects Scoped out	Issue:	Land contamination and minerals have been scoped out of the EIA.
	Impact:	If insufficiently assessed and mitigated, the proposed development could result in unacceptable impacts to controlled waters.
	Solution:	Land contamination should be scoped in for further assessment.
Additional comments:	The Applicant states that the findings of a proposed Phase 1 Contaminated Land Report (CLR) which will be undertaken in support of the Environmental Statement will inform the design of the Proposed Development, with measures implemented to avoid potential sources of contamination such as avoidance of known landfill sites. Our records show the presence of a historic landfill site (‘Disused Quarry Adjacent to Walshaw Dean Upper Reservoir’) within the Turbine area. There are a large number of historic and licensed landfills within the Cable Corridor Search Area and Site Access Search Area Corridors, in addition to several areas of artificial	

	ground shown on British Geological Survey mapping. These should all be taken into account by the Applicant and it may not be practicable to avoid these features in their entirety for the preferred options for this proposed infrastructure. We are pleased to see that a Phase 1 Contaminated Land Report will be produced, but at this stage we do not consider there to be sufficient information to demonstrate that the risks posed by existing land contamination can be scoped out at this stage. The Applicant can find additional advice relating to land contamination within Appendix C.

Chapter 19: Environmental Aspects Scoped Out, Table 19-1 Technical Aspects Scoped out	Issue:	Major Accidents and Hazards have been scoped out of the EIA.
	Impact:	Firewater and chemicals from the BESS pose an unacceptable risk to the water environment receptors and will deteriorate water quality unless contained and removed sufficiently.
	Solution:	Risks to water quality from BESS fires should be considered as a major accident and should be scoped in.
Additional comments:	We support the development of a Battery Safety Management Plan (BSMP), which should provide details of firefighting water supply for use in an emergency situation, storage for fire water runoff, arrangements for testing of contaminants in the runoff and how this would then be removed offsite. Details are also likely to be provided in an outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP). As the designs and plans are being finalised, we would recommend you refer to the following: Guidance on BESS design and fire protection measures available on the Gov.uk website: • Fire prevention plans: environmental permits - GOV.UK • Health and safety in grid scale electrical energy storage systems (accessible webpage) - GOV.UK • Pollution prevention for businesses - GOV.UK The National Fire Chief's Council has detailed guidance on recommended fire protection measures for BESS sites. • Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System planning – Guidance for FRS (nfcc.org.uk) We would also recommend referring to CIRIA's Containment systems for the prevention of pollution (C736).	

Appendix B - General advice on the proposals and EIA content

Chapter 5: The Proposed Development. Section 5.16	Issue:	The decommissioning proposals set out in this section include the retention of foundations and (presumably underground) cabling.
	Impact:	Potential for buried cables left in-situ following decommissioning to pose an ongoing pollution risk to Controlled Waters.
	Solution:	If buried cables are to be retained in-situ, the Applicant should demonstrate that they would not pose a significant risk to Controlled Waters via degradation and/or damage from future agricultural and other activities.
Additional comments:	Following decommissioning, any electrical cables present within potential ploughing depth on future agricultural land would be at risk of mechanical damage. This could result in the accelerated release of pollutants, including microplastics, into the environment from these cables and may cause damage to agricultural equipment. Although measures are proposed to minimise contamination by sealing and securely burying underground cables, if left in-situ indefinitely these will ultimately deteriorate and release contaminants into the subsurface environment. It would be prudent to design with decommissioning in mind, as the most practical method of construction could mean the most effective decommissioning technique becomes less viable.	

Chapter 6: The Proposed Development. Paragraph 5.9.1	Issue:	Culverts proposed for watercourse crossings.
	Impact:	Potential impacts on hydromorphological processes and therefore impacts to aquatic wildlife.
	Solution:	Use of setback bridge crossings
Additional comments:		

Chapter 7: Biodiversity.	Issue:	Modular (MoRPH) River Surveys have been completed for the watercourses in the turbine area only. It does not seem like watercourses on the cable crossing routes have been surveyed.
	Impact:	Cable crossings have potential to impact watercourses and may be required to be factored into the Biodiversity Net Gain calculations.
	Solution:	MoRPH surveys should be completed for watercourses that are affected by cable crossings.
Additional comments:		

Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat. Table 8-6 Effects Scoped Out from the Detailed Assessment	Issue:	Insufficient consideration of sub-surface hydrology and flow paths within the extensive peat bodies within the search site.
	Impact:	Less informed choices for siting of infrastructure; possible increased risk of peat instability during and post construction. Possible increased water quality and habitat impact. Less effective peatland restoration planning.
	Solution:	A comprehensive desk and field-based survey of the likely identification of peatland hydrological units, and hydrological flow paths within and between interconnected peat bodies, should be undertaken. This should apply to all peat related infrastructure scoping areas, including turbines, access tracks (including floating roads), cable routes and battery sites.
Additional comments:	Minimal mention is made of the significance of peatland hydrology (e.g. perched ground water tables and preferential flowlines within peat bodies). Understanding the sub surface peatland hydrology and how that may change as a result of the construction could (a) inform the siting of infrastructure, by helping identify areas of sensitivity for increased drainage due to disturbance, (b) inform construction management planning which considers hydrological impacts on peat, (c) minimise risk of landslip, and (d) inform effective hydrologically based restoration planning on an extremely sensitive SAC Blanket Bog site.	

Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat. Table 8-8 Receptor Sensitivity Criteria	Issue:	Table 8-8 classifies "Surface water classified under the WFD as ‘poor or bad’ (or equivalent older chemical or biological monitoring designation) " as a low sensitive environment.
	Impact:	The definition for sensitivity of a receptor may result in increased degradation to WFD waterbodies.
	Solution:	The sensitivity should be re-assessed. Further degradation is not allowed under the Water Environment Regulations for those waterbodies with a poor/bad score; this makes them more sensitive environments, not less. Additionally, further deterioration of a waterbody graded as 'poor' should still be regarded as a negative change of that waterbody and be avoided where possible, i.e. deterioration is not justified on waterbodies with a status less than 'good.'
Additional comments:		

Appendix C - Additional advice for the Applicant

Flood Risk

The scope of proposed Flood Risk and Drainage Strategy described here is not sufficient or in accordance with the Flood Risk Assessment requirements as set out in National Policy Statement EN-1, paragraph 5.8.15. The document, as described, would not provide an accurate and robust assessment of flood risk associated with the proposed development. An inadequate assessment of flood risk could result in insufficient flood risk mitigation measures being put in place and an increase in flood risk, both offsite and to the proposed development.

In particular, the FRA should:

- Take the impacts of climate change into account, across a range of climate scenarios, clearly stating the development lifetime over which the assessment has been made, and identifying the development's vulnerability classification
- Detail the measures that will be included to ensure the development will be safe and remain operational during a flood event throughout the development's lifetime, without increasing flood risk elsewhere
- Identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall during the period of construction, operation and decommissioning
- Demonstrate that a sequential, risk-based approach has been used to inform site layout and design, with development steered towards the areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account. Only where there are no reasonably available sites in low and medium risk areas should high flood risk areas be considered for development; and
- Demonstrate there will be no net loss of floodplain storage.

Climate Change

In accordance with paragraph 5.8.14 of NPS EN-1, the flood risk assessment should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking account of climate change. The applicant should refer to the GOV.UK advice 'Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances' for further information on how to assess future flood risk using the appropriate climate change allowances. The applicant should also identify the correct flood risk vulnerability classification for the proposed development to inform the assessment of climate change.

The applicant will also be expected to assess flood risk associated with the credible maximum climate change scenario. This should be treated as a 'sensitivity test'. This will ensure the development can be adapted to large-scale climate change over its lifetime.

Please note that, in line with the Planning Practice Guidance for Flood Risk and Climate Change, non-residential/commercial development is considered to have a lifetime of 75 years as a starting point, which is the lifetime we recommend the applicant based their assessment of climate change on.

Opportunities to Reduce Flood Risk

In accordance with NPS EN-1 and the requirements of the Exception Test, new energy infrastructure in flood risk areas should look to, where possible, reduce flood risk overall. EN-1 also recommends that flood mitigation measures make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques. We strongly urge the applicant to consider the natural flood management opportunities available within the area as a means of reducing flood risk overall. We would be happy to engage with the Applicant further on this.

Watercourse Crossings

Paragraph 5.9.1 of the Scoping Report notes that the proposed development would require watercourse crossings. The type of crossing would be determined following further hydraulic assessment and in consultation with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority, which is welcomed. Any proposed crossings should be designed so that the soffit level of any bridges sits above the design flood level. The design flood level for permanent crossings in this case would be the 1% (1 in 100) annual exceedance probability (AEP) plus higher central climate change scenario. For temporary crossings, as part of the construction phase of the scheme, the present day (without climate change) 1% (1 in 100) AEP scenario can be used.

Additionally, the Environment Agency have a general policy against the use of culverts, so for access crossings open span structures are preferred.

Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016

Flood Risk Activities

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a flood risk activity permit (FRAP) to be obtained for any activities which will take place:

- On or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal)
- On or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culvert (16 metres if tidal)
- On or within 16 metres of a sea defence
- Involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert
- In a floodplain more than 8 metres from the river bank, culvert or flood defence structure (16 metres if it's a tidal main river) and you don't already have planning permission.

For further guidance please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03702 422 549.

It is noted that the developer may be a protected undertaker, for which exemptions could apply. Please refer to the following guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-regulations-exempt-flood-risk-activities/exempt-flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits.

The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once a DCO has been approved, and we advise the to consult us at the earliest opportunity

If any of the works are likely to require a FRAP, we recommend that you inform the Environment Agency at the earliest opportunity as to whether you are seeking to disapply the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016 for flood risk activities as part of the DCO. Please note that the DCO will need to include protective provisions for our benefit if the disapplication of FRAPs is sought.

De-watering / Abstraction

Where trenchless methods are proposed to cross major watercourses, we anticipate that dewatering will be required at launch and reception pits.

If dewatering is required, the Applicant may require an abstraction licence if it doesn't meet the exemption in the Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017 Section 5: Small scale dewatering in the course of building or engineering works.

If the Applicant does not meet the exemption and requires a full abstraction licence, they should be aware that some aquifer units may be closed for new consumptive abstractions in this area. More information can be found on our website: Abstraction licensing strategies (CAMS process) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and Apply for a water abstraction or impounding licence - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Please note that the typical timescale to process a licence application is 9-12 months. The applicant may wish to consider whether a scheme-wide dewatering application rather than individual applications would be beneficial. We suggest talking to our National Permitting Service early in the project planning.

Temporary dewatering of wholly or mainly rainwater that has accumulated in an excavation may be exempt from an Environmental Permit for a Water Discharge Activity. More information can be found on our website: Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water: RPS 261. Note that this does not permit discharge of groundwater from a passive or active dewatering activity or permit the abstraction of groundwater.

The applicant may also need to consider discharge of groundwater, especially if it is contaminated. More information can be found on our website: Discharges to surface water and groundwater: environmental permits

The use of drilling muds for any necessary directional drilling may require a groundwater activity permit unless the 'de minimis' exemption applies. Early discussion about this is also recommended.

Trenchless Watercourse Crossings

We agree with the approach of minimising the number of watercourse crossings and encroachment to watercourses. Watercourse crossings should be designed to have

minimal impact to the river, as they can result in an increase in riparian encroachment, as well as disruption to in-channel processes if bridge crossings are designed with central piers.
The Environment Agency's position is a preference for HDD to allow cable crossings under watercourses. HDD crossings should be deep enough beneath the bed level to ensure they are not exposed if the river incises. Drill pits should be set back a sufficient distance from the bank top.

Any trenchless crossings should be supported by a hydrogeological risk assessment where these may interact with Principal or Secondary A aquifers or pass within influencing distance of surface watercourses or sensitive ecological receptors. A drilling fluid breakout plan should also be developed for all trenchless crossings. If Horizontal Directional Drilling is proposed to cross watercourses the Applicant would need to assess whether this would affect local licenced or unlicenced abstractions by carrying out a Water Feature Survey.

Land Contamination

We expect land contamination assessments to follow the tiered approach laid out in our Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) guidance. The preliminary risk assessment (PRA) should include historical plans of the site, an appraisal of the environmental setting (including geology, hydrogeology, groundwater and surface water receptors, potential contaminants of concern and source areas), an initial conceptual site model (CSM) describing possible pollutant linkages for controlled waters, and identification of potentially unacceptable risks. Land contamination investigations should be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced professionals and in accordance with BS 5930: Code of practice for ground investigations and BS 10175: Investigation of potentially contaminated sites – code of practice. Soil and water analysis should be fully MCERTS accredited. Investigation, demolition, remediation, or construction works must not create new pathways or linkages to controlled waters. Clean drilling techniques may be required for boreholes that penetrate contaminated ground.

Piled Foundations

No reference to the possible use of piled foundations in proposed infrastructure is made in Sections 5 or 8 of the report. However, piling is mentioned in Table 13-4, within the Noise and Vibration Chapter. Piled foundation structures may introduce preferential pathways for contaminant migration or could connect hydraulically separate groundwater bodies. Should a piled foundation solution be required in or within influencing distance of sensitive receptors such as groundwater SPZs, Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems, springs or abstractions, a Piling Risk Assessment or Foundation Works Risk Assessment should be undertaken to mitigate possible impacts.

Private Water Supplies

The report identifies the presence of several historical water wells within the Cable Route and Site Access Search areas, and states that active groundwater abstraction

information will be requested from the Environment Agency *[licenced water abstractions]* and local authority *[private water supply abstractions]*.

The Applicant should ensure that enquiries are submitted to all local authorities who may hold records of private water supply abstractions which could be affected by aspects of the Proposed Development, i.e. not just the proposed Turbine Area.

Waste On Site

Excavated materials that are recovered via a treatment operation can be re-used on-site under the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice. This voluntary Code of Practice provides a framework for determining whether excavated material arising from site during remediation or land development works are waste.

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically, and that the permitting status of any proposed on-site operations are clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

The Environment Agency recommends that developers should refer to:

- Position statement on the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice
- Our website at https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

Waste to be taken off site

Contaminated soil that is, or must be disposed of, is waste. Therefore, its handling, transport, treatment and disposal is subject to waste management legislation, which includes:

- Duty of Care Regulations 1991
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
-

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically in line with British Standards BS EN 14899:2005 'Characterisation of Waste - Sampling of Waste Materials - Framework for the Preparation and Application of a Sampling Plan' and that the permitting status of any proposed treatment or disposal activity is clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

If the total quantity of waste material to be produced at or taken off site is hazardous waste and is 500kg or greater in any 12-month period, the developer will need to register with us as a hazardous waste producer. Refer to our website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency for more information.

Bentonite Breakout

Section 5.6 suggests that there will be underground cabling. A Bentonite Breakout Plan is currently not listed in section 5.14.6 as a construction management plan. If HDD is used, then a Bentonite Breakout Plan or a Drilling Fluid Breakout Management Plan is required to manage the associated risks. This should be included as part of a construction management plan.

Environmental Management Plans

We're pleased to note that the Applicant proposes to produce an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), and Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP), and a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) to support their DCO application.

Table 8-3, which summarises the environmental measures proposed during operation and maintenance states that the pollution prevention measures will be delivered through the oCEMP, but it should be in the oOEMP.

We encourage the Applicant to share drafts of these outline plans with us as early as possible. We assume that the Applicant will secure the submission of detailed plans via Requirements on the DCO. We are likely to request that we are consulted on the details submitted for approval under any such DCO requirements, so we ask that the Applicant considers this when drafting their DCO.

Foul Water Disposal

We agree that the potential pollution events affecting groundwater and surface water quality, associated with the generation of foul water onsite (construction, operation, decommissioning) should be scoped in. Any foul waste generated will need to be contained, and then either connected to a sewer, tankered away, or treated and discharged under permit. If not managed correctly it can greatly increase the about of nutrients, and other contamination, in receiving water courses and water bodies. We look forward to receiving further details of the foul water strategy as the proposal progresses.

If sewage will be discharged to public sewer, you should consult with the local water company to ensure that adequate sewer capacity is available, and no adverse effects will occur because of the connection. If treatment and discharge at the site is required, you should consider any potential impacts of this discharge and confirm that a water discharge activity permit will be sought. If road transport to an offsite disposal facility is required, then there should be regard for this within the waste management procedures.

Water Quality Monitoring

We support section 8.6.3 which says that a walkover hydrological survey of the Turbine Area will be carried out to ground truth the existing baseline conditions. However, further details of a monitoring plan should be provided.

Water quality monitoring should take place prior to, during and post construction. It allows water quality to be assessed and determine if there are any changes because

of the development. We recommend a water quality monitoring plan is produced that includes a suggestion of the locations, quantity and duration of sampling. It should sample upstream and downstream of any discharge points, and should reflect locational variation in the site, seasonal variation and weather variation, where possible.

From: [redacted]oulridgeparishcouncil.org.uk>
Sent: 23 September 2025 18:31
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Please see the response from Foulridge Parish Council below:

Due to the extreme disruption to local residents by the massive increase to heavy construction vehicles using the route through Colne, the Parish Council were against this routing for the construction of Calderdale Wind Farm.
This basic objection was reinforced by the numerous errors, increased content and lack of time and questions raised in the new Scoping Report which had a closing date for responses by 29th September, giving less than one month for responses to be registered. This was highlighted in the Stronger Together response to the CEP response to the Scoping Report September 25.

Therefore we would like all questions raised in the Stronger Together's response to the Scoping Report to be answered. This will allow those affected by this development to make a more informed decision.
Thank you.

Foulridge Parish Council

[redacted]

Parish Clerk to Foulridge Parish Council

Haworth with Stanbury Village Council

PO Box 621
Keighley
BD21 9HR

Email: clerk@haworhwithstanburyvillagecouncil-pc.gov.uk

The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

29 September 2025

Ref. EN0110023

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park (the proposed development).

Thank you for engaging with Haworth with Stanbury Village Council regarding this matter.

The Council would like to submit the attached document, prepared by *Stronger Together to Stop Calderdale Wind Farm*, as part of our response. Due to the technical nature of this consultation, we have relied on external expertise to provide a detailed response and while the document was not authored by the Council, we fully support its core arguments and conclusions.

In addition, the Council wishes to highlight a broader concern regarding the environmental implications of the proposed development. We remain unconvinced that the overall environmental benefits of the wind farm—when assessed across its full lifecycle—would sufficiently outweigh the adverse impacts on the landscape and local habitats. We therefore request a comprehensive lifecycle assessment that accounts for **all** environmental impacts, including but not limited to:

- Raw material extraction and processing
- Manufacturing and transportation
- Construction and commissioning
- Direct carbon release from peat moorland disturbance
- Operational energy use and maintenance
- Decommissioning, disposal, and site remediation

This assessment should transparently quantify both the environmental costs and benefits, including the energy and emissions associated with producing materials such as cement, concrete, and steel.

Only with such a full and balanced analysis can the true net environmental impact of the development be understood and properly evaluated.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Trudy Mahon

Chair

Stronger Together response to CEP Scoping Report, September 2025

Stronger Together to Stop Calderdale Wind Farm (ST) is a coalition of eight local groups who intend to prevent the construction of Calderdale Energy Park (aka Calderdale Wind Farm).

www.stopcalderdaleenergypark.com

The groups involved in this response are:

Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network (UCWN)
Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm (WV)
Walshaw Turbines Research Group (WTRG)
For Peat's Sake (FPS)

Stronger Together note the unhelpful structure of this Scoping Report (SR), compared to Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd.'s previous SR of 22 September 2023:

(https://portal.calderdale.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S1E3AQDW0CF00)

- The first SR was published on 22 September 2023; the first response from a consultee (the Ministry of Defence) was not even **received** until 17 October 2023 and consultees continued to respond until the end of November 2023.
- This current SR has a closing date for responses of 29 September 2025, giving consultees less than a month to respond.
- The 2023 SR had 151 pages.
- The current SR has 577 pages - about four times as many.
- The 2023 SR had a series of questions for consultees at the end of each section, which made it easy for consultees to respond.
- The current SR has no questions for consultees, which makes it not user-friendly at all.

Numerous egregious errors are identified and described throughout this response.

It is a matter of concern to us and should be for all consultees and the Planning Inspectorate that CWF Ltd. have taken so little care in the production of the current SR. We look to the Planning Inspectorate to insist on a correct SR so that consultees, statutory or otherwise, can make properly informed comments instead of wasting further time and money on responses to such an inaccurate document.

6. Ornithology

(Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network)

We make an initial comment regarding the independence of this scoping report as we believe all sections should give unbiased and objective information. We consider that this is undermined by such comments as:

Table 6.4: In respect of scoping out of non-target species "given the low potential for significant habitat loss, the limited scale of land take..."

and

6.65 in respect of Golden Plover " which may use the study area during key periods..."

The first statement fails to accept that this would be the largest wind farm in England covering 2352ha and incorporating 41 x 200 m high turbines and their associated foundations and infrastructure on one of the most nature protected areas of land in England. To state then that there is a low potential for habitat loss and limited scale of land take shows a lack of understanding of the scale of operations and magnitude of construction to achieve this proposal.

The second statement at a more detailed level understates the presence of Golden Plover. Since the Golden Plover are explicitly cited in the Special Protection Area (SPA), to suggest that they MAY use the study area during KEY periods is disingenuous.

We believe statements such as these are pre-judging the conclusion of any future report and are unacceptable in this context.

We note the term 'ornithological features' is used frequently instead of 'Birds'. We request that this term is no longer used: it is unnecessarily obtuse and we feel commodifies nature. We prefer plain English please.

The Ornithology Chapter fails to cross reference CEP's potential impacts on birds with the potential impacts on habitats/hydrology, although the two subjects are intimately linked. The birds are unable to exist unless their habitats including the peat hydrology are healthy.

Continuing the theme of the inaccurate habitat map presented at the non-statutory public consultation, this chapter continues to peddle the false premise about the lack of blanket bog on Walshaw Moor, stating in **6.3.6**. that vegetation consists "mainly of rotationally burned upland heath managed for Grouse with areas of blanket bog and rough grazing…."

Literature cited

We note that nesting dates of moorland birds in English, Welsh and Scottish uplands published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is not cited as reference material, and we request that this is referred to, and breeding dates noted. Other important documents which are not referred to include:

UK Biodiversity Framework
The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
DEFRA's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy
Natural England: New Definitions of Favourable Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland

Surveys

1] **6.3.4** states that "a small area of land would be excluded in the NE of the turbines area and subsequently to include new areas that include

access roads". It is not clear on the accompanying **figures 6.2 and 6.3** where the excluded area is.

2] None of the areas affected by proposed access roads and cable corridors are shown as areas where surveys are to be carried out. In particular this applies to peatland habitats affected by alternative routes A, B and C and potential cable corridors. These areas must be included within the survey, since the survey information would surely inform the selection of a preferred route. Parts of the wider Phase 2 SPA are within these search areas and birds would be affected by any proposed construction works within these areas.
We request that **Figure 6.3** is updated to show this information, and the full extent of surveys to be undertaken in 2025 and 2026 is fully noted.

National Policy Statement EN-5 states that "the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both on shore and offshore at an early stage in the development process"

We are concerned that, given the timetable of the works, set out in the programme document indicating that the Environmental Statement will be published in September 2026, there will be insufficient time to carry out this important survey work.

3] Baseline surveys

6.3.13 Field Surveys Overview
UCWN requested in their response to the 2023 Scoping Report (SR) that a winter roost raptor survey was carried out. This does not appear to have been scheduled in and we again request that this is carried out, to demonstrate the importance of this area of moorland for winter roosting for these birds specifically. **6.3.65** notes the importance of the area for winter roost for Hen Harrier, but we can see no other formal survey of these or other raptors.

UCWN also requested that a control site be set up to aid future monitoring, and this was also requested by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). We cannot find any details of such monitoring in the SR.

We do not accept that land access restrictions are a major hurdle to achieving additional winter roost information, or control monitoring sites, since the Walshaw Estate owns most of the land surrounding the turbine area where such surveys would be done. This is all comparable peatland that forms part of the wider Phase 2 SPA. We consider this to be an important omission from the scoping report that must be addressed.

Given that this proposal is targeted at a site of national and international importance for birds, we consider it imperative that surveys are carried out to the highest standard to ensure a thorough baseline of the bird population living, breeding, feeding and roosting on and crossing Walshaw Moor is completely understood.

While we endorse the need for post construction monitoring as set out in **Table 6.2**, this does not provide equivalent data that comparable control and reference sites would.

There are no surveys cited that consider the effects of lighting on birds and particularly passage birds. It is known that artificial lighting can have a detrimental and disruptive effect on bird migration as well as local breeding populations of birds and this should be fully considered.

Passage Birds

The SR considers some passage birds which we note would be picked up in the vantage point (VP) surveys in spring and autumn. However, we are not satisfied that this would pick up high-level migrants of species such as Swift, particularly as surveys of these birds are planned in March and October, with Swift passage taking place around May and July -August. We realise that such high-altitude surveys would be challenging, however placing 200 m turbines on the highest land in the south Pennines is unprecedented, and could have a detrimental impact

on Swift and other migratory species that follow the high ground of the Pennine Chain. These vulnerable, declining, red-listed birds are understood to be susceptible to the low frequency infrasound emitted by wind turbines which can lead to disorientation.

We believe this is an under researched area which could have unintended consequences for bird populations, far beyond the proposed wind turbine site.

Receptors identified

6.3.6 states 'Habitats within the Turbine Area consist mainly of rotationally burned upland heath managed for grouse with areas of blanket bog and rough grazing (predominantly for sheep).' This is wrong and doesn't even match with the UK Habitat Classification Distribution map shown in chapter 7, which indicates that the largest part of the turbine area is blanket bog and degraded blanket bog, with upland heathland shown as a smaller proportion. We still consider that this map is inaccurate since we consider much of the area classified as upland heath is in fact degraded blanket bog.

We will expand further on this factor because it is a crucial part of understanding the importance of the peatlands on Walshaw Moor, which throughout this SR are underemphasised and wrongly defined. Both the active and damaged areas of blanket bog are recognised by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee citation for the SAC, which includes Walshaw Moor, and these are classed as Annex 1 habitats. This is confirmed by Natural England who state that:

'All blanket bog is a Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitat, and active blanket bog is a priority habitat under the Directive… the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat "encompasses all areas of blanket bog supporting semi-natural blanket bog vegetation, whether or not it may be defined as 'active'.'

Blanket bog habitat, both active and degraded, is the reason why this area is so important for birds.

6.3.60 UCWN have extensive records of raptors using Walshaw Moor and can confirm that there are at least two further species of owl including Short Eared Owl and Long Eared Owl known to breed on the moor and which are not noted in the SR. **6.3.60** also fails to mention Merlin, which is one of the birds cited in the designation of the SPA because of the internationally important breeding populations of this bird. Tawny Owl, Hobby, and Marsh Harrier are other raptors that have been recorded within the turbine area.
Raptor breeding habitat is not confined to cloughs, gritstone escarpments and dilapidated buildings but also heather and bilberry and flat open sites.
Other species not noted in the scoping report which can be present within the turbine area in significant numbers are Greylag Geese and Pink-footed Geese, and also Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper, and Common Sandpiper.

6.3.66 There are no target species listed in **6.3.16**. Can this be addressed?

Construction
6.4 4 states that the design of the turbine area has been adapted to minimise impacts. The design of the proposed development should take account of survey work yet to be completed, and we would expect the survey work to inform the design and turbine layout. If this is not the case, there seems little point in carrying out these surveys.

6.4.5 sets out the purpose of the outline Construction Management Plan and **6.4.7** states that construction work would avoid the peak nesting season. This is different to what we were told at the non-statutory consultation which was that construction would avoid the nesting season.

We have a number of concerns here:

1) The nesting season may change from year to year and April - May cessation in construction may not be appropriate every year.

2) The breeding season takes place over a much longer period than April to May, with some species arriving on the moor in February,

and not leaving until July. There are many fledgling birds on the moor until late June. These birds are extremely vulnerable as they are too young to fly and we are concerned that these species would be seriously affected by proposed construction works.

3) We are concerned about the phrase 'wherever practicable' in relation to construction work avoiding the peak breeding season. What are the circumstances where there would be construction work carried out during April and May?

4) **6.4.8** refers to the nesting season, is this April -May as noted above, or does it extend to encompass the whole nesting season, we believe it should, as the young of Lapwing etc are still at a fledgling stage in late June.

6.4.9 refers to the use of handheld equipment. This seems like an inserted generic paragraph: surely while desirable for wildlife, the use of handheld equipment will not be practical for this scheme.

6.4.10 states that artificial light will be avoided 'wherever practicable.' On a site of this importance for wildlife there should surely be a ban on any works taking place when artificial light is required. Again, it would be useful to understand the parameters for when this would not be practical.

6.4.11 states that all putrescible and edible wasteful be stored and disposed of in a timely manner. This must be off site.

6.4 15 there is no mention of habitat restoration during the operational phase of the wind farm, yet a major justification for this project being acceptable on this highly protected blanket bog habitat has been the restoration that is proposed.

6.4.1 states that 'consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur.' However, no time scale is given, and it is not clear if any environmental measures would take place during the construction phase.

Are we correct in assuming then that habitat restoration would not take place until the decommissioning stage?

We are also unsure of the intent of any proposed restoration, as removing the turbine structures and reinstating a veneer of peat like material over foundations and hard standings might result in the moor being returned to something like its prior appearance, but not its physical character.

Table 6.2 We endorse the RSPB's concern that not all VP surveys locations were located outside the Turbine Area, and are uncertain why there are access restrictions given that the Walshaw Estate owns the surrounding land.

Table 6.4 We do not agree with the premise that there is low potential for habitat loss and a limited scale of land take. Consequently, we do not consider it appropriate that all non-target bird species are screened out. Species that should be "common and widespread" such as Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Raven, Wheatear, Whinchat and Stonechat are not necessarily as common as they should be and should not be scoped out.

At a detailed level, we note that no mention has been made of the potential effects of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and its impacts on birds due to localised fragmentation of the habitats and loss of feeding and breeding areas, as we assume the BESS compound will be fenced off. It would be useful to know to what extent the selection of the BESS site will involve consideration of impact on the bird population.

(author: PB 12.9.25)

7: Biodiversity

(Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network)

We make an initial comment regarding the independence of this SR as we believe all sections should give unbiased and objective information. A major concern is the inaccuracy of the description of the moorland

habitats, particularly in respect of this chapter, and the general under-representation of blanket bog and over-emphasis on areas of dry heath.

There are some significant errors in this section of the report. **7.4.20** refers to sites in Scotland, while **7.5.14** and **7.5.15** are almost identical. Such egregious errors undermine our confidence that this is an accurate and professional report.

We are also concerned about the failure to cross-reference information between this chapter, and the previous chapter on ornithology, and the chapter on peat hydrology, all of which are fundamentally linked.

We are concerned about the lack of cross-reference between this section and Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual which considers mitigation. As restoration of the degraded areas of blanket bog is a key part of the Catchment Management Plan (CMP), we would expect consistent and accurate information to be emerging about how this is planned. However there appears to have been no collaboration between the authors of this chapter and that of Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual. At **7.5.27** reference is made only to mitigation at the decommissioning phase, 'this plan will aim to return the Proposed Development to a condition that aligns with the ecological and ornithological character and conservation objectives of the…. SPA' whereas at **10.4.6** reference is made to planting grasses alongside tracks and tree planting. Any thought of a comprehensive plan for restoration of areas of degraded blanket bog *NOW* seems to be ignored.

Literature

The following documents are not cited in the Policy Section of chapter 7:

UK Biodiversity Framework
The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
DEFRA's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy
Natural England: New Definitions of Favourable Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland

Surveys

7.3.3 states that to date surveys have only been carried out within the Turbine Area. If the survey work is to inform the preferred access route and cable routes into the site, this needs to be carried out in sufficient time to ensure this information can be used to inform the design.

Table 7.2 does not include an amphibians survey, apart from Great Crested Newt, although amphibians are mentioned in **7.5.22** and **table 7.13**, nor are they mentioned in the list of receptors in **7.4.22**.

The SSSI impact area (MAGIC) is not cited in **Table 7.3** with particular reference to the potential cable corridor and access routes.

7.4.7 states that in accordance with the Catchment Management Plan (CMP) , up to 100ha per annum will be restored.

1) Will there be an assessment as part of the scoping process to determine how much of this has been carried out and how successful this has been given that monitoring has not been carried out by Natural England (NE) since 2017?

2) Is it the intent to continue the process of the habitat restoration and management on Walshaw Moor as outlined in the CMP, during the construction of the wind farm, or, as implied in **7.5.25**, is the intent to continue restoration at the decommissioning stage?

7.4.8 states that 'Ongoing monitoring has not yet been provided but is subject to ongoing discussion with Natural England and the Walshaw Moor Estate.' It is of great concern to us that this SR is based on a complete lack of monitoring from NE since the commencement of the Catchment Management Plan.

The surveys need to take account of the impact of permanently lighting the turbine towers during the operational phase.

Habitats

7 4.10 doesn't mention flushes, rocky outcrops, bracken and woodland.

7.4.12 states that habitat surveys will be carried out AFTER identification of the preferred option. This is repeated in **7.4.25**. We are highly critical of this approach as we consider it imperative that some form of habitat survey informs the selection of the preferred routes for cable corridors and access routes. Should we assume that the selection of a preferred route will not be influenced in any way by the habitats that are potentially crossed?

This reinforces our opinion that these surveys are little more than a token gesture. Furthermore, National Policy Statement EN-5 states that 'the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both onshore and offshore at an early stage in the development process.' We are also concerned that, given the timetable of the works set out in the programme document indicating that the Environmental Statement will be published in September 2026, that there will be insufficient time available to carry out important survey work, as survey timings are very specific for species including bats.

7.4.14 states that 'after blanket bog, the most common habitat is dry heath which accounts for 544 ha (24.57%) of the Turbine Area including 513.54 ha of h1b5 dry heaths; upland heath (H4030)' which was in varying condition (225.54ha in good condition and 243.28 ha in poor condition)." This SR therefore shows that over 50% of the site is considered to be blanket bog, and we are confident that large sections of dry heath are in fact degraded blanket bog.

7.5.14 and **7.4 15** (which are almost identical) state that the oCEMP, oPMP and PWMS will be tailored to the ecology of the proposed development, and that biodiversity protection zones and areas will be identified. Are these a special designations that we have not heard about? Given that the existing SPA, SAC and SSSI designations are recognised as affording protection internationally and nationally why is a further layer required?

Insufficient consideration has been given to the importance of hydrological connectivity across the moorland, not only to the

mosaic of Peatland habitats but also the internationally important assemblage of CHEGD fungi, for which Calderdale is particularly well known, We know that the hydrological influence of the peatlands and blanket bog has an important impact on the fungi which thrive on grasslands below the moorland but sometimes outside the Turbine Area. Consequently, impact on the hydrology of the moorlands will have an impact on these important areas too. This must be explored fully in the ES.

The impact of the BESS and the installation of an area of fenced of hard paved industrial zone within the moorland has not been addressed in this chapter of the SR. Installation of security fencing and water storage bunds and changes to the land form to accommodate the specific requirements of the BESS have not been considered. This could include:

1) Fragmentation of habitats caused by fencing which is not wildlife permeable.

2) Creation of hardstandings and new buildings which will destroy habitat.

3) Noise, lighting and disturbance associated with operation and maintenance of the BESS.

4) Fire risk to vulnerable peatlands.

Construction

7.15.8 states that a sensitive lighting strategy will be employed to avoid unnecessary light pollution minimising the impact of lighting on sensitive species. However **5.14** suggests that some operations, including turbine movements, would be carried out over a 24 hour period to accommodate transport to site avoiding major disruption to local transport networks. It is vital that this area is fully explored as the implication is that there would be frequent times when lighting would be necessary.

7.5.20 refers to the mitigation and compensation for the loss of habitats. UCWN want to stress that irreplaceable habitats such as blanket bog are not possible to replace in any meaningful time scale. Consequently, we want all loss of habitats to be minimised otherwise the integrity of the entire peatland across the Turbine Area will be at risk.

7.5.21 notes the need for regular attendance on site during the operational period. The oCEMP must therefore take account of the sensitivities of many of the bird and animal species to disturbance, particularly during the breeding season, and timing of maintenance works needs to consider this.

7.5 27 states what elements of the scheme might be left in situ on completion of the project. The ES must give a clear assessment of the impact of leaving structures in place permanently and state precisely what would be left in place and particularly how this may affect the hydrology of the remaining peatland.

Table 7.10

In its Scoping Opinion of 2023 Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (CMBC) notes that assessments should be continued beyond the site boundary, but it is not explicitly stated that this will happen. Since blanket bog is a mosaic of interconnected habitats, there will be effects felt beyond the extent of the Turbine Area, so it is vital that any assessment covers these areas.

Table 7.2 states that bats will be surveyed within the Turbine Area. However, the SNC guidance states that bat surveys need to take account of the location and extent of commuting to foraging habitat used by bats which may include not just the site but also flight paths and habitats in the surrounding landscape. Since there is a large and diverse population of bats in and around Hardcastle Crags, it should be considered whether additional survey work needs to be completed to cover any bats moving between Walshaw Moor and Hardcastle Crags.

CMBC also requested the use of static detectors at height. While we recognise the difficulty of achieving this on open areas, we ask that this is explored within woodland areas within the Turbine Area, where this might be more easily achieved.

Table 7.12 sets out the definition of importance for Ecological Features. While the SAC, SPA features are noted as being of international importance, and the SSSI status of national importance, there is, however, no mention of the importance of this site towards meeting our obligations as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This requires protections for nature in the planning system to be maintained with the goal of providing "effective conservation and management" of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans by 2030. It is not possible for the UK to meet its international obligations if sites such as Walshaw Moor are irreparably damaged.

Table 7.13 gives no detail whatsoever of the construction process or operations. The section Operation of Wind Turbines **table 13** cites collision with turbine blades as a hazard for bats but fails to mention barotrauma.

Further baseline data

7.7. 15 states that further surveys are planned for potential cable routes and access routes and that once preferred designs and routes are agreed with the design team, surveys will be agreed with the design team based on the nature of the habitats and locations they are crossing.
We object strongly to the implication that the determination of the preferred route will be based solely on commercial, logistical and economic factors etc with no consideration of the ecology or of how potential new land uses, for cabling and access in the wider area might affect connectivity for wildlife, potential fragmentation of habitats and disturbance to the wider environment. We consider this is a major omission that should be timetabled in, and fully described in any decision making.

If this is not the case, the surveys proposed can only be used to inform small scale changes, within the preferred route and not be used to avoid areas of greatest value for wildlife, nor will appropriate information be available to consultees to make an informed decision about the scheme.

Table 7.15 implies that these surveys will only be carried 'where necessary' within cable corridor and site access search areas, despite extensive parts of these corridors and areas lying within zones of international importance for wildlife.

The long-term impacts of these installations need to be fully understood as we understand these elements will remain permanently in situ. There will be long term impacts arising from decommissioning that are not mentioned: for example habitats will be reinstated over areas of foundations where the hydrology has been completely altered, and it will not be possible to reinstate these habitats to their original status. This appears not to be understood.

PB 22.9.25

8: Hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and peat

(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

Comments on the peat slide risk laid out in **8.3.26** and **8.3.29** are given in the section on Chapter 12 Access Traffic and Transport.

8.3.15 States that “Some borehole records are available”. In fact many households and farms around the edge of the turbine area are served by boreholes and culverted surface flow from the turbine area dating back decades or centuries. A correct account of the water use by these households and farms can only be obtained by going house to house.

The Peat and Hydrology models used to design the Scoping Report layout are inadequate.

The information on peat and hydrology published by CWF Ltd and used to design the layout repeatedly published in the Scoping Report and at the Non-statutory Consultation is so inadequate that we believe the only option is to withdraw the Scoping Report; remove all turbine layouts; layouts; and also withdraw the layout published for the Non-statutory Consultation. The status of the Non-statutory Consultation which was based on this turbine layout must then be decided by the Secretary of State, advised by the Planning Inspectorate.

To comment here on the Scoping Report account of Peat and Hydrology in detail would be to condone the process that has led to the present position. Such a layout should not be given status by being published in the Scoping Report and for the Non-statutory Consultation. It was not necessary for any maps of this layout to be presented in the Scoping Report and all the maps that give it status by being so published should be withdrawn. A list of the relevant maps is given at the end of this section.

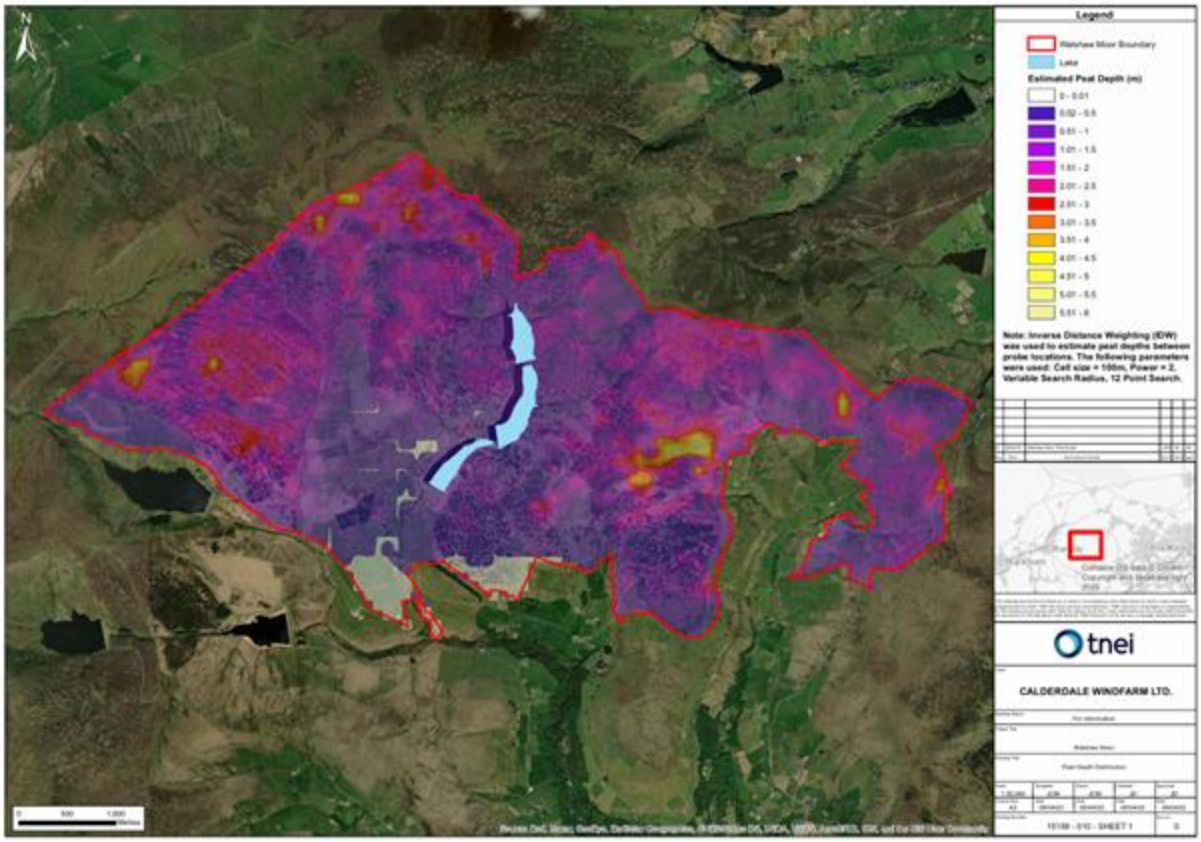
We therefore reserve full comment on Peat and Hydrology pending the withdrawal of all layout maps both in the Consultation Brochure and throughout the Scoping Report since they were designed on the basis of inadequate information about peat and hydrology.

Consultees could not know the intended status of the layout. None of the layout maps presented in the Consultation Brochure were described as "indicative" and the word "indicative" does not appear anywhere in the brochure. The repeatedly published layout was designed on the basis of two models: one of Peat Depth and one of Hydrology.

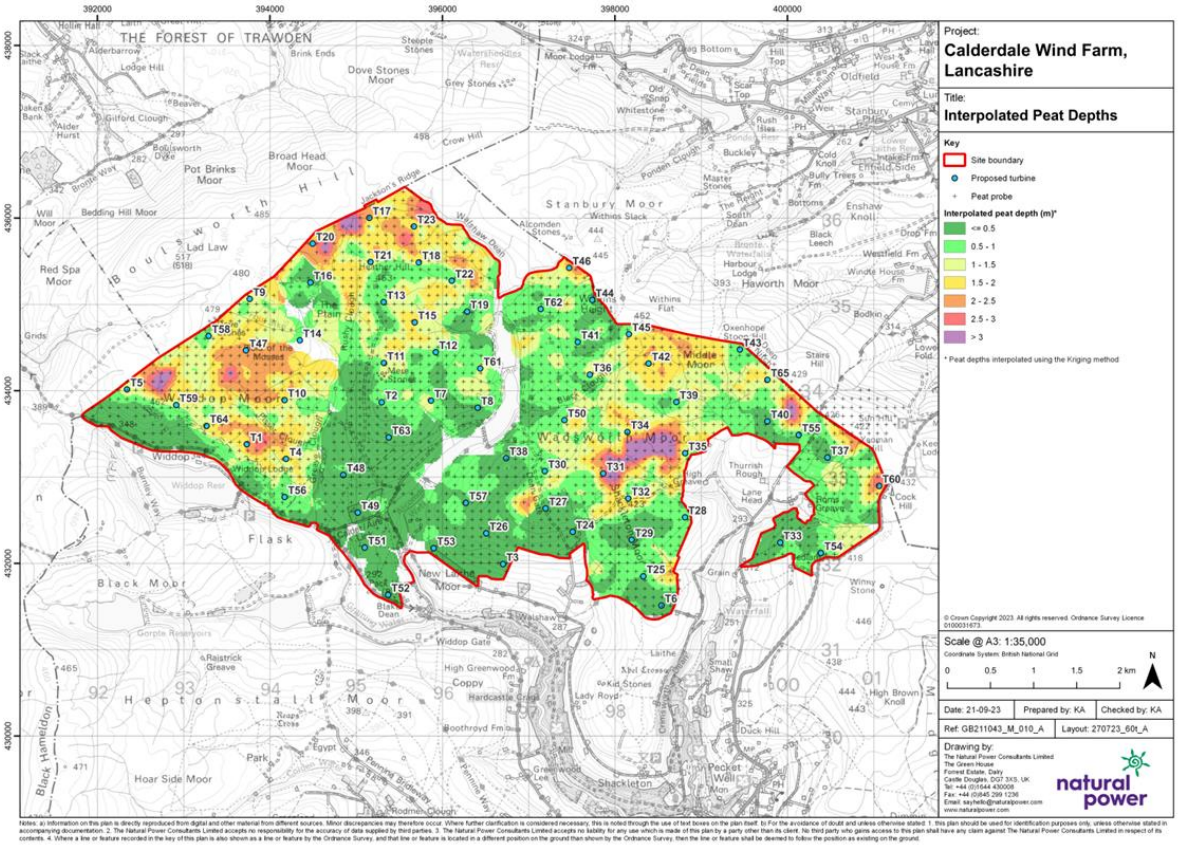
Our analysis will focus on what the SR calls "western Turbine Area" which is the triangular area west of Greave Clough.

Peat Depth Models

The published CWF Ltd. Peat Model currently consists of a Kriging-interpolated map of peat depths surveyed within the turbine area. The survey was made by TNEI in February 2022. The data set has not been published, but three maps of the data set have been published by CWF Ltd. and these are shown below as Peat Model 1, Peat Model 2 and Peat Model 3. The probing grid used by TNEI is preserved in Peat Model 2 and was based on a 100-metre interval.

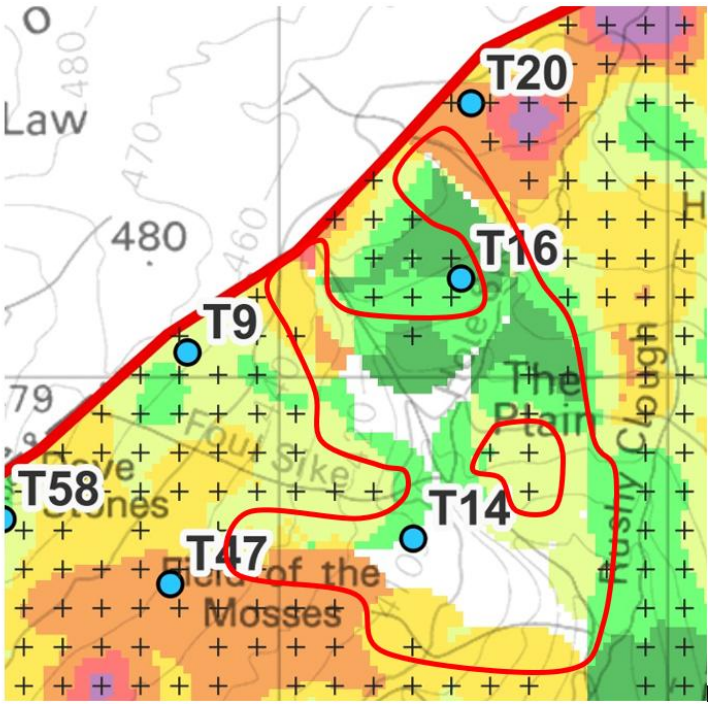


Peat Model 1 uses an inferior interpolation algorithm (inverse square distance weighting). A large area west of Greave Clough (usually called “the western turbine area” in the SR) might seem to have been adequately surveyed, but the algorithm has covered up the problem by using depth data far from the survey failure to be used to colour the map.



Peat model 2: Published September 2023 in the CWF Scoping Report

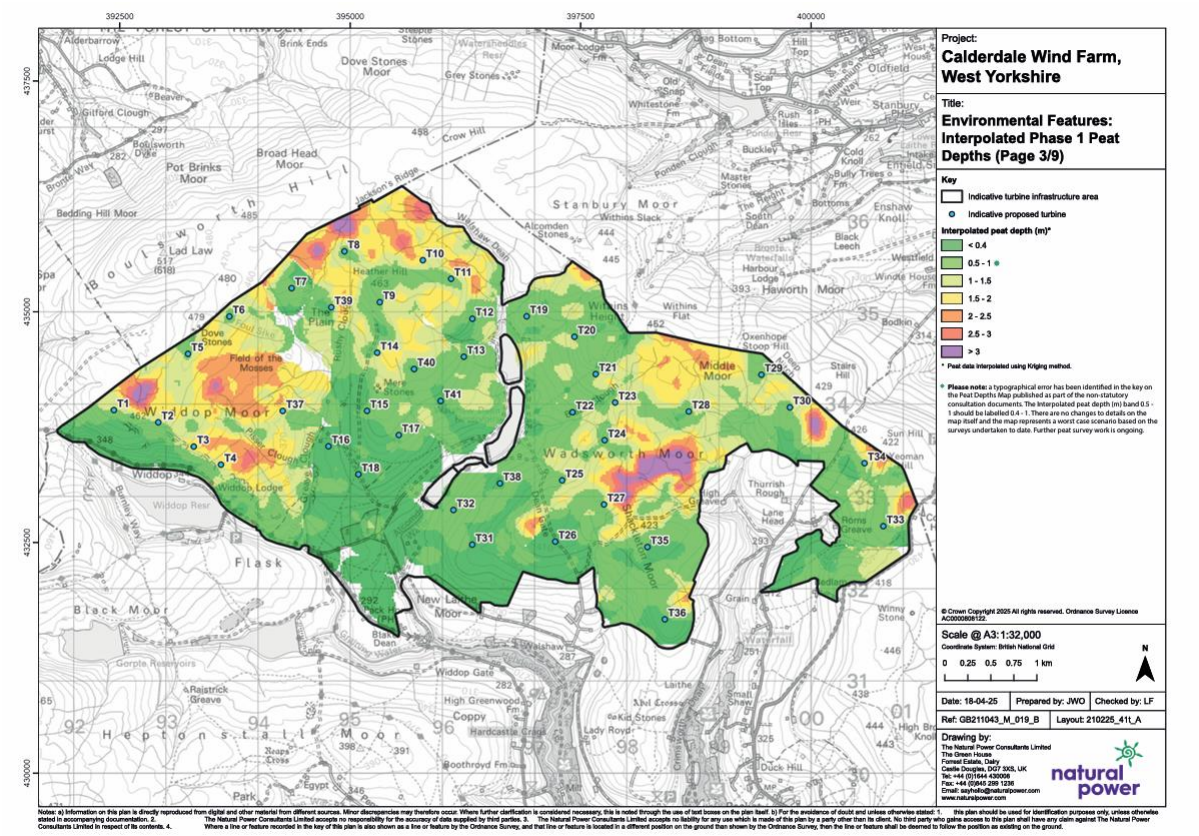
Peat Model 2 uses the superior Kriging algorithm to interpolate the depths found in the survey. It also shows the probing grid. Notice that probe points are shown outside the NE turbine area which correspond to the mapped hump in Peat Model 1. Natural Power should be strongly commended for publishing the probing crosses and for leaving some of the map blank where the probing carried out by TNEI had failed. Because of high standards pertaining at Natural Power, the Kriging algorithm did not colour the blank area west of Greave Clough (near T14) because the probing had failed there. The extent of the probing failure is clear from the absent crosses.



Area west of Greave Clough where the probing fails and the Kriging algorithm is out of its depth.

Inside the red line above the colouring of the peat depths is based on a wholly insufficient probing interval. The Kriging algorithm is guessing at depths based on distant probed depths. Once the distances are too great the algorithm does not attempt any colour and the map is left white. CWF Ltd were informed of the problem in this area by Robbie Moore M.P. in a letter from the House of Commons in October 2024. Far from remedying the problem, CWF Ltd. used the deficient Peat model to create a new 41-turbine iteration of the layout, published in the Consultation Brochure on 29 April 2025, and used throughout the Scoping Report. The area shown above may seem small as a percentage of the whole, but it is large as a percentage of the area west of Greave Clough and it is this area that we are discussing because of its relevance to catastrophic flooding.

Despite the high standards at Natural Power, the definition of "deep peat" in England is > 40 cm while in Scotland it is > 50 cm. Natural Power used the wrong definition to create Peat Model 2 which therefore lacks the 40 cm contour that defines "deep peat". This fault was remedied in Peat Model 3, which recalculated the colours without using any new data.



Peat model 3: Published for the Launch of CEP Non-statutory Consultation 29 April 2025 and corrected twice on 1 May 2025. Peat model 3 uses the same data as model 2 to colour the present depth of "deep peat" in England correctly. The model now has a 40 cm contour around the dark green area.

At publication on 29 April 2025, Peat Model 3 had two glaring errors. A turbine T42 was sited where T38 is now to be found; and the key had an error in that the scale read < 0.4 and 0.5 -1 with a gap for depths between 0.4 and 0.5. The T42/T38 error was corrected at 10.30 on 1 May 2025 after it had been pointed out by a member of the public at 09:06 on the same day. The scale error was corrected by the insertion of the note now present below the key. This note could not be inserted in the glossy version of the Consultation Brochure, so a sticker was inserted carrying the same information. The blank area west of Greave Clough remains in Peat Model 3. No further survey work had been done to remedy the survey problem that had now persisted from February 2022 until at least 29 April 2025. Survey work was then impossible until 1 August 2025 because of the ground nesting bird season.

The design iteration that led to the layout published at the Non-statutory consultation and used throughout the Scoping Report for CEP was therefore made using an incomplete peat model. That design originally had 42 turbines, with T38 lying between T37 and T39 and T42 where T38

now lies. This fact (evident from the turbine numbering) was confirmed by CWF lead consultant Donald Mackay at the Trawden Exhibition of CEP on 29 May 2025. When asked about the anomalous position of T38 in the layout he said, “T38 was originally on the blank area of the peat survey, so we moved it.” The deficiency in the Peat Model was therefore obvious at the design meeting.
A fossil of the 42-turbine layout persists in the Scoping Report, because the Shadow Flicker map **18-1** still has T42 and no T38. The cause will be clear to any expert user of windPRO software. A second fossil is the stated power of CEP. It was intended to be 42 times 7.2 MW which is 302 MW. In fact it is 41 times 7.2 MW which is 295 MW.

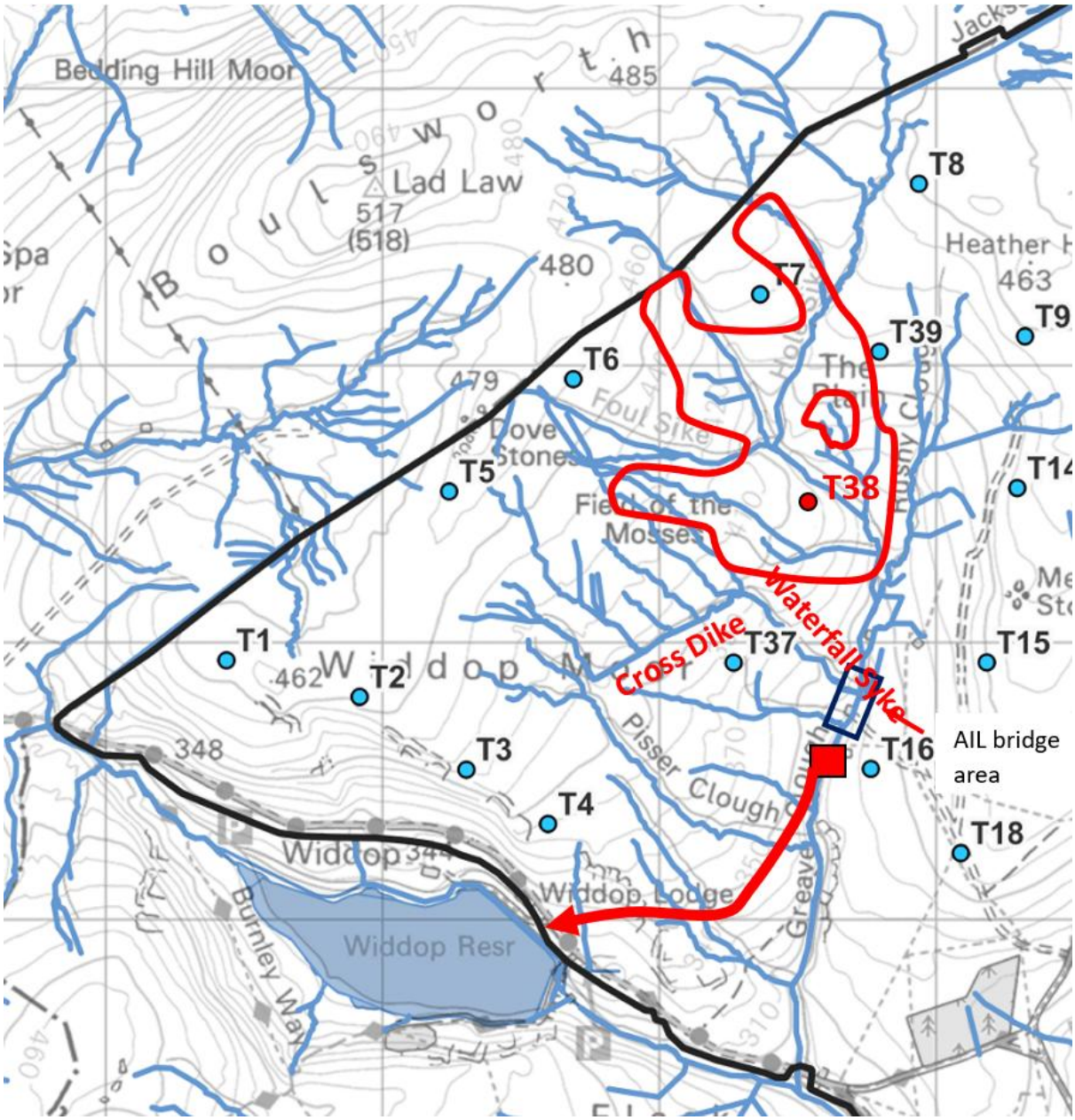
Hydrology
The CWF Ltd peat model used to design the layout repeatedly mapped in the Scoping Report is therefore at its most deficient in the only named area that **4.3.11** acknowledges is at risk of surface water flooding. “A large area at risk of surface water flooding, on the western side of the Turbine Area, is the Waterfall Syke and Cross Dike.” No other area is named in the Scoping Report.
It is this western side of the Turbine Area (west of Greave Clough) where the worsty hydrology and peat errors in the models used to design the 42/41-turbine layout are concentrated.

A very serious omission is made in the hydrology models **Figures 8-1, 8-2, 8-3** and in the hydrology map presented at the Non-statutory Consultation. Most of the runoff in the Greave Clough catchment is intercepted by a sluice and sent by a tunnel to Widdop Reservoir as shown below. This sluice and tunnel is not represented at all on any hydrology map published by CWF Ltd.

Greave Clough sluice and tunnel in calm conditions.

In a storm the sluice and tunnel can be overwhelmed and the water goes over the sluice dam down a spillway designed for the purpose, direct to Hebden Bridge via Graining Water. The hydrology maps used to design the 42/41-turbine layout therefore do not correspond to peak flow.

We can summarise all these deficiencies on a detail of the hydrology map published for the non-statutory consultation. The hydrology maps published in Scoping Report are very weak and do not permit analysis of hydrology and layout.



The deficiencies of the Peat and Hydrology models west of Greave Clough.

The red outline shows the extent of probing failure in the peat depth model. Cross Dike and Waterfall Syke are at the centre of the surface water flooding risk described in 4.3.11. The original position of T38 is shown. The sluice in Greave Clough and the tunnel carrying normal flow to Widdop Reservoir are shown in red. Greave Clough cannot be bridged for AIL delivery except in the box shown west of T16 where there is currently a footbridge. Walshaw Moor Estate quadbike tracks climb the 11% slope west of this footbridge.

Access to T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7 and T37 therefore requires transit of terrain whose hydrology and peat were inadequately understood at the

design meeting. Coding on maps published by CWF Ltd suggest this design meeting was at the end of February 2025. It is much too early to publish any kind of layout west of Greave Clough, and the Scoping Report need not do so anyway. All layouts should be withdrawn from the Scoping Report.

The Scoping Report is part of the document sequence that forms the legal foundation of the proposal. It is not in the interests of Consultees, the investors in CWF Ltd. or the Secretary of State representing the British people that the Scoping Report should remain unrevised.
The following maps imply that the dangerous layout has a status that is not justified by the information available to CWF Ltd when it was designed.

The following maps in the Scoping Report give status to a layout that should now be explicitly withdrawn until proper work has been done in the area.
10-1 National Character Areas
10-2 Landscape Designations
10-3 Registered Parks and Gardens
10-4 Green belt
10-5 Visual Receptors
10-6 Blade Tip ZoV
10-7 Hub height ZoTV
13-1 Noise Sensitive Receptors
18-1 Study Area Shadow Flicker.
The following maps published for the Non-statutory Consultation display the layout designed on the basis of the inadequate information.
Proposed Turbine Layout [p 14]
International and National Designations [p 18]
Peat Depth and Hydrology [p 19]
Public Access and Cultural Heritage [p 20]

(Author: NIPM 22/09/25)

10: Landscape and visual

This response has been prepared behalf of Stronger Together to Stop Calderdale Windfarm by Penny Bennett who is a Chartered Landscape Architect with 44 years of experience.

Literature cited

The following reports need to be documented / referred to:

Visual Representation of Development Proposals TGN 06/19 (Landscape Institute) although under review it is the most comprehensive guidance for technical visualisations used in LVIA

Planning for onshore wind, Research Briefing for House of Commons Felicia Rankl Oct 2023

Study area

10.3.2 states that the assessment of cable connection would concentrate on a 1km buffer either side of the proposed route. There may well be points at which the cable corridor would have an impact on mature trees, groups of trees or woodland. Where this is the case, professional judgement should be used to extend the visual envelope appropriately.

Relevant Baseline Conditions: landscape character

10.3.4 states that the relevant landscape character areas will be verified on site and refined where appropriate. It is also good practice to review the landscape character information being used.

10.3.6 the author refers to weathered 'tors'. These are features of granite landscapes such as Dartmoor; gritstone features are termed outcrops. The inaccurate description continues further down this paragraph when it states that 'Landcover is predominantly open moorland, largely rough grassland…' This is incorrect. The moorland is **not** largely rough grassland and the National Character Area (NCA) 36 goes to some lengths to reinforce the importance and extent of the blanket bog areas which is usefully summarised in the table below:

7.2 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority habitats

The NCA includes the following areas of mapped priority habitats (as mapped by the national UK BAP habitat inventory March 2011 (unless stated)) Footnotes denote local/expert interpretation.

Habitat	Area (ha)	% of NCA
Blanket Bog	28,702	24%
Broadleaved Woodland (National Inventory of Woodland & Trees)	3,142	3%
Upland Heathland	1,419	1%
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	721	1%
Lowland Meadows	773	1%
Purple Moor-grass & Rush Pastures	613	1%
Floodplain Grazing Marsh	99	<1%
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	15	<1%
Upland Calcareous Grassland[1]	88	<1%
Upland Hay Meadows[2]	15	<1%
Fens	348	<1%
Lowland Heath[3]	18	<1%
Lowland Raised Bog	18	<1%

Source: Natural England (2011)

To say that the mosaic of upland landscapes is of ecological value is an underestimate, given much of the upland plateau in the South Pennines has international and national wildlife designations. This is reinforced in the summary of the first page of NCA 36 which states that "The area contains internationally important mosaics of moorland habitats"

10.3.8 cites wind farms in the vicinity. Those on Todmorden Moor should be included in the list.

Relevant Baseline Conditions: Landscape Designations

Table 10.1 does not include the Nidderdale National Landscape, and this should be added.

Viewpoint Assessment

10 3.25 notes that no viewpoints have been selected in relation to the site access search areas or cable corridor search areas. While it is understood that the identification of specific visual receptors is not appropriate at this stage, the SR should confirm that the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) has been used to help to inform route selection, particularly where there is a chance that areas of mature trees and woodland may be affected by cable and access routes, and loss of such trees and woodland due to cable works would have a visual impact.

Table 10.2 Proposed viewpoint locations

It is unclear at what stage viewpoints will be finalised. **Table 10.2** includes a number of new viewpoints which were omitted from the 2023 SR and in **10.3.23** and **10.3.24** the parameters for viewpoint selection are set out. It is stated that stakeholder feedback will be taken account of, but it is uncertain how this will happen. **Table 10.4** summarises comment from stakeholders from the 2023 SR and a number of important viewpoints are highlighted as missing in 2023, which are still omitted two years later for example:

Sheepstones Edge
The Yorkshire Three Peaks
Haworth, the Parsonage
Blackstone Edge
Leeds Liverpool Canal between Blackburn and Barrowford

The comments in **table 10.4** say that the viewpoint selection has been refined and altered in response to the previous SR, although we note the landscape and visual SR was written when turbine heights of between 149m and 200m high were being considered. Now the turbine heights are confirmed at 200m high the selection of viewpoints will cover a comparatively larger area. It is stated that viewpoints will be reviewed as the design process evolves, but at what point can stakeholders discuss this with the applicant?

Given the vast area over which this development will be visible, we would like to see viewpoints also from:

Lund Tower, above Cowling
Simon's Seat on the Bolton Estate in the Dales
Pinhaw Beacon above Lothersdale
Within the Peak District.

Environmental Measures

10.4.1 states 'Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur.' The NCA gives very clear guidance in the statements of environmental opportunity on the opportunities to restore and improve ecological links between moorland habitats, restoring degraded areas of blanket bog to active sphagnum dominated bog to promote peat formation, and heath communities where matt grass has become dominant.

This needs to be so much more than a 'consideration' but rather a complete ethos which thoroughly understands the critical importance of the landscape which is to be altered and embraces every opportunity to restore and enhance the moorland environment.

10.4.2 - 10.4.4 describe the scope for landscape design to mitigate the potential landscape and visual effects.

Given the importance of the ecological features on the potential turbine area, will there be a hierarchy of mitigation between issues of landscape and visual importance and ecological importance, and will this be clearly set out and made transparent in the ES?

Construction

10.4.6 refers to the routing and siting of elements of the proposed development to avoid notable landscape features. How are these notable landscape features defined, and, for instance, do these correspond with important ecological features such as blanket bog?

The 'key potential mitigation measures' miss the point completely with regard to the restoration of the blanket bog. The objectives state that native grass/ moorland species to be planted to assist in blending the track into the surrounding moorland context. Given that grasslands make up a small percentage of the areas on Walshaw Moor the emphasis here is misguided. Meanwhile mention of woodland creation (when blanket bog is not even mentioned) is bordering on the irrelevant. The mitigation process needs to consider what the objectives are in the restoration of the vegetation. It seems that the aim is to recreate the vegetation patterns that were here prior to development which in places is degraded habitat brought about by years of mismanagement, not to take the opportunity to restore an internationally important area of blanket bog, for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood control and protection of water quality.

There are the clear objectives set out in the NCA which provides clear and concise guidance that should be followed. The oLEMP would also need to fully understand the objectives of the Catchment Management Plan, and the requirements of any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

The statement that careful consideration will be made of any planting proposals to complement the landscape character is worrying and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the ecological value of the landscape of the proposed turbine area. Restoration must take full account of the restoration of the peatland vegetation and hydrology and understand the challenges of restoring irreplaceable and irreparable peatland habitats.

It is hugely concerning that the restoration of this precious landscape is being entrusted to those that appear to have no grasp of its importance.

Scope of the assessment

Table 10.4 reviews comments made by consultees. A recurring comment refers to need for cumulative assessment but there is no detail given as to what cumulative effects should be considered. These should include cumulative sequential effects along key public rights of way, including the Pennine Way in both directions, considering the effects from the furthest point north and south from where the proposal would be seen.
This will reinforce the massive scale of the visual impact on this path. Other important routes where cumulative sequential effects should be considered include:

The Pennine Bridleway
Brontë Way
Leeds Liverpool Canal
Calderdale Way
Burnley Way
Pendle Way
Calder Aire Link
E2 European Long-Distance Path
Scenic road routes: Widdop Road
A6033 from Hebden Bridge to Oxenhope

A further point made by UCWN when commenting on the 2023 SR was that the sense of openness should be considered. This is not quite the same as the sense of openness considered in a planning context which is related to the green belt, but the sense of being able to experience wide open spaces unimpaired by built development.

Effects scoped out from the Detailed Assessment

Table 10.5 states that no townscape assessments will be carried out in the urban parts of the study area. We consider that there will be sufficient impact on the urban areas to merit townscape studies which should be considered for Haworth, Heptonstall, Trawden, Pecket Well, Stanbury and Oxenhope as skylines and backdrops to these developments will be affected by this proposal.

The effects arising from the decommissioning phase should be considered as there are likely to be long term changes resulting from the reinstatement of vegetation over hard standings as outlined in chapter 7. This is because the impervious concrete hard standings and foundations remaining in the ground will result in a permanent change to the hydrology and patterns of vegetation that will be impossible to change.

Likely significant effects scoped into the Detailed Assessment

10.5.4 does not consider the BESS. In contrast to the largely clean lines of the wind turbines, the BESS will be a smaller scale but piecemeal development with security fencing and associated small buildings and the landscape and visual effects of this need to be fully assessed.

Table 10.6 states that the design of the Proposed Development should be considered in relation to the landform of local context, but there is a regional context here: Walshaw Moor is the highest ground in the South Pennines and the impact of this development on this landform will be felt across the region.

Similarly, the study area of 15km underestimates the extent of the potential impact of this development across the wider region.

Consultation

10.6.5 doesn't include perceptual qualities as one of the categories that will be assessed in the LVIA. **5.3.7** of GLVIA states that the importance of perceptions of landscape is emphasised in the European Landscape Convention: for instance, the perceptions of wildness and tranquillity and how this would be affected should be considered.

Physical effects on Landscape Elements

10.6.6 states that physical effects of the development are restricted to within the footprint of the development. We consider that these effects would extend beyond the footprint of the Turbine Area. As the blanket bog is hydrologically linked it is likely that the effects will extend to other parts of the peatland mosaic even if they are outside the proposed site.

Effects on views

10.6.8 we consider that there will also be perceptual effects caused by the introduction of lighting to turbines, such as the loss of dark skies.

Cumulative effects

Sequential cumulative effects which are described in **Table 7.1** of GLVIA are not mentioned as part of the scoping. This has already been mentioned in respect of views from footpaths etc (**10-4**).

Significance of Effects – nature of effects

10.6.28 suggests that the landscape and visual effects of windfarms are difficult to categorise as beneficial or adverse. We disagree: this is not necessarily the case and it is important that this is understood in the LVIA. For instance, if wildness is an accepted feature of the landscape character of the South Pennines NCA and, by introducing new development into that landscape, the character of wildness will be LOST, this is clearly a negative effect, because it is a clear attribute and characteristic of the landscape character which no longer exists. We consider that it is hard to claim that there is an element of subjectivity here. We note that the LVIA will adopt a precautionary approach here which we believe to be essential.

Decommissioning

As noted earlier, since it will not be possible to reverse the effects of much of the proposed installation there will be permanent changes to the hydrology of the moor which in turn will have an impact on the vegetation.

Assumptions Limitations and Uncertainties

LVIA should be iterative documents which respond to changes as they happen, so it is expected that there will be changes to the LVIA as the design evolves.

(Author: PB 21/9/25)

11: Cultural heritage

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

4.3.21

1] The diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted.
2] The landscape is known as 'Brontë country', not 'Bronte countryside (sic)'. Nor should the landscape be described solely as 'literary' for the reasons stated in our response to 10.3.06 below.
3] Top Withens is known simply as that, not 'Top Withens Farmhouse'.
4] Top Withens is believed to be the inspiration for the **location** of Wuthering Heights.

4.3.28

1] The diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted.
2] The 'Bronte Way (sic)' may have a closest point to the turbine area but does not have a 'closet point'.

10.3.06

The landscape is not purely 'literary'. It should be described as 'cultural'. It has connections not only with the Brontë sisters but also with Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many more.

10.3.21

The location of Wuthering Heights is Top Withens, not 'Top Witherns'.

10.3.22

Visualisations should include kinetic photomontages and should include imaging from both Penistone Hill looking west towards the proposed site, trig point TP7008 Withins Height looking west towards the proposed site and Heptonstall looking east towards the proposed site. Visualisations should also include night-time photomontages.

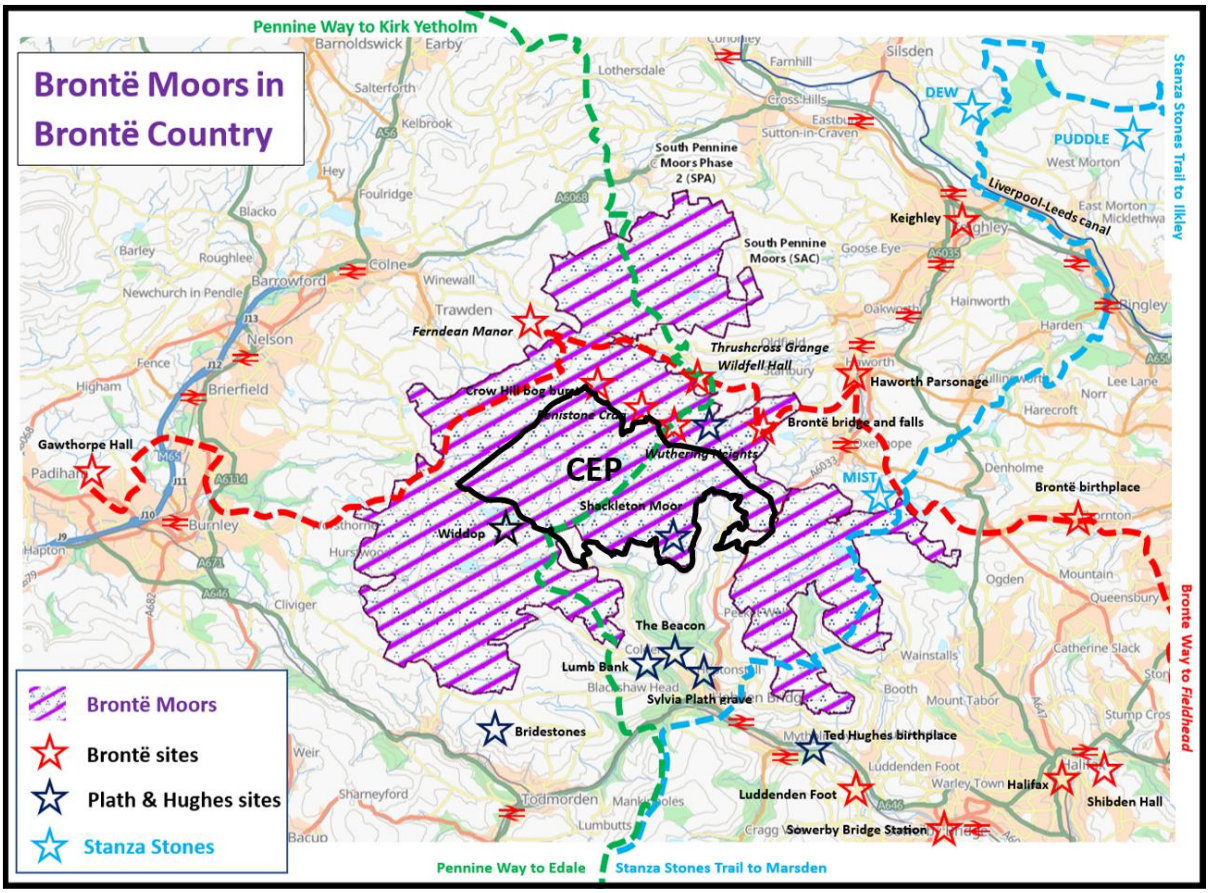
Table 10-2

1] Viewpoint 3: the diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted. Top Withens has connections not only with Emily Brontë but also those people referred to in 10.3.06 above and others.
2] Viewpoint 8: the diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted in both the viewpoint location and the visual receptor type/rationale for selection in assessment.
3] Viewpoint 26: Crow Nest Bingley. Surely the location is meant to be Crow Nest Park in Lightcliffe, Halifax, the site of the mansion Crow Nest House which belonged to Ann Walker, the partner of 'Gentleman Jack', Anne Lister? This should be clarified.
4] Viewpoints from Great Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent should be included.
5] Viewpoints from the 'Brontë Stones Walk' should be included.

11.3.9

'The Proposed Development and the area surrounding the settlement at Haworth' is not an adequate description of the extent and cultural importance of the landscape. As the map below indicates, the culturally significant area of this moorland extends from Padiham in the east to Ilkley in the north-west to Fieldhead in the east and Marsden in the south, and

encompasses the work of Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Simon Armitage, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many others as well as the Brontës.



The area 'Brontë Moors' shaded in purple is also the South Pennines Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

Table 11-6

1] pp. 392-394: the diaresis in Brontë is omitted.
2] p. 392: The Brontë Society should be one of the 'external stakeholders'.
3] the general scope of the analysis of the impact of the proposed development on the cultural landscape should be extended to encompass the work of Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Simon Armitage, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many others working across all media, as well as the Brontës. This analysis should also take into account the ongoing impact of the cultural landscape for future generations of artists of all practices.
4] p. 395: the assumption that 'decommissioning will remove all above ground elements of the Proposed Development (with the exception of

tracks and hardstanding) and thus return the landscape to its previous state (as it is now) or enhanced landscape state, therefore removing any ongoing effects on heritage assets through a change in setting. Therefore, there will be no likely significant effects on the significance of any heritage assets from the decommissioning process, so this has been scoped out of any further assessment' is incorrect. The remaining tracks and hardstanding will irrevocably alter the iconic and currently virtually untouched moorland landscape. This effect of the decommissioning process should be included in further assessment.

11.6.27 and 11.6.28

The diaresis in Brontë is omitted.

11.6.29

We reiterate the point that decommissioning will NOT return the landscape to its previous point or enhanced landscape state. The remaining tracks and hardstanding will irrevocably alter the iconic and currently virtually untouched moorland landscape. This effect of the decommissioning process should be included in further assessment.

(Author: LM 10/09/25)

12: Access, Traffic and Transport

(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

Omissions and errors in Chapter 12 are significant and systemic, so full comment is reserved, pending an accurate revision of the Scoping Report (SR) and an extended deadline to allow detailed attention to a more accurate document. Several prima facie A.I. hallucinations (plausible sounding random falsehoods) in the SR Chapter 12 are noted.

Policy on matters noted in these comments

These comments address important matters that are either absent from scoping, lack articulation because of weak integration across chapters, or are systemically erroneous.

Unexplained suppression of Option A

An Option A access route for AIL via Halifax was published in the non-statutory consultation on 10 June 2025 [Consultation Brochure (CB) p 23]. The suppression of Option A in SR is noted, and comment is reserved.

Prima facie A.I. hallucinations in the SR

The use of A.I. to produce the SR need not have been a problem, but uncritical use of A.I. is indicative of a failure of supervision by qualified human intelligence. Because providing information and analysis is not the purpose of the SR stated in **1.4.2**, it is surprising to find any prima facie A.I. hallucinations in the SR.
The EIA developed on the foundation of the SR will consist mainly of information and analysis and will be intensely vulnerable to A.I. hallucination if this is not nipped in the bud in the SR. Logika and CWF Ltd should supply a full account of A.I hallucination in the SR.

Weak cartography at critical points

Weak cartography at critical points is noted. Consultees should not have to provide adequate maps.

Failure to proofread by management of Logika and CWF Ltd.

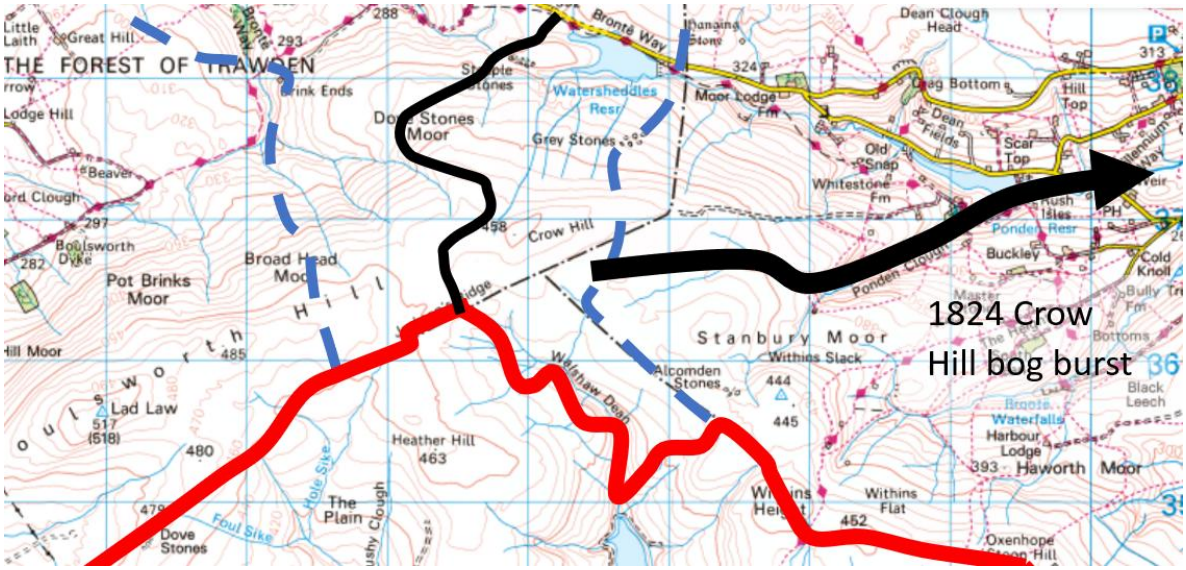
Readers should not have been embarrassed by extensive and systemic errors in a public document concerning a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. Subsequent revisions should be signed off as proofread by named Logika senior management and accepted as proofread by the Project Director of CWF Ltd.

Comment themes

A) The risk of a peat slide on the new Crow Hill access track.
B) Implications for traffic of the West Yorkshire aggregates problem.
C) Systemic errors in SR 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7
D) Rights of way and the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

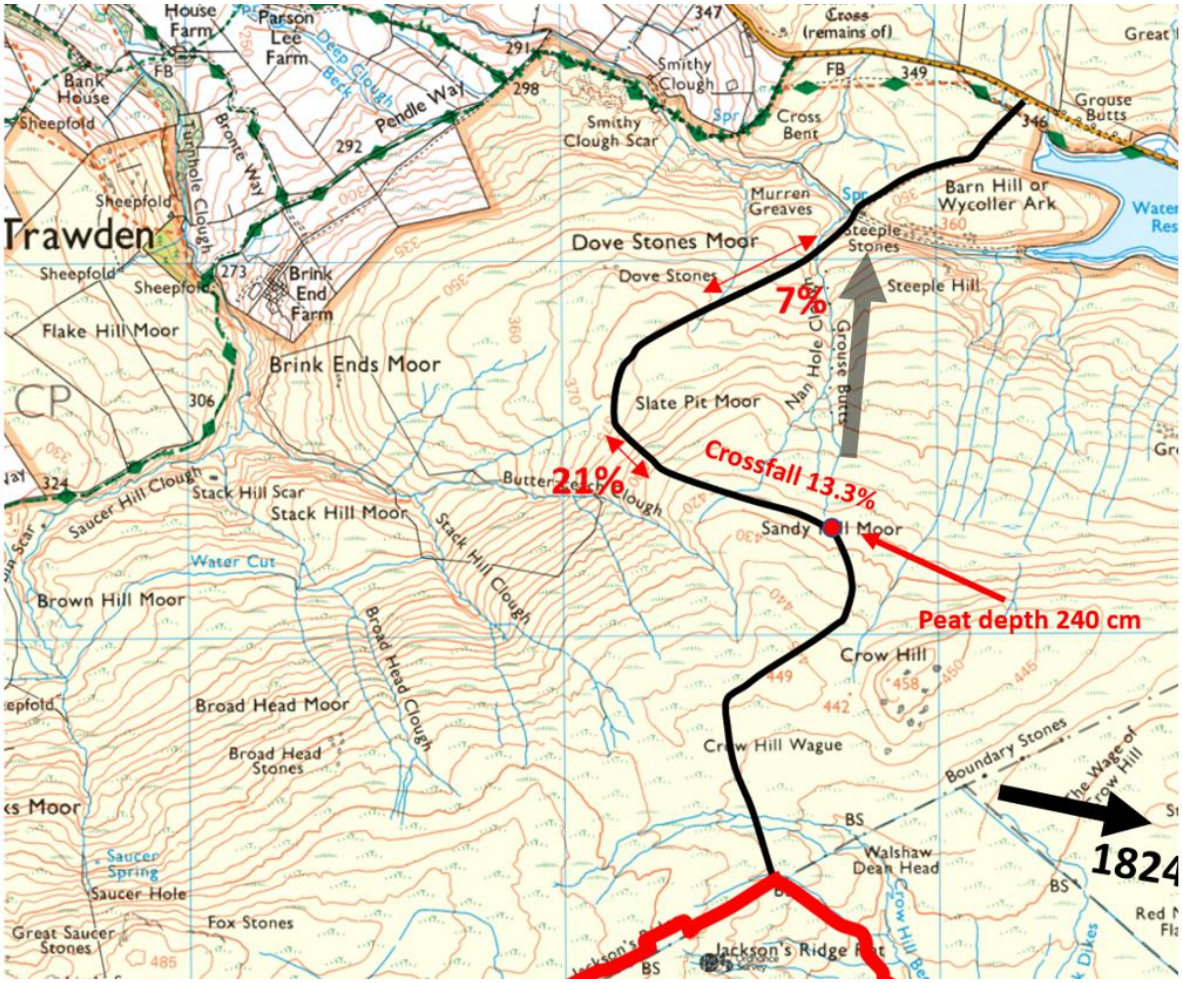
A) The risk of a peat slide on the new Crow Hill access track.

12.3.2 states that access to the turbine area for AIL will be by a new track. **4-2** has a map of the relevant Site Access Search Area and the brochure [CB p 24] for the non-statutory consultation gives a map of the Considered Access Route over Crow Hill. Neither map is adequate, so two maps are given in these comments. The route (black curve) over Crow Hill is shown on our Map 12A with the turbine area boundary (red), the search area borders (blue dashes) and the peat slide (thick black arrow) (**8.3.26**) known as the 1824 Crow Hill bog burst.



Map 12A Detail of the Site Access Search Area over Crow Hill showing path of 1824 Crow Hill bog burst. Map: WTRG after SR **4-2**]

Map 12B is on a larger scale and shows the Considered Access Route over Crow Hill.



Map 12B Considered Access Route over Crow Hill showing potential peat slide on Crow Hill access track and the 1824 bog burst on Crow Hill. Map: WTRG after CB p 24. Data: WTRG.

12.2 **12.3.2** states that all abnormal indivisible loads (AIL: the turbine components) will be delivered up the section of Crow Hill between the blue dashed lines in **Map 12 A**. **12.5.2** confirms that AIL will come via Crow Hill. The Crow Hill terrain is existential for the proposal because all turbine components come as AIL over Crow Hill.

The SR account of Crow Hill terrain is deficient

12.3 The SR has little to say about the soil mechanics of Crow Hill over which the turbine components must come. The remarks about Crow Hill are confined to **8.3.26** and **8.3.29,** both quoted in full:

8.3.26 *'To the north and outside of the Turbine Area, there are two recorded peat landslides, one of which is known as the Crow Hill bog burst*

(Ross, 2020), described by the Rev. Patrick Brontë. LiDAR data indicates no equivalent features within the proposed turbine area."

Note the tendency of this statement to minimise the significance of the Crow Hill bog burst for the proposal. Although the 1824 Crow Hill catastrophe indeed started slightly outside of the Turbine Area, all the turbine components will be delivered across Crow Hill. Ross 2020, though excellent, is primarily a post-doctoral literary resource and together with the instancing of the Rev. Patrick Brontë, who was not a soil engineer, but the father of three of the most famous women in the history of the world, **8.3.26** tends to suggest that the 1824 bog burst was a remote, academic, or even gothic event.

12.4 " ***8.3.29*** *A large proportion of the Cable Corridor Search Areas and eastern Site Access Search Areas have no superficial deposits and where present, lie within peat deposits. The western Site Access Search Area is underlain by superficial deposits of Glacial Till where present."*

This is prima facie A.I. hallucination on soil mechanics. The incoherence of **8.3.29** shows that no detailed consideration has been given to the Crow Hill soil mechanics, and essential matters to be scoped into the Access baseline, and dealt with at once, are therefore laid out here in detail.

Crow Hill peat slides

12.5 The Site Access Search Area over Crow Hill is adjacent to, and for 20 ha includes, the locus of the 1824 Crow Hill bog burst, the catastrophic peat slide of **8.3.26**. The reference (Ross 2020) states that the river of peat and boulders was over 2-metres deep at Ponden Hall, some 3 km from the burst. The explosion of the bog was heard in Leeds, and the river Aire above Leeds was so polluted by its tributary the Worth that the reservoir water pumps were stopped. A peat stain could be seen as far as the Humber.

12.6 The "considered access route" (CB p 24) traverses the top of the Nan Hole Clough drainage funnel (see Map 12 B). The traverse has a crossfall of 13.3% and a preliminary peat survey by WTRG has found peat of depth 240 cm on the traverse. The slope is convex.

12.7 The 1824 bog burst was not triggered by immediate human activity and began at a similar altitude to the Nan Hole Clough traverse. The considered access route crosses similar terrain as the 1824 slide, but the

ground will also have been disturbed by the construction of the track; will have been loaded by hundreds of tonnes of aggregate that form the track; and will carry the heavy AIL. There is a prima facie case that the track may cause a peat slide, that the probability during construction is at least Scale 3 (SR ref 133 5.5), and that the worst impacts of that peat slide would be catastrophic, involving multiple loss of life and the stranding of the project.

12.8 It is indicative of the danger of the Crow Hill terrain that in an otherwise overcrowded proposal, the layout advanced in CB, and mapped inconsistently in the SR, avoids putting turbines on Jackson's Ridge of Crow Hill, even though the wakes would stream NE in the prevailing wind and not reduce the aerodynamic efficiency of the array, as so many of the indicated turbines will do.

12.9 A second Crow Hill peat slide occurred on 19 May 1989. Dykes and Warburton (Mass movements in peat (2006)) give a photograph of the remnants of the 1989 slide taken in 2005. The extent was 3.6 ha, and 46000 m^3. The peat was originally 2-3 metres deep and 0.3-0.5 metres of depth remains. The terrain is not steep and corresponds to the ground crossed by the Crow Hill access road at 440 metres just before the last bend. A prolonged drought had affected England from November 1988, punctuated by short-lived but often abrupt phases of wet weather. On 19 May 1989, a record 2-hour point rainfall of 193 mm was recorded at Walshaw Dean Lodge in the middle of the turbine area. This is the record daily rainfall for May, and the most intense 2-hour rainfall recorded in Britain. It is known as the "Halifax Storm". The 1989 Crow Hill peat slide and 1824 Crow Hill catastrophe had in common intense rain following a drought. Droughts in the Walshaw catchment include 2023 when emergency pipes were laid by helicopter from Walshaw Dean to Ponden reservoirs, and the ongoing drought of Spring and Summer 2025.

Survey and analysis required

12.10 **8.2.2** references "Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Scottish Government, 2017) (SR footnote 133)" which should set the baseline method for peat landslide risk assessment on Crow Hill.

12.11 Equation 8 of SR footnote 133 states that the safety factor *F* can be modelled by the equation

$$F = \frac{c' + (\gamma - m\gamma_w) z \cos^2 \beta \tan \phi'}{\gamma z \sin \beta \cos \beta}$$

Given the existential nature of the peat slide risk for the whole proposal, slope convexity, the triggering factors of very heavy deliveries, the weight of aggregate used to build the track, a predicted pattern of long dry spells and intense rain, and the proximity of the catastrophic peat slide of 1824, values of *c'* (effective cohesion) and *z* (peat depth) must be established by onsite peat coring and probing at a variety of saturations *m*. Note the known high *z*-value already found (peat depth 240 cm at the turn) and the high β-value = $\tan^{-1}(0.133)$ calculated on the published track. Other peat depths already obtained are reserved.

12.12 Values of *c'* from peat coring should be presented in tabular form at a range of values of *m* including full saturation, correlated with values of *z* at the same locations and the resultant value of *F*. Peat cohesion is strongly dependent on fibrosity and saturation. Fibrosity is likely to vary over short scales, so a 10-metre probing-and-coring grid is minimum. Given the existential nature of the area, a finer grid may be indicated.

Site and access choice cause survey difficulties

12.12 Given the present drought, it is possible that *c'* at values of *m* near (and at) saturation might not have been measured by 28 February 2026. A dispensation from Natural England to perform peat coring and peat depth probing during the ground nesting bird season of 1 March - 31 July 2026 should be sought to allow ongoing measurement of cohesiveness in a variety of saturation regimes.

12.13 Dykes and Kirk [p 391] explain why the Yorkshire drought of summer 1824 might be a proximate cause of the September 2 Crow Hill catastrophe. The same explanation applies to the 1989 Crow Hill peat slide. Dykes and Kirk explain that in a drought, dry peat masses with "lower water contents and lower liquid limits" undergo "a decrease in particle size" which triggers "the close packing of the organic particles and the consequently smaller pores and higher bulk density." Consequently, it "would take a smaller increase in water content to bring about significantly higher water pressures or even a change of state."

12.14 The present difficulty of obtaining cohesiveness values at high saturations is a consequence of weather instability that itself contributes to

the baseline risk of peat slides on Crow Hill, and are further consequent of the site choice and access choices made by CWF Ltd.

12.15 Because of the existential nature of the Crow Hill access, statutory consultees and the Secretary of State must have high confidence in the survey for peat depth *z* and effective cohesiveness *c'* and in the reliability of the subsequent analysis. The work should be independently conducted and peer reviewed and published in good time before the beginning of Statutory Consultation, which may have to be delayed.

Maximum parameter values should be justified

Justification of the maximum gradient of any access track over Crow Hill relative to safe practices in AIL delivery, likely delivery method, track engineering and default manufacturer limits, should be given. The present value on the presented track in CB p 24 is 21% (our **Map 12 B**).

12.17 Justification of the maximum crossfall of any access track made over Crow Hill should be given. The present value presented in CB p 24 is 13.3% (our **Map 12 B**)

Mitigation of peat slide risk on Crow Hill

12.18 On current evidence, the Crow Hill peat landslide probability under baseline worst-case scenario is "Likely: scale 3" or "Probable: scale 4" (SR ref 133 table 5.1)
The impacts (multiple deaths and stranding of the project) are "Extremely high: Scale 5" (SR ref 133, table 5.2)
The indicative risk baseline is then medium or high (SR ref 133 table 5.3) and the reference states:

"*Where the risk level for a zone is medium or high, avoidance or specification of mitigation measures would normally be the only means by which project infrastructure could be considered acceptable within that zone at the proposed development site*."

12.19 Specific measures to mitigate peat slide on Crow Hill must be stated in the baseline Access assessment and follow SR ref 133 table 5.66 . Mitigation measures should not be generic. Given a peat slide on Crow Hill, the trigger with the highest Bayesian likelihood would be an AIL convoy, and the only reliable mitigation may be avoidance of the area by AIL. If the

proposal continues to depend on Crow Hill access, a justification would be required. The baseline would give a foundation for ongoing monitoring during construction and operation if it has been shown to be reasonably safe to proceed.

12.20 A regime of ongoing monitoring of the Crow Hill terrain during operation should be scoped into baseline, since access over Crow Hill may be required by the emergency services in the event of a wildfire, turbine fire or BESS lithium fire, and a peat slide would form part of the Fire Service risk assessment. Robust data might then be available for the decommissioning phase, when frequent heavy traffic may again be using the Crow Hill access.

Requirement for an early report on Crow Hill

12.21 Given that access via Crow Hill is existential for the proposal, statutory consultees should not be required to maintain concern for the proposal as a whole under very short deadlines (42 days for the non-statutory consultation and just 29 days for the SR) until independent research is completed and the report on access via Crow Hill is published. Detailed research and analysis of the Crow Hill access should be published before the beginning of the Statutory Consultation since it is existential for the proposal. The consultation is anticipated to begin in "Winter 2025" and must be delayed if no conclusion on peat slide risk on Crow Hill has been reached. If consultees are to engage with confidence in Statutory Consultation, they must be convinced ab initio that there is safe access to the site before they are required to expend further public money, charitable funds and expert management time responding to the proposal. Consultees should not have to wait until the whole-site geomorphological map of **8.6.4** is complete, especially since that map will not necessarily include the off-site access across Crow Hill and might be too general and small scale.

Ecological status of Crow Hill

12.22 The Crow Hill section of the search area is part of the South Pennines Phase 2 SAC and SPA, should be part of the baseline assessment of the impact on designated land, and should be accorded a separate assessment as it is outside the Turbine Area boundary. A preliminary walkover found excellent active bog west of Nan Hole Clough. The area is part of the 7.1% already regarded by DEFRA as counting towards England's 30 by 30 target under the Kunming-Montreal GBF. Present policy on

SAC/SPA designated land and the K-M GBF is summarised in the joint Policy paper issued by DESNZ and DEFRA on 14 July 2025: Unlocking benefits for people, nature and climate: Actions to jointly address climate change and biodiversity loss in England. This paper should be referenced in future revisions of the SR, and its contents should inform all revised chapters.

SR is over-confident about Crow Hill

12.23 **19-1** states: "Given the nature and type of development, it is considered that the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in any type of major accident/disaster."

This is prima facie an over-confident assessment of Crow Hill.

B) Implications of the West Yorkshire Aggregate Problem for Access and Transport

12.24 It has been known for at least 70 years that if West Yorkshire sandstones are crushed to aggregate, they are too weak, porous and susceptible to frost for roadstone or technical concrete. This is called the West Yorkshire Aggregate Problem (WYAP).

12.25 The problem and its extent are confirmed in the fourteen separate annual aggregate assessments (2012-2025) of the five West Yorkshire councils. The assessments have not been found in the materials used for the desk study by Logika. A typical statement of the problem from the assessments is:
A1.2.2 "The sandstones are too weak and porous for the manufacture of concrete or for road building and are commonly used in low specification situations and for bulk fill."

12.26 The relation of the WYAP to Calderdale Wind Farm and Calderdale Energy Park has been a commonplace at least since April 2024. The matter was formally raised by Robbie Moore M.P. in a letter to CWF Ltd. from the House of Commons in October 2024. No indication of the WYAP appears in the SR.

12.27 The only public acknowledgement by CWF Ltd. or Logika of the WYAP, and only as it relates to the onsite rock, was made by CWF Ltd consultant Donald Mackay on the CEP Webinar (21 May 2025, 43:40-45:27)

in response to a question put by a member of the public during the Non-statutory Consultation. Donald Mackay's answer includes the statement that "The naturally occurring materials on the site are not the best quality for construction."

Borrow pits supply the equivalent of local quarry waste

12.28 5.8 "Borrow pits" should state the agreed deficiency of onsite rock for technical aggregates in the Chapter 5 baseline, and the West Yorkshire annual aggregate assessments should be explicit in the baseline assessment for Access and Transport in Chapter 12. The same point should be stated in **8.6.1. 9 (bullet point 8)**. Given the WYAP, the aggregates that can be won from onsite borrow pits are only suitable for bulk fill. This low-grade material is widely available in West Yorkshire as a waste product from the quarrying and cutting of building stone, a point repeatedly confirmed by the annual aggregate assessments.

Walshaw Moor is an internationally designated SAC and SPA and already part of England's attempt to reach the 30 by 30 requirement of the Kunming-Montreal GBF, so it is most unlikely that on-site borrow pits to extract what is available nearby as quarry waste will be consented. Once the force of this rationale has been understood, borrow pits should be scoped out of SR because there should not be any.

Limestone and ferrous sulphate are toxic to sphagnum

12.29 **4.3.16** describes the Natural England Walshaw Catchment Restoration Plan (2017-2042) a programme of interdependent habitat management and infrastructure management techniques agreed between Natural England and the Walshaw Moor Estate, designed to protect, restore and improve important blanket bog habitat. The plan states (8.1.6) "Aggregate used on tracks will be inert materials". The blanket bog is very acid; limestone aggregate is highly alkaline; and the reaction between bog and limestone releases bicarbonate which is toxic for sphagnum moss.

12.30 All concrete is strongly alkaline, so concrete turbine foundations must be protected from the acid environment. Since it will not initially interact with the bog environment, limestone immobilised as concrete aggregate may be thought acceptable on protected peatlands. **5.2.2** specifies a large rebar and concrete gravity foundation for each turbine and **5.1.16** states that the foundations will remain in situ after

decommissioning. The concrete/bog barrier will eventually rupture. The long-term poisoning of internationally designated blanket bog as concrete and rebar deteriorate to produce mobile toxic carbonate and ferrous sulphate, the moss killer sold in all garden centres, should be scoped in, and may be impossible to mitigate in a Special Area of Conservation without the careful removal of the foundations at decommissioning.

Integration of aggregate aspects across chapters

Aggregates are existential to the proposal and should be integrated in the SR and fully referenced in the Access baseline. An explicit worst-case scenario should be stated:
"Bulk fill will be local quarry waste imported from off-site; concrete aggregates and inert roadstone will be imported from out of West Yorkshire; if granite is specified for roadstone it will be imported from out of Yorkshire, or out of England if Glen Sanda on Loch Linnhe is chosen; the need to import all aggregates to CEP will cause unusual traffic intensity compared to the majority of large wind farms that are built from internal resources once the first borrow pit is reached."
Given its size, internationally designated blanket bog, distance from the sea and unfavourable geology, CEP as described in the SR may need the most extensive bulk material movements by distance and weight of any wind farm in the UK.

C) Systemic errors in SR 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7

12.32 The following list is restricted to errors indicating a systemic failure of drafting and supervision by Logika and the client CWF Ltd. A full list of errors is reserved. Some of the errors could not have been made by a qualified human. The simplest explanation of the extent and non-human nature of the errors is that they are A.I. hallucinations that were missed by the senior management of Logika and CWF Ltd when they proofread the chapter.

12.4.2

a] Bullet point 2. "A6068 between the M56 and Colne".
The A6068 does not join the M56. For "M56" read M65.

b] Bullet point 6. "A6063 between Hebden Bridge and Cross Roads."
For "A6063" read A6033.

c] Bullet point 7. “A464 between Todmorden and Mytholmroyd.”
For “A464” read A646. This error is particularly indicative of A.I. hallucination, because any human qualified to write or check a chapter on Access and Transport would know that the “A464” must be in the M4 corridor from London to South Wales.

12.4.5

d] Bullet point 2. “A6068 between the M56 and Cowling; Count sites 28783 (Colne)”
For “M56” read Colne. Here “M56” cannot be read as “M65” because the M65 count is in the previous bullet point.

12.4.8

e] “Onsite PRoW present on the A6063”.
For “A6063” read A6033 or A6068 or both.

12.4.11

f] “The A6068 is operated by Lancashire County Council and is mainly a two lane distributor road. It connects the M56 to West Yorkshire and passes through the town of Colne.”
For “M56” read M65. For “West Yorkshire” read North Yorkshire.

12.4.16

g] “The A464 provides an east-west connection between Lancashire and West Yorkshire, connecting Burnley to Halifax.”
For “A464” read A646. For “east-west” read “west-east” because Lancashire is west of West Yorkshire and Halifax is east of Burnley. This error is prima facie caused by A.I. hallucination, with the A.I. confused by the “West” in “West Yorkshire”. No human qualified to write the chapter could make this error. It would have been picked up had human senior management at Logika or CWF Ltd proofread SR with care. Note that the A646 is not shaded in the Map 4-2 access corridors.

12.6.6
h] Bullet point 6: “Users of the A6063 between Hebden Bridge and Cross Roads.”

For "A6063" read A6033.
i] Bullet point 9: "Residents living alongside the A6068 between the M56 and Cowling".
For "M56" read M65.
j] Bullet point 10: "Residents living alongside the A644 between Todmorden and Mytholmroyd."
For "A644" read A646.

12.7.1
k] Bullet point 6: For "A6063", read A6033.
l] Bullet point 7: For "A6063", read A6033.
m] Bullet point 8: For "A6063", read A6033.
n] Both **12.4.13** and **12.4.14** are incoherent. Other corrections are possible, but both items should probably read:
"It is unlikely that the peak of construction will have a significant impact on the A56, **but** an impact assessment will be undertaken, given that it may be used for the import of bulk materials to the site."
o] **12.4.17** states that the A629 may be used for bulk materials with significant impacts. The A629 does not connect with the site. The final distributor road after the A629 will be the A6033, but **12.3.3** states that "Currently, temporary access to the east will be taken for general construction traffic and construction staff from the A6033" with no mention of the significant impacts of bulk materials. The bulk materials on the A629 in **12.4.17** evaporate before they move onto the A6033 in **12.3.3**.

D) Public rights of way and the Pennine Way national trail

12.33 **12.4.16** states that PRoW users within the site will be considered as highly sensitive receptors. Since the site is almost all open moorland under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, a protocol for those exercising their rights under the CRoW Act should be scoped in, and such users should also be considered as highly sensitive receptors. The protocol should cover construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

12.34 The CRoW Act is an achievement of our democracy, governing the relation of ordinary English (and later Welsh, but not Scottish) people, and their guests, with the oligarchic and feudal landownership pattern of moorland. The access baseline should scope in the closing words of Lord Whitty, which are indicative of parliament's intention in the matter of this relation.

"In the spirit of compromise and balance, which I have advocated throughout the Bill, we have not taken away the land from the landowners, who have recognised their responsibilities. Tonight, we have, to some extent at least, given the land to the people."

12.35 Since the CRoW Act, a network of light-footed desire paths has become established on Walshaw Moor, often on previously suppressed rights of way. These should be mapped and scoped into the impact assessment on Access. The guidebook "West Yorkshire Moors" by Christopher Goddard will be of great use and should be part of the baseline Access assessment references. Goddard's 2nd edition maps a substantial aggregate track around Thurrish Rough, and a vehicular bridge over Mare Greave Clough, neither of which are present on the maps published by CWF Ltd. at the non-statutory consultation [CB p14 et al]. In all subsequent documents, CWF Ltd. must use maps which show all relevant features appropriate to scale and topic. Weak and incorrect cartography has been a systemic management problem for CWF Ltd. and has worsened as the project becomes more articulated. A full account has been lodged separately with the Planning Inspectorate.

12.36 Most of the SR array maps (they are inconsistent) and the array map published in the Consultation Brochure [p 14] when combined with the SR **note 291** on rotor diameter, indicate that the blades of T21 would oversail the Pennine Way, a National Trail, by 24 metres. The same maps show that T18 is sited directly on the junction of two PRoW. Buffer sizes around the Pennine Way and PRoW should be scoped into the Access baseline and in the case of the Pennine Way should be justified relative to its national and cultural status as an institution of our democracy.

12.37 Table 16-4 p 498 states that "Currently, construction works may temporarily disrupt use of public rights of way (PRoW) during construction […] Any potential physical impacts will be assessed in the Transport and Access chapter with mitigation measures secured to minimise disruption (see Chapter 12: Access Traffic and Transport)" . No indication of such assessment appears in Chapter 12. Several similar statements in **Table 16-4** are meant to be assessed in Chapter 12, but no indications of such assessments are present in Chapter 12. Integration across the chapter silos in the SR here, and elsewhere, has been neglected, and should be rectified in subsequent revisions. The EIA will not be an integrated assessment of the impacts of the proposal if the SR is allowed to remain so disjointed. The complexity of integration in the SR, and the EIA for which it is the

foundation, are consequent on the size of the proposal and the choice of controversial land on which to build it, and the complexities must be accepted by the applicant.

12.38 **16.4.5** refers to "Proposed permissive paths". Walshaw Moor is open access moorland under the CRoW Act (2000). The relationship between these "permissive paths" and the status of Walshaw Moor as open access moorland the CRoW Act should be made explicit in the Access baseline.

The systemic error rate in Chapter 12 is much too high in a planning document for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

12.39 Despite only being given 29 days for the task, careful human readers have found far too many serious systemic errors permeating the SR, some of which have been identified in these comments on Chapter 12. The error rate should be explained by Logika and CWF Ltd. and they should provide an accurate revision of the SR so that it forms a firmer legal foundation in the document sequence. Calderdale Energy Park is a controversial proposal because it is built on doubly internationally designated land, counting towards the 30 by 30 target being pursued jointly by DESNZ and Defra; and is "within the Brontë Country" – the CWF Ltd. description of the situation of CEP on the internationally revered landscape which has provided inspiration for some of the most famous novels ever written.
Given the choice by CWF Ltd of such controversial land, it is not in the interests of CWF Ltd, their investors, and the Secretary of State representing the British people, that the legal foundation of the document sequence for Calderdale Energy Park should be an unrevised SR that is riddled with errors and prima facie A.I. hallucination.

12.40 The deadline for comments on the SR should be extended, and the deadline for comment on any subsequent more accurate versions should be much longer than the 29 days provided for the SR, since consultees must take great care in reading when there is already a history of serious systemic error and omission, and prima facie A.I. hallucination.

12.41 The errors in Chapter 12 seem unusually egregious in a document relating to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project submitted to the Secretary of State. Lest this form a precedent, a justification for this

deviation from the normal courtesies of precision should be given by Logika and CWF Ltd, relative to their peculiar difficulties.

12.42 Several instances of a failure to integrate the SR across chapter silos have been noted. A full account of integration failures cannot be expected from consultees in just 29 days, especially when there are so many, and such serious, errors and lacunae within single chapter silos. Integration of an SR (and subsequent EIA) across disciplines is always complex for applicants, but particularly so if the proposal is large and on such controversial land.

12.43 Integration of the disciplines is the task of the CEP Project Directorate, which should have an overview of all chapters, and the agency to achieve some integration on key points at least. Far from attempting this complex task, the Project Directorate have not even checked the SR for glaring methodological errors in single chapter silos.

12.44 Generative A.I. has only recently become widely available, so there is little precedent for what is an acceptable rate of A.I. hallucination in such a document as this SR. As A.I. use by planning consultants can only increase, it may be helpful to all applicants for the Secretary of State to issue guidance on the nature and extent of A.I hallucination (and related A.I. slop) that might be condoned in an applicant document relating to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

(Author: NIPM 16/09/25)

13: Noise and Vibration

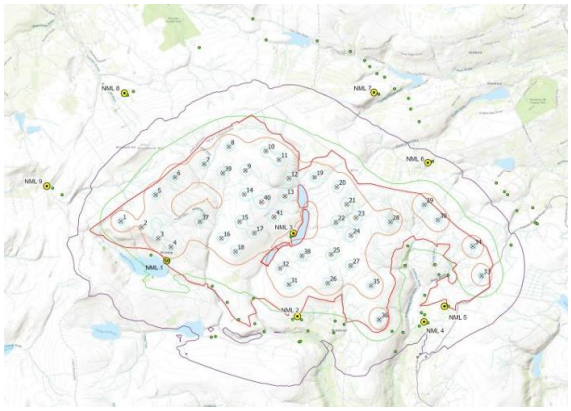
(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

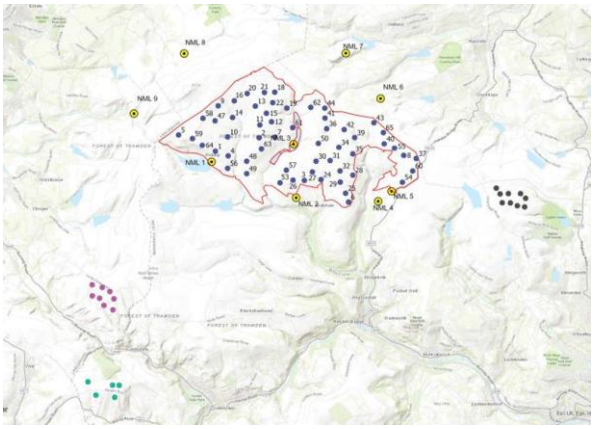
The omissions and errors in Chapter 13 are significant and systemic, and full comments are reserved pending a corrected SR with a realistic deadline for more detailed attention.

13.1 Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration was found to be unchecked with serious errors, to embed a fundamental modelling error, and to use cut-and-paste material from previous studies that would not apply to the layout being modelled. This very serious matter is dealt with in our 13.11 below.

The disclaimer in **13.6.18** does not excuse the conduct of Chapter 13. Either the SR should have waited for a correctly spaced layout, or noise modelling should not have been reported in the SR.

13.2 Figure 13-1 (Drawn by 'ST,' checked by 'MT' dated 19/08/2025) (below left) shows the result of modelling noise. It uses the layout for CEP presented at the Non-statutory Consultation on 29 April 2025 in the corrected version of 1 May 2025. Its last revision is 05, made on 29/08/2025.





13-2 (Drawn by 'ST', checked by 'MT' dated 09/07/2025) (above right) concerns the noise impact of cumulative wind turbines in the area. Its last revision 02 was made on 29/08/2025. For reasons that should be explained by Logika and CWF Ltd, but which would be immediately apparent to experienced users of windPRO, it uses the former 65-turbine layout for CWF described by CWF Lead Consultant Donald Mackay (Trawden public exhibition 29 May 2025) as "worse than useless".

Two completely different layouts, one of them "worse than useless", have been used on adjacent maps revised on the same day.

13.3 The General Notes printed on **13-1** and **13-2** state:
"This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all engineer's, architect's or other relevant drawings and specifications."

The authors of Chapter 13 have themselves not read **13-1** in conjunction with **13-2**. It is indicative of management weakness at Logika that the senior consultant for Noise did not do so either, nor did the CWF Ltd. Project Directorate notice these adjacent conflicting drawings when they checked the document before it was submitted to the Secretary of State.

13.4 The productions of ST and MT in SR must all be checked, corrected and published in a revised SR. An analysis of the work of ST appears below in our 13.20-13.25 below.

13.5 The modelling assumptions used in **13-1** are set out in **13.3.5**:

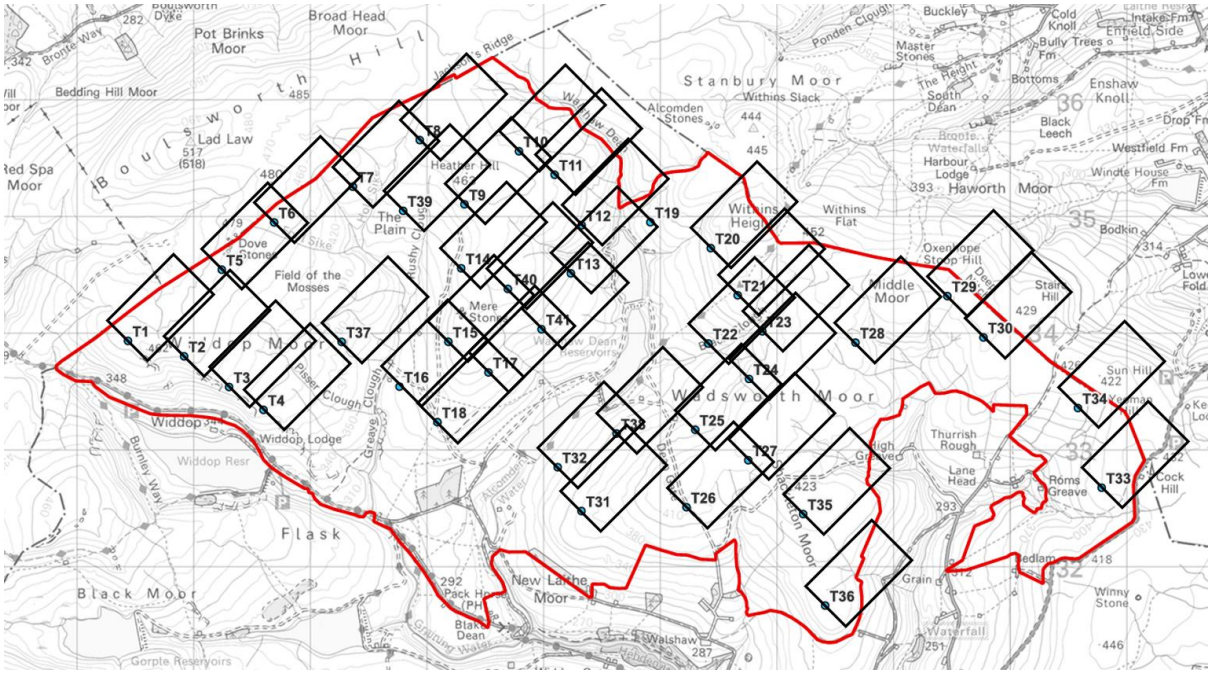
*"**13.3.5** In order to determine noise sensitive receptors for which it was suitable to undertake background noise monitoring for the wind turbine operational noise assessment preliminary desktop noise modelling was undertaken using EMD windPRO software290. An initial indicative wind turbine layout based on the layout presented at the non-statutory consultation was input into the software and, using noise data for a candidate turbine representative of the type that could be installed on the site[291], a noise contour plot was produced (shown on **Figure 13-1**)."*

Note 291 reads:

"Candidate turbine used for predictions is the Vestas V162 7.2MW with a 119 m hub and 200 m tip."

13.6 Overcrowded wind farms can generate penetrating noise and damaging vibration through resonance and by the amplitude modulation effect known as acoustic beats. This is mitigated by proper turbine spacing and is not found to a problem on existing properly spaced wind farms. The minimum spacing used in practice in all consented UK wind farms is 3 RD (across the prevailing wind) by 5 RD (downwind). The 5 RD downwind spacing is to allow the slow-moving turbulent wake behind a turbine to dissipate somewhat before the next downwind turbine. The 3 RD crosswind spacing is to prevent turbulence thrown off sideways by a turbine from affecting its neighbour in the row.

13.7 When the layout described in **13.3.5** is combined with the turbine type described in **note 291** (rotor diameter (RD) 162 metres) the result is gross overcrowding, particularly on Heather Hill and around Black Clough. One or other of the modelling assumptions in **13.3.5** must have been incorrect because the outcome of both assumptions used together is a grossly overcrowded wind farm. The figure below shows the minimum 3 RD by 5 RD footprints using the assumptions of the noise model in **13.3.5**. In correctly spaced wind farms, there is almost no overlap between the footprints.

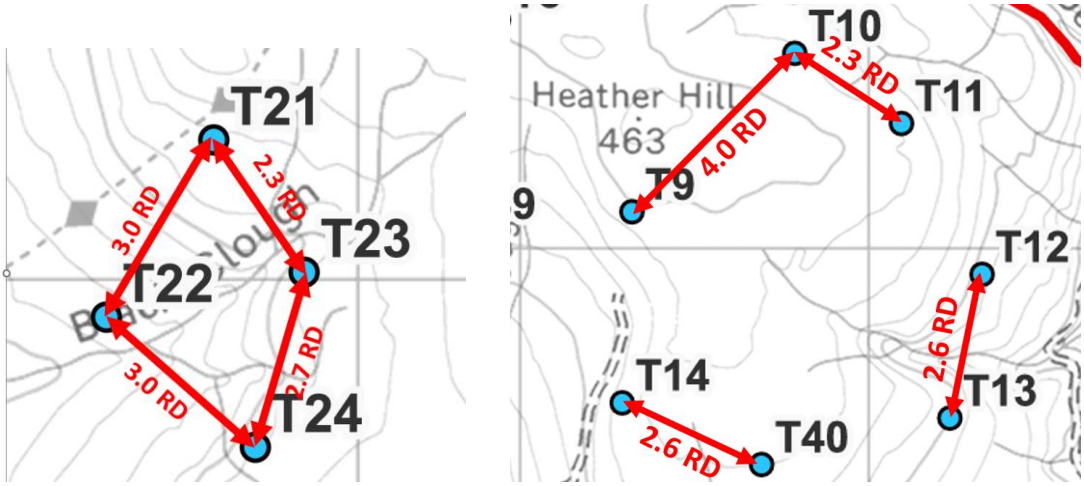


Map 13.7 When both assumptions of **13.3.5** are used, an unviable over-crowded wind farm results. Note the extreme overcrowding on Heather Hill (around T40) and especially in Black Clough (the cluster T21-T24).

13.8 For comparison, the 3 RD by 5 RD spacings of the three real wind farms (Todmorden Moor, Coal Clough and Ovenden Moor) in the study area of **13-2** are shown below.

Maps 13.8 a,b,c. The real wind farms shown in **13-2** are well spaced on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints.

13.9 The simplistic windPRO modelling used in **13-1** cannot identify potential resonance tonal noise and amplitude modulation noise caused by the tight-packed turbines, especially those in Black Clough and on Heather Hill,



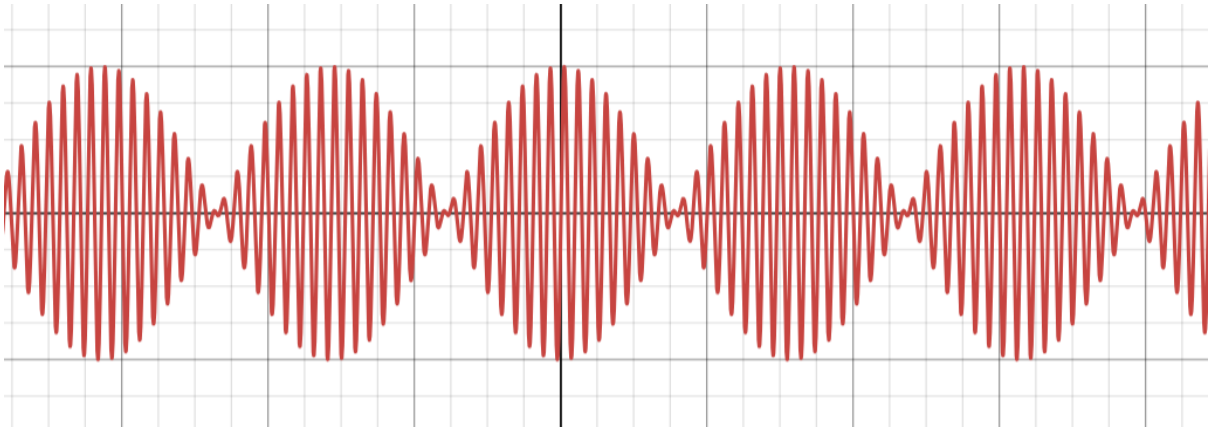
Map 13.9 Gross overcrowding in Black Clough and on Heather Hill.

13.10 The modelling method of **13-1** is simplistic and finds noise intensity by the inverse-square-distance weighted average noise intensities of the array turbines. Some noise due to a grossly overcrowded array will usually be tonal noise in narrow frequency bands at resonant harmonics; or amplitude modulation noise caused by acoustic beats, the interference pattern of two sound sources of similar frequency in proximity. Neither of these array-determined features can be captured by the averaging method of **13-1**.

Amplitude modulation (AM)

13.11 The paragraphs **13.5.2-13.5.20** constitute a cut-and-paste argument for scoping out AM noise. The argument is unsound because it adduces studies made on correctly spaced actual wind farms, but the layout mapped and modelled here is grossly overcrowded. **13.5.20** concludes: 'At present, it seems evident that reliable predictions of AM in the context of development planning and noise assessment guidance are unlikely to be practically feasible in the near future.'

This conclusion is wrong in the case of the overcrowded wind farm modelled in the SR, because there is an a priori mechanism for AM when the turbines are so close together, the familiar acoustic beats used by piano tuners.
If two turbines are close together the frequency and amplitude of their noise can be almost the same. To illustrate the a priori mechanism of AM in CEP by acoustic beats, we show the result of adding two sine waves with similar frequencies and equal amplitude. One is at 16 Hz (four octaves below middle C) and the other at 18 Hz.



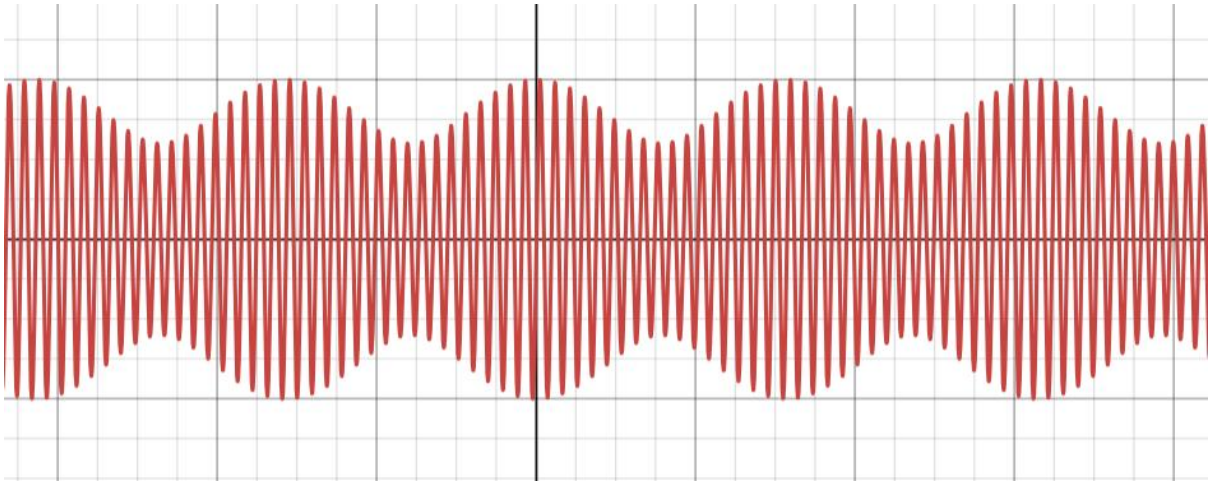
The resulting sound wave exhibits the amplitude modulation called acoustic beats. The envelope of the wave form can be calculated using a standard identity:

$$\sin A + \sin B \equiv 2 \sin\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{A-B}{2}\right)$$

.

The two waves with frequency 16 Hz and 18 Hz combine to give a wave form whose pitch will be 17 Hz but whose amplitude will modulate with a frequency of 1 Hz. The piano tuner knows the strings have the same pitch when no AM occurs when they are played together.

If the turbines are further apart, then the amplitudes of interfering waves will be more varied. In the diagram below we show sum of 16Hz and 18Hz wave forms but with different amplitudes. There will still be AM, but less extreme.



The grossly over-crowded wind farm modelled in Chapter 13, advanced at the non-statutory consultation, mapped throughout the SR except where other layouts are erroneously inserted, and used for modelling in SR Chapter 13, would make AM likely, a priori. AM must remain scoped in while the layout is overcrowded.

By international norms the layout is even more overcrowded

13.12 The upwind spacing in the 21-24 cluster is about half the traditional UK minimum of 5 RD. This minimum is itself well below the 6 RD-10 RD typical in countries with a higher regard for energy wastage, noise and vibration damage to turbines in onshore wind farms. Without ever being justified, wake losses through a skimped 5 RD spacing are now accepted in UK onshore wind farms, with the costs borne ultimately by electricity bill payers. It is not the intention of this comment to open a discussion of systemic wake losses in UK wind farms, but to highlight that 5 RD is already a bare minimum and the 2.6 RD upwind spacing in the 21-24 cluster in the model is thus far below the international norm.

13.13 Overcrowded wind farms have larger wake losses and generate less electricity from the expensive plant, with the wasted kinetic energy expressed as excess noise in turbulent air. The costs are borne by electricity bill-payers. Everyone pays for the noise.

13.14 Before further comments can be made on the noise modelling methods of 13.3.5, a correct revision of the SR should assess noise using modelling assumptions that do not result in a grossly overcrowded wind farm, and revised maps that all relate to the correct proposal. Critical thinking must always be used when deploying cut-and-paste research.

Vibration

13.15 The tone of **13.5.22** is polemical, as though the SR is picking a fight with itself. **13.5.22** does not mention that the principal victim of excessive operational vibration caused by resonance in an overcrowded wind farm is the wind farm itself. We all pay for resonance vibration in overcrowded wind farms.

As well as resonance tonal noise and AM noise, the impacts of the layout and turbine size modelled in **13.3.5** will include to some extent:

a) Higher vibration and bending stress on rotor blades
b) Uneven torque and dynamic forces in main shaft and bearings
c) Increased mechanical stress in the gearbox and generator

These impacts should be scoped into the Noise and Vibration baseline while the proposed layout remains grossly overcrowded. The mechanical costs of vibration in overcrowded wind farms are ultimately borne by electricity bill-payers.

Tendency to overcrowd by uprating

13.16 Developers and turbine manufacturers have strong incentives to overcrowd onshore wind farms. It should be nipped in the bud at Scoping, and consultees and regulators must pay attention to uprating consequences throughout the consent pathway, especially since UK onshore wind farms that use a 5 RD downwind spacing are already overcrowded by international norms.

13.17 Overcrowding is especially likely to occur when turbine uprating is implemented between proposals inside the same boundary, as it has been between Calderdale Wind Farm (4.8 MW turbines correctly spaced) and Calderdale Energy Park (7.2 MW turbines grossly overcrowded).

13.18 Overcrowding can inflate curtailment payments, about which Prime Minister Starmer has said "It's a problem that wasn't fixed over the last 14 years, but a problem that we are determined to fix as we go forward". As it happens, CWF Ltd. proposed a correctly spaced wind farm under the Conservatives and a grossly overcrowded one under Labour.

13.19 Some large wind farms built or consented on the Scottish islands (for which no Westminster government was responsible) form useful examples of overcrowding by uprating with which some CWF Ltd. consultants will be familiar. The uprating between CWF (65 4.8 MW turbines correctly spaced on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints) and CEP (41 7.2 MW turbines grossly overcrowded on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints) should be justified by Logika and CWF Ltd.

Maps drawn by 'ST'

13.20 Following the inconsistency found in **13-1** and **13-2**, the other drawings by 'ST' were tracked across the SR.

13.21 There is a very serious omission concerning storm runoff in Greave Clough in the hydrology maps **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** (drawn by 'ST' and checked by 'SM'). These omissions relate to **4.3.11** and the acknowledged

large area at risk of surface water flooding "on the western side of the turbine area, around Waterfall Syke and Cross Dike." The maps **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** omit the sluice and tunnel to Widdop Reservoir from Greave Clough. Normal outflow and storm outflow from the Greave Clough catchment are entirely different if the sluice and tunnel are overwhelmed. The correct normal outflow from Greave Clough is not as shown in the three maps.

13.22 Note that **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** are all less useful than the single hydrology map published in the consultation brochure [CB p 19], which showed the indicative layout on the hydrology map and thus gave early warning of the flood danger potential, though the sluice and tunnel were also absent. CEP is dangerous for flooding because it is overcrowded. This has pushed infrastructure onto steep edges which will accelerate runoff. Consultees who want to remark in detail on the flood danger of CEP as laid out would have to refer to the Consultation Brochure for the Non-statutory Consultation because the maps in the SR, as well as being incomplete, are inadequate for that purpose.

13.23 **18-1** on Shadow Flicker (drawn by 'ST' and checked by 'MT') has a T42 but no T38. The same error on all seven maps published for the non-statutory consultation on 29 April 2025 was brought to the attention of the CWF Ltd Project Director on 1 May 2025 by a member of the public, who was thanked in writing. The error was then corrected on seven maps produced for non-statutory consultation, with a pop-up notification of the corrections to seven erroneous maps that has recently been taken down but is shown below.

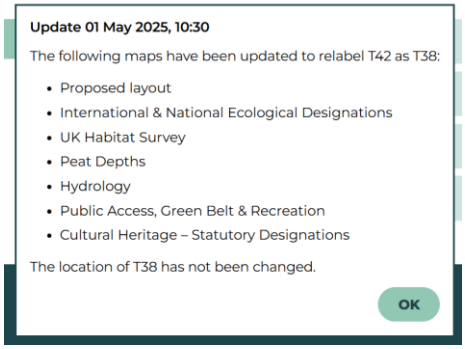


Fig 13.23 Pop-up notification of the T42 error. Image: CWF Ltd

The revision dates on **18-2** all long postdate the acknowledgment of the error by the Project Director, and why the error persists in **18-2** should be explained by the Project Director, but expert users of windPRO will know how a poorly trained user with no overall understanding of the proposal and

its document history might make this error. Logika should explain why the error was not caught by the more experienced chapter and volume editors, and CWF Ltd. should explain why it was not caught by the Project Director, who was acutely aware of the T42 problem following the events of 29 April-1 May 2025.

13.24 Across the SR, 'ST' drew, 'MT' checked, and clients were able to make comments on three maps (**13-1, 13-2, 18-2**) each having a final revision date of 29/08/2025 which used three different turbine layouts. It is not plausible that checker 'MT' could have missed these three variations if these maps were in fact checked on 29/08/2025 as stated, so they seem not to have been checked at any point.

13.25 Logika and CWF Ltd. should want to guarantee the correctness of all the maps in subsequent revisions of the SR submitted to the Secretary of State. Consultees and investors whose time and money has been wasted by this SR should be given an explanation for the authorship, drafting and checking failures, and clear lines of management and accountability at Logika should be published in subsequent revisions of the SR.

13.27 13.6.18 is a disclaimer. It states:

"An indicative layout and candidate turbine have been used to inform this Scoping Report, including predicted noise levels and the identification of noise sensitive receptors, and it is anticipated that these could differ from the candidate turbine and layout submitted with the DCO application."

CWF Ltd. and Logika should explain why Chapter 13 models a layout that should not be built. Comments on what CWF Ltd. hoped to gain from the incompetent chapter are reserved pending that explanation.

13.28 The noise analysis in Chapter 13 is neither competent nor scientific.

a) Two different layouts have been presented in adjacent drawings **13-1** and **13-2**. This is because the drafter 'ST' selected two layouts from the windPRO library, both with titles beginning "Calderdale" one of which was for Calderdale Energy Park and the other was for Calderdale Wind Farm. This is simple carelessness that should have been picked up by the chapter editor and by the senior management of Logika and CWF Ltd. during checking and proofreading.

b) Because Calderdale Energy Park is grossly overcrowded, including a cluster with a downwind spacing as low as 2.3 RD, the intensity averaging algorithm supplied by windPRO and used to draw the contours in **13-1** will not capture the resonance and AM noise phenomena.

c) The SR is oblivious to the overcrowding despite stating the model rotor diameter in the assumptions. The SR is modelling a wind farm that should never be built, and which would have noise properties that the simplistic modelling by inverse-square weighted averages cannot predict.

d) In **13.5.2-13.5.20** the SR presents some cut-and-paste research into Amplitude Modulation. Because that research was done with a sample of actual wind farms, they will not usually be grossly overcrowded, so the evidence adduced is irrelevant to SR's argument.

e) The cut-and-pasted research concludes that "At present, it seems evident that reliable predictions of AM in the context of development planning and noise assessment guidance are unlikely to be practically feasible in the near future."

For the SR grossly overcrowded model the reverse is the case. Acoustic beats will make AM predictable a priori in the grossly overcrowded CEP layout used in the model.

f) The studies adduced may be scientific. They way they are used is not scientific. Science is not a cut-and-paste activity. It always requires critical thinking.

g) Government policy on renewable energy is complex and expensive and depends on maintaining a widespread belief in scientific process among the electorate. It is essential that the modelling and the use of scientific research in any Scoping Report for a wind farm should be competent and scrupulous. This is not the case in Chapter 13 of the SR and this is not excused by the disclaimer **13.6.18**. All published modelling should have been delayed until a correct layout was available so that public confidence in the proposal was maintained.

13.29 Consultees include councils who are very short of money for basic activities, and charities that depend on public generosity. They should not have to spend money responding in a very short timeframe to a Scoping

Report that is riddled with errors and models a wind farm layout that should not be built.

(Author: NIPM 16/09/25)

15: Socio-economics and tourism

(For Peat's Sake)

Overall, this section leans towards overstating the benefits of CEP and understating its costs, both tangible & intangible.

15.2.1 *'No legislation specific to socioeconomics & tourism'* … leading to interpretation and bias towards CEP.
Much of the rationale in this section is based on broad brush regional/national secondary data, lacking focus on the more relevant local economy. To capture meaningful input primary research needs to be conducted supported by more targeted secondary data.
Some parts are void of specific relevance and true understanding of the area and its many tourist assets and unique South Pennine cultural heritage.
There are flaws in the BiGGAR's Economics Wind Farm Methodology. Using broad ONS data is limiting, missing out small local businesses and voluntary contributions. Regional averages don't focus on local impact. There's a bias towards project positives for CEP with client-commissioned reports/research. The broad approach masks local impacts, the tourism trade-offs hidden and cultural heritage and landscape effects diluted.

15.3.2 Regarding 'Study Areas' … other 'relevant' local authority areas is vague. This should clearly specify inclusion of all communities bordering Walshaw Moor and Brontë Country, with input from constituents, parish councils and bordering local authorities (in accordance with the Aarhus Convention).

15.3.3 Economic impacts and key tourism assets should be quantified in communities bordering Walshaw Moor and Brontë Country. They are inter connected.

15.3.4/5 Baseline data is macro level and not tailored to the communities the proposal impacts. This is too abstract to give clear understanding of the local economy surrounding the proposed development.

15.3.16 What is the relevance of this reference to fuel poverty? It is to be expected that populations in more northern or exposed locations will face higher fuel bills.

15.3.18 *"These figures indicate that tourism in Calderdale is no more important to the local economy than is the case for Yorkshire and the Humber and England as a whole".* What is the source for this misleading statement. Hebden Bridge/Haworth and surrounding communities are tourist hotspots. What percentage of tourism revenue in Calderdale (tangible & intangible) does Hebden Bridge tourism assets account for? What percentage of Bradford for Haworth?

15.3.20

Active should include several fell running events, winter Spine race, mountain biking, wild swimming, connection with nature/mental health/retreat/reflection/wellbeing. Ancient Packhorse/trekking routes, Calderdale Way, Pennine Way.

Discovery also Lumb Falls, Wuthering Heights & Bronte Moor, Gibson Mill, Hardcastle Crags, National Trust, Cragg Vale, Bell House Coiners/ 'King' David Hartley, the Arvon Foundation Centre at Lumb Bank, Heptonstall, Jerusalem Farm, the unique cultural heritage landscape, churches and farmsteads.

Events many village fetes celebrating cultural heritage & tradition, Hebden Bridge Open Studios events celebrating arts drawing inspiration from the uniqueness of surrounding South Pennine landscapes and poets like Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, besides the Brontës. Wainsgate Chapel music and spoken word events, the Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever on Penistone Hill in Haworth.

Films several film and tv versions of Wuthering Heights with a new one to be released in February 2026; Jane Eyre, The Gallows Pole, Gentleman Jack, Last Tango in Halifax, Happy Valley, Riot Women, God's Own Country.

There is a vibrant social economy locally with tourists supporting cafes, shops, pubs, restaurants and many local businesses in both Hebden Bridge, Haworth and neighbouring communities.

15.5.2 More emphasis should be placed on the relevance of Bradford, which is UK City of Culture 2025. In terms of the wider context of Brontë Country, Keighley, Thornton and Ilkley are just as relevant as communities directly bordering the site of the proposed wind farm.

'It is proposed that the decommissioning phase is scoped out of the socio-economics assessment as described in 15.9' This should be scoped in to the socio-economics assessment.

(Author: CS 18/09/25)

16: Human health

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

16.4.5

'Proposed permissive paths' have never been mentioned. At the moment most of the proposed wind farm site is open access land under CRoW: will this no longer be the case if the development goes ahead?

Table 16-14

This is NOT scoped in in Chapter 12 Access, Traffic and Transport.

16.5.4

'it is ***uncertain*** whether this land is important for access to open space, leisure and play': this needs to be established

(Author: LM 18/09/25)

17: Aviation

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

The Scoping Report has not included Oxenhope Airfield GB-0151. To be found at OS grid SE 045 344 this airfield is 4.3km from the nearest turbine on Yeomans Hill, has a number of regular local users and should definitely be scoped.

(Author: LM 18/09/25)

18: EIA Other Matters (Shadow Flicker)

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

Fig 18-1

The map for the 'Study Area' for shadow flicker shows no Turbine 38 but includes a Turbine 42 (there are only 41 proposed turbines). The latter error appeared on the CEP website at the Launch on 29 April 2025 and was pointed out to CWF Ltd. on 1 May 2025 by a member of the public. The error was corrected by CEP, and a pop-up notification was put on the website which has only recently been taken down. Since the same error has now been perpetrated in the SR, CWF Ltd would do well to reinstate the correction notification for their own benefit. As CWF Ltd. acknowledge in **10.4.2** of the current SR, 'the layout of the Proposed Development is a vital part of the EIA process'.

(Author: LM 10/09/25)

Health and Safety Executive

CEMHD Policy - Land Use Planning,
NSIP Consultations,
Building 1.2,
Redgrave Court,
Merton Road,
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 7HS.

HSE email: NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

email only - calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Ms Wing Sum

Date: 17 September 2025

PROPOSED CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK (the project)
PROPOSAL BY CALDERDALE WIND FARM LIMITED (the applicant)
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (as amended) REGULATIONS 10 and 11

Thank you for your letter of 1ST September 2025 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project. HSE does not comment on EIA Scoping Reports but the following information is likely to be useful to the applicant.

HSE's land use planning advice

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

According to HSE's records, the proposed Calderdale Cable Search Areas and Access Routes (Calderdale Energy Park, EIA Scoping Report, Figure 4-2, PINS Reference: EN0110023, Document Reference:16617A-30-R01-F01, September 2025) of the proposed development cross the Consultation Zones of several Major Accident Hazard (MAH) sites. This includes:

- HSE ref 3447; operated by Michael Harvey Haircare Products Ltd
- HSE ref 3619; operated by Blagden Chemical Specialists Ltd

The Applicant should make contact with the operators of the Major Hazards sites, to inform an assessment of whether or not the proposed development is vulnerable to a possible major accident.

There are also several major accident hazard pipelines that cross the location of the proposed development, associated with the following operators:

- HSE ref 6808; Cadent Gas Ltd Greenhead Lane / Barrowford, which falls on the land associated with the proposed development to the east of Barrowford.
- HSE ref 7668; Northern Gas Networks East Bierley / Pool Bank, which falls on the land associated with the proposed development between Wetstone Plantation and the south of Woodhall
- HSE ref 7673; Northern Gas Networks Hebden Bridge / Mulcture Hall, which falls on the land associated with the proposed development near to Pye Nest area of Halifax
- HSE ref 7680; Northern Gas Networks Keighley / Baildon, which falls on the land associated with the proposed development near Bingley train station
- HSE ref 7691; Northern Gas Networks Menston / Canal Road, which falls on the land associated with the proposed development between Baildon and to the south of Bolton Woods

The Applicant should also make the necessary approaches to the relevant pipeline operators. There are three particular reasons for this:

i) the pipeline operator may have a legal interest in developments in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may restrict developments within a certain proximity of the pipeline;

ii) the standards to which the pipeline is designed and operated may restrict major traffic routes within a certain proximity of the pipeline. Consequently, there may be a need for the operator to modify the pipeline or its operation, if the development proceeds;

iii) to establish the necessary measures required to alter/upgrade the pipeline to appropriate standards.

HSE's Land Use Planning advice would be dependent on the location of areas where people may be present. When we are consulted by the Applicant with further information under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, we can provide full advice.

Would Hazardous Substances Consent be needed?

It is not clear whether the applicant has considered the hazard classification of any chemicals that are proposed to be present at the development. Hazard classification is relevant to the potential for accidents. For example, hazardous substances planning consent is required to store or use any of the Categories of Substances or Named Hazardous Substances set out in Schedule 1 of The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended, if those hazardous substances will be present on, over or under the land at or above the controlled quantities. There is an addition rule in the Schedule for below-threshold substances.

If hazardous substances planning consent is required, please consult HSE on the application.

Consideration of risk assessments

Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role on NSIPs is summarised in the following Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive. This document includes consideration of risk assessments on page 3.

Explosives sites

Explosives Inspectorate has no comment to make as there are no HSE licenced explosives sites in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Electrical Safety

No comment from a planning perspective.

At this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk . We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]
CEMHD4 NSIP Consultation Team

Hebden Royd Town Council

The Town Hall, St George's Street
Hebden Bridge, HX7 7BY
T: 01422 842181
Info@hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk
www.hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

This response reviews the consultation methodology described in the Calderdale Energy Park Scoping Report and compares it with independent evidence gathered through the Hebden Royd Town Council survey.

Key Findings

- The Scoping Report describes a two-phase consultation process but provides no record or analysis of public responses.
- This lack of transparency undermines accountability and fails to meet the standards expected under the Planning Act 2008 and the Gunning Principles.
- Independent evidence from the HRTC survey demonstrates substantial opposition, with objections focusing on environmental/peatland damage, scale and location, flood risk, landscape/heritage impacts, and governance concerns.
- The failure to evidence how feedback has shaped the project design risks rendering the consultation tokenistic.

Conclusion

The Scoping Report's consultation account is incomplete and inadequate. Unless the developer can provide transparent evidence of meaningful engagement and demonstrate how feedback has influenced the proposal, the process should not proceed to application stage without substantial revision.

2. Response to Calderdale Energy Park Scoping Report – Public Consultation

We note the statement in the Scoping Report (pp. 34–35) that a non-statutory public consultation was carried out between 29 April and 10 June 2025, and that comments have been *"taken and noted."* However, this account does not reflect the reality of that consultation.

1. Absence of Transparency

- The Scoping Report asserts that comments were collected but provides no record, summary, or analysis.
- This prevents consultees, stakeholders, and the Planning Inspectorate from understanding the nature of public concern.

2. Evidence of Substantial Public Opposition

- The Hebden Royd Town Council (HRTC) survey — run in parallel with the developer's consultation — gathered hundreds of objections.
- Categorised analysis shows the most common themes were:
    - Environmental / peatland damage (266 mentions)
    - Scale / location objections (125)
    - Flood risk (112)
    - Landscape / heritage impacts (75)
    - Governance / consultation concerns (59)
- These directly contradict the implication that the consultation was neutral or uncontentious.

3. Failure to Evidence "Consideration" of Responses

- Without publishing actual responses or themes, the developer's claim that comments have been *"considered"* cannot be substantiated.
- This undermines confidence in both the consultation process and the weight given to community views.

4. Procedural Fairness

- The Planning Act 2008 and the Gunning Principles require that consultations are transparent, accessible, and demonstrably taken into account.
- A failure to provide evidence of public responses risks breaching these principles and could expose the process to challenge.

3. Consultation Methodology – Critique

This document provides a critique of the consultation methodology described in the Calderdale Energy Park Scoping Report (pp. 34–35). While the report outlines a phased consultation process, there are concerns about transparency, accessibility, and effectiveness.

Methodology as Described in the Scoping Report

- Two phases of consultation:

  – Non-statutory consultation (29 April – 10 June 2025): early engagement with communities, Q&A sessions, feedback gathering.

  – Statutory consultation (under the Planning Act 2008 and EIA Regulations): to include Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI).

- Engagement with statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England) focusing on environmental baselines, survey methodologies, and EIA/HRA scope.
- Responses said to have been *"taken and noted"*; a full Consultation Report to be provided with the DCO application.

Effectiveness of the Methodology

Strengths:

- A phased approach (non-statutory followed by statutory) aligns with NSIP best practice.
- Early engagement with statutory bodies is good practice to scope surveys and assessments.

Weaknesses and Gaps:

- Transparency: No record, summary, or categorisation of public comments has been provided. Simply noting that feedback was *"taken and noted"* undermines accountability.
- Accessibility: It is unclear how consultation opportunities were publicised, which formats (online/in-person/accessible) were used, and how inclusive the process was.
- Evidence of consideration: The report does not demonstrate how feedback influenced the project design — a key expectation under Planning Inspectorate guidance and the Gunning Principles.
- Balance: Heavy emphasis on statutory consultees but minimal detail on community-level engagement, despite the sensitivity of the issues raised.

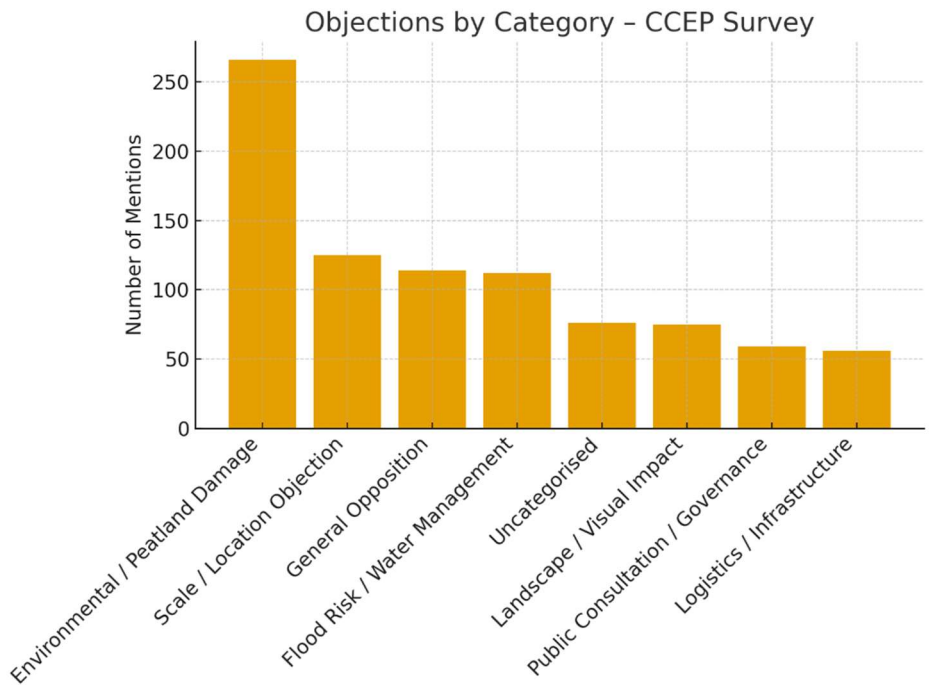
Conclusion

The methodology is structurally sound but ineffective in execution at this stage. Without published evidence of public responses or clear demonstration of their influence on design, the consultation risks being perceived as tokenistic rather than participatory. Substantial improvement is needed to ensure compliance with best practice and to maintain public confidence in the process.

4. Hebden Royd Town Council Survey

HRTC has undertaken its own online consultation. To date there has been over 700 responses to the Survey which will conclude in October.

Overall Category Breakdown of Objections



The chart illustrates the number of objections by category, as summarised from the HRTC survey.

Category Summaries with Example Comments

Environmental / Peatland Damage

- Total objections: 266
- Example comments:

  – “Building on peat will release vast stores of carbon and damage habitats.”

  – “This is an environmental disaster waiting to happen.”

Scale / Location Objection

- Total objections: 125
- Example comments:

  – “The sheer size of this development makes it unsuitable for Calderdale.”

  – “This is the wrong place for such an industrial scheme.”

General Opposition

- Total objections: 114
- Example comments:

  – “I strongly oppose this damaging project.”

  – “This scheme should never go ahead.”

Flood Risk / Water Management

- Total objections: 112
- Example comments:

  – “Drainage and run-off will increase flooding in the valley.”

  – “Building on the moors will worsen flood risks downstream.”

Landscape / Visual Impact

- Total objections: 75
- Example comments:

  – “The turbines will destroy iconic views of Brontë Country.”

  – “This development will scar the moorland landscape.”

Public Consultation / Governance

- Total objections: 59
- Example comments:

  – “The consultation process has been inadequate and unfair.”

  – “Residents were not properly informed or listened to.”

Logistics / Infrastructure

- Total objections: 56
- Example comments:

  – “Narrow rural roads cannot handle turbine transport.”

  – “Infrastructure disruption will be enormous.”

Uncategorised

- Total objections: 76
- Example comments:

  – “This project just doesn’t make sense.”

  – “Strongly object.”

5. Final Conclusion

The Scoping Report's account of consultation is incomplete and does not demonstrate how public concerns have been considered. Independent evidence gathered by Hebden Royd Town Council shows clear, consistent, and well-founded objections on environmental, flood risk, landscape, governance, and infrastructure grounds. These issues go to the heart of site suitability.

Unless the developer can provide transparent evidence of meaningful consultation and demonstrate how feedback has shaped the proposal, the process falls short of the standards required under the Planning Act 2008 and the Gunning Principles. On this basis, Hebden Royd Town Council considers the current consultation inadequate and urges that the application should not proceed without substantial revision and genuine public engagement.

From: [redacted]@heptonstallpc.co.uk>
Sent: 24 September 2025 18:33
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Consultation response with regard to Environmental Statement for Calderdale Energy Park ref 110023

[redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam

In response to the request to provide a response to the Environmental Statement Scoping Consultation by Calderdale Energy Park. Please find herewith Heptonstall Parish Council's comments.

Our statements provided in response to the 2023 Scoping report remain un-changed.

General Comment

The Todmorden- Halifax route, it is shown in the report as the A464 its correct designation is the A646.

Proposed Development

The environmental survey must include detailed information on the site selection. Anemometer (wind speed) readings must demonstrate consistency over time, including periods when wind speeds were too low or high to generate power. These both being critical to the efficiency and assessment of expected yields over time.

Biodiversity

The proposed turbines and blades are 200m at their maximum point. Walshaw Moor is of national and local importance as an SSSI and SAC site.

We would therefore submit that any modelling or assessment of flight or migratory patterns etc. from other sites, are comparable with both the turbine heights and topography of Walshaw Moor.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat

The ES must include the impact of run off caused by the excess of 75,000m^2 hard standing used in the construction of the project and its potential to add to the flood risks to lower levels in the valley.

Therefore reference must be made to significant flooding events in recent years i.e. 2012, 2015 and 2020.

Carbon and Climate Change

The ES must contain information on the construction and design of the BESS with reference to Thermal Runaway and the impact of higher temperatures resulting from climate change(s).

In addition the information must include control of toxic emissions to land, air and water.

Moorland fires- The Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan identifies areas of combustible unmanaged vegetation and likely ignition sources beyond the boundary of the proposed turbine site. The CCRA assessment should include a buffer zone of landscaping measures extant and/or required to mitigate the danger of moorland fires spreading onto the site.

Access Traffic and Transport

The route through Heptonstall village is a narrow single width carriageway and a designated access only thoroughfare. Other local roads in the area are also single width carriageways, sinuous and subject to weight restrictions. Any traffic management plan and other access routes being considered but not yet included, must exclude construction traffic using these roads.

Cultural Heritage

Scope of the assessment:- In addition to the Bronte landscape, the landscape and wildlife of, and around the proposed development were a significant inspiration in the writings of Ted Hughes, local man and a universally acclaimed 20th century poet, writer and Poet Laureate. The Elmet Trust, The Ted Hughes Network, and Ted Hughes Society are all points of consultation for his works.

Socio-economics, Land use, Tourism and Recreation

Any assessment on the impact of wind farms on tourism should be post-Covid, and where possible also include the growth of wildlife tourism in the U.K.

Technical Aspects Scoped Out

Table 19-1 page 543 refers to the nearest permitted waste site to the development being in Heptonstall. Please note there are no permitted waste sites in Heptonstall village or civil parish.

We welcome continued engagement with this process and subsequent planning application.

Yours faithfully

Cllr.Susan Slater

Heptonstall Parish Council.

Historic England

Sir/Madam .
Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd
C/O Enshore Subsea Limited
Port Of Blyth
Blyth
Northumberland
NE24 3PB

[redacted]

Our ref: PL00798717

29 September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam .

This development could, potentially, have an impact upon a number of designated heritage assets and their settings in the area around the site. In line with the advice in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), we would expect the Environmental Statement (ES) to contain a thorough assessment of the likely effects which the proposed development might have upon those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets.

Given the height of the proposed wind turbines and the area of the application site, this development is likely to be visible across a very large area and have a potentially significant impact upon the significance of several highly graded assets through development within their setting. As a result, it could affect the significance of heritage assets at some distance from the site itself. We would expect the assessment to clearly demonstrate that the extent of the proposed study area is of the appropriate size to ensure that all heritage assets likely to be affected by this development have been included and can be properly assessed.

As a general approach we would recommend the involvement of the Conservation Officer and archaeological staff of the Local Planning Authority in the development of this assessment. They are best placed to advise on:

• local historic environment issues and priorities;

• how the proposal can be tailored to avoid and minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment;

• the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and,

• opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

It is important that the assessment is designed to ensure that all impacts are fully understood. Section drawings and techniques such as photomontages are a useful

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

part of this and should include both fixed and dynamic/kinetic viewpoints.

The assessment should also take account of the potential impact which associated activities (such as construction, servicing and maintenance, and associated traffic) might have upon perceptions, understanding and appreciation of the heritage assets in the area. The assessment should also consider, where appropriate, the likelihood of alterations to drainage patterns due to the potential need for foundations for individual turbines. This might lead to in situ decomposition or destruction of below ground archaeological remains and deposits and can also lead to subsidence of buildings and monuments.

Observations we would specifically like to raise from the EIA Scoping Report provided are:

Methodology/ Approach

It is outlined in paragraph 3.7.1 that the assessment of development phases will include:

- Construction Phase;
- Operation Phase (including maintenance and replacement of equipment); and
- Decommissioning Phase.

This approach is considered to be acceptable and if the methodology within this assessment of the proposed development phases is successful would cover the three main phases of the proposed DCO scheme.

It is acknowledged that in paragraph 3.7.3 it clarifies that the 'reasonable assumptions' made in this EIA Scoping Report are to be further clarified through the creation of an Environmental Statement (ES). These assumptions will need to be clearly articulated for Historic England to understand the full nature of the potential impact upon the significance of highly graded designated heritage assets (including non-designated archaeological sites) at ES stage.

Part of the proposed methodology for the EIA Scoping Opinion is to a employ the Rochdale approach. This is supported by means of understanding the 'worst case' scenario which is hoped to produce the fullest available assessment of the potential impact on the significance of highly graded designated heritage assets.

The Applicant has noted in paragraph 3.7.6 that the regulatory framework and what is considered good practice may have changed by the time the decommissioning phase

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

comes around (in this case suggested being 35 years after the point of becoming operational) which is accepted as a reasonable consideration to have. Consequently, it is proposed that the Applicant will provide a Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) to account for providing as much information as so far is practicable to ensure that the impacts of the decommissioning phase upon the significance of highly graded designated heritage assets will be as robust as possible.

The proposed study area, as outlined in 11.3.2 proposes three main Zones of Interest. This includes a 5km radius study to provide context for immediate archaeological remains. It includes 15km buffer zone around the development site to capture any designated or non-designated heritage assets where their significance may be affected by changes within their setting, and also a 30km buffer zone to capture any 'very highly designated' heritage assets where their significance may be affected by changes within their setting.

These distances are proposed from the centre point of the development site. Whilst this is a logical point for a survey baseline, the development site is so large that there are concerns that some assets which may be affected by the outermost turbines may not be picked up as a consequence of the centre point of the development site being selected as the baseline from which the assessments on significance and impact through development within the setting of indvidual assets is to be carried out from. Therefore it may well be that further assets or zones of interest need to be looked at and scoped in and so this should be considered by the Applicant and the Examining Authority.

The nature of Cable Corridor routes is that they are suggested areas in which the cables to link the turbines to the grid and therefore the study areas for the cable corridor routes are vast. It is however understood that on the basis of a robust assessment of archaeology and built heritage a preferable route can be selected which minimises the potential impact upon the significance of these designated and non-designated heritage assets.

Paragraph 11.3.3 outlines that due to the relative unknown and changing nature of the cabling options these will be further explored at ES stage. It would be helpful to understand what methods and approaches are being employed to make the decision on what cable routes are more appropriate in cultural heritage terms and therefore it is assumed that everything relating to below ground archaeology and temporary changes in setting to built heritage during the construction phase should be scoped in to ensure that this robust understanding of significance impact is ensured at ES stage.

37 TANNER ROW YORK YO1 6WP
Telephone 01904 601948
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Within the turbine area the Applicant has identified: 2 Grade II listed buildings, and 36 'archaeological remains' however it is not clear as to whether these are non-designated archaeological sites or scheduled monuments. However, it is specified in other sections where scheduled monuments are present so it is assumed these are non-designated archaeological sites.

Within the 5km buffer zone 'outside of the turbine area' the Applicant has identified 28 Scheduled Monuments, one Grade I listed building, and 26 GII* listed buildings. They have identified 13 Conservation Areas within the 5km buffer and an additional 587 GII listed buildings. There is a single GII listed Registered Park and Garden.

The Applicant has identified the following assets outside the 5km buffer area but with a 15km buffer area: Saltaire World Heritage Site, Thirty-three GI listed buildings, 171 GII* listed buildings, one GII* Registered Park and Garden.

As described above, the Applicant had proposed a 5km, 15km, and 30km buffer zone with the latter reserved for 'very highly graded' designated heritage assets. Within Tables 11 (1-4) and Figures 11 (1-3) the Applicant has carried out this exercise successfully for the 5km buffer zone however the 15km buffer zone has been reserved for just 'very highly graded' assets which based on the findings of the table is assumed to be GI, GII* listed buildings/RP&Gs, World Heritage Sites, and Scheduled Monuments. Whilst this has missed the 30km buffer zone as outlined above, other consultees, particularly the Local Planning Authority may wish to understand the impact on certain GII listed buildings within the wider buffer zones. All listed buildings are protected under the same legislative framework and whilst in the NPPF planning balance weight can be awarded according to more sensitive assets, that's not say there would be no harm caused to GII listed buildings via their settings in the 15km buffer zone and potentially the 30km buffer zone. Harm is harm and it needs to be addressed through avoiding, minimising or mitigating said harm.

Whilst there appears to be some inconsistency as to what is the preferred approach (i.e. will a 30km exercise be carried out?), given the individual turbines are proposed to be c.200m tall, and given the topography of the site, we would ask that the Applicant can clarify whether they are not intending to assess Grade II listed buildings within the 15km zone (i.e. have been scoped out already), and whether a 30km exercise is to be undertaken or not. Consequently it would then be clear that it is the intention to in fact scope out Grade II listed buildings in the areas between 5-15km away from the development site.

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

We agree that in paragraph 11.6.9 that some heritage assets have a higher sensitivity to change (including development within their setting) and that these will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

However, we have concerns that the Table 11 - 9 'Levels of Heritage Significance' places the majority of GII listed buildings and Conservation Areas within the 'Medium' significance level. Historic England does not agree with this approach to assessing significance in this way. Whilst there is the Grade system for listed buildings, the NPPF awards great weight to conservation of all designated heritage assets (including conservation areas) in the planning balance. Any harm caused to the significance of any designated heritage asset needs to be avoided, minimised or mitigated and balanced in accordance with the NPPF.

This is acknowledged in paragraph 11.6.10 however this is not reflected in the table.

Historic England also does not agree with the approach of equating 'poor condition' to insignificance. A significant building could retain the majority of those elements which contribute to its special architectural interest whilst being in a deteriorative condition.

Regarding paragraphs 11.6.6 and 11.6.10 we consider that is important to a clarify that a designated heritage asset is not significant because of the fact it is designated but rather that it has been designated because it has special architectural and historic interest at a national level.

Paragraph 11.6.24 outlines how the approach to understanding the potential impact of the scheme upon the significance of designated heritage assets via their settings is to be assesed by using a Zone of Theoretical Visability model. Whilst this can be helpful in understanding the intervisibility of designated heritage assets with the proposal site - in some instances setting isn't necessarily just to do with intervisibility but can be relationships between landscapes and buildings which aren't seen together in the landscape. In the same way we agree that intervisibility with something does not mean that it contributes to the significance of a designated heritage asset via its setting.

We would advise that in addition to the matrixes proposed which refer to sensitivity of the asset, magnitude of impact etc. we would also advise that the assessment of heritage impact is carried out in NPPF terms. Sometimes where these matrixes identify a 'slight adverse impact' these assessments can be scoped out of further

37 TANNER ROW YORK YO1 6WP
Telephone 01904 601948
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

consideration at ES stage. In NPPF terms however this might constitute a small amount of less than substantial harm, which still needs addressing and balancing out in the planning process and therefore combining the matrix approach with the NPPF approach of identifying harm should be carried out at ES stage. Similarly, for example a 'low level of change' as per the Magnitude of Change (Table 11- 10) is consider to be a minor change in setting - this minor change in setting could still be a low amount of less than substantial harm as per the NPPF.

Overall, Historic England remain supportive of the Government's aims to meet their Net-Zero aims and consequentially schemes such as this which aim to help acheive this. We have some concerns relating to the methods and approaches proposed to be used to assess this significance, including the contribution of setting to this setting. Specifically relating to the matrix systems and how they do not align particularly well with NPPF requirements. This can be readily alleviated by carrying out impact assessments in tandem with those proposed articulating harm in terms of less than substantial, substantial etc.

As stated above clarification on whether Grade II listed buildings are to be included within the setting impact exercise for assets within the 5km - 15km buffer zone should be provided. Table 11-7 discusses items previously agreed to be scoped in/out with CMBC. We would ask whether decommissioning effects should remain scoped in as even if just tracks and hardstanding remain, these can have a visual impact upon the landscape and consequentially has the potential to affect the setting of a designated heritage asset - particularly given the rural character of the landscape. Similarly, should the construction phase take a long period of time the visual impact that may arise from this phase could have a long term impact upon the setting of designated heritage assets either by vibration, visual impact, increased traffic etc. Therefore should it be scoped in it would be an opportunity to articulate how these potential impacts are set to be avoided, minimised or mitigated.

Thank you for consulting us on this EIA Scoping Opinion, should the Applicant or Examining Authority have any questions for us at this stage please contact me directly copying in e-yorks@historicengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
[redacted]@historicengland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

37 TANNER ROW YORK YO1 6WP

Telephone 01904 601948
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

From: Enquiries <enquiries@ilkleytowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 September 2025 10:40
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

You don't often get email from enquiries@ilkleytowncouncil.gov.uk. Learn why this is important

To the Planning Inspectorate,

Please see the following comment from Ilkley Town Council:

Thank you for including Ilkley Town Council as a consultation body with regard to the ES scoping process. We have nothing further to add or any comment at this stage, although we would appreciate being included as a consultee once the application has been submitted, as we do have some reservations about the project.

All the best,

[redacted]
Administrative Officer

enquiries@ilkleytowncouncil.gov.uk
[redacted]

Ilkley Town Council

From: Kirkburton Parish Council <kirkburtonpc@gmail.com>
Sent: 18 September 2025 14:44
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - response by Kirkburton Parish Council.

You don't often get email from kirkburtonpc@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

To whom it may concern,

Kirkburton Parish Council received notice on 1 September 2025 that the Planning Inspectorate had identified the Parish Council as a consultation body that must be consulted before adopting its Scoping Opinion for the Environmental Statement for Calderdale Energy Park.

The Parish Council's response is as follows:

Kirkburton Parish Council requests that the Planning Inspectorate consider the landscape impact of the development in the Environmental Statement.

Resolution reference: Full Council Meeting, 4 September 2025, MIN 65.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Parish Clerk/RFO

Working pattern: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays.

Kirkburton Parish Council

Burton Village Hall

Northfield Lane

Highburton

Huddersfield

HD8 0QT

Email: clerk@kbpc.co.uk

Website: www.kbpc.co.uk

[redacted]@kirklees.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 September 2025 13:24
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> [redacted]

Dear Wing Sum To,

I write in response to your below enquiry on behalf of Kirklees Council / Kirklees LPA.

We have no comments to offer on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted], MRTPI

Team Leader – Development Management (Major Developments)

Planning and Development Service

Place Directorate

PO Box 1720, Huddersfield, HD1 9EL

[redacted])

Website: www.kirklees.gov.uk

The information contained in this e-mail, and any files transmitted with it, is confidential to the intended recipient(s). The dissemination, distribution, copying or disclosure of this message or its contents is prohibited unless authorised by the sender. If you receive this message in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete the message from your system.

The Coal Authority

200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG
T: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)
E: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Ms K King – Senior Environmental Advisor
Planning Inspectorate

[By email: calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk]

Our ref: ENSIP-20

19th September 2025

Dear Ms King

Re: Calderdale Energy Park

Thank you for your notification of the 1st September 2025 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The Coal Authority are a statutory consultee under Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, where projects fall within areas of past, present or future coal mining.

The Planning team at the Coal Authority have reviewed the coal mining data we hold against the areas proposed for the Calderdale Energy Park project.

I can confirm that based on the area identified for the project it does not lie in the Development High Risk Area. These are areas where our records indicate that coal mining features at surface or shallow depth are present and these may pose a risk to surface stability and public safety.

The records we hold does however indicate that the western tip of the site boundary does lie within the defined Development Low Risk Area. The remainder of the site falls outside of the coalfield. In the Low Risk area we draw developer's attention to the following Standing Advice note:

The proposed development lies within a coal mining area which may contain unrecorded coal mining related hazards. If any coal mining feature is encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Mining Remediation Authority on 0345 762 6846 or if a hazard is encountered on site call the emergency line 0800 288 4242.

Further information is also available on the Mining Remediation Authority website at: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/mining-remediation-authority

On the basis that the site does not fall within the defined Development High Risk Area the Planning team at the Coal Authority have no specific comments to make on this project.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted] *BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI*

Principal Planning & Development Manager

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by the Coal Authority as a statutory consultee and is based upon the latest available data and the electronic consultation records held by the Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based on the information provided to the Coal Authority or information that has been published for consultation purposes in relation to this specific project. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by the Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the applicant/developer for consultation purposes.

National Grid house
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill, Warwick
CV34 6DA

[redacted]
Lead Development Liaison Officer
[redacted]e@nationalgrid.com
[redacted]

[redacted]
Development Liaison Support Officer
[redacted]@nationalgrid.com
[redacted]

Customer Connections Site Solutions (CCSS)
Land, Planning and External Affairs (LPEA)
www.nationalgrid.com

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY:
calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

25 September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

APPLICATION BY CALDERDALE WIND FARM LIMITED (THE APPLICANT) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK (THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT)

SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

We refer to your letter dated 1st September 2025 in relation to the above proposed application. This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET).

Having reviewed the scoping report, we would like to make the following comments regarding NGET existing or future infrastructure in close proximity to the current red line boundary.

NGET has high voltage electricity substations and overhead transmission lines, within or close proximity the scoping area. The Substation and overhead lines forms an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales.

National Grid is a trading name for:
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Registered Office: 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5EH
Registered in England and Wales, No 2366977

National Grid house
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill, Warwick
CV34 6DA

Existing Infrastructure

Substations

Connection Location - Potential NGET Asset Interaction: Four options are currently being considered to connect Calderdale Energy Park to the national grid. Final approach TBC.

1. A connection via Northern Powergrid at the Bradford West substation.
   - NGET BRADFORD WEST 132 KV SUBSTATION
   - NGET BRADFORD WEST 275 KV SUBSTATION
   - NGET BRADFORD WEST 400 KV SUBSTATION
   - Associated overhead and underground apparatus including cables

2. A connection via Electricity North West at the Rochdale substation.
   - NGET ROCHDALE 132 KV SUBSTATION
   - NGET ROCHDALE 275 KV SUBSTATION
   - Associated overhead and underground apparatus including cables

3. A connection via NESO at a new substation north of Leeds (location to be determined).
   - Unknown- TBC

4. A connection via Northern Powergrid at the Elland substation.
   - NGET ELLAND 132 KV SUBSTATION
   - NGET ELLAND 275 KV SUBSTATION
   - Associated overhead and underground apparatus including cables

Overhead Lines

VK ROUTE 275kV OHL	Circuit 1 ROCHDALE - WHITEGATE 1 Circuit 2 ROCHDALE - WHITEGATE 2
ZP ONDAIN 400kV OHL	Circuit 1 ROCHDALE – STALYBRIDGE Circuit 2 EGGBOROUGH - ROCHDALE
4ZP ONDAIN 400kV OHL	Circuit 1 BRADFORD WEST - PADIHAM Circuit 2 MONK FRYSTON – PADIHAM
YW 275kV OHL	Circuit 1 BRADFORD WEST – ELLAND Circuit 2 ELLAND - KIRKSTALL 'A'
4ZZ 275kV OHL	Circuit 1 BRADFORD WEST - ELLAND Circuit 2 ELLAND - KIRKSTALL 'A'
VR 275kV OHL	Circuit 1 BRADFORD WEST - KIRKSTALL A Circuit 2 ELLAND - KIRKSTALL A

Underground Cables

BRADFORD WEST - KIRKSTALL A
KIRKSTALL - SKELTON GRANGE
Cable fibres

We enclose plans showing the location of NGET's apparatus within/near the scoping area.

National Grid is a trading name for:
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Registered Office: 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5EH
Registered in England and Wales, No 2366977

National Grid house
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill, Warwick
CV34 6DA

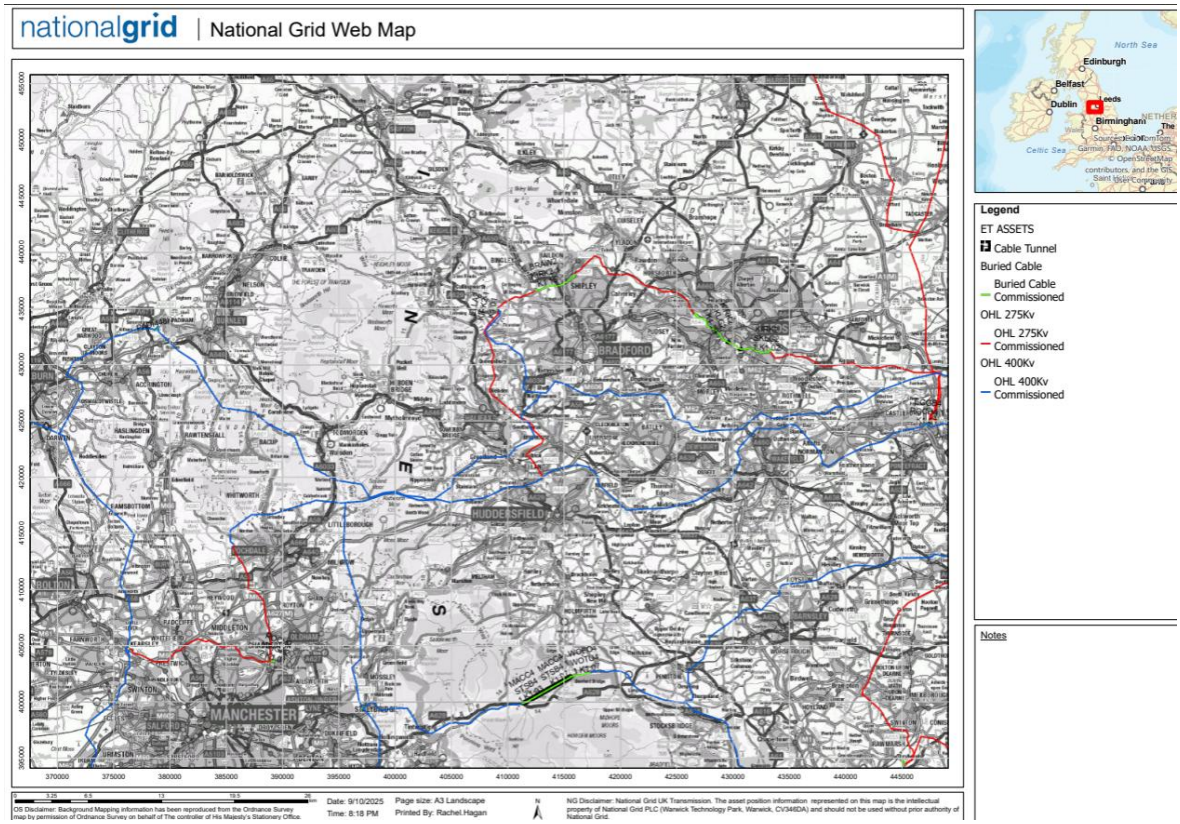


Figure 1: Overview of NGET Assets in proposed development area.

Additional plans have been attached to the email reply.

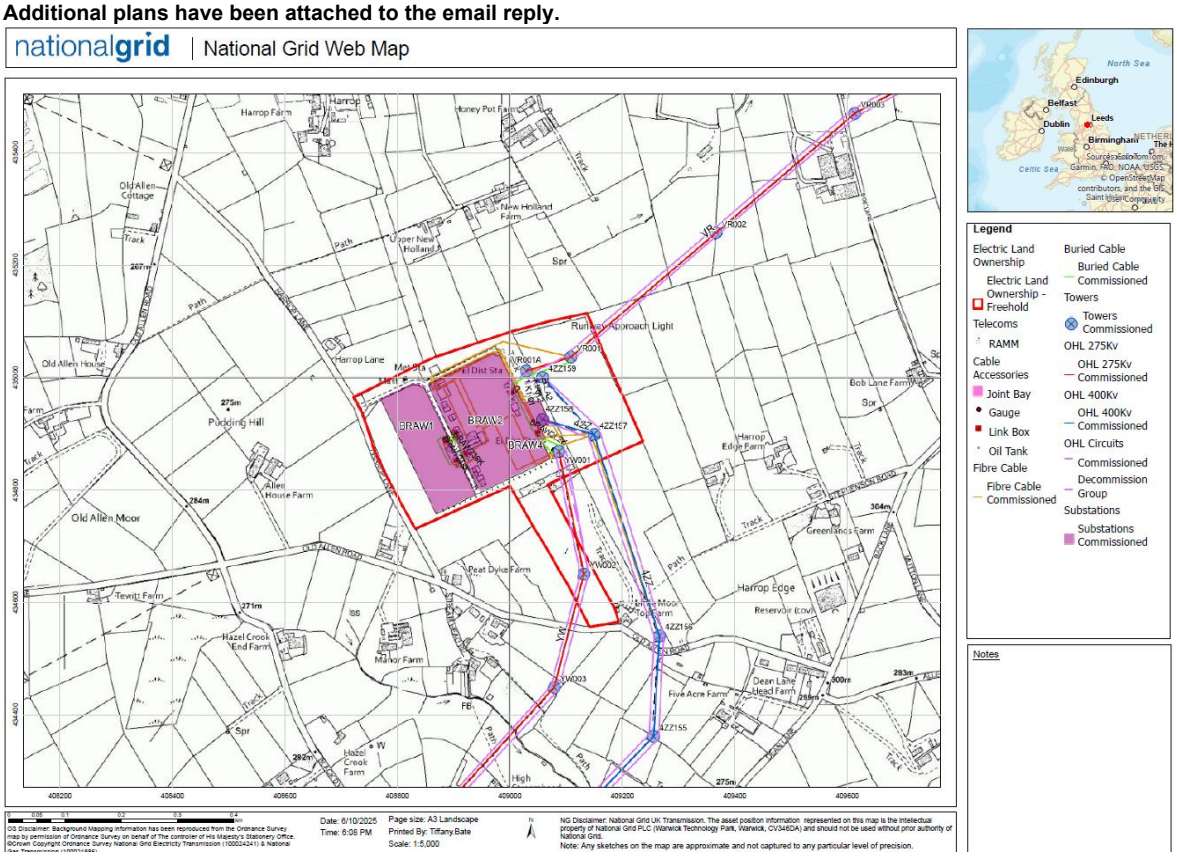


Figure 2: NGET Assets: Bradford West Substation

National Grid house
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill, Warwick
CV34 6DA

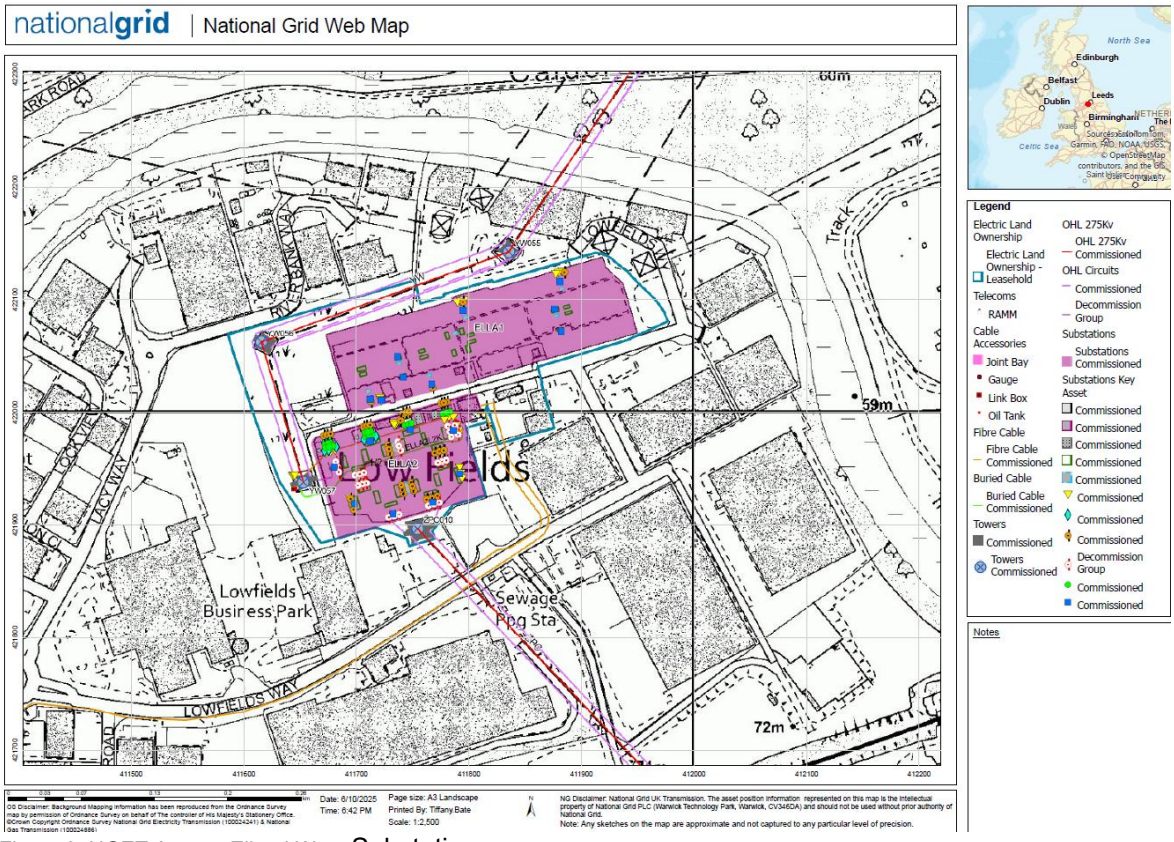


Figure 3: NGET Assets: Ellend West Substation

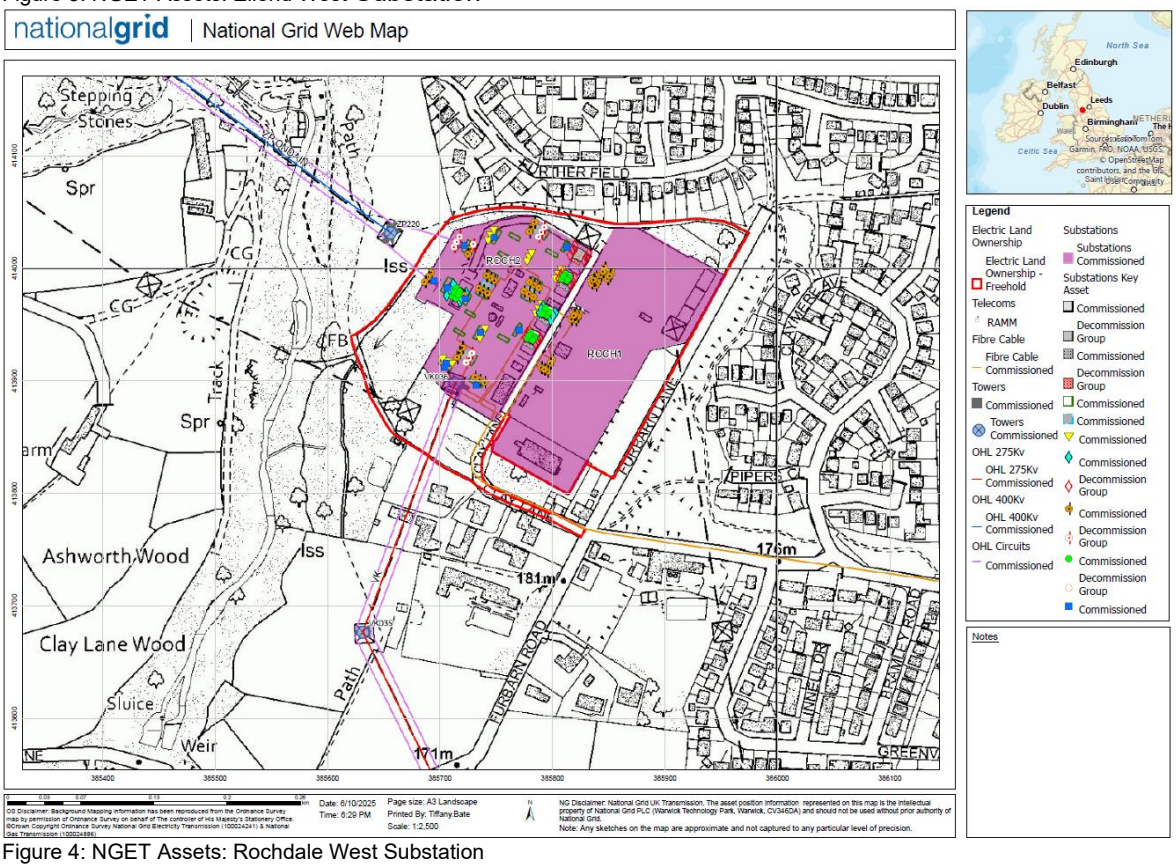


Figure 4: NGET Assets: Rochdale West Substation

National Grid is a trading name for:
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Registered Office: 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5EH
Registered in England and Wales, No 2366977

National Grid house
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill, Warwick
CV34 6DA

New infrastructure

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) took over the electricity network planning responsibility from National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited (NGESO) on the 1st October 2024. Please consult with NESO separately from NGET where further information on the strategic need or capacity is sought.

Please refer to the Holistic Network Design (HND) and the NESO website to view the strategic vision for the UK's ever growing electricity transmission network: https://www.neso.energy/publications/beyond-2030/holistic-network-design-offshore-wind; and https://www.neso.energy/publications/beyond-2030

NGET requests that all existing and future assets are given due consideration given their criticality to distribution of energy across the UK. We remain committed to working with the promoter in a proactive manner, enabling both parties to deliver successful projects wherever reasonably possible. As such we encourage that ongoing discussion and consultation between both parties is maintained on interactions with existing or future assets, land interests, connections or consents and any other NGET interests which have the potential to be impacted prior to submission of the Proposed DCO.

The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations, we are in the middle of a transformation, with the energy we use increasingly coming from cleaner greener sources. Our infrastructure projects across England and Wales are helping to connect more renewable energy to homes and businesses. To find out more about our current projects please refer to our network and infrastructure webpage. https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects. Where it has been identified that your project interacts with or is in close proximity to one of NGET's infrastructure projects, we would welcome further discussion at the earliest opportunity.

These projects are all essential to increase the overall network capability to connect the numerous new offshore wind farms that are being developed, and transport new clean green energy to the homes and businesses where it is needed.

National Grid is a trading name for:
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Registered Office: 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5EH
Registered in England and Wales, No 2366977

National Grid house
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill, Warwick
CV34 6DA

Specific Comments – Electricity Infrastructure:

- NGET's Overhead Line/s is protected by a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement which provides full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our asset

- Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. NGET recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for "overhead line clearances Issue 5 (2019)".

- If any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to our existing overhead lines then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances.

- The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's (www.hse.gov.uk) Guidance Note GS 6 "Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines" and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.

- Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worse conditions of maximum "sag" and "swing" and overhead line profile (maximum "sag" and "swing") drawings should be obtained using the contact details above.

- If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.

- Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or "pillars of support" of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation ("pillar of support") drawings can be obtained using the contact details above.

- NGET high voltage underground cables are protected by a Deed of Grant; Easement; Wayleave Agreement or the provisions of the New Roads and Street Works Act. These provisions provide NGET full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our assets. Hence we require that no permanent / temporary structures are to be built over our cables or within the easement strip. Any such proposals should be discussed and agreed with NGET prior to any works taking place.

- Ground levels above our cables must not be altered in any way. Any alterations to the depth of our cables will subsequently alter the rating of the circuit and can compromise the reliability, efficiency and safety of our electricity network and requires consultation with National Grid prior to any such changes in both level and construction being implemented.

National Grid is a trading name for:
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Registered Office: 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5EH
Registered in England and Wales, No 2366977

National Grid house
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill, Warwick
CV34 6DA

To download a copy of the HSE Guidance HS(G)47, please use the following link:
http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm

Further Advice

We would request that the potential impact of the proposed scheme on NGET's existing and future assets as set out above and including any proposed diversions is considered in any subsequent reports, including in the Environmental Statement, and as part of any subsequent application.

Where any diversion of apparatus may be required to facilitate a scheme, NGET is unable to give any certainty with the regard to diversions until such time as adequate conceptual design studies have been undertaken by NGET. Further information relating to this can be obtained by contacting the email address below.

Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGET apparatus, protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to it to be included within the DCO.

NGET requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection. All consultations should be sent to the following email address: **box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com**

We hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The information in this letter is provided not withstanding any discussions taking place in relation to connections with electricity customer services.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Lead Development Liaison Officer
Customer Connections Site Solutions (CCSS)
Land, Planning and External Affairs (LPEA)

Development Liaison Support Officer
Customer Connections Site Solutions (CCSS)
Land, Planning and External Affairs (LPEA)

National Grid is a trading name for:
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Registered Office: 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5EH
Registered in England and Wales, No 2366977

Technical Guidance Note 287

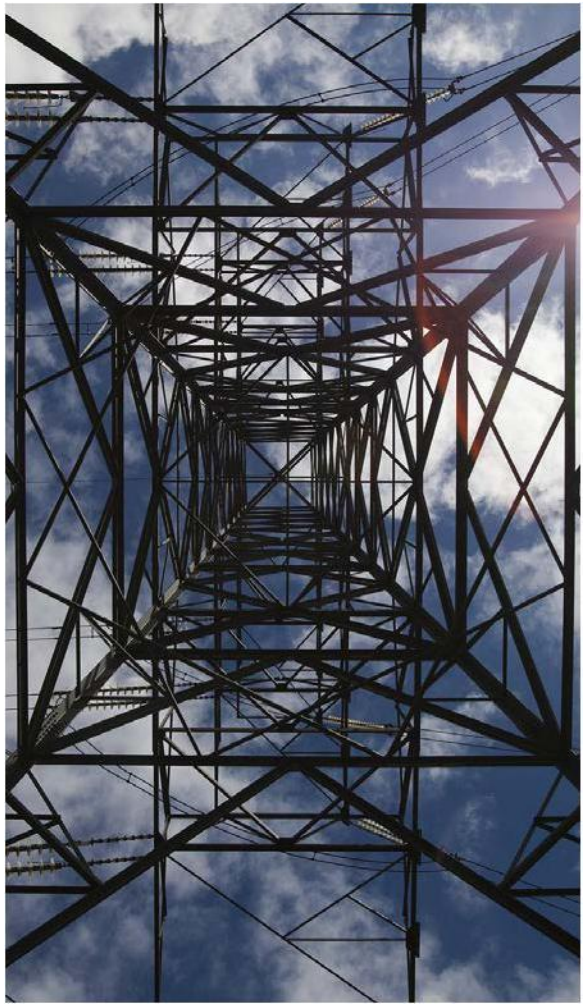
Third-party guidance for working near National Grid Electricity Transmission equipment

Purpose and scope **3**
Contact National Grid 3
How to identify specific National Grid sites 3
Plant protection 3
Emergencies 3

Part 1 – Electricity Transmission infrastructure **4**
Overhead lines 4
Underground cables 4
Substations 4

Part 2 – Statutory requirements for working near high-voltage electricity **4**
Electrical safety clearances 4
Your Responsibilities – Overhead Lines 5

Part 3 – What National Grid will do for you and your development **6**
Provision of information **6**
Drawings 6
Risk of impact identification 6
Risks or hazards to be aware of **7**
Land and access 7
Electrical clearance from overhead lines 7
Underground cables 8
Impressed voltage 8
Earth potential rise 9
Noise 9
Maintenance access 9
Fires and firefighting 10
Excavations, piling or tunnelling 10
Microshocks 10
Specific development guidance **11**
Wind farms 11
Commercial and housing developments 11
Solar farms 12
Asset protection agreements **13**
Contact details **13**
Emergency situations 13
Routine enquiries 13
Appendix A OHL Profile Drawing Guide **14**
Appendix B OHL Tower Stand Off & Reconductoring Area **15**



Disclaimer
National Grid Gas Transmission and National Grid Electricity Transmission or their agents, servants or contractors do not accept any liability for any losses arising under or in connection with this information. This limit on liability applies to all and any claims in contract, tort (including negligence), misrepresentation (excluding fraudulent misrepresentation), breach of statutory duty or otherwise. This limit on liability does not exclude or restrict liability where prohibited by the law, nor does it supersede the express terms of any related agreements.

Purpose and scope

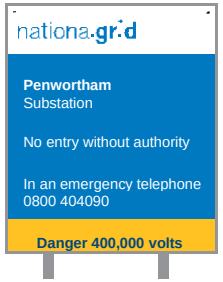
The purpose of this document is to give guidance and information to third parties who are proposing, scheduling or designing developments close to National Grid Electricity Transmission assets.

The scope of the report covers information on basic safety and the location of our assets – and also highlights key issues around particular types of development and risk areas.

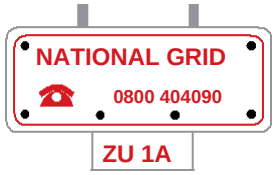
In the case of electrical assets, National Grid does not authorise or agree safe systems of work with developers and contractors. However, we will advise on issues such as electrical safety clearances and the location of towers and cables. We also work with developers to minimise the impact of any National Grid assets that are nearby.

How to identify specific National Grid sites

Substations
The name of the Substation and emergency contact number will be on the site sign.



Overhead Lines
The reference number of the tower and the emergency contact number will be on this type of sign.



Contact National Grid

Plant protection

For routine enquiries regarding planned or scheduled works, contact the Asset Protection team online, by email or phone.

www.lsbud.co.uk

Email: assetprotection@nationalgrid.com

Phone: 0800 001 4282

Emergencies

In the event of occurrences such as a cable strike, coming into contact with an overhead line conductor or identifying any hazards or problems with National Grid's equipment, phone our emergency number 0800 404 090 (option 1).

If you have apparatus within 30m of a National Grid asset, please ensure that the emergency number is included in your site's emergency procedures.

Consider safety

Consider the hazards identified in this document when working near electrical equipment

Part 1

Electricity transmission infrastructure

National Grid owns and maintains the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales (Scotland has its own networks). It's responsible for balancing supply with demand on a minute-by-minute basis across the network.

Overhead lines

Overhead lines consist of two main parts – pylons (also called towers) and conductors (or wires). Pylons are typically steel lattice structures mounted on concrete foundations. A pylon's design can vary due to factors such as voltage, conductor type and the strength of structure required.

Conductors, which are the 'live' part of the overhead line, hang from pylons on insulators. Conductors come in several different designs depending on the amount of power that is transmitted on the circuit.

In addition to the two main components, some Overhead Line Routes carry a Fibre Optic cable between the towers with an final underground connection to the Substations.

In most cases, National Grid's overhead lines operate at 275kV or 400kV.

Underground cables

Underground cables are a growing feature of National Grid's network. They consist of a conducting core surrounded by layers of insulation and armour. Cables can be laid in the road, across open land or in tunnels. They operate at a range of voltages, up to 400kV.

Substations

Substations are found at points on the network where circuits come together or where a rise or fall in voltage is required. Transmission substations tend to be large facilities containing equipment such as power transformers, circuit breakers, reactors and capacitors. In addition Diesel generators and compressed air systems can be located there.

Part 2

Statutory requirements for working near high-voltage electricity

The legal framework that regulates electrical safety in the UK is *The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (ESQCR) 2002*. This also details the minimum electrical safety clearances, which are used as a basis for the Energy Networks Association (ENA) TS 43-8. These standards have been agreed by CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation) and also form part of the *British Standard BS EN 50341-1:2012 Overhead Electrical Lines exceeding AC 1kV*. All electricity companies are bound by these rules, standards and technical specifications. They are required to uphold them by their operator's licence.

Electrical safety clearances

It is essential that a safe distance is kept between the exposed conductors and people and objects when working near National Grid's electrical assets. A person does not have to touch an exposed conductor to get a life-threatening electric shock. At the voltages National Grid operates at, it is possible for electricity to jump up to several metres from an exposed conductor and kill or cause serious injury to anyone who is nearby. For this reason, there are several legal requirements and safety standards that must be met.

Any breach of legal safety clearances will be enforced in the courts. This can and has resulted in the removal of an infringement, which is normally at the cost of the developer or whoever caused it to be there. Breaching safety clearances, even temporarily, risks a serious incident that could cause serious injury or death.

National Grid will, on request, advise planning authorities, developers or third parties on any safety clearances and associated issues. We can supply detailed drawings of all our overhead line assets marked up with relevant safe areas.

« Section continued from previous page

Your Responsibilities - Overhead lines

Work which takes place near overhead power lines carries a significant risk of coming into proximity with the wires. If any person, object or material gets too close to the wires, electricity could ‘flashover’ and be conducted to earth, causing death or serious injury. You do not need to touch the wires for this to happen. The law requires that work is carried out in close proximity to live overhead power lines only when there is no alternative, and only when the risks are acceptable and can be properly controlled. Statutory clearances exist which must be maintained, as prescribed by the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, you are responsible for preparing a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and safe systems of work, to ensure that risks are managed properly and the safety of your workforce and others is maintained. Your risk assessment must consider and manage all of the significant risks and put in place suitable precautions/controls in order to manage the work safely. You are also responsible for ensuring that the precautions identified are properly implemented and stay in place throughout the work.

Work near overhead power lines must always be conducted in accordance with GS6, ‘avoiding danger from overhead power lines’, and any legislation which is relevant to the work you are completing.

.

What National Grid will provide

National Grid can supply profile drawings in PDF and CAD format showing tower locations and relevant clearances to assist you in the risk assessment process.

What National Grid will not provide

National Grid will not approve safe systems of work or approve design proposals

Part 3

What National Grid will do for you and your development

Provision of information

National Grid should be notified during the planning stage of any works or developments taking place near our electrical assets, ideally a minimum notification period of 8 weeks to allow National Grid to provide the following services:

Drawings

National Grid will provide relevant drawings of overhead lines or underground cables to make sure the presence and location of our services are known. Once a third party or developer has contacted us, we will supply the drawings for free.

400kV

The maximum nominal voltage of the underground cables in National Grid's network

Risk or impact identification

National Grid can help identify any hazards or risks that the presence of our assets might bring to any works or developments. This includes both the risk to safety from high-voltage electricity and longer-term issues, such as induced currents, noise and maintenance access that may affect the outcome of the development. National Grid will not authorise specific working procedures, but we can provide advice on best practice.

Risks or hazards to be aware of

This section includes a brief description of some of the hazards and issues that a third party or developer might face when working or developing close to our electrical infrastructure.

Land and access

National Grid has land rights in place with landowners and occupiers, which cover our existing overhead lines and underground cable network. These agreements, together with legislation set out under the *Electricity Act 1989*, allow us to access our assets to maintain, repair and renew them. The agreements also lay down restrictions and covenants to protect the integrity of our assets and meet safety regulations. Anyone proposing a development close to our assets should carefully examine these agreements.

Our agreements often affect land both inside and outside the immediate vicinity of an asset. Rights will include the provision of access, along with restrictions that ban the development of land through building, changing levels, planting and other operations. Anyone looking to develop close to our assets must consult with National Grid first.

For further information, contact Asset Protection:

Email: assetprotection@nationalgrid.com
Phone: 0800 001 4282

Electrical clearance from overhead lines

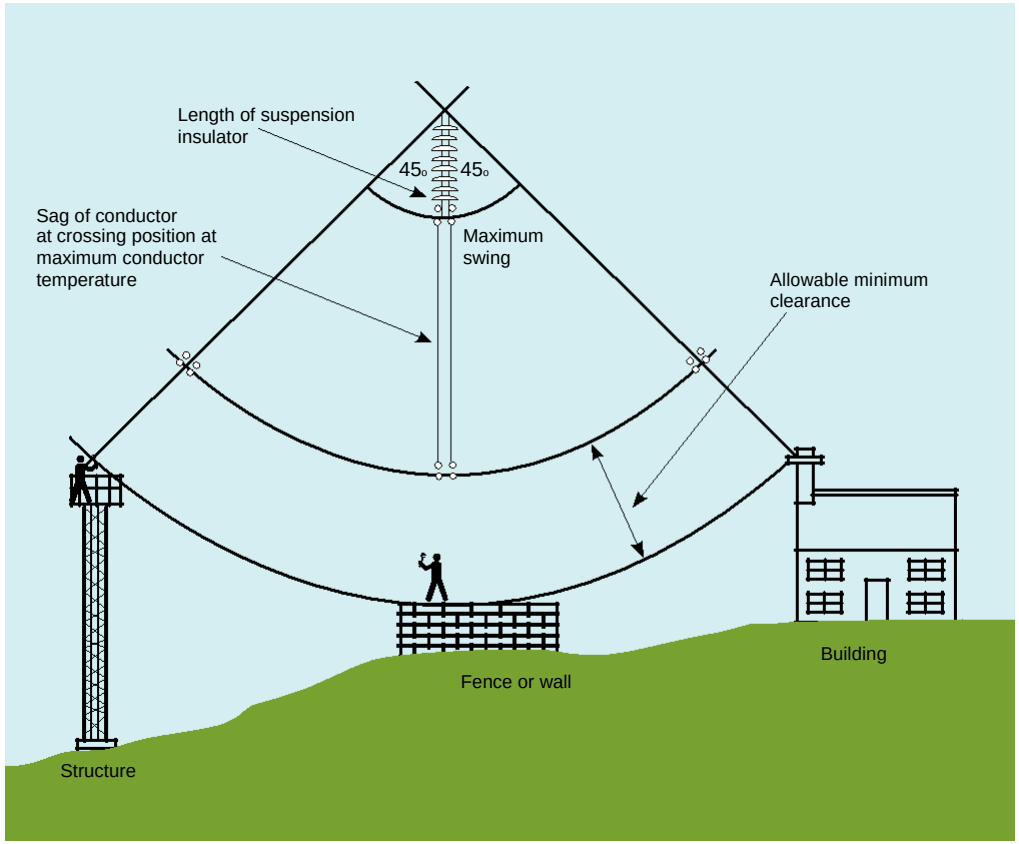
The clearance distances referred to in this section are specific to 400kV overhead lines. National Grid can advise on the distances required around different voltages i.e. 132kV and 275kV.

As we explained earlier, *Electrical Networks Association TS 43-8* details the legal clearances to our overhead lines. The minimum clearance between the conductors of an overhead line and the ground is 7.3m at maximum sag. The sag is the vertical distance between the wire's highest and lowest point. Certain conditions, such as power flow, wind speed and air temperature can cause conductors to move and allowances should be made for this.

The required clearance from the point where a person can stand to the conductors is 5.3m. To be clear, this means there should be at least 5.3m from where someone could stand on any structure (i.e. mobile and construction equipment) to the conductors. Available clearances will be assessed by National Grid on an individual basis.

National Grid expects third parties to implement a safe system of work whenever they are near Overhead Lines.

Diagram not to scale



There should be at least 5.3m between the conductors and any structure someone could stand on

We recommend that guidance such as *HSE Guidance Note GS6 (Avoiding Danger from Overhead Power Lines)* is followed, which provides advice on how to avoid danger from all overhead lines, at all voltages. If you are carrying out work near overhead lines you must contact National Grid, who will provide the relevant profile drawings.

7.3m

The required minimum clearance between the conductors of an overhead line, at maximum sag, and the ground

Section continues on next page »

The undergrounding of electricity cables at Ross-on-Wye

« Section continued from previous page

Underground cables Underground cables operating at up to 400kV are a significant part of the National Grid Electricity Transmission network. When your works will involve any ground disturbance it is expected that a safe system of work is put in place and that you follow guidance such as *HSG 47 (Avoiding Danger from Underground Services)*.

You must contact National Grid to find out if there are any underground cables near your proposed works. If there are, we will provide cable profiles and location drawings and, if required, on-site supervision of the works. Cables can be laid under roads or across industrial or agricultural land. They can even be layed in canal towpaths and other areas that you would not expect.

Cables crossing any National Grid high-voltage (HV) cables directly buried in the ground are required to maintain a minimum seperation that will be determined by National Grid on a case-by-case basis. National Grid will need to do a rating study on the existing cable to work out if there are any adverse effects on either cable rating. We will only allow a cable to cross such an area once we know the results of the re-rating. As a result, the clearance distance may need to be increased or alternative methods of crossing found.

For other cables and services crossing the path of our HV cables, National Grid will need confirmation that published standards and clearances are met.

Impressed voltage

Any conducting materials installed near high-voltage equipment could be raised to an elevated voltage compared to the local earth, even when there is no direct contact with the high-voltage equipment. These impressed voltages are caused by inductive or capacitive coupling between the high-voltage equipment and nearby conducting materials and can occur at distances of several metres away from the equipment. Impressed voltages may damage your equipment and could potentially injure people and animals, depending on their severity. Third parties should take impressed voltages into account during the early stages and initial design of any development, ensuring that all structures and equipment are adequately earthed at all times.

Section continues on next page »

« Section continued from previous page

Earth potential rise

Under certain system fault conditions – and during lightning storms – a rise in the earth potential from the base of an overhead line tower or substation is possible. This is a rare phenomenon that occurs when large amounts of electricity enter the earth. This can pose a serious hazard to people or equipment that are close by.

We advise that developments and works are not carried out close to our tower bases, particularly during lightning storms.

Noise

Noise is a by-product of National Grid's operations and is carefully assessed during the planning and construction of any of our equipment. Developers should consider the noise emitted from National Grid's sites or overhead lines when planning any developments, particularly housing. Low-frequency hum from substations can, in some circumstances, be heard up to 1km or more from the site, so it is essential that developers find adequate solutions for this in their design. Further information about likely noise levels can be provided by National Grid.

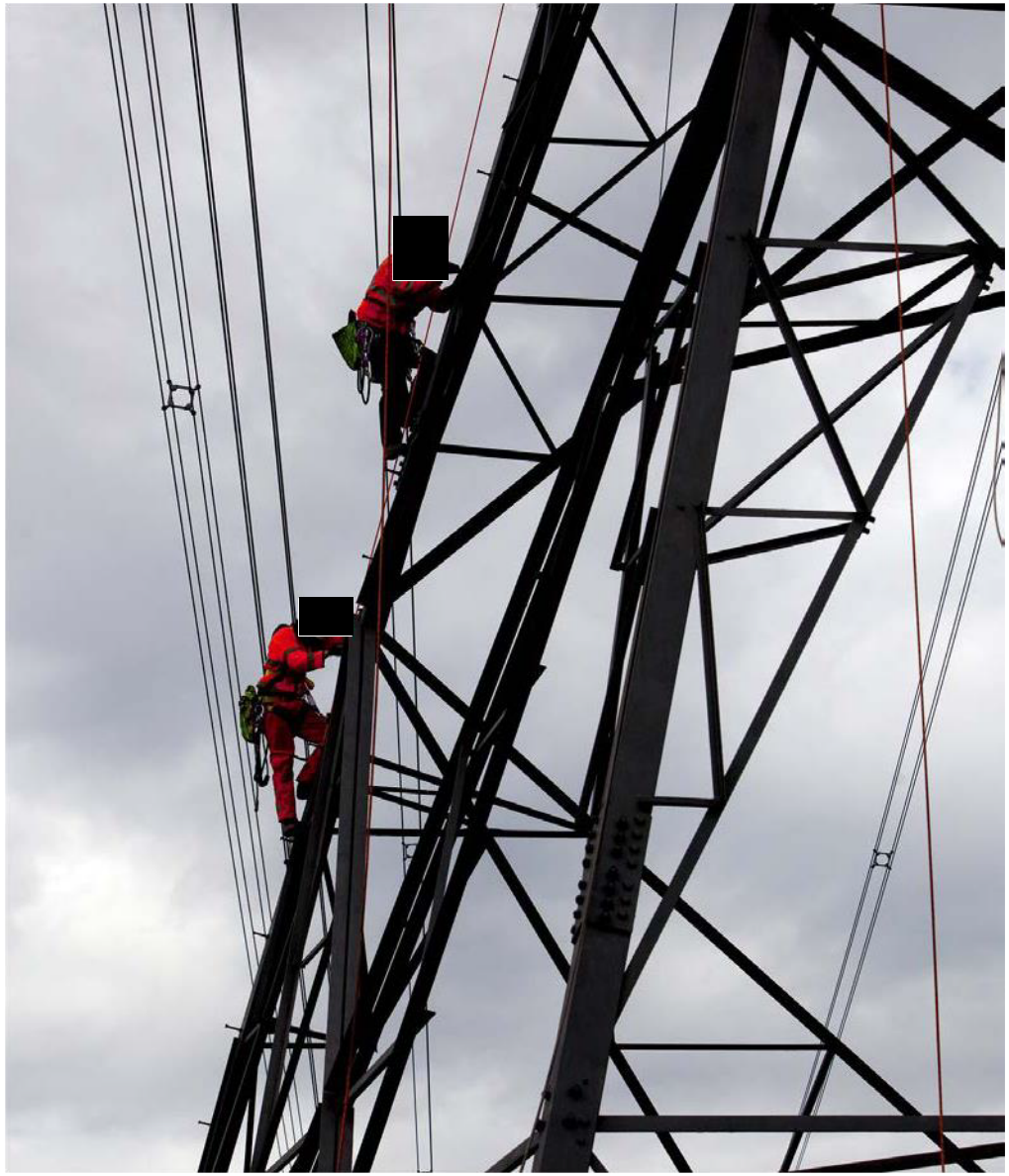
Maintenance access

National Grid needs to have safe access for vehicles around its assets and work that restricts this will not be allowed.
In terms of our overhead lines, we wouldn't want to see any excavations made, or permanent structures built, that might affect the foundations of our towers. The size of the foundations around a tower base depends on the type of tower that is built there. If you wish to carry out works within 30m of the tower base, contact National Grid for more information. Our business has to maintain access routes to tower bases with land owners. For that reason, a route wide enough for an HGV must be permanently available. We may need to access our sites, towers, conductors and underground cables at short notice.

30m

If you wish to carry out work within this distance of the tower base, you must contact National Grid for more information

Section continues on next page »



« Section continued from previous page

Fires and firefighting

National Grid does not recommend that any type of flammable material is stored under overhead lines. Developers should be aware that in certain cases the local fire authority will not use water hoses to put out a fire if there are live, high-voltage conductors within 30m of the seat of the fire *(as outlined in ENA TS 43-8)*.

In these situations, National Grid would have to be notified and reconfigure the system – to allow staff to switch out the overhead line – before any firefighting could take place. This could take several hours.

We recommend that any site which has a specific hazard relating to fire or flammable material should include National Grid's emergency contact details (found at the beginning and end of this document) in its fire plan information, so any incidents can be reported.

Developers should also make sure their insurance cover takes into account the challenge of putting out fires near our overhead lines.

Excavations, piling or tunnelling

You must inform National Grid of any works that have the potential to disturb the foundations of our substations or overhead line towers. This will have to be assessed by National Grid engineers before any work begins.

BS ISO 4866:2010 states that a minimum distance of 200m should be maintained when carrying out quarry blasting near our assets. However, this can be reduced with specific site surveys and changes to the maximum instantaneous charge (the amount of explosive detonated at a particular time).

All activities should observe guidance layed out in *BS 5228-2:2009*.

Microshocks

High-voltage overhead power lines produce an electric field. Any person or object inside this field that isn't earthed picks up an electrical charge. When two conducting objects – one that is grounded and one that isn't – touch, the charge can equalise and cause a small shock, known as a microshock. While they are not harmful, they can be disturbing for the person or animal that suffers the shock.

For these reasons, metal-framed and metal-clad buildings which are close to existing overhead lines should be earthed to minimise the risk of microshocks. Anything that isn't earthed, is conductive and sits close to the lines is likely to pick up a charge. Items such as deer fences, metal palisade fencing, chain-link fences and metal gates underneath overhead lines all need to be earthed.

For further information on microshocks please visit **www.emfs.info.**

200m

The minimum distance that should be maintained from National Grid assets when quarry blasting

Specific development guidance

Wind farms

National Grid's policy towards wind farm development is closely connected to the *Electricity Networks Association Engineering Recommendation L44 Separation between Wind Turbines and Overhead Lines, Principles of Good Practice.* The advice is based on national guidelines and global research. It may be adjusted to suit specific local applications.

There are two main criteria in the document:

(i) The turbine shall be far enough away to avoid the possibility of toppling onto the overhead line

(ii) The turbine shall be far enough away to avoid damage to the overhead line from downward wake effects, also known as turbulence

The toppling distance is the minimum horizontal distance between the worst-case pivot point of the wind turbine and the conductors hanging in still air. It is the greater of:

- the tip height of the turbine plus 10%
- or, the tip height of the turbine plus the electrical safety distance that applies to the voltage of the overhead line.

To minimise the downward wake effect on an overhead line, the wind turbine should be three times the rotor distance away from the centre of the overhead line.

Wake effects can prematurely age conductors and fittings, significantly reducing the life of the asset. For that reason, careful consideration should be taken if a wind turbine needs to be sited within the above limits. Agreement from National Grid will be required.

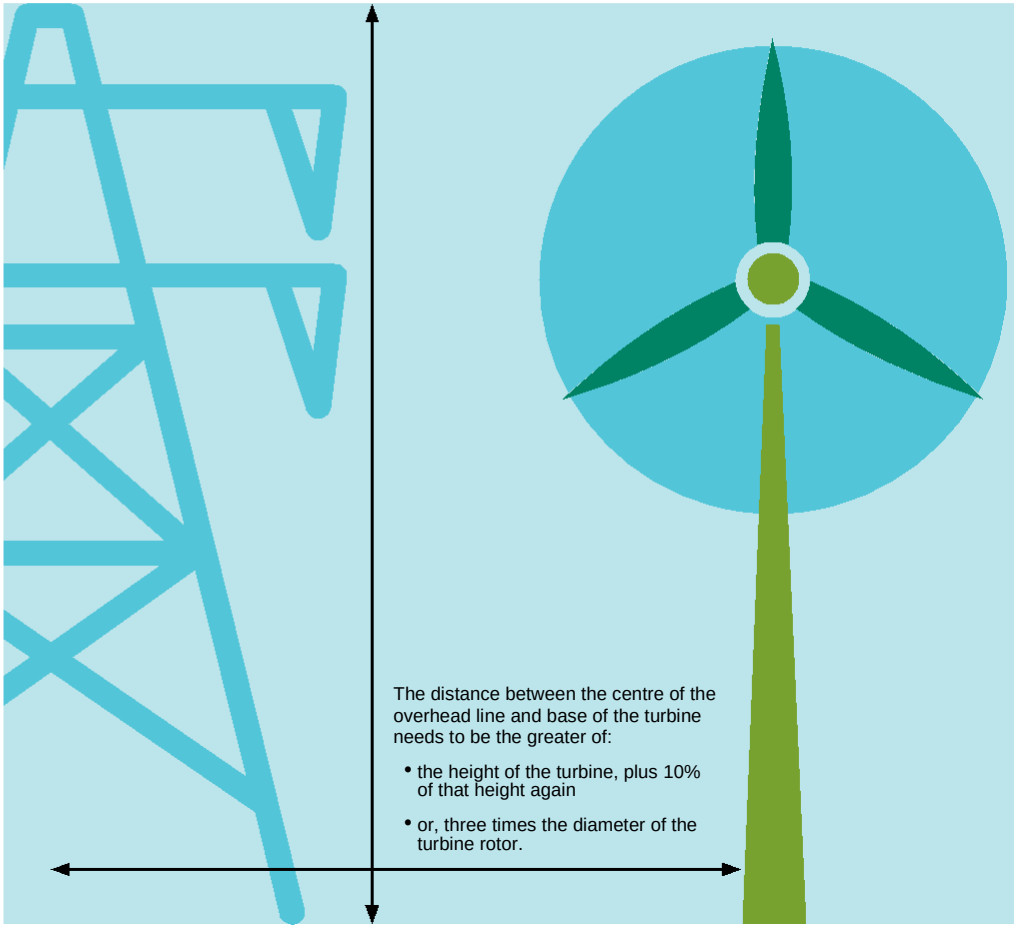
Commercial and housing developments

National Grid has developed a document called *Design guidelines for development near pylons and HVO power lines*, which gives advice to anyone involved in planning or designing large-scale developments that are crossed by, or close to, overhead lines.

The document focuses on existing 275kV and 400kV overhead lines on steel lattice towers, but can equally apply to 132kV and below. The document explains how to design large-scale developments close to high-voltage lines, while respecting clearances and the development's visual and environmental impact.

Section continues on next page »

Diagram not to scale



Turbines should be far enough away to avoid the possibility of toppling onto the overhead line

« Section continued from previous page

The advice is intended for developers, designers, landowners, local authorities and communities, but is not limited to those organisations.

Overall, developers should be aware of all the hazards and issues relating to the electrical equipment that we have discussed when designing new housing.

As we explored earlier, National Grid's assets have the potential to create noise. This can be low frequency and tonal, which makes it quite noticeable. It is the responsibility of developers to take this into account during the design stage and find an appropriate solution.

Solar farms

While there is limited research and recommendations available, there are several key factors to consider when designing Solar Farms in the vicinity of Overhead Power Lines.

Developers may be looking to build on arable land close to National Grid's assets. In keeping with the safety clearance limits that we outlined earlier for solar panels directly underneath overhead line conductors, the highest point on the solar panels must be no more than 5.3m from the lowest conductors.

This means that the maximum height of any structure will need to be determined to make sure safety clearance limits aren't breached. This could be as low as 2m. National Grid will supply profile drawings to aid the planning of solar farms and determine the maximum height of panels and equipment.

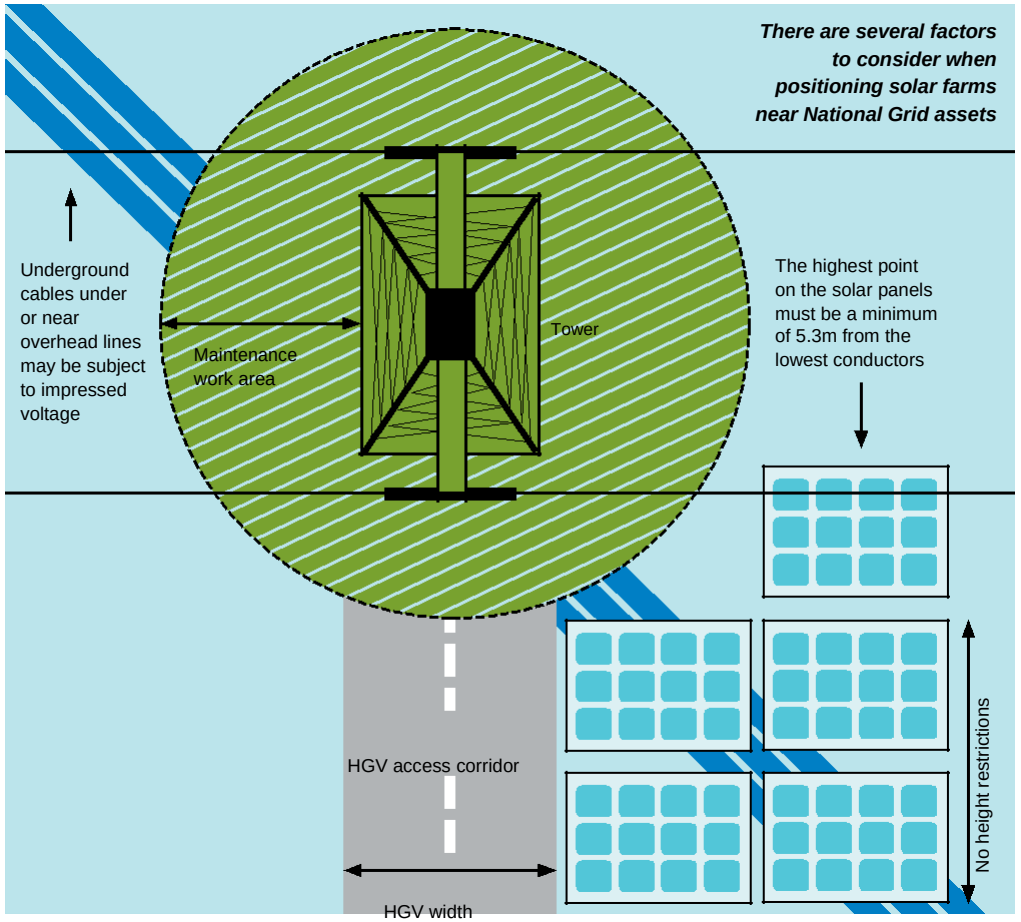
Solar panels that are directly underneath power lines risk being damaged on the rare occasion that a conductor or fitting falls to the ground. A more likely risk is ice falling from conductors or towers in winter and damaging solar panels.

There is also a risk of damage during adverse weather conditions, such as lightning storms, and system faults. As all our towers are earthed, a weather event such as lightning can cause a rise in the earth potential around the base of a tower. Solar panel support structures and supply cables should be adequately earthed and bonded together to minimise the effects of this temporary rise in earth potential.

Any metallic fencing that is located under an overhead line will pick up an electrical charge. For this reason, it will need to be adequately earthed to minimise microshocks to the public.

For normal, routine maintenance and in an emergency National Grid requires unrestricted access to its assets. So if a tower is enclosed in a solar farm compound, we will need full access for our vehicles, including access through any compound gates. During maintenance – and especially re-conductoring – National Grid would need enough space near our towers for winches and cable drums. If enough space is not available, we would require solar panels to be temporarily removed.

Diagram not to scale



Asset protection agreements

In some cases, where there is a risk that development will impact on National Grid's assets, we will insist on an asset protection agreement being put in place. The cost of this will be the responsibility of the developer or third party.

Contact details

Emergency situations

If you spot a potential hazard on or near an overhead electricity line, do not approach it, even at ground level. Keep as far away as possible and follow the six steps below:

- Warn anyone close by to evacuate the area
- Call our 24-hour electricity emergency number: 0800 404 090 (Option 1)[1]
- Give your name and contact phone number
- Explain the nature of the issue or hazard
- Give as much information as possible so we can identify the location – i.e. the name of the town or village, numbers of nearby roads, postcode and (ONLY if it can be observed without putting you or others in danger) the tower number of an adjacent pylon
- Await further contact from a National Grid engineer

[1] It is critically important that you don't use this phone number for any other purpose. If you need to contact National Grid for another reason please use our Contact Centre at www2.nationalgrid.com/contact-us to find the appropriate information or call 0800 0014282.

Routine enquiries

Email:
assetprotection@nationalgrid.com

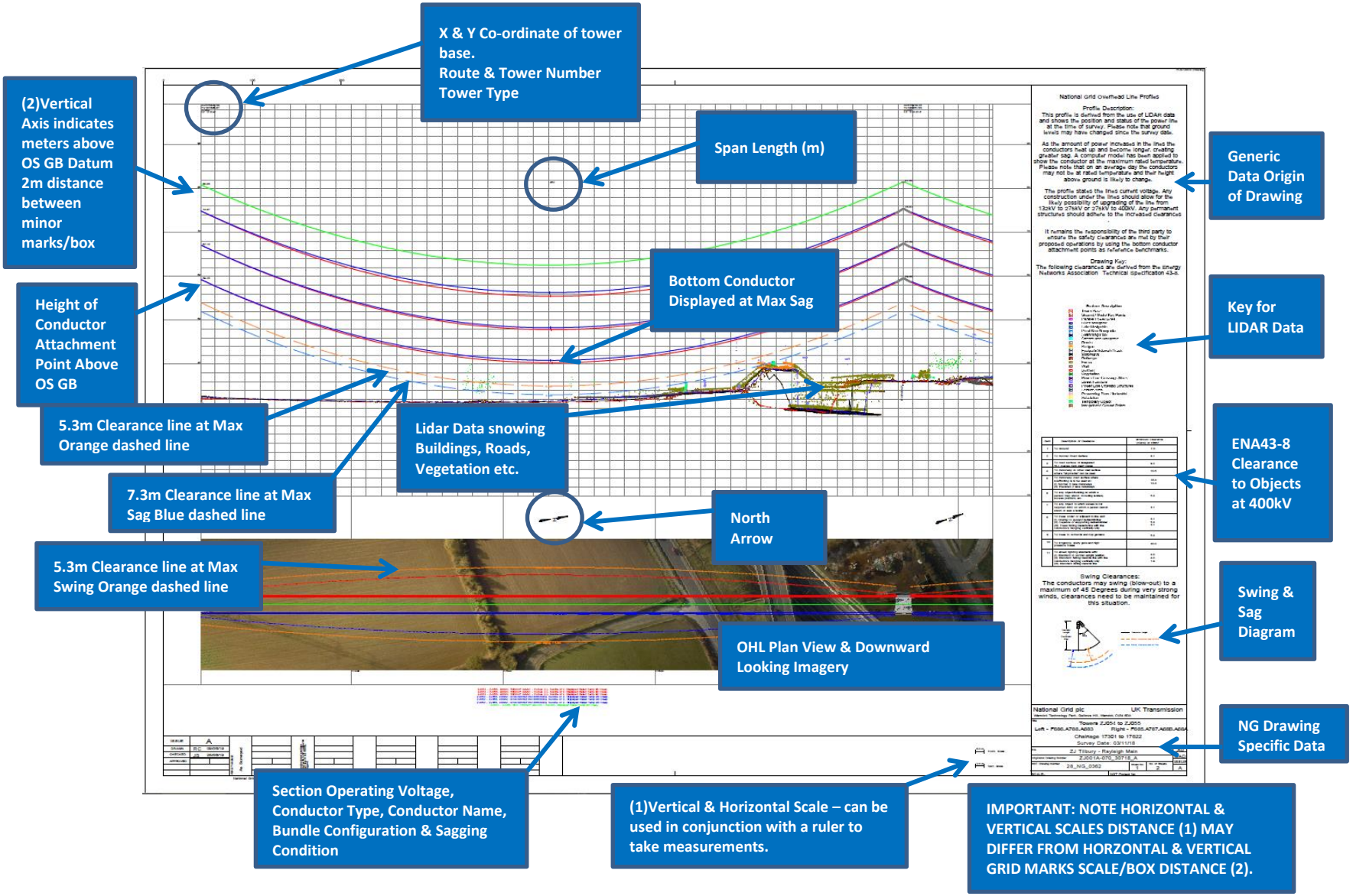
Call Asset Protection on:
0800 0014282

Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 08:00-16:00

Copyright © National Grid plc 2021, all rights reserved
All copyright and other intellectual property rights arising in any information contained within this document are, unless otherwise stated, owned by National Grid plc or other companies in the National Grid group of companies.

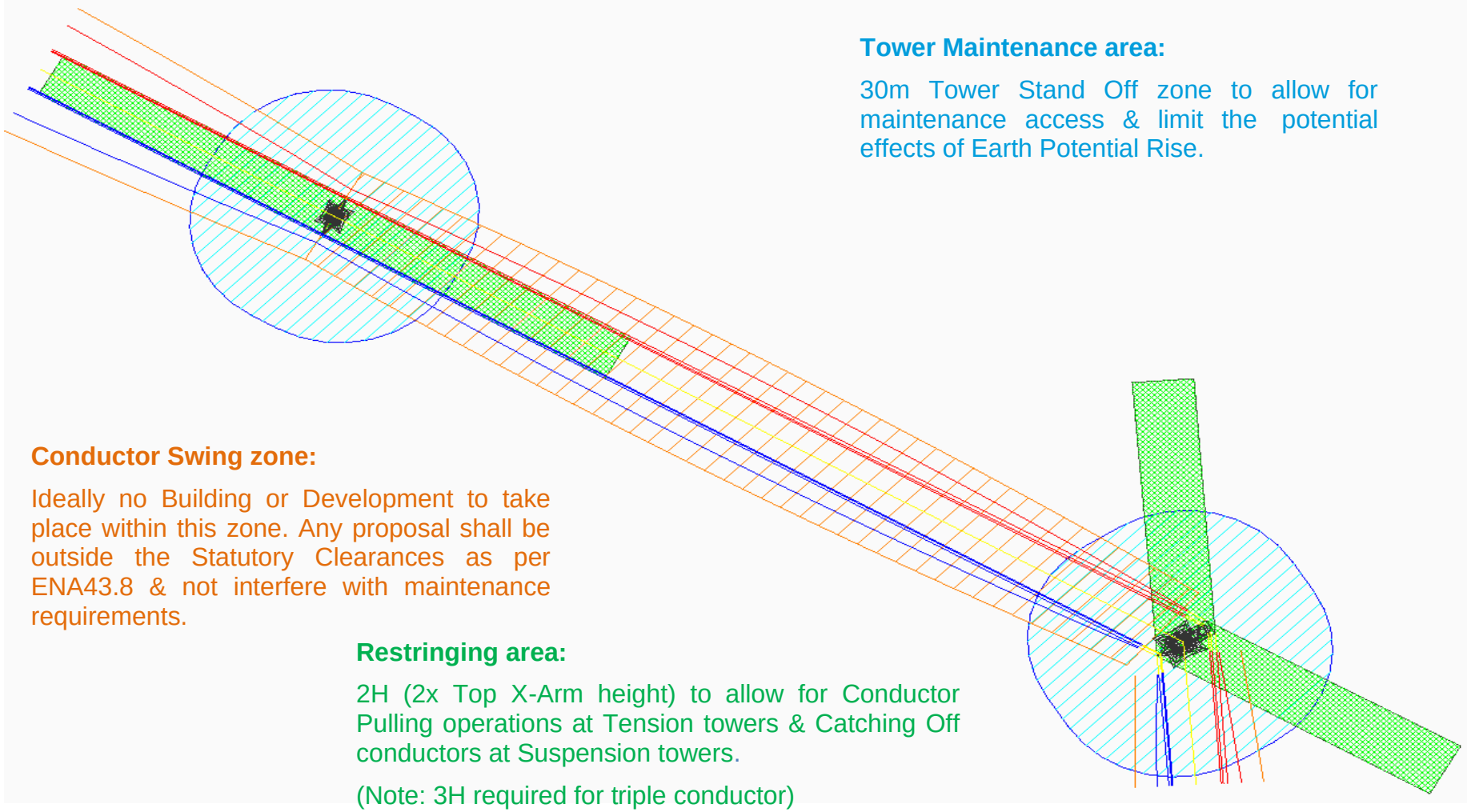
14 APPENDIX A

OHL Profile Drawing Guide



15 APPENDIX B

OHL Tower Stand Off & Reconductoring Area



Tower Maintenance area:

30m Tower Stand Off zone to allow for maintenance access & limit the potential effects of Earth Potential Rise.

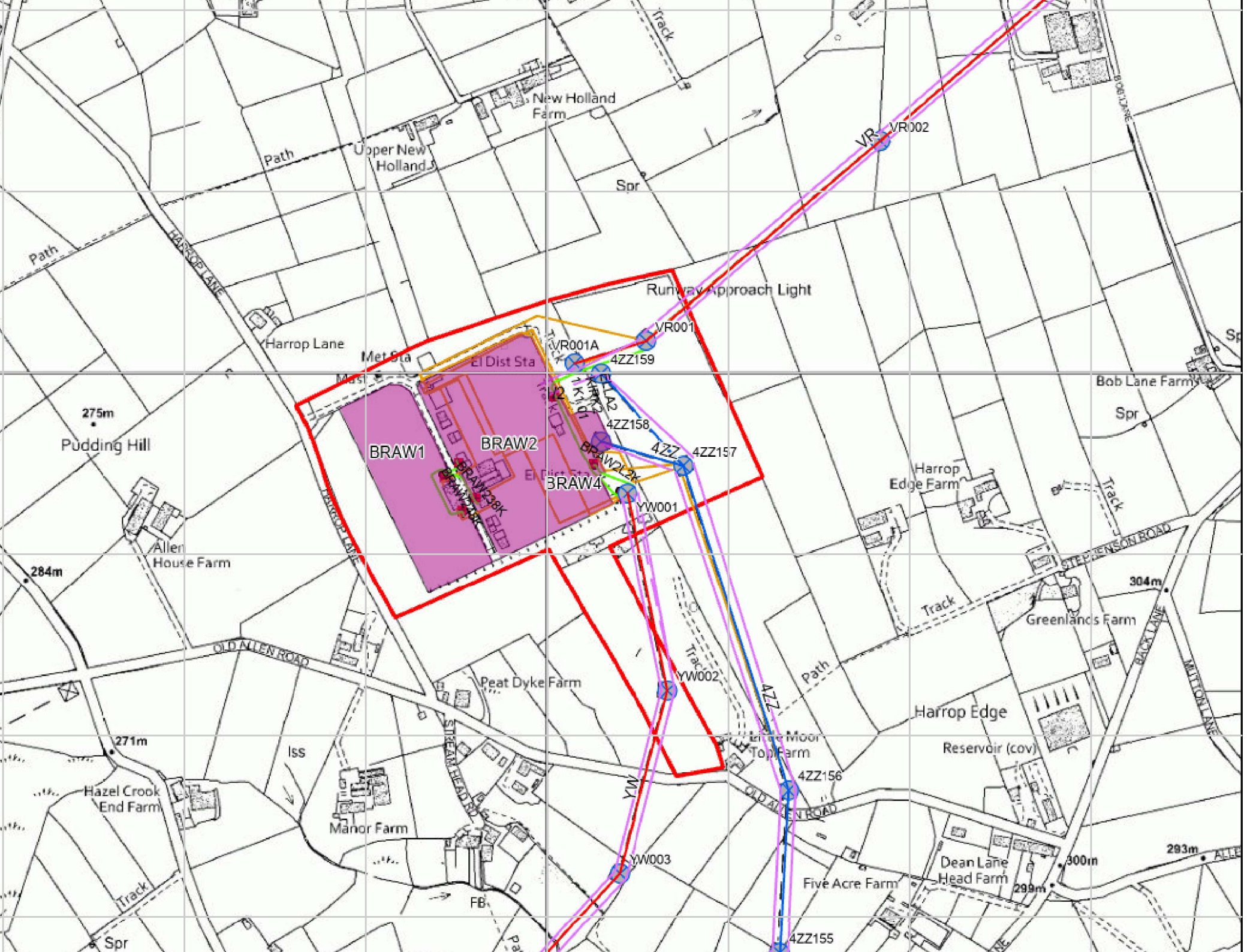
Conductor Swing zone:

Ideally no Building or Development to take place within this zone. Any proposal shall be outside the Statutory Clearances as per ENA43.8 & not interfere with maintenance requirements.

Restringing area:

2H (2x Top X-Arm height) to allow for Conductor Pulling operations at Tension towers & Catching Off conductors at Suspension towers.

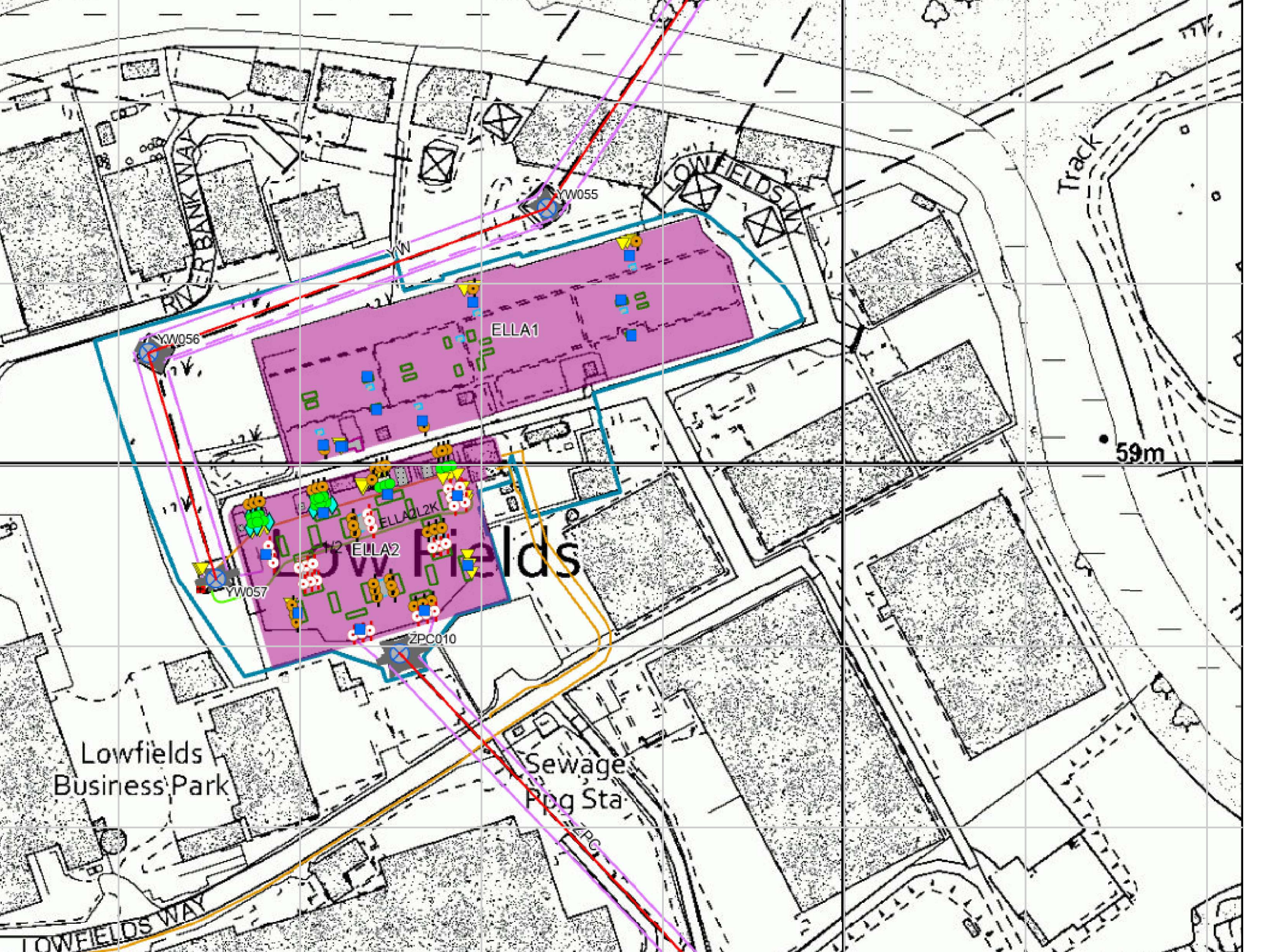
(Note: 3H required for triple conductor)

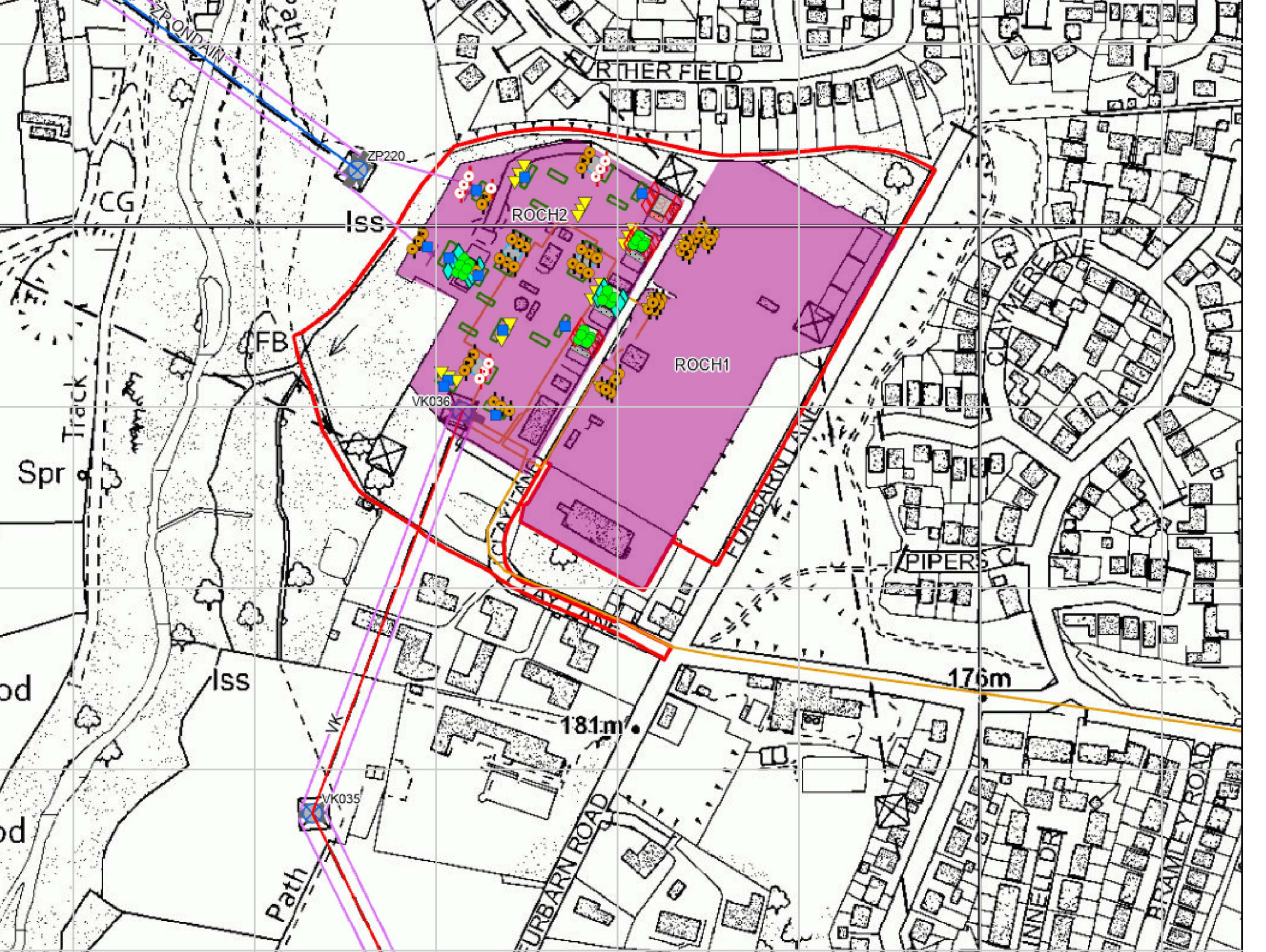


Legen

Electric
Owners
Elec
Own
Free
Telecon
RAN
Cable
Access
Join
Gau
Link
Oil
Fibre C
Fibr
Com

Notes


ELLA1
ELLA2
ELLA2L2K
YW055
YW056
YW057
ZPC010
59m
Low Fields
Lowfields
Business Park
Sewage
Pog Sta
LOWFIELDS WAY
RIVERBANK WAY
Track
Legend
Notes



Legend

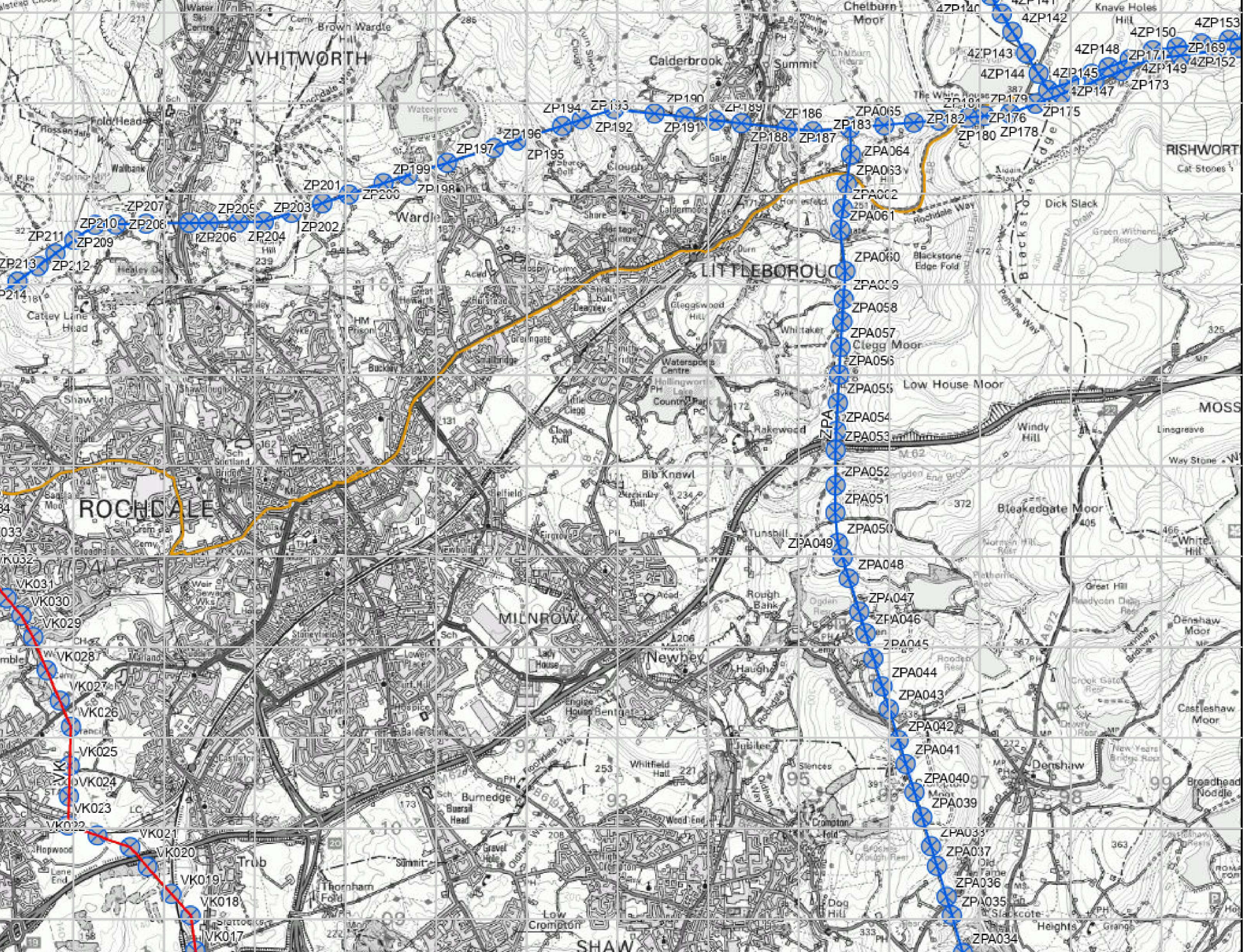
Electric
Owners
Elec
Own
Free
Telecom
RAN
Fibre C
Fibr
Com
Towers
Com
Tow
Cor
OHL 27
OHL
Com
OHL 40
OHL
Com
OHL Ci
Com

Notes

Plan 01 - NGET Assets in proposed development area

Plan 02 to 10 - NGET Assets in proposed development area from West (02) to East (10)

ILKLEY
BINGLEY
SHIPLEY
BAILDON
BRAWN2
SKLG2
K1.02
BRADFORD
PUDSEY
HORSFORTH
Rawdon
Cattherley
Chapel Allerton
Roundhay
GARFORTH
Micklefield
KIRK2
SKLG2
K1.02
BURNLEY
TRAWDEN
NELSON
BRIERFIELD
COLNE
BARROWFORD
HEBDEN BRIDGE
Midgley
Luddenden
Mytholmroyd
HALIFAX
Hipperholme
Brighouse
Southowram
Clifton
Shelf
Birkenshaw
Drighlington
MORLEY
ROTHWELL
Woodlesford
Oulton
Preston
CASTLEFORD
ROCH4
ROCH1
RAWTENSTALL
BACUP
TODMORDEN
Mankinholes
Walsden
Cloughfoot
Gregg Hall
Greetland
Rastrick
Sowerby Bridge
Sowerby
Stainland
Rishworth
Ripponden
Soyland
Warland
Summit
Caldenbrook
WHITWORTH
LITTLEBOROUGH
HUDDERSFIELD
Thornhill Edge
Middlestown
Kirkheaton
Lepton
Grange Moor
Netherton
Flockton
Wrenthorpe
Wrenthorp
Wakefield
Outwood
Altofts
NORMANTON
Featherstone
Castleford
Pontefract
Ackworth Moor Top
Fitzwilliam
Walton
Wragby
Ackworth
Kinsley
HEMSWORTH
South Hiendley
Upton
ROCHDALE
MILNROW
Newhey
Castleton
Wardle
Rochdale
Landwade
Ashbrook
Bridge
Moss Moor
Meltham
Marsden
Honley
Netherthong
Brockholes
Shelley
Skelmanthorpe
Clayton West
Darton
Royston
Shafton
Cudworth
Grimethorpe
South Kirkby
Hooton Pagnell
BARNSLEY
Dodworth
Darfield
Thurnscoe
Bolton upon Dearne
Wath upon Dearne
Mexborough
HEYWOOD
ROYTON
SHAW
MIDDLETON
OLDHAM
Royton
Shaw
Delph
Uppermill
Saddleworth
Moor
Shepley
New Mill
HOLMFIRTH
Scholes
Lane Head
Cawthorne
Upper Denby
Denby Dale
Heylandswaine
Thurlstone
Penistone
Oxspring
Thurgoland
Dunford Bridge
Lindley
Worsbrough
Birdwell
Brampton
Hoyland
Upper Midhope
FAILSWORTH
MOSSLEY
Greenfield
Millbrook
Ashton-under-Lyne
MANCHESTER
Stalybridge
Lyne
MACC4
STSB4
K1.03
MACC4
STSB4
K1.07
WOFO4
WOTU4
K1.07
Legen
ET ASS
Cab
Buried
Buri
Com
OHL 27
OHL
Com
OHL 40
OHL
Com
Notes



Legen

Fibre C

Fibr
Com

Towers

Tow
Co

OHL 27

OHL
Com

OHL 40

OHL
Com

Substa

Sub
Com

Notes

Legen

Fibre C

Fibr
Com

Towers

Tow
Co

OHL 40

OHL
Com

Notes

Legen

Towers

Tow
Co

OHL 40

OHL
Com

Notes

4ZZ149
YW011
4ZZ147
YW012
4ZZ145
YW013
YW014
4ZZ144
4ZZ142
4ZZ140
4ZZ141
YW015
4ZZ139
YW017
YW018
YW019
YW020
YW021
YW022
YW023
YW024
YW025
YW026
YW027
YW028
YW029
YW030
YW031
YW032
YW033
YW034
YW035
YW036
YW037
4ZP192
Legen
Fibre C
Towers
OHL 27
OHL 40
Notes
Oxenhope Moor
Thornton Moor
Ovenden Moor
Warley Moor
Shackleton
HEBDEN BRIDGE
Heptonstall
Old Town
Colden
Wainstalls
Midgley
Mytholmroyd
Luddenden
Luddenden Foot
Charlestown
Edge End Moor
Errinden Moor
Bell House Moor
Blackwood Common
Steep Lane
SOWERBY BRIDGE
Withens Moor
Turley Holes Edge
Brookhouse
Hunter Hill
Mount Tabor
Tower Hill
Warley Town
Hoyle Green
Clough Head
Pickwood Scar
Dimmin Dale
Cold Edge Dams
Sloppy Lowe
Crow Hill
Broadfold
Wadsworth Banks Fields
Hall Bank
Hoof Hole
Rake Head
Lower Rough Head
Stoodley Pike Monument
Withens Clough Reservoir
Cock Hill
Hubberson Green
Long Edge Moor
Hay Stones Hill
Crow Wood
Pecket Well
Greenwood Lee
Mill Greenwood
Lady Royd
Small Shaw
Lathe
Grain
Winnow
Badlam
Spa Clough Head
Warley Moor West
Rocking Stone
Gear Head Pasture
High Brown Knoll
Duck Hill
Waterfall
Roms Groove
Cock Hill
Nab Hill
Long Dike
Foreside
Denholme Gate
Green Clough
The Shay
Mountain Boarding Centre
Scholes
Causeway
Ogden Water
Ogden
Brookhouse
Upper Brookholes
Caldersdale Way
Quarry
Hotel
Hollingworth
Shibden Head
Catherine Slack
Holmfield
Moor End
Mixenden
Old Chamber
Horsehold
Errinden Grange
Edge End Fm
Height Fm
Old Chamber
Mythom
Broadfold
Sentry Edge
Highroad Well Moor
Palace
Woodlands
Boothtown
Beacon Hill
Coll
Savile Park
Park
Heath
Clough
Steep Lane
Boulder
Razor Hills
Wks
Sch
Pub
Chapel
Mill
Quarry
Cemy
Ch
PH
Fm
Hill
Moor
Head
Slack
Hurst
Nook
Dale
Clough
Foot
Green
Scar
Edge
Lane
Hole
Bank
Rake
Grange
Monument
Reservoir
Common
Meadows
Park
Heath
Coll
Boothtown
Woodlands
Palace
Beacon Hill
Savile Park
Pickwood Scar
Clough Head
Hoyle Green
Warley Town
Tower Hill
Mount Tabor
Hunter Hill
Sloppy Lowe
Cold Edge Dams
Dimmin Dale
Broadfold
Crow Hill
Wainstalls
Midgley
Luddenden
Mytholmroyd
Charlestown
Heptonstall
Old Town
Colden
Hebden Bridge
Pecket Well
Shackleton
Withens Moor
Turley Holes Edge
Withens Clough Reservoir
Cock Hill
Hubberson Green
Long Edge Moor
Hay Stones Hill
Crow Wood
Stoodley Pike Monument
Edge End Moor
Errinden Moor
Bell House Moor
Blackwood Common
Steep Lane
Sowerby Bridge
Luddenden Foot
Warley Moor
Ovenden Moor
Oxenhope Moor
Thornton Moor
Brookhouse
Hollingworth
Shibden Head
Holmfield
Mixenden
Moor End
Old Chamber
Horsehold
Errinden Grange
Edge End Fm
Height Fm
Mythom
Broadfold
Sentry Edge
Highroad Well Moor
Palace
Woodlands
Boothtown
Beacon Hill
Coll
Savile Park
Park
Heath
Clough
Steep Lane
Boulder
Razor Hills
Wks
Sch
Pub
Chapel
Mill
Quarry
Cemy
Ch
PH
Fm
Hill
Moor
Head
Slack
Hurst
Nook
Dale
Clough
Foot
Green
Scar
Edge
Lane
Hole
Bank
Rake
Grange
Monument
Reservoir
Common
Meadows
Park
Heath
Coll
Boothtown
Woodlands
Palace
Beacon Hill
Savile Park
Pickwood Scar
Clough Head
Hoyle Green
Warley Town
Tower Hill
Mount Tabor
Hunter Hill
Sloppy Lowe
Cold Edge Dams
Dimmin Dale
Broadfold
Crow Hill
Wainstalls
Midgley
Luddenden
Mytholmroyd
Charlestown
Heptonstall
Old Town
Colden
Hebden Bridge
Pecket Well
Shackleton
Withens Moor
Turley Holes Edge
Withens Clough Reservoir
Cock Hill
Hubberson Green
Long Edge Moor
Hay Stones Hill
Crow Wood
Stoodley Pike Monument
Edge End Moor
Errinden Moor
Bell House Moor
Blackwood Common
Steep Lane
Sowerby Bridge
Luddenden Foot
Warley Moor
Ovenden Moor
Oxenhope Moor
Thornton Moor

nationalgrid | National Grid Web Map

Legend

Notes

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 km

OS Disclaimer: Background Mapping information has been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey National Grid Electricity Transmission (100024241) & National Gas Transmission (100024886)

Date: 9/10/2025
Time: 8:12 PM

Page size: A3 Landscape
Printed By: Rachel.Hagan
Scale: 1:50,000

N

NG Disclaimer: National Grid UK Transmission. The asset position information represented on this map is the intellectual property of National Grid PLC (Warwick Technology Park, Warwick, CV346DA) and should not be used without prior authority of National Grid.

Note: Any sketches on the map are approximate and not captured to any particular level of precision.

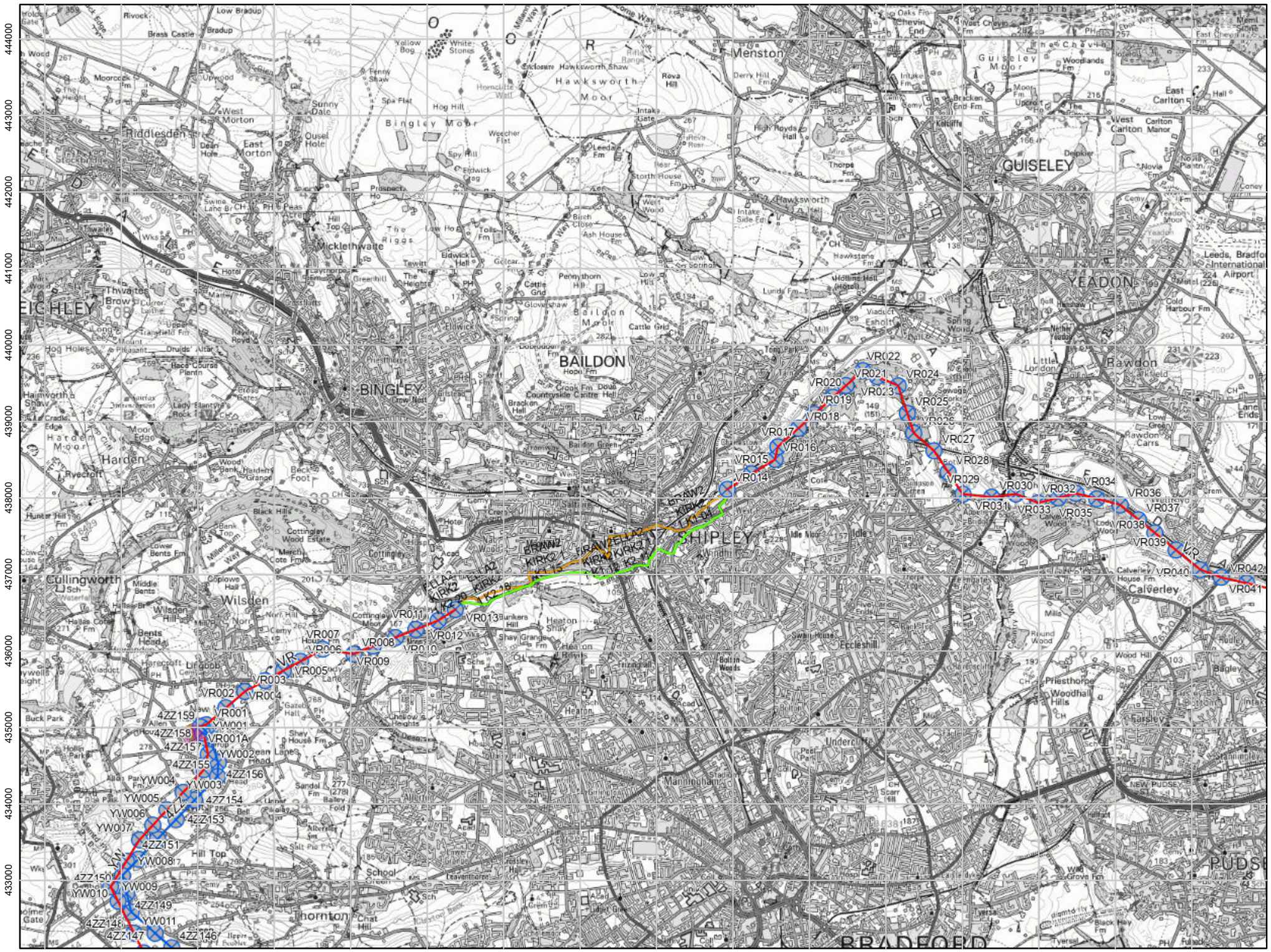
nationalgrid | National Grid Web Map

COLNE
TRAWDEN
THE FOREST OF TRAWDEN
NELSON
Enmott Moor
Combe Hill
Keighley Moor
Oakworth Moor
Stanbury Moor
Broad Head Moor
Pot Brinks Moor
Deerstone Moor
Red Spa Moor
Widdop Moor
Wadsworth Moor
Extwistle Moor
Black Moor
Worsthorne Moor
Heptonstall Moor
Hoar Side Moor
Haworth Moor
Middle Moor
Flask
Hameldon
Boulsworth Hill
Dove Stones Moor
Withins Height
Heather Hill
Stiperden Moor
Stansfield Moor
Worsthorne
Hurstwood
Cliviger
Holme Chapel
Cockden
Southward Bottom
Shackleton
Heptonstall
Widdop
Widdop Lodge
Walshaw Dean Reservoirs
Gorple Reservoirs
Crow Hill
Jackson's Ridge
Pennine Bridleway
Pennine Way
Bronte Way
Wycoller Country Park
Dove Stones
Mere Stones
Four Gates End
Coal Clough
Black Hameldon
Lad Law
Withins Height
Withins Flat
Oxenhope Stoop Hill
Stairs Hill
Yeoman Hill
Thurrish Rough
Lane Head
Roms Greave
Cock Hill
Bedlam
Duck Hill
Packet Well
Dimmin Dale
Old Town
Middleton
Oldfield
Stanbury
Enshaw Knoll
Black Leach
Westfield Fm
Windy House Fm
Drop Fm
Harbour Lodge
Master Stones
Alcomden Stones
Withins Stock
Ponden Clough
Ponden Reer
Cold Knoll
Bully Trees Fm
Intake Fm
Old Side
Buckley
Scar Top
Rush Isles
Hill Top
Dean Clough Head
Flask
Old Bess
Bare Hill
Clough Hey
Clough Hey Allotment
Broadhead Fm
Field Head
Grange Fm
Towitt Hall Fm
Higher Intake
Maw Stones
Cat Stone
Lower Dean Laithe
Wolf Stones
Denains Stone
Steeple Stones
Watersheddles Rest
Moor Lodge Fm
Dean Clough Head
Log Bottom
Dean Fields
Old Snap
Whitestone Fm
West House Fm
Lumb Top
Lumb Fm
Stanbury
Lower Laithe Rear
Ponden Rear
Intake Fm
Old Side
Cold Knoll
Bully Trees Fm
Bottoms
Enshaw Knoll
Black Leach
Drop Fm
Westfield Fm
Windy House Fm
Harbour Lodge
Haworth Moor
Withins Height
Withins Flat
Oxenhope Stoop Hill
Middle Moor
Stairs Hill
Yeoman Hill
Thurrish Rough
Lane Head
Roms Greave
Cock Hill
Bedlam
Duck Hill
Packet Well
Dimmin Dale
Old Town
Middleton
Shackleton
Shackleton Moor
Greenwood Lee
Rodmell Clough
Noah Dale
Golden Stack
Four Gates End
Meorhall Fm
Jack Bridge
Greenland
Egypt
Park
Noah Dale
Hoar Side Moor
Stiperden Moor
Stiperden Bar Ho
Limestone Trail
Pennine Bridleway
Pennine Way
Black Hameldon
Boothroyd Fm
Lady Royd
Hardcastle Crags
Coppy
High Greenwood Fm
Abel Cross
Go Kid Stones
Small Shaw
Waterfall
Grain
Lane Head
Thurrish Rough
Roms Greave
Cock Hill
Bedlam
Winny Stone
High Brown Knoll
Spa Cl
Hse
Yeoman Hill
Sur Hill
Keeper's Lodge
Stake H
Wadsworth Moor
Shackleton Moor
Walshaw Dean Reservoirs
Black Clough
Greave Clough
Widdop Rest
Widdop Gate
New Laithe Moor
Blake Dean
Walshaw
Grimsing Water
Alcomden Water
Cant Gate
Calder / Aire Link
Ponden Clough
Ponden Reer
Cold Knoll
Bully Trees Fm
Intake Fm
Old Side
Buckley
Scar Top
Rush Isles
Hill Top
Dean Clough Head
Flask
Old Bess
Bare Hill
Clough Hey
Clough Hey Allotment
Broadhead Fm
Field Head
Grange Fm
Towitt Hall Fm
Higher Intake
Maw Stones
Cat Stone
Lower Dean Laithe
Wolf Stones
Denains Stone
Steeple Stones
Watersheddles Rest
Moor Lodge Fm
Dean Clough Head
Log Bottom
Dean Fields
Old Snap
Whitestone Fm
West House Fm
Lumb Top
Lumb Fm
Stanbury
Lower Laithe Rear
Ponden Rear
Intake Fm
Old Side
Cold Knoll
Bully Trees Fm
Bottoms
Enshaw Knoll
Black Leach
Drop Fm
Westfield Fm
Windy House Fm
Harbour Lodge
Master Stones
Alcomden Stones
Withins Stock

nationalgrid | National Grid Web Map

Laneshaw Bridge
Ickornshaw Moor
Emmott Moor
Keighley Moor
Combe Hill
Wycoller Hall
Rotten Clough
Wolf Stones
Cat Stone
Maw Stones
Higher Intake
Slipper Ford
White Hill
Lower Dean Laithe
Goose Eye
Newsholme
Branshaw Moor
Clough Head
Field Head
Broadhead Fm
Grange Fm
Clough Hey
Clough Hey Allotment
Old Bess
Flask
Oakworth Moor
Dean Clough Head
Twitt Hall Fm
Slack Lane Fm
Lane Ends
Higher Turnshaw Fm
Pickles Hill
Scholes
Westfield Fm
Dockroyd
Keighley
Thwaites Brow
Knowle Park
Woodhouse
Hog Holes
Hainworth Shaw
Hainworth
Harden Moor
Harden
Whins Wood
Higher Heights Fm
Lower Heights Fm
Ryecroft
Highcliffe Fm
Barcroft
Ellar Carr
Hunter Hill Fm
Hainworth Wood
Worth Valley Rly
Oakworth
Cacklashaw
Harwood Hill
Harwood Bank
Damems
Braden Bank
Hermit Hole
Nether Ho
Hainworth Fm
Well Fm
Dalton Fm
Cradley
Edge
Moor Edge
Moor Sch
Thornhill Fm
Thornhill Rly
Thornhill Sta
Thornhill Lees
Thornhill Lees Sch
Thornhill Lees Fm
Thornhill Lees Hall
Thornhill Lees Wood
Thornhill Lees Beck
Thornhill Lees Mill
Thornhill Lees Cemy
Thornhill Lees Ho
Thornhill Lees Hall Fm
Thornhill Lees Wood Fm
Thornhill Lees Beck Fm
Thornhill Lees Mill Fm
Thornhill Lees Cemy Fm
Thornhill Lees Ho Fm

nationalgrid | National Grid Web Map



Legend

Fibre Cable

- Fibre Cable Commissioned

Buried Cable

- Buried Cable Commissioned

Towers

- Towers Commissioned

OHL 275Kv

- OHL 275Kv Commissioned

OHL 400Kv

- OHL 400Kv Commissioned

Substations

- Substations Commissioned

Notes

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 km

OS Disclaimer: Background Mapping information has been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey National Grid Electricity Transmission (100024241) & National Gas Transmission (100024886)

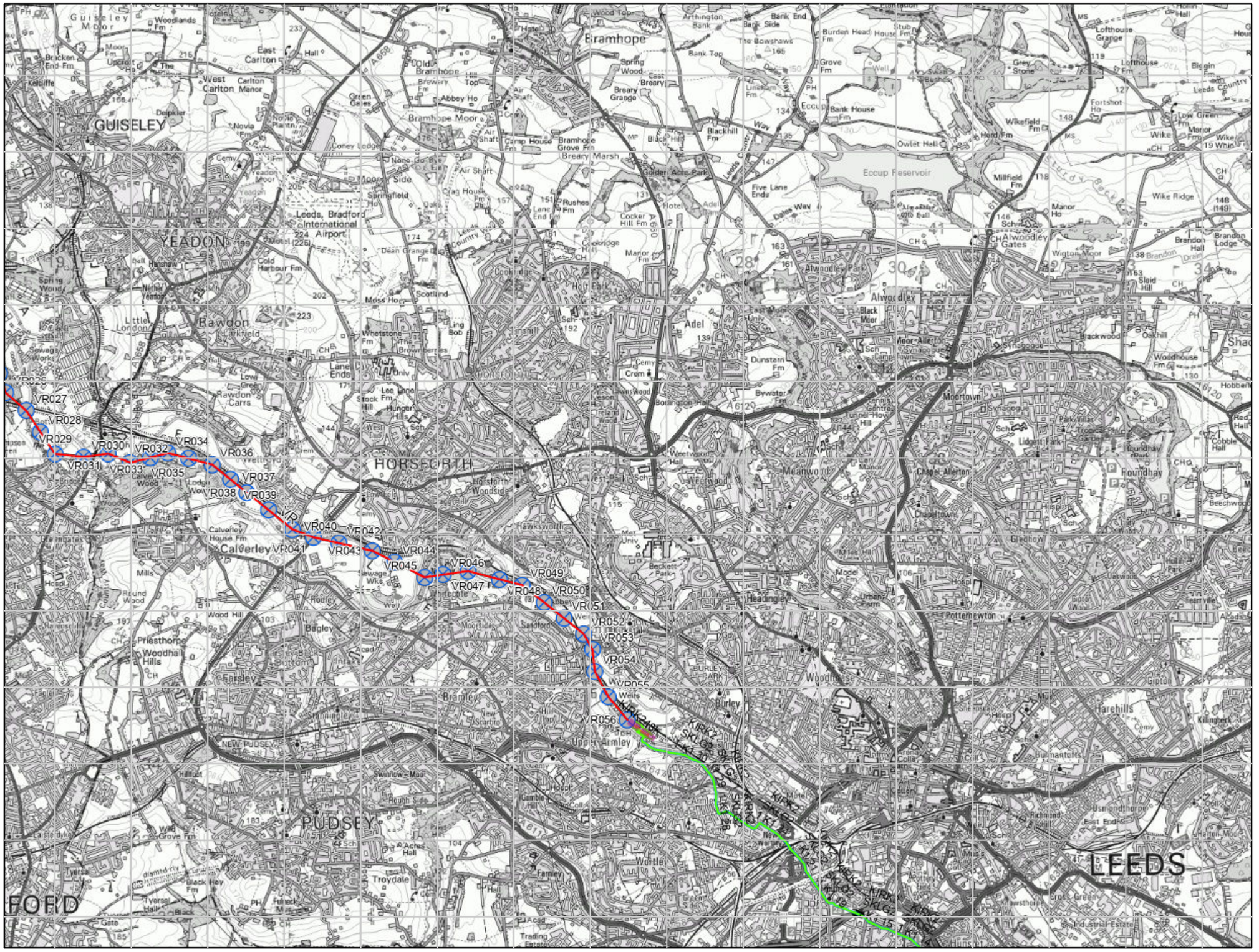
Date: 9/10/2025
Time: 8:01 PM

Page size: A3 Landscape
Printed By: Rachel.Hagan
Scale: 1:50,000

N

NG Disclaimer: National Grid UK Transmission. The asset position information represented on this map is the intellectual property of National Grid PLC (Warwick Technology Park, Warwick, CV346DA) and should not be used without prior authority of National Grid.
Note: Any sketches on the map are approximate and not captured to any particular level of precision.

nationalgrid | National Grid Web Map



Legend

ET ASSETS

Cable Tunnel

Cable Accessories

Pilot Cable

Fibre Cable

Fibre Cable Commissioned

Buried Cable

Buried Cable Commissioned

Towers

Towers Commissioned

OHL 275Kv

OHL 275Kv Commissioned

Substations

Substations Commissioned

Notes

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 km

OS Disclaimer: Background Mapping information has been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey National Grid Electricity Transmission (100024241) & National Gas Transmission (100024886)

Date: 9/10/2025
Time: 7:57 PM

Page size: A3 Landscape
Printed By: Rachel.Hagan
Scale: 1:50,000

N

NG Disclaimer: National Grid UK Transmission. The asset position information represented on this map is the intellectual property of National Grid PLC (Warwick Technology Park, Warwick, CV346DA) and should not be used without prior authority of National Grid.
Note: Any sketches on the map are approximate and not captured to any particular level of precision.

Our ref: NE_CALEP
Your ref: EN0210005

[redacted]
National Highways
8 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AT

Tel: 07542322273

24th September 2025

Dear Katherine King,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11 Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park (the proposed development) Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

In response to your letter of 1st September 2025 asking National Highways as a consultative body to either:

• Inform the Planning Inspectorate of the information National Highways considers should be provided in the Environmental Statement (ES); or

• Confirm that National Highways does not have any comments.

National Highways would like to make the following points:

National Highways' AIL team (Abnormal.Loads@nationalhighways.co.uk) should be engaged at the earliest possible opportunity, where the AIL access routes to the site involve the Strategic Road Network (SRN).

The proposed Cable Route areas do not appear to cross or lie adjacent to the SRN and will therefore not be a concern for National Highways. Once the application is submitted, National Highways will need to confirm that the proposed Cable Routes do not cross / lie adjacent to the SRN.

National Highways needs to understand which sections of the SRN will be used to access/depart the site during the construction phase and the quantum of traffic during the SRN peak hours. This should be confirmed by the Applicant in the forthcoming transport impact submissions.

The principles set out in Circular 01/22 are key considerations for National Highways and the guidance will need to be adhered to in any forthcoming assessments of the proposed development's traffic impact upon the SRN.
National Highways will expect the traffic impact of the construction traffic, staff traffic and AIL deliveries to be controlled through the production of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).

A Transport Statement and Transport Assessment (TS/TA) Scoping report should be prepared to ascertain whether the impact of the development at the SRN needs to be assessed in a TS/TA or whether it can be simply controlled through a CTMP and DTMP. The TS/TA Scoping report should set out details of the proposed methodology / data to be used in any SRN traffic impact assessments

Securing a CTMP and Staff Travel Plan (TP) through a DCO requirement would be welcomed by National Highways. However, National Highways would request early consultation on the content of these documents).

A DTMP would be welcomed by National Highways to consider the traffic impacts during the decommissioning phase. A DTMP would need to be secured through a suitably worded DCO requirement.

National Highways thanks the Planning Inspectorate for allowing us to comment as a consultation body and hopes that our comments will be taken into consideration when the Environmental Statement is planned.

Yours sincerely.

[redacted]@nationalhighways.co.uk

disability confident COMMITTED

Date: 29 September 2025

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Katherine King,

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the EIA Scoping opinion for Calderdale Energy Park. Please find attached our advice on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance for the Environmental Statement (ES).

The environmental considerations and risks for this scheme are highly complex. The area in which the proposal is located is of exceptional importance for biodiversity. This environment contains a suite of priority, irreplaceable and designated habitats and species of international significance. The importance from a landscape perspective is reflected in the number of designated landscapes surrounding the proposal which may be significantly affected.

Natural England recommends that details of the full extent, nature and location of proposed works should be provided as early as possible to inform the assessment of impacts and inform discussions regarding required avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures. Natural England cannot provide comprehensive comments on the potential ecological impacts and proposed mitigation and/or compensation until this information is available. We strongly advise that an Evidence Plan would be beneficial for this project to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process and other environmental assessments.

Due to the scale, nature and location of the project within the internationally designated South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA), Natural England has fundamental concerns about the potentially damaging impacts to the designated habitats and species, including (but not limited to) habitat loss, bird collision and displacement, and hydrological impacts. Based on the information published to date, it would be difficult - in Natural England's view - for the competent authority to ascertain that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity (AEoI) of the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA.

Natural England are committed to engaging with the applicant and the Planning Inspectorate to advise on the assessment and potential approaches to avoid, minimise, or mitigate these impacts where possible. However, despite potential mitigations, it would still be difficult (in our view) for the competent authority to ascertain that there would be no AEoI of the SAC and SPA. Therefore, Natural England will also advise on proposed compensatory measures in principle, and without prejudice to the proper application of the HRA process and derogation legal tests.

As stated in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1):

- *5.4.25 If, during the pre-application stage, the SNCB indicate that the proposed development is likely to adversely impact the integrity of habitat sites, the applicant must include with their application such information as may reasonably be required to assess a potential derogation under the Habitats Regulations*
- *5.4.30 Applicants should work closely at an early stage in the pre-application process with SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government to develop a compensation plan for all protected sites adversely affected by the development. Applicants should engage with the relevant Local*

Planning Authority at an early stage regarding the proposed location of compensatory measures.

- *5.4.31 Before submitting an application, applicants should seek the views of the SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government as to the suitability, securability and effectiveness of the compensation plan to ensure the development will not hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives for the protected site.*

Natural England will continue to engage with the applicant on these matters, and we highlight that the above points regarding compensatory measures should be addressed before an application is submitted. Due to the irreplaceable nature of the highly complex functioning habitats which would be directly and indirectly affected by the proposal, compensation design will be particularly complex.

We also have significant concerns regarding potential impacts to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), in addition to potential landscape and peat impacts. The assessment of potential effects from the proposed site access and cable route search areas should include relevant ecological and landscape receptors beyond the search area boundary. Please refer to our attached letter for detailed advice.

Please send all future correspondence regarding this case to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team
Natural England

Date: 29 September 2025
Our ref: 525007
Your ref: EN0110023

Consultations
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 900

Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Katherine King,

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Consultation under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulation 11

Proposal: Calderdale Energy Park

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in the consultation dated 01 September 2025, received on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

A robust assessment of environmental impacts and opportunities, based on relevant and up to date environmental information, should be undertaken prior to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's bespoke advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development. Annex B provides Natural England's standard advice on the scope of the EIA.

Detailed advice on scoping the ES is available in the attached Annexes.

For any further advice on this consultation please contact consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team
Natural England

Annex A – Natural England's Bespoke Advice on EIA Scoping for this project

1. Overarching comments

- The environmental considerations for this scheme are highly complex. Therefore, we highlight the importance of the provision of detailed evidence and assessments at an early stage of the process. We strongly advise that an Evidence Plan would be beneficial for this project to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and other environmental assessments.

- Natural England recommends that details of the full extent, nature and location of proposed works should be provided as early as possible to inform the assessment of ecological and landscape impacts and inform discussions regarding required avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures. Natural England cannot provide comprehensive comments on the potential ecological and landscape impacts and proposed mitigation/compensation until this information is available.

- The assessment of potential effects from the proposed works, including site access and cable route search areas, should include relevant ecological and landscape receptors beyond the search area boundary.

- Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 - (The EIA Regulations) states that the ES should include an assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen. Natural England would welcome a robust assessment of alternatives to demonstrate why the proposed site has been selected, particularly given its complex environmental constraints.

Natural England's comments on the EIA Scoping Report are focused on the introductory chapters (Chapters 1-5) and topic-specific chapters relevant to our statutory purpose, including:

- Chapter 6 Ornithology
- Chapter 7 Biodiversity
- Chapter 8 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat
- Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual
- Chapter 19 Environmental Aspects Scoped Out

The below advice is based on the information provided at this stage. Natural England will have more detailed comments to make once further information is provided.

Natural England has been unable to provide detailed advice on the hydrology aspects of the EIA scoping report within the consultation period. We will provide detailed comments as soon as possible.

2. Designated nature conservation sites

2.2 International and European sites

The development site is within the following **European/internationally designated nature conservation site(s):**

- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA)

- South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance / European sites. This includes Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), listed Ramsar sites, candidate SAC and proposed SPA.

Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive requires an appropriate assessment where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect upon a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. Guidance on Habitats Regulations Assessment HRA) can be found at: Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site - GOV.UK.

We note that section 2.3.18-2.3.20 of the EIA Scoping Report refers to *"Regarding impacts on ecologically designated sites, paragraph 2.12.149 of Draft EN-3 states "the designation of an area as a protected site (including SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites and SSSIs) does not necessarily restrict the construction or operation of onshore wind farms in, near, or through that area."* We would highlight that 3.8.322 of EN-3 (2.12.149 of Draft EN-3) goes on to state *"However, it may make consent for such construction more difficult to secure."*

Table 1 identifies potential impacts to internationally designated sites and provides advice on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance for assessing these impacts. We may have additional comments on required assessments as further information is provided on the scheme design.

The assessment should assess impacts in the context of the sites' conservation objectives and due consideration should be given to the supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features (see Table 1 for links).

Potential impacts should be assessed in relation to all relevant locations (Turbine Area, Cable Corridor Search Areas, Access Route Search Areas and Compensation Search Area) and stages of the proposed development (Construction, Operation and/or Decommissioning).

In line with the mitigation hierarchy, impacts should be avoided where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, adequate mitigation should be implemented. We note that some 'best practice measures' and potential mitigation measures have been outlined in the EIA Scoping Report. However, it is not possible to determine suitable mitigation measures until the assessment of impacts to designated sites is completed. The implementation of additional bespoke mitigation measures may be required following the relevant assessments.

Where mitigation measures are proposed, the assessment should demonstrate what difference the mitigation measures would make to the effects of the proposal on the site. The assessment will need to demonstrate confidence in the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures and show:

- how the measures would be implemented and monitored, and how long for
- how the measures will be enforced
- the level of certainty that the measures would work to avoid or reduce effects on the site
- how long it will take for the measures to take effect
- the level of expected success, and what changes would be made if monitoring shows the measures may fail

Natural England will provide more detailed advice on mitigation measures once the assessment of impacts has been provided.

The assessment should clearly set out the expected residual effects following the implementation of mitigation measures. It should be determined whether these effects are acceptable (alone and in-combination with other plans/projects) or would lead to adverse effects and therefore require compensation measures to be put in place following the derogations process.

A full assessment of the full extent of residual impacts would be required before designing appropriate compensatory measures. Natural England can advise on proposed compensatory measures in principle, and without prejudice to the proper application of the HRA process and derogation legal tests.

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA) Conservation objectives: Designated Sites View Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features (SACO): UK9007022 South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA Published 10 Jul 2024	Permanent direct loss of SPA bird supporting habitat	Permanent loss of SPA supporting habitat from all infrastructure and construction activities should be assessed. Details of the full extent, nature and location of proposed works should be provided and the full amount of SPA habitat loss associated with the proposal should be calculated. This should include the footprint of proposed infrastructure and any habitat removal/excavations required for proposed works, such as the onsite 'borrow pits.' We note from 6.6.7 of the EIA Scoping Report that *"The outcomes of the current and proposed survey programme (including surveys along the cable route wherever possible), along with relevant data from previous years, will be fully presented in the forthcoming PEIR and/or the Ornithology Chapter of the ES."* The detailed bird survey results should be presented in full, with acknowledgement of any limitations/gaps in the methodologies. Natural England will provide detailed advice when these data are provided. We would encourage inclusion of the survey data within the PEIR to inform scheme design and consultee advice prior to the ES. Siting of infrastructure within key nesting areas should be avoided. We advise that impacts to all 'supporting habitat' should be assessed, in line with the supplementary advice on conservation objectives (SACO) for the South Pennine Moors SPA. Consideration should be given to the current and potential ecological functioning of the habitats within the footprint of proposed infrastructure (informed by the bird surveys and habitat surveys). Some areas will provide current 'core habitat' for nesting and foraging SPA birds, whereas other areas will provide a supporting function, for example increasing food availability or providing connectivity between nesting and feeding areas. Therefore, these areas also play an important ecological function and should be assessed in line with the conservation objectives and supplementary advice. Consideration also needs to be given that even where birds are not currently found to be breeding, they may use different areas in the future for breeding (and other activities) and the site's current and any restorable supporting habitat

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		forms part of the site's resilience to factors such as climate change or management changes. Therefore, loss of any supporting habitat needs to be considered as potential loss of breeding habitat. Natural England advises that where permanent European site habitat loss is identified, then there is a credible risk that the plan or project might undermine the conservation objectives, i.e. there is likely to be a significant effect, and the habitat loss should be assessed further in the appropriate assessment. We note 6.6.34 of the EIA Scoping Report states *"Within the ES, a significant effect will be determined whereby the magnitude of the impact leads to a 1% change in the feature extent or population (i.e. a small magnitude impact – see Table 6-8) of an Important Ornithological Feature."* However, Natural England does not agree with this approach to defining significant effects in the context of assessing SPA impacts, which should be assessed in line with the site's conservation objectives and SACO. The appropriate assessment should consider whether the proposals can be amended to avoid or reduce the impact of SPA habitat loss. Where avoidance of impacts is not possible, Natural England will normally advise that a lasting and irreparable loss of European Site habitat will prevent a conclusion of no adverse effect on site integrity being reached. When determining whether there may be adverse effect on integrity on the SPA from a loss of SPA supporting habitat, a key question is whether the anticipated reduction in bird usage would undermine the Conservation Objectives. The ecological functioning of the supporting habitat should form a key consideration in the assessment of potential impacts, i.e. 'what ecological function the affected area was performing, or could perform, and its importance to the population of the species for

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		which the site had been designated'[1]. In this case, due to the nature and location of the proposed development, the ecological function of this area and its importance to the species for which the site has been designated, Natural England advises that it may be difficult to construct a credible argument that adverse effect on integrity can be ruled out from loss of SPA supporting habitat.
	Temporary loss / damage of SPA supporting habitat	Temporary loss and damage of SPA habitats should be assessed, for example from temporary siting of construction materials or cable installation (where relevant). For loss to be considered temporary it must be clearly time-limited to the point where the impact is predicted to return to the same pre-impact condition within a specified timescale. Consideration should be given to the length of time it will take to complete the proposed works, in addition to the length of time it will take for the habitat to be fully restored, once the construction period is complete. A detailed remediation plan using proven techniques should be secured, where remediation will be beneficial and not cause additional habitat damage. When determining whether loss of habitat should be assessed as temporary or permanent, Natural England recommends referring to the Natural England publication on temporary effects.[2] It should be determined whether the effect from the proposal is 'capable of being fully undone' or 'made good', and whether the habitat would be fully restored to a comparable level of ecological functionality within the relevant timescales. Alternative habitat may be required until the original habitat is fully functional.

[1] Small-scale effects: How the scale of effects has been considered in respect of plans and projects affecting European sites - a review of authoritative decisions - NECR205
[2] Temporary effects: How the longevity of effects has been considered in respect of plans and projects affecting European sites - a review of authoritative decisions - NECR206).

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		See below advice on removal of habitat during the breeding bird season.
	Mortality from collision with turbines or ancillary infrastructure	We note that collision risk will be assessed, informed by the Vantage Point (VP) surveys. We welcome that the NatureScot guidance on avoidance rates[3] and collision risk modelling[4] will be used. Justification should be provided on why the 'airspace' model or 'fly through' model is selected for each species, with results of both models presented where there is doubt on the most appropriate model selection.
	Indirect habitat loss through displacement	Natural England advises that the Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS), Vantage Point (VP surveys) and habitat surveys should be used to inform the assessment of bird displacement from the proposed wind turbines. Natural England advises that displacing birds on a continuing basis from areas of suitable habitat which support SPA birds for necessary stages of their breeding cycle (courtship, nesting, feeding) equates to effective habitat loss, as such habitat is no longer 'available'. We advise that further assessment should be carried out within a 600 m buffer distance of the turbines to determine the predicted level and effects of displacement. The assessment should be informed by site-specific factors such as the habitats available, extent and type of bird usage within the buffer zone, relative importance of the area and existing pressures on the species present. The ecological functioning of the supporting habitats within proximity to the turbines will be a key consideration in the assessment.

[3] Wind farm impacts on birds - Use of Avoidance Rates in the NatureScot Wind Farm Collision Risk Model | NatureScot
[4] Guidance on using an updated collision risk model to assess bird collision risk at onshore wind farms | NatureScot

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		Potential displacement from ancillary infrastructure should also be assessed. If overhead lines are proposed, the impacts should be assessed in line with NatureScot's guidance[5].
	Changes to ecological connectivity	We agree that changes to ecological connectivity through separation of habitats resulting in fragmentation/severance should be scoped in to detailed assessment.
	Disruption to flightlines	Potential impacts on bird flightlines (i.e. barrier effect) and associated increased energy use by birds for commuting flights between roosting and foraging areas should be assessed. Disruption to flightlines resulting from avoidance action should be assessed, informed by the VP surveys and predicted avoidance levels from the collision risk modelling. The impact of changes to ecological connectivity and altered flightlines on the relevant SACO targets for each species should be assessed, for example *"Maintain the safe passage of birds moving between nesting and feeding areas used by breeding Golden Plover."*
	Bird disturbance including noise and visual disturbance	The assessment of noise impacts should consider: • Timing of works (time of day/night, season) • Duration of works • Proximity to areas of particular importance to birds • Number of birds present in the relevant time period • Predicted noise levels (in line with the below advice on noise assessments) • The existing noise levels and other sources of acoustic disturbance at the site • The type of potential effect (adverse behavioural changes such as disturbance to feeding and displacement from important habitats due to loud, sporadic noises, etc.). • The potential sensitivity of the receptor birds depending on their activities (breeding, foraging, roosting), numbers, species etc. This should be informed by the bird survey data to assess the relative importance of disturbed area to SPA birds.

[5] Guidance - Assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds | NatureScot

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		Natural England advise that an assessment is made for both construction and operational noise against the existing noise environment using a range of noise measurements – e.g. LAeq/ LAmax. The noise assessment should present the predicted noise at the sensitive receptor (i.e. the location of SPA birds) and set this in the context of the existing noise environment – i.e. how noise levels will change, including the type of noise such as consistent or sudden loud bangs etc. Factors such as noise 'peakiness', including rise time of a noise signal and the frequency content of the noise source, should also be included as these factors may affect behaviour. To understand peak noise levels and the repetition rate of peak noises over a period of time, we suggest LAmax and/or LApeak levels are assessed, in addition to LAeq. This will help to understand both average and maximum levels, as each can affect behaviour. A noise contour map should be provided to compare the location of noise contours matching thresholds of concern against the mapped distribution of birds. The assessment should also determine whether there is any visual disturbance associated with the construction or operational works, e.g. presence of machinery or personnel in view of receptor birds. Visual disturbance combined with increased noise levels can increase risk of disturbance. As detailed above, bespoke mitigation measures may be required in addition to the 'best practice construction measures' outlined in 6.4.5 of the EIA Scoping Report. The design of mitigation measures should be informed by the breeding bird surveys and assessment of impacts. There are a range of mitigation measures that can potentially reduce the disturbance of birds resulting from increased noise levels, including seasonal timing of works, noise reduction equipment, buffer zones and/or acoustic screening, and a combination of measures

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		may be required. NatureScot's guidance on disturbance distances may be helpful in assessing potential effects of disturbance and potential buffer zones[6]. We note that 6.4.11 includes other measures to be included in the oCEMP, including *"Delineation of buffer zones of sensitive habitats (e.g. important areas of the South Pennine and Moors Phase 2 SPA and South Pennine Moors SSSI) in order to safeguard and limit these habitats from construction related disturbance."* We would welcome clarification on how 'important areas' of the SPA will be defined, considering that the whole SPA has been designated for its international importance for supporting relevant bird species. We note that 6.4.7 of the EIA Scoping Report states *"Construction work will avoid the peak nesting period (April – May) wherever practicable."* However, it is unclear why the months April-May have been selected as the sensitive breeding bird period extends beyond these months. Natural England highlight that the breeding season must encompass all SPA species, and those protected by the WCA 1981 (as amended). It should also include the full possible breeding season, rather than just the peak. The SACO for South Pennine Moors SPA details the principal periods of site usage as March-end of June for merlin, European golden plover and the breeding bird assemblage[7]. Natural England also note that raptors often have dependant young late in the season, with this having the potential to span to the beginning of August for Merlin, the middle of August for Peregrine and September for short-eared owl. Consideration should also be given to the breeding bird survey results and relevant bird records to identify when relevant bird species have previously been breeding on the site. Following the assessment of potential impacts, suitable avoidance/mitigation measures should be identified during the full breeding bird period. The noisiest works (e.g. piling) should be completely avoided during in the nesting period in sensitive locations.

[6] Disturbance Distances in selected Scottish Bird Species – NatureScot Guidance | NatureScot
[7] UK9007022_South Pennine Moors Phase 2_SPA_Published 10 Jul 2024

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		Additionally, any removal of suitable bird nesting habitat during construction or operation (which should also be assessed as temporary or permanent SPA habitat loss, see above) should take place prior to (or following) the breeding season where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, the proposed nesting bird checks should take place until at least the end of June/ in line with the nesting period for the relevant species. Further details of the proposed retention and protection of nests should be provided for situations where nests are identified. Where it is concluded that a sustained increase in noise/visual disturbance cannot be sufficiently mitigated in proximity to SPA bird breeding/foraging habitat, the potential for behavioural changes and indirect habitat loss from displacement should be assessed.
	Recreational disturbance	Potential recreational impacts should be assessed, for example increased disturbance associated with new or relocated footpaths.
	Lighting impacts	Potential effects of increased lighting on SPA birds, including the potential impacts of lighting on invertebrate food sources, should be assessed, particularly where proposed works will introduce additional lighting into previously unlit areas. An assessment should be made of predicted levels of light spill and interaction with areas used by significant numbers of birds. The assessment should include construction, decommissioning and operational lighting, including turbine aviation lighting. Mitigation measures should be explored where an increase in light spill is expected within the designated site. These may include direction of lighting, intensity of lighting, type of lighting and timing of lighting. We note from 5.2.3 of the EIA Scoping Report that a reduced lighting scheme will be considered to mitigate the environmental effects of the lighting. Natural England advises that it should be determined whether the proposed reduced lighting scheme and measures outlined in 6.4.10 of the EIA scoping report are sufficient to mitigate impacts to SPA birds.

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		Where it is concluded that a sustained increase in lighting cannot be sufficiently mitigated in proximity to SPA bird breeding/foraging habitat, the potential for behavioural changes and indirect habitat loss from displacement should be assessed.
	Loss and/or disturbance to functionally linked land	Bird species associated with the South Pennine Moors SPA also rely on areas of land outside of the designated site boundary. These sites provide important supporting feeding and roosting habitats. They are often referred to as areas of functionally linked land (FLL). This land is important to the continuing survival, reproduction and viability of populations of SPA bird species, and proposals affecting it may therefore have the potential to affect the European site. Natural England advises that loss of (and disturbance to) functionally linked land should be assessed for the site access and cable corridor search areas. Bird surveys should be completed in affected areas that have high habitat suitability for SPA birds. We advise referring to the attached Habitat suitability modelling for foraging golden plover guidance (attached) to inform the assessment. We advise using Map B on p16 to identify areas with high suitability for golden plover, and recommend that bird surveys are completed in areas marked as 'present,' where they are affected by the proposals. Natural England advises using the West Yorkshire Ecology Service guidance on SPA bird survey methodology for functionally linked land (including nocturnal surveys)[8].

[8] 20201217-spa-bird-survey-methodology.pdf

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
	Impacts from biodiversity net gain (BNG) proposals	Potential impacts on SPA birds from BNG proposals, such as displacement or predator perching effects from tree planting, should be assessed.
	Other impacts to SPA bird supporting habitat, including water quality, water supply, hydrology and air quality	SPA habitat deterioration and other indirect impacts from the proposals should also be assessed. The assessment should consider (but not necessarily be limited to) the following potential impacts: • Water quality impacts, including potential for increased nutrient and other pollutant inputs (see detailed advice below on water quality impacts). • Water supply impacts on SPA bird supporting habitat (see detailed advice below on water supply and hydrological impacts). • Air quality impacts, including potential for impacts from dust during construction and traffic during construction and operation (see below advice on air quality impacts).
South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Conservation objectives: Designated Sites View Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features: UK0030280 South Pennine Moors SAC Published 10 Jul 2024	Permanent loss of SAC habitat	Permanent loss of SAC habitat from all infrastructure and construction activities should be assessed. Details of the full extent, nature and location of proposed works should be provided and the full amount of SAC habitat loss associated with the proposal should be calculated. This should include the footprint of proposed infrastructure and any habitat removal/excavations required for other proposed works, such as the onsite 'borrow pits.' All SAC habitats, including high quality and degraded habitats should be included in the calculation. Peat depths should be presented at a finer scale (e.g. 1-10 cm, 11-29 cm and 30+ cm) and assessed alongside the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) and UK Habitat Classification Survey (UKHab) results to determine which SAC habitat types are present in different areas. Deep peat should be defined as peat with a depth of 30+ cm. Natural England advises that the habitat classification should be underpinned by the recorded peat depths, rather than relying on the vegetation characteristics alone, which may lead to under-reporting/misrepresentation of SAC designated features.

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		Currently, the peat depth surveys and UKHab results presented in 7.4.13-7.4.15 of the EIA Scoping Report do not align. For example, where peat is deeper than 30 cm, this should not be mapped as heath. Therefore, Natural England advises that the habitat classification results should be revisited to check classification of habitat type recording. We recognise limitations in the UKHab survey definitions and advise that more detailed surveys are required to assess fine-scale habitats. We welcome that further detailed NVC surveys are being carried out and advise that these inform the re-classification of habitat types. Areas of blanket bog should be identified in line with Natural England's Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Blanket Bog[9]. Natural England advises that the definition of blanket bog should use a peat depth of 30 cm based upon ecological factors. We advise that most areas of semi-natural vegetation on upland peat >30 cm should therefore be assessed as active or degraded blanket bog (except where other specific habitats are present, such as upland flush or fen). We also consider all degraded blanket bog as restorable. Also note that, based on local experience, we understand there to be peat-forming species including cotton-grass and sphagnum across large areas of the site, in which case the habitats would be considered active blanket bog. Areas of wet heath should be identified in line with Natural England's Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Heathland.[10] Wet heath should typically be present (or restored) on shallow peat soils >30cm, or where soils have peaty pockets. Care should be taken to distinguish between dry heath on mineral soils and degraded wet heath by considering peat depth as well as vegetation composition. Degraded wet heath can be dominated by heather but often has occasional species that indicate impeded drainage.

[9] Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Blanket bog - RP2967
[10] Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Heathland - RP2977

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		As stated above, the appropriate assessment should consider whether the proposals can be amended to avoid or reduce the impact of SAC habitat loss. Where avoidance is not possible, Natural England will normally advise that a lasting and irreparable loss of European Site habitat will prevent a conclusion of no adverse effect on site integrity being reached. Therefore, the project could only progress if it passes the derogation legal tests, i.e. 1) there are no feasible alternative solutions that would be less damaging or avoid damage to the Habitats Site, 2) The proposal needs to be carried out for imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI), and 3) The necessary compensation measures can be secured. Natural England can provide advice on relevant aspects of the HRA and derogations process when further information is available. Table 8-2 includes peat re-use and restoration as a potential mitigation measure, including *"reinstatement of peat in cutover areas".* However, Natural England advises that the proposed use of displaced peat to 'reinstate' other cutover areas may cause additional impacts through damage to established vegetation (i.e. loss of habitat). Removed peat is likely to become aerated, prone to oxidation and will not improve functioning of the peatlands. Therefore, this proposed approach is not considered to be appropriate or effective in this context.
	Temporary loss/damage of SAC habitat	Temporary loss and damage of SAC habitats should be assessed, for example from temporary siting of construction materials or cable installation. For loss to be considered temporary it must be clearly time-limited to the point where the impact is predicted to return to the same pre-impact condition within a specified timescale. Consideration should be given to the length of time it will take to complete the proposed works, in addition to the length of time it will take for the habitat to be fully restored, once the

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		construction period is complete. A detailed remediation plan using proven techniques should be secured, where remediation will be beneficial and not cause additional habitat damage. When determining whether loss of habitat should be assessed as temporary or permanent, Natural England recommends referring to the Natural England publication on temporary effects.[11] It should be determined whether the effect from the proposal is 'capable of being fully undone' or 'made good', and whether the habitat would be fully restored to a comparable level of ecological functionality within the relevant timescales. Alternative habitat may be required until the original habitat is fully functional.
	Water supply impacts	The assessment should consider changes to water supply, infiltration and runoff patterns and associated impacts to SAC habitats. Water supply impacts associated with any proposed abstractions during construction should be assessed, including concrete batching process and horizontal directional drilling (if required). Where water abstraction is required within designated site catchments, further assessment should be undertaken.
	Hydrological impacts	Hydrological impacts to all relevant SAC features should be assessed. The assessment should include impacts beyond alterations to the water table. Primary and secondary impacts to the peatland should be assessed, including: • Change to overland and subsurface flow

[11] Temporary effects: How the longevity of effects has been considered in respect of plans and projects affecting European sites - a review of authoritative decisions - NECR206).

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		• Changes to peat bulk density (i.e. compression), potentially affecting water availability to plants • Drying of acrotelm causing progressive loss of peat-forming conditions and peat-forming species • Long-term drying effect on catotelm (90yr+) resulting in collapse and shrinkage of wider peat body. • Secondary compression of catotelm causing potential subsidence and peatland instability. • Oxidative wastage as oxygen permeates the catotelm deeper in the peat-body[12]. Natural England has been unable to provide detailed advice on the hydrology aspects of the EIA scoping report within the consultation period. We will provide detailed comments as soon as possible.
	Water quality impacts	We note that impacts to designated sites from changes to water quality during construction, operation, and decommissioning will be assessed. This should include an assessment of all discharges of wastewater or other outputs associated with proposed works, including the concrete batching process (if required). All potential changes to water quality should be assessed, including the introduction of debris, sediments (including particulate organic carbon), dissolved organic matter, nutrients, contaminants (including chemicals and heavy metals etc.) and changes to temperature, pH and

[12] Briefing 3 Impacts of Artificial Drainage on Peatlands.pdf

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		cation concentrations during construction, operation and decommissioning. The ecological effects of these changes to designated habitats should be assessed. Potential effects from embedded measures or mitigation measures, such as road cleaning facilities or 'firewater' runoff protocols, should be included in the assessment. We advise that detail should also be provided on the proposed approach to any foul water arising from the construction and/or operational phases.
	Air quality impacts	The assessment of air quality impacts should include emissions from construction traffic, dust, particulate matter, non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) and any other relevant activities. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk). We advise that dust produced during the construction phase could cause smothering effects if the designated site is within 200 m. The assessment should therefore assess whether proposed dust-suppression measures provide adequate mitigation for impacts to designated sites within 200 m of the works, and would result in no significant change from the baseline. An assessment should also be undertaken which considers the impacts of NRMM on designated sites. Where back-up generators are proposed, the assessment should include information on the location, number, capacity, and operational hours of proposed back-up generators. It should be considered that back-up generators may have a larger radius of pollution impact than other NRMM. Natural England has produced guidance for public bodies to help assess the impacts of road traffic emissions to air quality capable of affecting European, which should be referred to in the

Table 1 – Comments on Internationally Designated Sites		
Site name with link to conservation objectives	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**	**Natural England comments on evidence requirements, approach to assessment and recommended guidance**
		assessment[13]. As detailed in guidance document NEA001, we advise that designated sites within 200m of a road which will experience a significant increase in traffic movements from the proposal should be assessed for impacts due to air pollution from traffic. In addition, ammonia can be emitted from vehicle exhaust emissions as a by-product of the catalytic conversion process designed to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxide. Natural England therefore advises that ammonia sourced from traffic emissions should be included for assessment within the HRA. There are currently two models which can be used to calculate the ammonia concentration and contribution to total N deposition from road sources. One of these models is publicly available and called CREAM (Air Quality Consultants - News - Ammonia Emissions from Roads for Assessing Impacts on Nitrogen-Sensitive Habitats (aqconsultants.co.uk), and there is another produced by National Highways.
	Recreational impacts	The potential for increased recreational impacts to SAC habitats should be assessed, for example trampling of habitats or increased nutrients associated with new or relocated footpaths.
	Impacts from biodiversity net gain (BNG) proposals	Potential impacts on SAC habitats from BNG proposals, such as such as habitat loss or hydrological changes from tree planting.

[13] Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations - NEA001

2.3 Nationally designated sites

Table 2 provides advice on potential impacts where further information is required to assess the potential impacts on nationally designated sites. This advice is based on the information provided at this stage. Natural England may have more detailed comments to make once further information is provided.

2.3.1 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Further information on SSSIs and their special interest features can be found at www.magic.gov.uk.

The development site is within or may impact on the following **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs):**

- South Pennine Moors SSSI
- Bingley South Bog SSSI
- Leeds-Liverpool Canal SSSI
- Eccup Reservoir SSSI
- Trench Meadows SSSI
- Crimsworth Dean SSSI

Potential impacts should be assessed in relation to all relevant locations (Turbine Area, Cable Corridor Search Areas, Access Route Search Areas and Compensation Search Area) and stages of the proposed development (Construction, Operation and/or Decommissioning).

In line with the mitigation hierarchy, SSSI impacts should be avoided in the first instance. Natural England would therefore encourage siting of the cable route corridor outside the SSSI site boundaries, where possible.

Natural England highlight that the ES should consider impacts to SSSIs outside of the search area boundary, where potential impact pathways exist. Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a helpful tool which can be used to determine whether the proposal impacts statutory nature conservation sites. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the Natural England Open Data Geoportal.

We advise that the following SSSIs, located outside of the search area boundary, should be considered in the ES:

- Stonehead Beck (Gill Beck) SSSI
- Breary Marsh SSSI
- Broadhead Clough SSSI
- Withens Clough SSSI
- Trench Meadows SSSI
- Rochdale Canal SSSI

The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within the listed SSSIs and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.

2.3.2 National Nature Reserves (NNRs)

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) include some of the best examples of England's wildlife and geology. NNRs were established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which specified that they were for *"preserving flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features of special interest in the area and/or for providing opportunities for the study of, and research into, those features"*. The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 extended the role of NNRs to include the provision of opportunities for public enjoyment of nature and/or open-air recreation. The 'three pillars' of nature conservation, research and access are fundamental to NNRs.

NNRs secure nationally important sites for nature and nature recovery, environmental science and people. They inspire people, promote learning and encourage actions in the wider landscape.

The development site is within or may impact on the following NNR:

- Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR

The ES should include an assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the NNR.

Table 2 – Comments on Nationally Designated Sites	
Site name	**Natural England comments on assessment**
South Pennine Moors SSSI	Our advice regarding the potential impact pathways upon South Pennine Moors SSSI listed above broadly coincides with those set out in Table 1 above for their corresponding European sites. However, we highlight that the South Pennine Moors SSSI is designated for a number of additional features, including: • Acid grassland • Short sedge acidic fen (upland) • Assemblages of breeding birds – upland moorland and grassland with water bodies. • Assemblages of breeding birds – upland moorland and grassland without water bodies. • ED - Namurian • ER - Namurian • EW - Namurian Therefore, potential impacts on these features should also be considered in the relevant assessment. Details of the South Pennine Moors SSSI citation and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Bingley South Bog SSSI	Natural England note that Bingley South Bog SSSI is located within the cable corridor search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. In particular, we advise that the ES should consider: • Potential habitat loss • Potential water quality and water supply impacts • Potential air quality impacts (e.g. dust) Details of the Bingley South Bog SSSI citation and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Leeds-Liverpool Canal SSSI	Natural England note that the Leeds-Liverpool Canal SSSI is located within the cable corridor search area.

	The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. In particular, we advise that the ES should consider: • Potential habitat loss • Potential water quality and water supply impacts • Potential air quality impacts (e.g. dust) Details of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal SSSI citation and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Eccup Reservoir SSSI	Natural England note that Eccup Reservoir SSSI is located within the cable corridor search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. In particular, we advise that the ES should consider: • Potential loss of/damage to supporting habitat • Potential water quality and water supply impacts • Potential disturbance to designated bird species Details of the Eccup Reservoir SSSI citation and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Trench Meadows SSSI	Natural England note that Trench Meadows SSSI is located within the cable corridor search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. In particular, we advise that the ES should consider: • Potential habitat loss • Potential water quality and water supply impacts • Potential air quality impacts (e.g. dust) Details of the Trench Meadows SSSI and features can be found at SSSI detail.

Crimsworth Dean SSSI	Natural England note that Crimsworth Dean SSSI is located within the site access search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. In particular, we advise that the ES should consider: • Loss of/damage to designated geological feature Details of the Crimsworth Dean SSSI and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Stonehead Beck (Gill Beck) SSSI	Natural England note that Stonehead Beck (Gill Beck) SSSI is located within close proximity to the site access search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. In particular, we advise that the ES should consider: • Loss of/damage to designated geological feature Details of the Stonehead Beck (Gill Beck) SSSI and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Breary Marsh SSSI	Natural England note that Breary Marsh SSSI is located within close proximity to the cable corridor search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. In particular, we advise that the ES should consider: • Potential habitat loss • Potential water quality impacts • Potential air quality impacts (e.g. dust) Details of the Breary Marsh SSSI and features can be found at SSSI detail.

Broadhead Clough SSSI	Natural England note that Broudhead Clough SSSI is located within close proximity to the cable corridor search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. In particular, we advise that the ES should consider: • Potential habitat loss • Potential water quality impacts • Potential air quality impacts (e.g. dust) Details of the Broadhead Clough SSSI and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Withens Clough SSSI	Natural England note that Withens Clough SSSI is located within close proximity to the cable corridor search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. Details of the Withens Clough SSSI and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Rochdale Canal SSSI	Natural England note that Rochdale Canal SSSI is located within close proximity to the cable corridor search area. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of this site, and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. Details of the Rochdale Canal SSSI and features can be found at SSSI detail.
Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR	The cable corridor search area incorporates areas of the NNR. The ES should include an assessment of impacts to habitats, species, and opportunities for research and public access within the NNR. The sites

	cover a variety of habitats including moorland, woodland, wetlands and meadows. Many threatened and rare species have been recorded across the sites, and the sites host important cultural and historic features. Areas of the NNR within the cable corridor search area include irreplaceable habitats (IH), such as ancient woodland at St Ives Estate and Shipley Glen. Therefore, impacts on these features should also be assessed in line with the relevant protections.

3. Protected species

The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law. Records of protected species should be obtained from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations and local groups. Consideration should be given to the wider context of the site, for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area.

The area likely to be affected by the development should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and, where necessary, licensed, consultants.

Natural England advise that the potential effects of increased lighting on protected species should be assessed, particularly where proposed works will introduce additional lighting into previously unlit areas. The assessment should include construction, decommissioning and operational lighting, including turbine aviation lighting.

Natural England has adopted standing advice for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. A separate protected species licence from Natural England or Defra may also be required. Applicants should refer to the guidance at Wildlife licences: when you need to apply to check to see if a mitigation licence is required.

Applicants can also make use of Natural England's charged service Pre Submission Screening Service for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. Natural England can then review a full draft licence application to issue a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) which explains that based on the information reviewed to date, that it sees no impediment to a licence being granted in the future should the DCO be issued. See Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP): Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process, Annex C: Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate - GOV.UK for details of the LONI process.

Table 3 provides advice on potential impacts to protected species, where further information is required to assess the potential impacts. This advice is based on the information provided at this stage. Natural England may have more detailed comments to make once further information is provided.

Table 3: Comments on Protected Species

Species	**Further information/assessment required and details of licensing**
Bats (multiple species)	Natural England notes the survey effort undertaken to date with respect to bats, and welcomes the commitment to assemble further information and carry out additional surveys ahead of the PEIR submission. Natural England advise that information regarding the type of static detector used in the surveys, and the method for analysing the data, should be provided, in addition to the criteria for choosing each static location. Natural England advise that consideration should be given to surveying currently un-surveyed areas, with areas of optimal bat habitat identified on-site, and surveyed in addition to the turbine locations.

Table 3: Comments on Protected Species	
Species	**Further information/assessment required and details of licensing**
	Further surveys should also be completed in the relevant grid connection, access route and compensation search areas, where relevant. Natural England welcome the commitment to undertake a desk study. We recommend that in addition to the sources listed, Ecobat (Bat survey tools — Mammal Society) may be helpful in assessing the importance of the site to bats. Natural England advise that there should be a 50m buffer implemented from the turbine blade tip to linear vegetation and woodland, and that turbine feathering should be implemented as standard. We also welcome the commitments from the project to undertake good practice and to incorporate avoidance and mitigation measure to minimise impacts to protected species as part of the planned CEMP and OEMP documents. Natural England advise that the proposed monitoring method for bat/wind turbine collision and death should be provided. It is noted that the project has identified a likely need for protected species licences with respect to bats. Natural England's Wildlife Licensing Service would strongly encourage the Applicant and their ecological representatives to engage with NE via further discretionary advice to secure a Letter of No Impediment with respect to bat licensing to support the project's submission for DCO consent. Enquiries and requests for charged advice should be submitted to PSSEnquiries@naturalengland.org.uk.
Great Crested Newts (GCN)	Natural England notes the survey effort undertaken to date with respect to GCN; however, it is noted that no further survey effort for GCN is planned currently. If the project envisages requiring a protected species licence with respect to GCN, then we would recommend that further updated surveys are carried out to ensure a robust data set can support any licence application. Further surveys should also be completed in the relevant grid connection, access route and compensation search areas, where relevant. Natural England note that Great Crested Newts have been recorded within the proposed turbine area. We advise that there is no District Level Licensing scheme for great crested newts in this area. On this basis, we therefore advise that other licensing options will need to be explored. Natural England welcomes the commitments from the project to undertake good practice and to incorporate avoidance and mitigation measure to minimise impacts to protected species as part of the planned CEMP and OEMP documents.

Table 3: Comments on Protected Species	
Species	**Further information/assessment required and details of licensing**
	Natural England's Wildlife Licensing Service would strongly encourage the Applicant and their ecological representatives to engage with NE via further discretionary advice to secure a Letter of No Impediment with respect to GCN licensing to support the project's submission for DCO consent. Enquiries and requests for charged advice should be submitted to PSSEnquiries@naturalengland.org.uk.
Badgers	It is noted that badger surveys to date have not identified likely impacts to badgers or their setts, and as such impacts to badgers within the Turbine Area have been scoped out. We note that further surveys are planned. Further surveys should be completed in the relevant grid connection, access route and compensation search areas, where relevant. Should further survey effort identify any impacts to badger that would require protected species licences, then we would encourage the applicant to engage with Natural England's Wildlife Licensing Service as soon as possible regarding a Letter of No Impediment to support the DCO submission. Enquiries and requests for charged advice should be submitted to PSSEnquiries@naturalengland.org.uk.
Water Voles and Otters	It is noted that surveys for aquatic/riparian mammals to date have not identified significant likely impacts, and there is currently no indication within the EIA Scoping Report document that licences for impacts to water voles or otters will be required and sought. Further surveys should be completed in the relevant grid connection, access route and compensation search areas, where relevant. Should further survey effort identify any impacts that would require protected species licences, then we would encourage the applicant to engage with Natural England's Wildlife Licensing Service as soon as possible regarding Letters of No Impediment to support the DCO submission. Enquiries and requests for charged advice should be submitted to PSSEnquiries@naturalengland.org.uk.
Dormice	Impacts to dormice have been scoped out on the basis of an absence of suitable dormice habitat within the Turbine Area. Natural England acknowledges this, and agrees that the reasoning here is sensible and appropriate. Consideration should also be given to the relevant grid connection, access route and compensation search areas, where relevant.

4. Biodiversity net gain

The Environment Act 2021 includes NSIPs in the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), with the biodiversity gain objective for NSIPs defined as at least a 10% increase in the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat. It is the intention that BNG should apply to all terrestrial NSIPs accepted for examination from March 2026. Please note that confirmed BNG NSIP guidance is yet to be published. Therefore, there may be updates to Natural England's advice at a later stage.

We welcome the commitment to delivering BNG on this project. We recommend that the target increase in BNG of 10% across all biodiversity unit types is secured by a suitably worded requirement in the DCO. Natural England advise that BNG requirements are calculated separately following mitigation and compensation requirements through other legislative regimes.

Natural England highlight that BNG can only be delivered within a terrestrial designated site via enhancement of non-designated feature.

Additionally, we advise that the impacts from BNG proposals on designated sites should be assessed in the ES (see Table 1).

4.1 Irreplaceable habitat

Irreplaceable habitats are acknowledged in 5.4.14 of the National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) as '*habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity*'. Defra guidance on irreplaceable habitats (IH) and BNG should be referred to[14]. The IH list recognises and protects England's most valuable habitats. For BNG purposes, the 10% net gain requirement is not applied to irreplaceable habitats, as they are so valuable they cannot be easily recreated, and it would therefore not be possible to achieve the requirement of increased biodiversity on top of no net loss.

Natural England advise that IH should be avoided, with any impacts permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Avoidance of adverse impact of these key habitats is key. Where there are impacts to IH, enhancement of IH cannot form part of the BNG calculation. Only where there are no impacts to IH can enhancement of IH contribute to a development's BNG requirements. Irreplaceable habitats must still be recorded in the biodiversity metric, but any impacts to these habitats will flag as unacceptable and requiring bespoke compensation to be agreed with the examining authority. With regards to impacts to blanket bog, which is IH and an SAC feature, bespoke compensation would be required.

4.2 BNG and statutory mitigation/compensation

Natural England advise that mitigation or compensation for an SAC, SPA, or protected species can count towards BNG in part (i.e. up to no net loss), and that enhancements such as green infrastructure can count in full (i.e. up to 10% net gain)[15]. Natural England note that 4.6.10 of the National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) states that *'biodiversity net gain should be applied after compliance with the mitigation hierarchy, and does not change or replace existing environmental obligations.'* We therefore advise that the purpose of specific measures should be clear, and the amount of statutory mitigation or compensation required should be calculated before the BNG calculations are completed. Although we welcome the commitment regarding BNG we advise that due to the nature of the project and scale of assessment which will be required, assessing the designated

[14] Irreplaceable habitat - GOV.UK
[15] What you can count towards a development's biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK

site impacts and other ecological impacts should be the initial priority.

5. Ancient Woodland, ancient and veteran trees

Natural England note that ancient woodland is present in multiple locations within the cable and site access search areas.

The ES should assess the impacts of the proposal on the ancient woodland and any ancient and veteran trees, and the scope to avoid and mitigate for adverse impacts. It should also consider opportunities for enhancement.

Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat of great importance for its wildlife, its history, and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes.

We highlight that NPS-1 5.4.32 states *'applicants should include measures to mitigate fully the direct and indirect effects of development on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees or other irreplaceable habitats during both construction and operational phases.'*

Paragraph 186 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the highest level of protection for irreplaceable habitats and development should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland Inventory which can help identify ancient woodland. The wood pasture and parkland inventory available at magic.gov.uk sets out information on wood pasture and parkland.

The ancient tree inventory provides information on the location of ancient and veteran trees.

Natural England and the Forestry Commission have prepared standing advice on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees.

6. Peat

Impacts to peatlands outside the designated sites (i.e. in the Cable Route, Site Access and Compensation search areas) should also be assessed, including loss of peat and hydrological effects on surrounding peatlands. Natural England now advises that deep peat should be defined as 30+ cm.

The England Peat Map may inform the assessment: England Peat Map.

Further guidance on peatlands and development can be found at: Peatland and Development March 2023 - FINAL.pdf and NatureScot pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms | NatureScot.

We would welcome engagement on the Outline Peat Management Plan (oPMP), in addition to the Environment Agency.

7. Landscape

7.1 Landscape and visual impacts

Public bodies have a duty to seek to further the statutory purposes of designation in carrying out their functions (under section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023). This duty also applies to proposals outside the designated area but impacting on its natural beauty.

Understanding the landscape character of the area in which the development is being proposed is essential to assess the landscape and visual effects and the effects on the special qualities of the Protected Landscapes. The environmental assessment should refer to the relevant National Character Areas (NCA). Character area profiles set out descriptions of each landscape area and statements of environmental opportunity. The detail contained in the NCA profiles is of particular relevance given the scale of the proposed development area (including Access and Cable Routes Areas of Search).

The Scoping Report correctly identifies that the area proposed for the turbines lies within the NCA 36 Southern Pennines. In addition, we advise that the NCAs in the Cable Route Search Area should form part of the assessment of landscape effects in the LVIA (see notes on Study Area below).

The EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using landscape assessment methodologies. We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) as a means of assessing the impact of the development on the landscape as a resource, based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute (LI) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing, and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character.

We welcome the list of published Landscape Character Assessments which the LVIA will draw upon. The LVIA will need to fully assesses the impacts of the entire scheme on the landscape character and the special qualities of the Protected Landscapes included in the final study area (see notes on Study Area below).

Criterial for 'good design' for energy infrastructure is covered in the current NPS EN-1 (section 4.5) and is expanded in section 4.7 of the draft EN-1. Direct references to using landscape character to inform 'good design' and how it can contribute to the character of the area are made in the current NPS EN-1, paragraph 4.5.3 and the draft NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.7.6.

We support the use of NatureScot guidance documents on the assessment of onshore wind development in the absence of comparable guidance in England[16].

To ensure high quality development that responds to and enhances local landscape character and distinctiveness, the siting and design of the proposed development should reflect local characteristics and, wherever possible, use local materials. Account should be taken of local design policies, design codes and guides as well as guidance in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code. The ES should set out the measures to be taken to ensure the development will deliver high standards of design and green infrastructure. It should also set out detail of layout alternatives, where appropriate, with a justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.

The National Infrastructure Commission has also produced Design Principles for National Infrastructure - NIC endorsed by Government in the National Infrastructure Strategy.

7.1.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) should also be carried out for the proposed development and surrounding area. Natural England recommends use of the methodology set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2013 (3rd edition) produced by LI and IEMA.

[16] Wind farm impacts on landscape | NatureScot

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage.

For Protected Landscapes, we advise that the assessment also includes a separate section which assesses the effects on the 'special qualities' of the Protected Landscape, as set out in the statutory Management Plan for the area. These identify the particular landscape and related key characteristics which underpin the natural beauty of the area and its designation status.

7.2 National Parks and National Landscapes

Natural England's landscape advice will focus on the potential for adverse effects on the statutory purposes of the Peak District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Nidderdale National Landscape and the Forest of Bowland National Landscape and their settings. National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes (legally known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) are collectively referred to as Protected Landscapes throughout our advice.

Natural England note that Table 10-1 does not include Nidderdale National Landscape, but that it does appear in other parts of the Scoping Report. Nidderdale National Landscape lies within the 45km Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and impacts to this nationally Protected Landscape must be fully considered in the LVIA. We advise that this is amended.

Natural England's advice will seek to ensure the highest level of protection is given to the conservation of landscape and scenic beauty of Protected Landscapes and their settings.

Our advice on Protected Landscapes is informed by

- The primary statutory purpose of Protected Landscapes which is to conserve and enhance **natural beauty**, wildlife, and cultural heritage;
- The highest planning protection afforded to Protected Landscapes in relation to landscape and scenic beauty; and
- The special qualities as set out in the Protected Landscapes statutory Management Plans.

The NPPF (December 2024) in paragraph 189 and the current overarching Energy National Policy Statement EN-1 (paragraphs 5.9.9 and 5.9.10) are clear that Protected Landscapes have the highest level of planning protection as England's finest landscapes. For development in the setting of a Protected Landscape the NPPF advises that it should be '*sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas'*. The current overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy EN-1 advises avoiding compromise of the [statutory] purposes of designation and sensitive design within relevant constraints.

The setting of a Protected Landscape is an area of landscape beyond the boundary where its landscape character complements or contrasts to that of the designated landscape. In either circumstance, intervisibility between the two areas supports or enhances the Protected Landscape, and this close relationship has a bearing on the natural beauty and special qualities of the Protected Landscape. The Calderdale Special Landscape Area (SLA) may play an important part in one or more of the settings of the Protected Landscapes in the study area.

From December 2023 Section 245 (Protected Landscapes) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA, 2023) places a duty on relevant authorities to seek to further the statutory purposes of a Protected Landscape. The duty applies to local planning authorities and other decision makers in preparing development plans, making planning decisions on development and infrastructure proposals, as well as to other public bodies (including Natural England) and statutory undertakers.

The duty to 'seek to further' is an active duty, not a passive one. Any relevant authority should take appropriate, reasonable, and proportionate steps to explore how the statutory purposes of the Protected Landscape can be furthered. The duty also applies to potential development in the setting of a Protected Landscape, where proposals outside the designated area impact on its natural beauty.

Defra have released 'Guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes' (December 2024). We note that the LURA 2023 is referred to under the legislation section of the Scoping Report but the Defra guidance should be quoted in the list of National Guidance following paragraph 10.2.2.

The applicant will need to demonstrate that they have sought to further the purposes of the statutory designation through each stage of the mitigation hierarchy based on the requirements of the LURA, 2023. The LVIA will therefore need to assess the proposal in line with the 'seek to further purpose' duty.

We advise that it is not clear from the information provided how or whether this has been considered in the design of the scheme or in the Scoping Report.

An assessment of the effect of the proposed development on 'special qualities' of the relevant Protected Landscapes will be critical as part of the process of 'seeking to further the purposes' of the designated areas.

In addition, Natural England's advice is that the proposed measures should align with and help to deliver the aims and objectives of the relevant Protected Landscape's Management Plan. The relevant Protected Landscape Authority, Conservation Board or Partnership can also provide advice.

Table 4 provides detailed advice on potential impacts to designated landscapes, where further information is required to assess the potential impacts. This advice is based on the information provided at this stage. Natural England may have more detailed comments to make once further information is provided.

Table 4: Comments on potential impacts to designated landscapes	
Assessment methodology	When producing the LVIA, Natural England would expect Protected Landscapes and National Trails to be included in the highest category of landscape and visual sensitivity. The methodology should also clearly set out a transparent rationale for combining judgements to demonstrate: • How value and susceptibility (each judged separately) are combined to form a judgement on the sensitivity of both landscape and visual receptors. • How judgements about scale, extent and duration (each judged separately) combine to form a judgement on the magnitude of change. • How the resulting judgements about sensitivity and magnitude of change are combined to form judgements about overall landscape and visual significance of effects. • What residual significant landscape and visual effects remain after mitigation. Natural England advise that an integrated landscape-scale assessment is required in the EIA to assess the impact of the proposed development on the landscape. We advise that the impact of severance on landscape should be clearly assessed for the cable and infrastructure routes alongside the turbine

	development area. The scale of these effects must be robustly assessed alongside the risk of reinstatement of habitat types where construction methods are proven to be unfeasible, or changes in hydrology lead to degradation of habitats and thus landscape character. We advise that for the threshold at which significant effects arise major, major/moderate and moderate effects should all be assessed as significant due to the scale of the proposed development and its likely significant adverse effects. Additionally, due to the scale of the project, we advise that the levels of the sensitivity and magnitude of change should include both the primary levels as well as the intermediate. Natural England note that the turbine area as shown in Figure 10-3 is beyond the boundaries of the Protected Landscapes, therefore, impacts on the setting and how these effects will be avoided, reduced and mitigated should be detailed in the LVIA. We welcome that the impacts of the development will be assessed against the special qualities of the identified Protected Landscapes. We advise that potential effects on the special qualities of the Protected Landscapes should be scoped into the assessment in paragraph 10.6.5 as a fifth category of effects.
Potential impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning	Natural England note that Table 10-3 sets out the typical landscape and visual impacts which may arise from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. Natural England advise that temporary and permanent landscape and visual effects should be scoped into the assessment for each phase of the project, until the methods of construction for each part of the development has been clearly established. We advise that direct and indirect landscape effects of the construction phase of the proposed development are assessed. As part of the indirect effects, the methodology needs to include a full assessment of the potential effects on the 'special qualities' of the Protected Landscapes. This should be an integral part of the assessment of construction effects. Natural England note that Table 10-5 scopes out effects arising from the underground cable connection during operation. Natural England do not agree that these effects can be scoped out of detailed assessment at this stage. We advise that this impact pathway should be fully assessed within the ES. Additionally, we advise that it is not appropriate to conclude at this stage that the effects of the cable connection will be confined to the construction phase. The LVIA must fully assess both the construction and operation phases given the geology and the type of habitats present along the associated infrastructure corridor. The impacts may be longer term in duration depending on landscape and habitats affected and method used to reinstate the cable routes. In addition, we advise that construction and operation effects must form part of the assessment of effects on special qualities of the Protected Landscapes.
Potential impacts outside of the turbine search area	Natural England advise that the ES should consider the potential landscape and visual effects of the whole scheme, including areas outside of the proposed turbine area, such as the access and cable search areas. Natural England highlight that the distances detailed in Table 10-1 do not currently include the proposed infrastructure and cable/access routes. We advise that the correct distances between the full red line boundary of the proposed development and the relevant Protected Landscapes are calculated. Natural England note that the cable corridor search area is not currently

	shown on the ZTV, and advise that a separate ZTV should be produced to assess the theoretical visibility of works outside of the proposed turbine area. This would need to be combined with the updated ZTV once field assessment work has been carried out. Natural England note that the Scoping Report proposes a 1km buffer either side of the proposed Cable Corridor Search Area and states that the effects will be confined to the construction phase. The variation in and elevation of topography, and the changes to the landscape due to permanent access roads and other buildings, means that a 1km buffer is insufficient for this landscape. Natural England highlight that any impacts to habitats connected to the existing hydrological regime would also incur deleterious landscape impacts. We advise that this impact should be fully assessed within the LVIA to include the hydrological impact zone and zone of influence. Route selection should avoid impacts to hydrological regimes in these highly sensitive and priority habitats to avoid consequential landscape effects.
ZTV distance	Natural England note that the proposed turbines will be up to 200m in height and that a 45 km ZTV radius from the turbine area is proposed. The SNH Visual Representation of Wind Farms guidance (February 2017) recommends 45km for the purpose of establishing the initial ZTV distance (paragraph 48). In paragraph 50, the guidance states that the purpose of the ZTV is not to identify significant effects and that regardless of significance, potential visibility should be shown on the ZTV. We advise that the approach should follow the guidance.
Significance of effects	Paragraph 10.3.2 suggests an assumed significance of effects for landscape impacts to be within 15km. Natural England advises that due to the size of the proposed turbines, the nature of the topography in the study area and the sensitivity of the landscape, including in relation to the Protected Landscapes, 15km is unlikely to be sufficient to make a full assessment of the landscape effects. We note, however, that this will be reviewed through the LVIA.
Viewpoints	Natural England welcome that visualisations will include wireline and photomontages. We note that only 5 viewpoints have been currently included within Protected Landscapes as shown in Figure 10-5. We advise this will not be sufficient to demonstrate a robust assessment of landscape and visual impacts and the effects on the 'special qualities' of the Protected Landscapes. It is of key importance that viewpoints within Protected Landscapes are comprehensive and include views encompassing the roads and infrastructure associated with the development in addition to the turbine area. A clear methodology should be set out for capturing the visual effects of the entire development. We advise that the LVIA will need to include important sequential views through the Protected Landscapes and Pennine Way National Trail and any other key routes. The size of the turbines and the topography of the study area means that views of the turbines and the associated infrastructure may be available from many different viewpoints along the Pennine Way and other routes through the Protected Landscapes. Natural England would welcome consultation with the applicants regarding additional viewpoint selection.
Mitigation hierarchy	Natural England welcome that the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy. We advise that ensuring the principles of the mitigation hierarchy are clearly adopted will be of critical importance throughout the design

	process. Employing practices to avoid impact will be key. Natural England advise that in order to reflect the mitigation hierarchy, Table 10-6, should be modified to include 'avoided', where references to reducing effects are made under the heading 'Rationale to Scoped In'.
Woodland planting	Natural England advise that any woodland planting will need to be strictly in accordance with the relevant LCA. We note that there are various references to woodland planting within the EIA scoping document, which do not appear to complement the sparsely wooded character of the landscape.
Lighting	Natural England advise that the entire scheme should be assessed for the visual effects of lighting on the hours of darkness. Assessment of the effects on recognised 'dark skies' areas should also form part of the assessment. We welcome consultation on the location of night-time visualisations but would advise against limiting the number until the layout is final and visual effects are clear.
Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments in the South Pennines	Natural England note that paragraph 10.3.8 refers to Capacity Area 5 South Pennine Moors as identified in the 2010 Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments in the South Pennines, by Julie Martin Associates. The overall sensitivity assessment for this area identifies that the High Moorland Plateaux LCA is typically high sensitivity, and it states: '*Land of highest sensitivity occurs on the edges of the plateaux where scale comparisons are most easily made and turbines are most prominent visually; in areas with particularly distinctive landform or field enclosure patterns; in areas where the sense of wildness and tranquillity remains strong, especially in the north; and at the northern and southern ends of the South Pennine ridge within the South Pennine Moors SSSI, SAC and SPA.'* We note that the Capacity Study concludes that capacity for 3 large wind farms is limited to expanding existing development (Coal Clough, Ovenden Moor, Crook Hill and one small group of large turbines at Reaps Moss); and the potential for one small group of small or medium turbines. We advise that this should be clearly outlined in the ES.

8. Connecting people with nature

The ES should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, and public rights of way in line with NPPF paragraph 104 and references within the relevant National Policy Statement. It should assess the scope to mitigate for any adverse impacts.

Impacts on linear public access routes may be:

- direct i.e. disturbance/severance during the construction phase if within the development area and associated transport/infrastructure zones and/or
- indirect as recreational receptors potentially affecting user experience and, as noted in the scoping report, with associated effects on human health and well-being.

We note that impacts on public access will be included within the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPROWMP), and we would recommend that all relevant stakeholders are contacted including the Calderdale and Bradford area Local Access Forums.

Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways bridleways and compensatory accessible areas. Links to

other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Opportunities for access to nature within the development site should also be considered, including the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for movements of species.

Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.

8.1 National Trails

Natural England notes that the Pennine Way and Pennine Way Bridleway National Trails are located within and in close proximity to the proposed development site boundary. The Calder/Aire Pennine Way link route (bridleway) also crosses the development area. We therefore advise that the impacts of the proposed development on National Trail users should be assessed, including visual and noise impacts. The orientation of these trails in relation to the proposed development means that users may have clear views for long distances.

Natural England notes that sections of the National Trails are routed along tracks/roads that are situated within or in close proximity to the development site boundary. Potential impacts to trail users resulting from increased traffic during the construction phase of the development should therefore be considered, alongside provisions to ensure that both trails continue to be accessible (or diversions carefully considered) during this phase.

One turbine in particular (T21) appears from available mapping to be immediately adjacent to the Pennine Way at SD 97638 33419 and should, for safety reasons, be sited further away from the trail i.e. at least fall-over distance plus 10%.

We note the potential impacts of shadow flicker on health and would draw attention to the potential effects of blade shadow on horses using bridleways within/adjacent to the project area and recommend an assessment should be carried out to assess this risk. The British Horse Society provides established guidance on wind turbines and equestrian access, which may be helpful to refer to[17].

Regard should be given to NPPF Paragraph 100, which states *'Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.'*

The National Trails website www.nationaltrail.co.uk provides further information.

8.2 Common Land

Natural England note from the EIA Scoping Report that the works will take place on and close to registered common land. Through the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 Natural England has a statutory role in the effective protection of commons as a vital national wildlife reservoir, a key feature within the urban and rural landscape and a place where the public by default have open access rights. Our work as an advisor to government on the management of common land has included working with key stakeholders to develop guidance for both landowners and local communities in their management and providing advice to the Planning Inspectorate as a statutory consultee on applications for qualifying works and deregistration made under the Commons Act 2006.

[17] wind-turbines-0525.pdf

With regard to the development proposed we anticipate that the scale of the works will result in both direct impacts, due to the siting of infrastructure within the boundaries of the Oxenhope and Midgley Moor (CL498), and indirect impacts relating to visual impacts on common land to the north and south of the works area. We anticipate these wider visual impacts will be most notable on common land known as The Waste (CL582), Haworth Moor (CL2), Heptonstall Town Moor (CL139) and Part of Hoar Side Moor (CL397). It will be important that all the impacts of the proposals on common land are fully appraised and appropriate levels of mitigation provided, with details shared with Natural England for their comments in line with our role as set out above. In commenting on the detail of any applications for works on common land we will use **Defra's Common Land Consents Policy Guidance** as a framework for our responses and would at this stage wish to draw attention to section 5.15 of the guidance related to Infrastructure Projects as set out below.

The Secretary of State wishes to promote sustainable energy generation in an appropriate setting, but equally, her policy is to ensure that the stock of commons is not diminished, that works on common land must maintain or improve the condition of the common, and the use must be consistent with its status as common land. To balance these issues her expectation is that applications for such infrastructure projects on common land are more likely to be successful under section 16(1), so that an exchange of land is proposed and can be considered on its merits. An application for consent to such works under section 38(1) will rarely be granted unless there are convincing reasons why an application under section 16(1) cannot or ought not to be pursued.

We look forward to receiving details of the works as they relate to registered common land and prior to any formal applications to the Planning Inspectorate for determination on behalf of the Secretary of State.

8.3 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Open Access land

As with the area of common land within the development area impacts on Open Access (OA) land will be direct, with the physical loss of available accessible land to turbine footings and access tracks, and the BESS (depending on location) or indirect affecting users experience of the immediate and surrounding area.

Designation as Open Access land does not preclude landowners managing their land as they wish as long as they have the necessary legal permissions, but we encourage landowners to maintain public access and to incorporate accessible infrastructure to help the public continue to enjoy the OA land where possible

It is also noted that details of any associated tree planting have not been included within the scoping report but, if proposed, effects on available accessible land will need to be assessed.

9. Soils and agricultural land quality

Soils are a valuable, finite natural resource and should also be considered for the ecosystem services they provide, including for food production, water storage and flood mitigation, as a carbon store, reservoir of biodiversity and buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and sustainably managed. Impacts from the development on soils and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land should be considered. Further guidance is set out in the Natural England Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land.

Natural England note that it is proposed in Table 19-1 that impacts to agricultural land will be scoped out of the EIA. Natural England advise that impacts to agricultural land should not necessarily be scoped out at this stage.

Potential impacts should be considered in relation to all relevant locations (Turbine Area, Cable Corridor Search Areas, Access Route Search Areas and Compensation Search Area) and stages of the proposed development (Construction, Operation and/or Decommissioning).

The following issues should be considered and, where appropriate, included as part of the ES:

- The degree to which soils would be disturbed or damaged as part of the development, including within the cable and access search areas.
- The extent to which agricultural land would be disturbed or lost as part of this development, including whether any BMV agricultural land would be impacted.
- Details of how any adverse impacts on BMV agricultural land can be minimised through site design/masterplan.
- Details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised and demonstrate how soils will be sustainably used and managed, including consideration in site design and master planning, and areas for green infrastructure or biodiversity net gain. The aim will be to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable use and management of the available soil to achieve successful after-uses and minimise off-site impacts.

Natural England advise that the assessment should consider the provisional Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grade of all land within the sites red line boundary, in order to determine whether the development will cause significant loss or damage to BMV soils. For information on the availability of existing ALC information see www.magic.gov.uk.

Natural England advise that land which will experience temporary or permanent disturbance, which is provisionally classified as BMV land, may need to subject to a detailed ALC survey if one is not already available.

Further information is available in the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites and The British Society of Soil Science Guidance Note Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction.

10. Climate change

The protection and restoration of peatlands and their habitats helps reduce the carbon emissions preventing the release of its significant stores of carbon and in future enables carbon sequestration.

Natural England advises that environmental assessments should include detail on carbon impacts throughout the lifetime of the development, including carbon emissions and changes to carbon storage and sequestration over time, resulting from the loss of (or impacts to) semi-natural habitats and the associated peat carbon stores.

It may be helpful to refer to Natural England's guidance on Climate Mitigation and England Peatlands (NERR142)[18] and Spatial Prioritisation of Land Management for Carbon Dataset 2023 (NECR510)[19].

We note that the Scottish Carbon Calculator for wind farms is under review. Recent evidence reviews

[18] Climate Mitigation and England Peatlands - NERR142
[19] NECR510 Edition 1 Spatial Prioritisation of Land Management for Carbon Dataset 2023 - NECR510

highlight issues with adopting this tool[20]. In the absence of this tool, a suitable alternative approach to calculating carbon impacts should be applied.

Well established methods and tools are available to undertake Whole Life Carbon Assessments (e.g. PAS2080), including forthcoming offshore wind carbon footprinting guidance. However, additional analysis of the specific impacts of development on peatlands/habitat carbon emissions will be required.

12. Alternatives

The Infrastructure EIA Regulations (The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017) require the Environmental Statement to include an assessment of reasonable alternatives as follows:

Schedule 4, paragraph 2:
2. *A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.*

In addition, Schedule 4, paragraph 7 requires an Environmental Statement to explain how the mitigation hierarchy has been followed:
7. *A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.*

In addition, the consideration of alternatives is forms part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

[20] Carbon Calculator for wind farms on Scottish peatlands: an evidence assessment | ClimateXChange, Carbon Calculator for wind farms on Scottish peatlands: an evidence assessment

Annex B: Natural England's standard advice on EIA Scoping

1. General principles

Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 - (The EIA Regulations) sets out the information that should be included in an ES to assess impacts on the natural environment. This includes:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases
- Appropriately scaled and referenced plans which clearly show the information and features associated with the development
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen
- A description of the aspects and matters requested to be scoped out of further assessment with adequate justification provided[21].
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development including biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land, including land take, soil, water, air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), cultural heritage and landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, and long term, permanent and temporary, positive, and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources (in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity) and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment
- An outline of the structure of the proposed ES

2. Cumulative and in-combination effects

It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and current applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

The ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment, (subject to available information):

a. existing completed projects
b. approved but uncompleted projects
c. ongoing activities
d. plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and

[21] National Infrastructure Planning Advice Note Seven, Environmental Impact Assessment, Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements (see Insert 2 – information to be provided with a scoping request)

e. plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

3. Environmental data

Natural England is required to make available information it holds where requested to do so. National datasets held by Natural England are available at http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx.

Detailed information on the natural environment is available at www.magic.gov.uk. This includes Marine Conservation Zone GIS shapefiles.

Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS dataset which can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the Natural England Open Data Geoportal.

Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character, priority habitats and species or protected species. Local environmental data should be obtained from the appropriate local bodies. This may include the local environmental records centre, the local Wildlife Trust, local geo-conservation group or other national recording society, such as NBN Atlas.

4. Biodiversity and geodiversity

The assessment will need to include potential impacts of the proposal upon sites and features of nature conservation interest as well as opportunities for nature recovery through biodiversity net gain (BNG). There might also be strategic approaches to take into account.

Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) is the process of identifying, quantifying, and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EcIA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal. Guidelines and an EcIA checklist have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

5. Priority Habitats and Species

Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Lists of priority habitats and species can be found here. Natural England does not routinely hold species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely.

Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land. Sites can be checked against the (draft) national Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) inventory published by Natural England and freely available to download. Further information is also available here.

An appropriate level habitat survey should be carried out on the site, to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical, and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present.

The ES should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys)
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal
- The habitats and species present
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat)
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation measures
- Opportunities for biodiversity net gain or other environmental enhancement

6. Regionally and Locally Important Sites

Natural England advise that the ES should consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites, including local nature reserves. Local sites are identified by the local Wildlife Trust, geoconservation group or other local group. The ES should set out proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures and opportunities for enhancement and improving connectivity with wider ecological networks. They may also provide opportunities for delivering beneficial environmental outcomes.

7. Air quality

Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue. For example, approximately 85% of protected nature conservation sites are currently in exceedance of nitrogen levels where harm is expected (critical load) and approximately 87% of sites exceed the level of ammonia where harm is expected for lower plants (critical level of 1µg)[22]. A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The Government's Clean Air Strategy also has a number of targets to reduce emissions including to reduce damaging deposition of reactive forms of nitrogen by 17% over England's protected priority sensitive habitats by 2030, to reduce emissions of ammonia against the 2005 baseline by 16% by 2030 and to reduce emissions of NOx and SO_2 against a 2005 baseline of 73% and 88% respectively by 2030. Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs) have also been identified as a tool to reduce environmental damage from air pollution.

The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly, or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land. The ES should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. This should include taking account of any strategic solutions or SNAPs, which may be being developed or implemented to mitigate the impacts of air quality. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk).

Natural England has produced guidance for public bodies to help assess the impacts of road traffic emissions to air quality capable of affecting European Sites. Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations - NEA001

Information on air pollution modelling, screening and assessment can be found on the following websites:

- SCAIL Combustion and SCAIL Agriculture - http://www.scail.ceh.ac.uk/
- Ammonia assessment for agricultural development https://www.gov.uk/guidance/intensive-farming-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit
- Environment Agency Screening Tool for industrial emissions https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-

[22] Report: Trends Report 2020: Trends in critical load and critical level exceedances in the UK - Defra, UK

emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit

- Defra Local Air Quality Management Area Tool (Industrial Emission Screening Tool) – England http://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/laqm

8. Water quality

NSIPs can occur in areas where strategic solutions are being determined for water pollution issues and they may not have been factored into the local planning system as they are delivered through National Policy Statements.

The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to water pollution, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on water quality, and land. The assessment should take account of the risks of water pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. A number of water dependent protected nature conservation sites have been identified as failing condition due to elevated nutrient levels and nutrient neutrality is consequently required to enable development to proceed without causing further damage to these sites. The ES needs to take account of any strategic solutions for nutrient neutrality or Diffuse Water Pollution Plans, which may be being developed or implemented to mitigate and address the impacts of elevated nutrient levels.

9. Heritage landscapes

The ES should include an assessment of the impacts on any land in the area affected by the development which qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes on the grounds of outstanding scenic, scientific, or historic interest. An up-to-date list is available at www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm.

Natural England will not be providing bespoke comments on the historic environment. We advise that Historic England should be consulted regarding this aspect of the ES.

Habitat Suitability Modelling for foraging European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) that breed on the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area

Prepared for Natural England

by

Dr Anna Berthinussen

CONSERVATION FIRST

June 2018

www.conservationfirst.co.uk | anna@conservationfirst.co.uk

Summary

- The South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA) supports an important population of breeding European golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*). Although breeding sites are located within the SPA boundary, golden plover are known to commute to fields in the surrounding landscape to forage. It is therefore important that potential foraging sites are identified and protected to ensure conservation of the breeding population.

- Using existing golden plover records, we developed a Habitat Suitability Model for summer daytime foraging golden plover across an area extending to 7.5 km around the SPA boundary. A spatially hierarchical approach was used for modelling, which allows both regional (1 km resolution) and local scale (100 m resolution) habitat variables to be incorporated in the model without issues of cross-scale collinearity. Models were fine-tuned and tested using spatially constrained three-fold cross-validation, and further measures were taken to account for multi-collinearity and sampling bias.

- The final optimal model for foraging golden plover performed well (AUC 0.82 ± 0.03, see page 10 for explanation). Both regional and local scale variables were important for predicting golden plover presence. The density of buildings (at both 100 m and 1 km scales) and the presence of woodland were found to have negative effects, whereas the cover of grassland increased habitat suitability, with improved grassland being preferred at local scales (100 m). Soil moisture and topographic wetness were also important at local scales (500 m), with wet (but not permanently saturated or submerged soils) preferred. Habitat suitability was also highest on flatter ground and on west and south-westerly aspects.

- The model outputs identify potentially suitable daytime foraging sites for golden plover within the SPA and surrounding area and can be used to assist in decision-making for practical conservation and planning applications. The results support the findings of previous research and have important implications for conservation, e.g. development, planting of woodland, drainage and the use of pesticides should be avoided on or in proximity to potential golden plover foraging sites and a short sward height should be maintained (whilst balancing the needs of other species of conservation concern in the area).

- Although the final model performed well, it was built with a relatively small number of records. We recommend re-running the model once more records of foraging golden plover have been collected to improve the accuracy of model predictions. We also suggest collecting records and developing a separate model for male golden plover that forage at night and may use different fields. Foraging sites for both males and females must be protected to ensure that the breeding population is conserved.

Acknowledgements

Dr Chloe Bellamy provided advice and R scripts for modelling procedures and commented on the final report. Professor John Altringham reviewed and commented on the final report. The following organisations provided datasets that contributed to model development: Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Cranfield University, Forest Research, Forestry Commission, Next Perspectives and Ordnance Survey. Please note, it is the responsibility of Natural England to ensure that all maps and figures provided with this report are used in such a way that meets all relevant licencing conditions.

Contents

1. Introduction 5
2. Methods 6
  2.1 Species records 6
  2.2 Pseudoabsences 7
  2.3 Environmental data 8
  2.4 Modelling 9
    2.4.1 Modelling process 10
    2.4.2 Model performance 10
    2.4.3 Model outputs 11
3. Results 12
  3.1 Model performance 12
  3.2 Model composition 12
    3.2.1 Regional scale model 12
    3.2.1 Final local scale model 13
4. Discussion 17
  4.1 Model performance 17
  4.2 Habitat associations 17
  4.3 Conservation implications 18
  4.4 Recommendations for further work 19
References 19
Supplementary Material 23
Appendix A 24
Appendix B 25
Appendix C 26
Appendix D 27
Appendix E 28

List of figures

Figure 1. Map of the study area and filtered records of daytime foraging golden plover 7
Figure 2. Map of the study area and bird records used for the Target Group (TG) sampling approach 8
Figure 3. Regional scale model predictions for the study area 13
Figure 4. Marginal response curves showing the predicted probability of foraging golden plover presence over each variable's range 14
Figure 5. Habitat Suitability map for daytime foraging golden plover 15
Figure 6. Binary presence/absence maps for daytime foraging golden plover 16

List of tables

Table 1. Summary of previous research on the commuting distances of foraging golden plover 5
Table 2. Number of foraging golden plover records retained from each year of survey after filtering 6
Table 3. Variables and spatial scales used to model foraging golden plover-habitat relationships 9
Table 4. Optimal model settings and mean model performance 12

List of Abbreviations

10PTP	10 percentile training presence threshold
AUC	Area Under ROC Curve
MTP	Minimum training presence
MTSS	Maximum training sensitivity plus specificity
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
HSM	Habitat Suitability Model
MaxEnt	MaxEnt software
SPA	Special Protection Area
TWI	Topographic Wetness Index
VIF	Variance Inflation Factor

1. Introduction

The South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA) is a 20,944 ha area of moorland and moorland fringe in northern England that supports a diverse assemblage of breeding migratory birds, including the European golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*, golden plover hereon). The density of breeding golden plover is high compared to other regional populations in northern England and Scotland (292 breeding pairs representing 1.2% of the British breeding population; JNCC 2015). This population is also the most southwestern in the world making the SPA crucial in maintaining the breeding range of this species.

Although golden plover breed on moorland, they are known to forage in enclosed fields beyond the SPA boundary. A range of commuting distances have been reported, with differences between females (which typically forage during the day) and males (typically foraging at night) as a result of shared incubation duties (Table 1). Most studies report a preference for enclosed flat fields with a short sward height maintained by grazing (Ratchliffe 1976, Whittingham *et al*. 2000, Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003, Whitfield & Thomas 2006). A previous study in the South Pennines found that arable and improved fields were used the most (Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003). Field choice appears to be highly selective with only a small proportion of available fields used and site fidelity is high (Whittingham *et al*. 2000, Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003, Whitfield & Thomas 2006). It is therefore important to identify potential golden plover foraging fields adjacent to the SPA so that they can be protected and appropriately considered in landscape scale planning applications.

Table 1. Summary of previous research on the commuting distances of foraging golden plover. Distances are between breeding sites and foraging fields

Author(s)	Region	Sex	Commuting distance
Whittingham *et al.* (2000)	N Pennines	Both combined (day and night)	Range = 1.2 – 3.7 km, mean 2.3 km
Pearce-Higgins & Yalden (2003)	S Pennines	Female (day)	Mean range ± SE = 6.6 ± 0.6 km – 7.2 ± 0.7 km Overall maximum = 8.2 km
		Male (night)	Mean range ± SE = 2.4 ± 0.2 km – 2.7 ± 0.3 km Overall maximum = 4.2 km
Whitfield & Thomas (2006)	N and NW Scotland	Both combined (day and night)	Range = 0.4 – 10.7 km, mean 2.7 km

The aim of this project is to develop a habitat suitability model (HSM) for daytime (female) foraging golden plover that breed within the SPA. HSM is a statistical technique that predicts the distribution of a species from environmental data and occurrence records and will highlight important or 'suitable' habitats. Species records are entered into a modelling program called MaxEnt alongside relevant environmental variables. MaxEnt is a machine learning process that predicts the geographical distribution of a species based on the environmental conditions at locations where the species is known to occur, using the maximum entropy method (Phillips *et al.* 2006). A presence-only approach is used where the values of environmental variables at the location a species has been recorded are compared with a random set of 'background points' or pseudoabsences that represent the environmental conditions available to a species across the region being modelled (Phillips *et al*. 2009). The results show the relative importance of different environmental variables for predicting species presence. Gridded habitat suitability maps can be generated, showing an estimate of

the probability of presence or 'suitability' of habitats for a species across a region. These colour-coded maps make excellent decision-making tools for conservationists and planners.

For this project, we used a spatially hierarchical process to produce a Habitat Suitability Model for daytime foraging golden plover. This is a relatively new approach that allows the effects of different spatial scales to be investigated while overcoming issues with cross-scale collinearity that tend to limit traditional modelling approaches (Lypsey *et al.* 2017, Bellamy in prep.). A regional scale model is initially built using environmental variables that are likely to be important at coarse 'landscape' scales, such as land cover and human infrastructure. The resulting predictions are then incorporated into a local scale model along with environmental variables that are likely to be important at finer scales, such as soil type and topography. The outcome is a final integrated model that allows for different responses to variables at both landscape and local scales. This type of hierarchical multi-scale modelling technique has been recommended in the recent scientific literature to improve modelling accuracy and ecological inference (McGarigal *et al*., 2016). However, it should be noted that the performance of any model can be limited by the availability of species and/or environmental input data. The final model should be considered a work in progress, and we make suggestions for further model development.

2. Methods

2.1 Species records

The study area consists of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA with a 7.5 km buffer (Figure 1). Georeferenced records (≤ 100 m resolution) of foraging golden plover collated from daytime surveys between 2003 and 2015 were provided by Natural England (Table 2). Only records collected during the breeding season were used. This was defined as the period between the 1st of April (when egg laying commences) and the 31st of July (when most young have fledged) (Joys & Crick 2004). The records were also filtered to exclude potential passage birds (flocks with >10 individuals observed prior to the end of May), non-foraging records, records with missing information (e.g. date, flock size, behaviour) and birds recorded in flight only. A total of 63 records were retained after filtering (Figure 1). Duplicate records per grid cell were removed prior to modelling, leaving a total of 30 records for the regional scale model and 57 records for the local scale model.

Table 2. Number of foraging golden plover records retained from each year of survey after filtering

Year of survey	No. of records
2003	21
2010	10
2012	9
2013	16
2015	7
Total	63

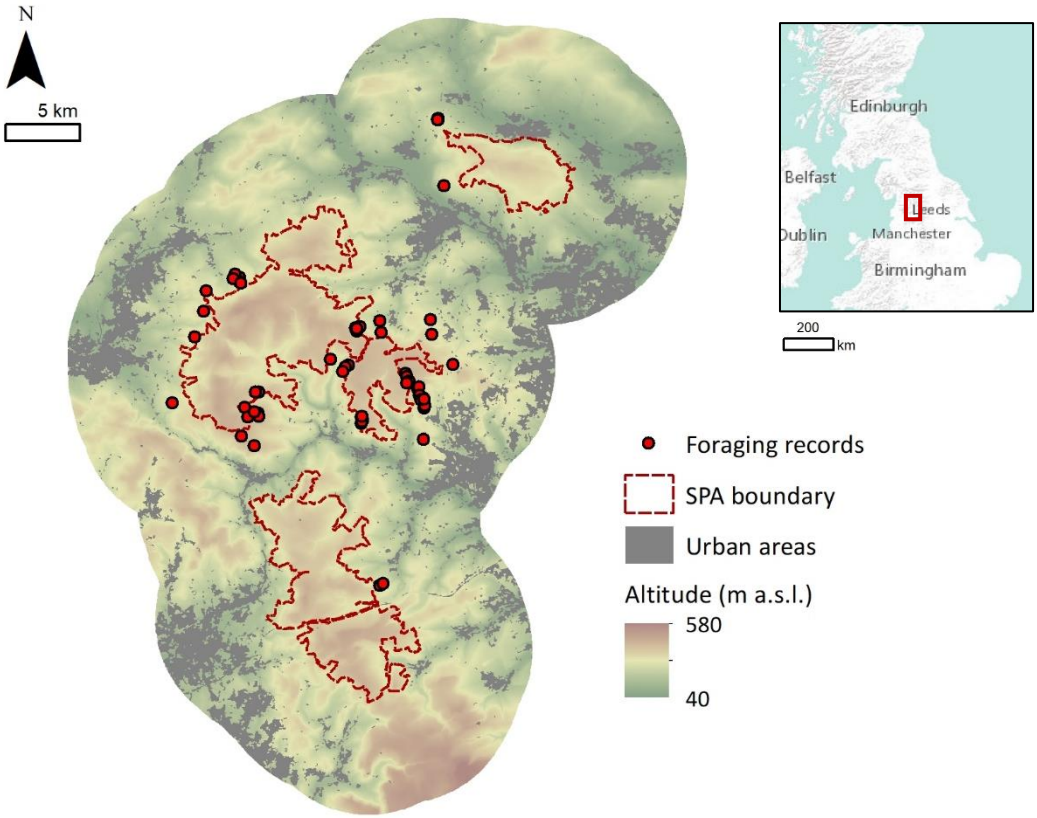


Figure 1. Map of the study area and filtered records of daytime foraging golden plover. Sample size = 63. NB: Drawn at this scale, there is overlap between records. *Contains DTM data licensed to: Natural England for PGA, through Next Perspectives™ and urban data based upon LCM2007 © NERC (CEH) [2018]. © Crown Copyright 2007 Licence number 100017572. © third party licensors.* Inset map shows location of study area within the UK (red square) *Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA*

2.2 Pseudoabsences

To reduce the impact of sampling bias on model predictions, a pseudoabsence dataset was prepared using a 'Target Group' approach, rather than allowing MaxEnt to randomly select pseudoabsences from across the whole study area, as is the default. The Target Group approach uses occurrences from broad biological groups as pseudoabsences and has been found to improve the performance of presence-only models (Phillips *et al.* 2009, Phillips & Dudik 2008). Phillips & Dudik (2008) recommend generating 10,000 pseudoabsence points to maximise MaxEnt performance. For this study, records of all other bird species collected during the same set of surveys were used as the Target Group. As they were collected using the same methods as the golden plover records, they are expected to suffer from similar sampling bias. Duplicate records collected at the same location and on the same day were removed to reduce the impact of species richness influencing an area's estimated sampling effort, which can be an issue with the Target Group approach (Warton *et al*. 2013). This resulted in 5,535 bird records (Figure 2). A sampling bias file was created from these records for both the regional and local scale models in R (v. 3.4.1; R Core Team 2017) using a kernel density function ('GISTools' package; Brunsdon & Chen 2014) with a 2.5 km radius. The recommended 10,000 pseudoabsence points were then selected according to the point sampling density

defined by the bias file (following Bellamy in prep.). See Appendix A for maps of bias files and pseudoabsence points.

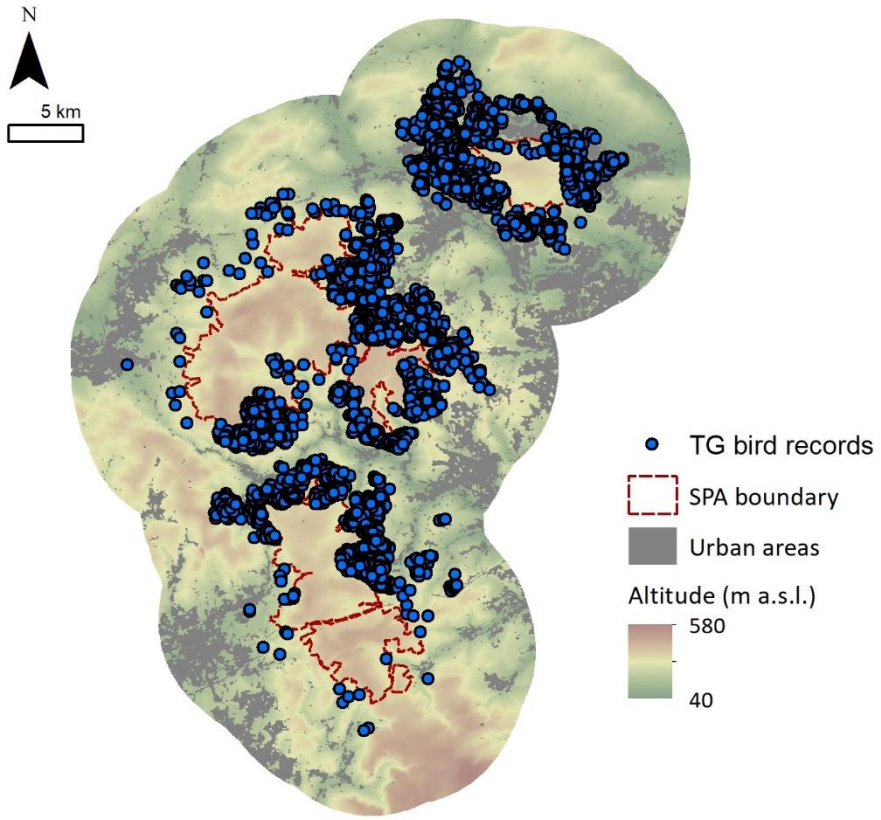


Figure 2. Map of the study area and bird records used for the Target Group sampling approach. Sample size = 5,535. TG = Target Group. NB: Drawn at this scale, there is overlap between records. *Contains DTM data licensed to: Natural England for PGA, through Next Perspectives™ and urban data based upon LCM2007 © NERC (CEH) [2018]. © Crown Copyright 2007 Licence number 100017572. © third party licensors.*

2.3 Environmental data

GIS data from multiple sources were used to generate environmental variables for the study area (Table 3). Data were manipulated in ArcGIS 10.4.1 (www.esri.com) to produce the 100 m and 1,000 m resolution rasters required for the local and regional scale models. A total of 19 variables were created including eight 'non-scalar' variables. All other variables were measured at multiple spatial scales by measuring cell statistics in different sized circles centred on each raster cell using the 'Focal Statistics' tool. Five spatial scales were chosen to include a range of coarse (regional scale) and fine (local scale) resolutions relevant to foraging golden plover (Table 3). The ArcGIS toolbox 'MultiScaleMaxent' was used to automatically generate multi-scale variables (Bellamy *et al.* 2013; Bellamy *et al*. 2015). For regional scale variables, an additional 'Aggregate' function was run prior to calculating focal statistics to ensure that smaller patches of habitat were included when generating land cover rasters at coarser resolutions (Bellamy unpublished). A map showing the study region and some of the environmental data used for modelling is provided in Appendix B.

Table 3. Variables and spatial scales used to model foraging golden plover-habitat relationships. Scale is measured as the radius of a circle around each 100x100 or 1000x1000 m raster cell. Non-scalar variables are marked with an asterisk. See Appendix C for descriptions of variables and data sources, and Appendix D for soil type and wetness categories

Variable	Regional scale model Resolution: 1,000 m Spatial scales: 1,000, 3,000, 7,000 km	Local scale model Resolution: 100 m Spatial scales: 100, 500 m
Aspect (categorical)*		✓
Mean altitude (m.a.s.l)		✓
Mean slope (°)		✓
Mean topographic wetness		✓
Soil type (categorical)*		✓
Soil wetness (categorical)*		✓
Cover of arable land (%)	✓	✓
Cover of improved grassland (%)	✓	✓
Cover of semi-natural grassland (%)	✓	✓
Cover of heath and bog (%)	✓	✓
Cover of woodland (%)	✓	
Cover of inland water (m)	✓	
Density of roads and railways (km/km2)	✓	
Density of buildings (per ha)	✓	✓
Distance to breeding sites (m)*		✓
Distance to inland water (m)*		✓
Distance to woodland edge (m)*		✓
Distance to roads (m)*		✓
Distance to paths (m)*		✓

Licensing information

All datasets used for this project were provided either under licence through Natural England or were downloaded free of charge under the Open Government Licence (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/). It is the responsibility of Natural England to ensure that the data (or derived data) used in or created by this project are acknowledged appropriately and are used in such a way that meets the relevant licence conditions.

2.4 Modelling

A spatially hierarchical approach was used for modelling (Bellamy in prep.). A regional scale model was initially built at a resolution of 1,000 m using environmental variables that are likely to be important at coarse scales (see Table 3). The resulting predictions were then incorporated into a local scale model built at a resolution of 100 m along with fine-scale environmental variables (see Table 3). The final local scale model was used to produce predictions of habitat suitability across the study region.

2.4.1 Modelling process

The following steps were carried out in R (v. 3.4.1; R Core Team 2017) following script provided by Bellamy (in prep.) and Bellamy *et al*. (2017) to build, test and refine the models:

Regional scale model

1. Species and pseudoabsence data were spatially aggregated into three folds with k-means clustering ('stats' package; R Core Team 2017). These spatial data folds were used for spatially constrained three-fold cross validation, retaining one group at a time for model testing. This reduces the potential for false inflation of model performance measures caused by spatial autocorrelation between training and test records (Bellamy *et al*. 2013, Merckx *et al*. 2011, Veloz 2009). Species records were also filtered to retain one record per 1,000 m grid cell.

2. Collinear regional predictor variables were removed using variance inflation factors (VIFs), which are used to quantify multi-collinearity. Variables with the highest VIF were sequentially dropped ('usdm' package, Naimi *et al.* 2014). A relatively strict VIF threshold of 3 was used, as recommended by Zuur *et al.* (2010). The reduced set of variables was used for modelling.

3. Regularisation parameter and feature settings were fine-tuned using the 'ENMeval' package (Muscarella *et al.* 2014). All models were run using three-fold spatially constrained cross validation. Combinations of feature types were tested: (linear (L), quadratic (Q), product (P), threshold (T), and hinge (H)): L, H, LQ, LQH, LQHPT; and the regularisation multiplier was varied by a step of 0.5, between the values of 0.5 and 4. The model with the lowest AICc value (Akaike's Information Criterion corrected for small sample sizes), a metric that reflects both goodness of fit and model complexity, was selected as the best performing model.

4. The model was run with all data and optimal settings to produce final predictions using the 'dismo' package (Hijmans *et al*. 2017). The continuous logistic regional scale predictions were saved as a raster for inclusion in the local scale model.

Local scale model

The steps above were repeated for the 100 m resolution local scale model. The raster of regional scale predictions was projected to a 100 m resolution and entered into the model alongside local scale variables. The final model was run with all data and optimum settings to produce final predictions of habitat suitability across the entire study region.

2.4.2 Model performance

Two measures of model performance were used:

AUC values

The average area under receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve (AUC) statistic describes how well the model performs compared to a random model. It can be interpreted as the probability that a randomly chosen presence point will have a higher predicted value than a randomly chosen absence (or 'background') point. This non-parametric method is commonly used to assess the accuracy of predictive distribution

models. An AUC value of less than 0.5 indicates that a model is performing no better than random, AUC values of 0.5 - 0.7 indicate low accuracy, values of 0.7 - 0.9 indicate useful applications and values >0.9 indicate high accuracy (Swets 1988). However, there are issues with relying on AUC as a single measure of model performance (e.g. Lobo *et al*. 2008, Hanczar *et al*. 2010). It is advised that additional methods, such as omission rates, are used to assess model performance alongside AUC values (Lobo *et al*. 2008).

Omission rates

The proportion of the study area that was predicted to be suitable for daytime foraging golden plover was calculated using the occupancy threshold rule that maximises test sensitivity plus specificity (MTSS). This threshold is described below. Although it is a stringent threshold that may under-estimate a species range, it provides a strict measure for testing the performance of presence-only models (Liu *et al*. 2013). Omission rates (the proportion of presence points that fall outside the area predicted to be suitable) and their statistical significance were calculated using a binomial test. A statistically significant result ($p<0.05$) indicates that the rates are significantly lower than expected by chance alone.

2.4.3 Model outputs

Response curves

Marginal response curves were produced showing the shape of the relationship between each environmental variable and the probability of presence of daytime foraging golden plover.

Importance of variables

'Permutation importance' was calculated for each environmental variable retained in the final model. The contribution of each variable to the model is determined by randomly permuting the values of that variable among the training points (both presence and background) and measuring the resulting decrease in training AUC. A large decrease indicates that the model depends heavily on that variable. Values are normalized to give percentages. This measure depends only on the final model and is considered more reliable than the alternative 'percent contribution' metric provided by MaxEnt, which is affected by the order of variables within the model (Phillips 2005).

Habitat suitability index map

A continuous logistic output was produced for the entire study region. This shows a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) for daytime foraging golden plover ranging from 0 (unsuitable habitat) to 1 (highly suitable habitat).

Binary presence/absence maps

Binary maps were produced for the entire study region to show areas where daytime foraging golden plover are predicted to be 'present' or 'absent' according to three different occupancy thresholds:

- Maximum training sensitivity plus specificity (MTSS) – optimizes the trade-off between sensitivity and specificity to minimise the cases where the model erroneously assigns unsuitable habitat and misses suitable habitat
- 10 percentile training presence threshold (10PTP) - applies the largest threshold value that excludes 10% of training points, and therefore defines suitable areas based on 90% of the data
- Minimum training presence (MTP) - ensures no training points are excluded from suitable areas

3. Results

3.1 Model performance

Threshold independent measures indicated that the final local scale model for daytime foraging golden plover performed well (test AUC 0.82, Table 4). Performance of the regional scale model alone was lower (test AUC 0.71, Table 4). Omission rates for both models were significantly lower than expected by chance alone (Table 4).

Table 4. Optimal model settings and mean model performance. Measured using spatially aggregated 3-fold cross validation. All values ± S.D.

Model	Feature types	Beta multiplier	Total (n)	Train (n)	Test (n)	Test AUC	Omission rates
Regional scale model only	LQH	3.5	30	10 ± 2	20 ± 2	0.71 ± 0.02	0.73***
Final local scale model incl. regional predictions	**L**	**2**	**57**	**19 ± 7**	**19 ± 7**	**0.82 ±0.03**	**0.25*** **

Feature types: L = linear, Q = Quadratic, H = hinge; Total (n) = number of records after filtering to retain one record per grid cell; Train (n) = average number of training data; Test (n) = average number of test data; Omission rate = proportion of presence points which fell outside of the area predicted to be suitable according to the MTSS occupancy threshold rule (***p<0.001)

3.2 Model composition

3.2.1 Regional scale model

Following the removal of collinear environmental variables, 11 regional scale variables were retained for modelling (VIF < 3, see list in Appendix E). Six variables contributed to the optimal regional model (Figure 4A). The cover of semi-natural grassland was found to be the most important regional scale predictor with a positive effect on foraging golden plover presence at the largest scale (7,000 m). The density of buildings had a large negative effect at the 1,000 m scale. The cover of water contributed to the model to a lesser extent with mostly negative effects, with the exception of small amounts of water cover (<1.5 %) at the largest scale (7,000 m) which increased habitat suitability. Regional scale predictions are shown in Figure 3.

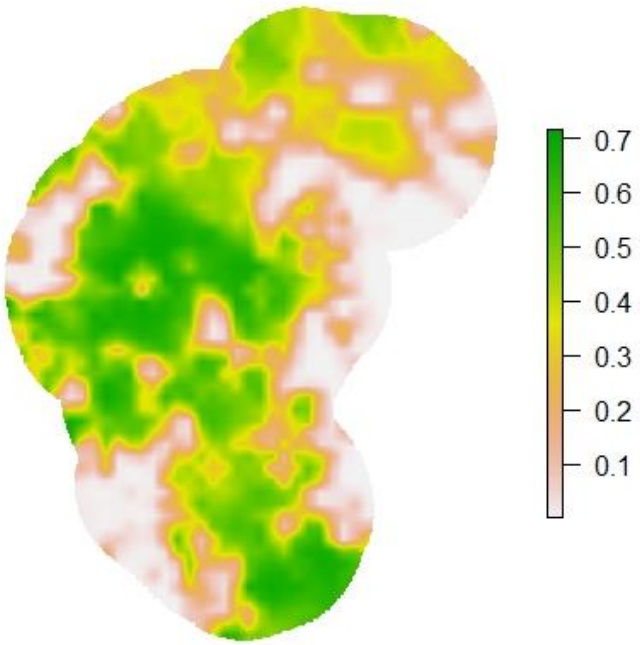


Figure 3. Regional scale model predictions for the study area. Predictions are shown as continuous logistic Habitat Suitability Indices (HSI), ranging from 0 (highly unsuitable habitat) to 1 (highly suitable habitat). Predictions have been projected to a 100 m resolution for inclusion in the local scale model.

3.2.1 Final local scale model

Following the removal of collinear environmental variables, 17 local scale variables were retained for modelling (VIF < 3, see list in Appendix E). Nine variables, including the regional scale predictions (Figure 3), contributed to the final local scale model (Figure 4B), although some of the effects were relatively weak. Mean slope and the density of buildings (both at the 100 m scale) had negative effects on habitat suitability. Cover of improved grassland (at the 100 m scale) and distance to woodland both had a positive effect, and west and south-westerly aspects were preferred. Soils of wetness class 5 (defined as wet within 40 cm depth for >180 days, and usually wet within 70 cm for >335 days in most years) were also preferred, and areas with higher Topographic Wetness Indices (>5.5) were avoided (TWI range for study area = 0.3 (driest areas) – 23 (rivers and lakes)).

Figures 5 & 6 show habitat suitability for daytime foraging golden plover across the study region as predicted by the final optimal local scale model.

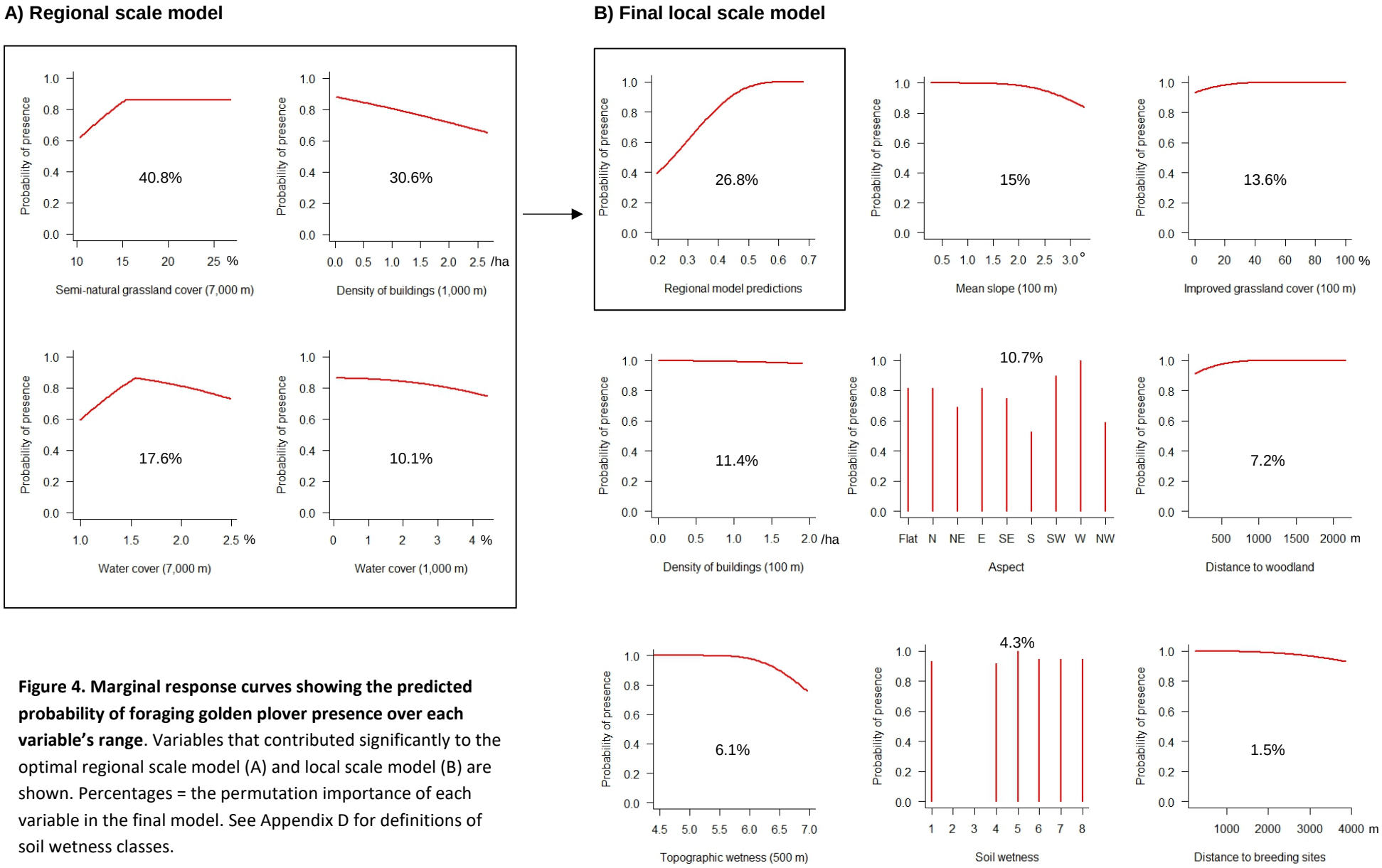


Figure 4. Marginal response curves showing the predicted probability of foraging golden plover presence over each variable's range. Variables that contributed significantly to the optimal regional scale model (A) and local scale model (B) are shown. Percentages = the permutation importance of each variable in the final model. See Appendix D for definitions of soil wetness classes.

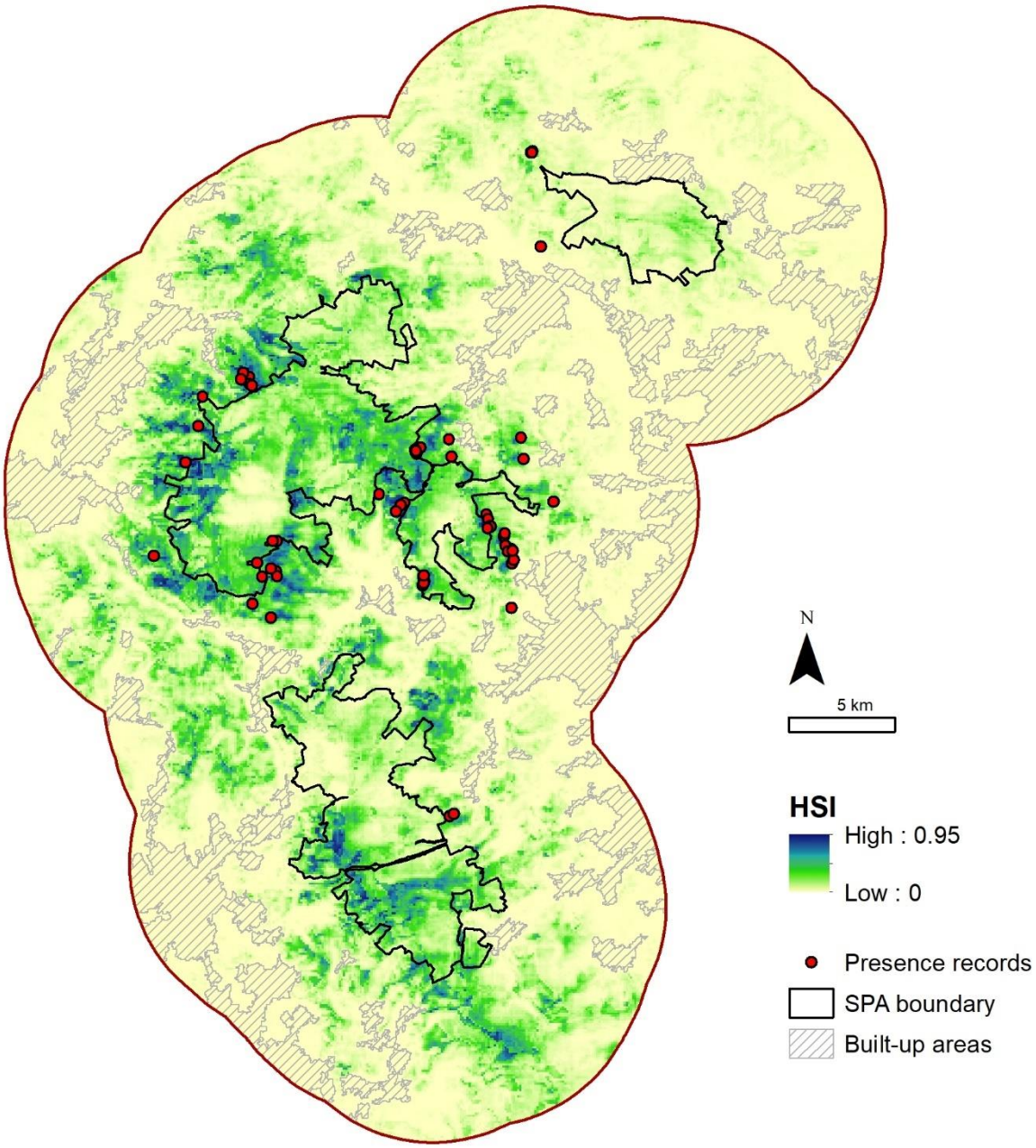


Figure 5. Habitat Suitability map for daytime foraging golden plover. Continuous Habitat Suitability Indices (HSI) are shown ranging from 0 (low suitability) to 1 (high suitability). The golden plover records used for modelling are shown in red. *Contains data on built-up areas based upon LCM2007 © NERC (CEH) [2018]. © Crown Copyright 2007, Licence number 100017572. © third party licensors.*

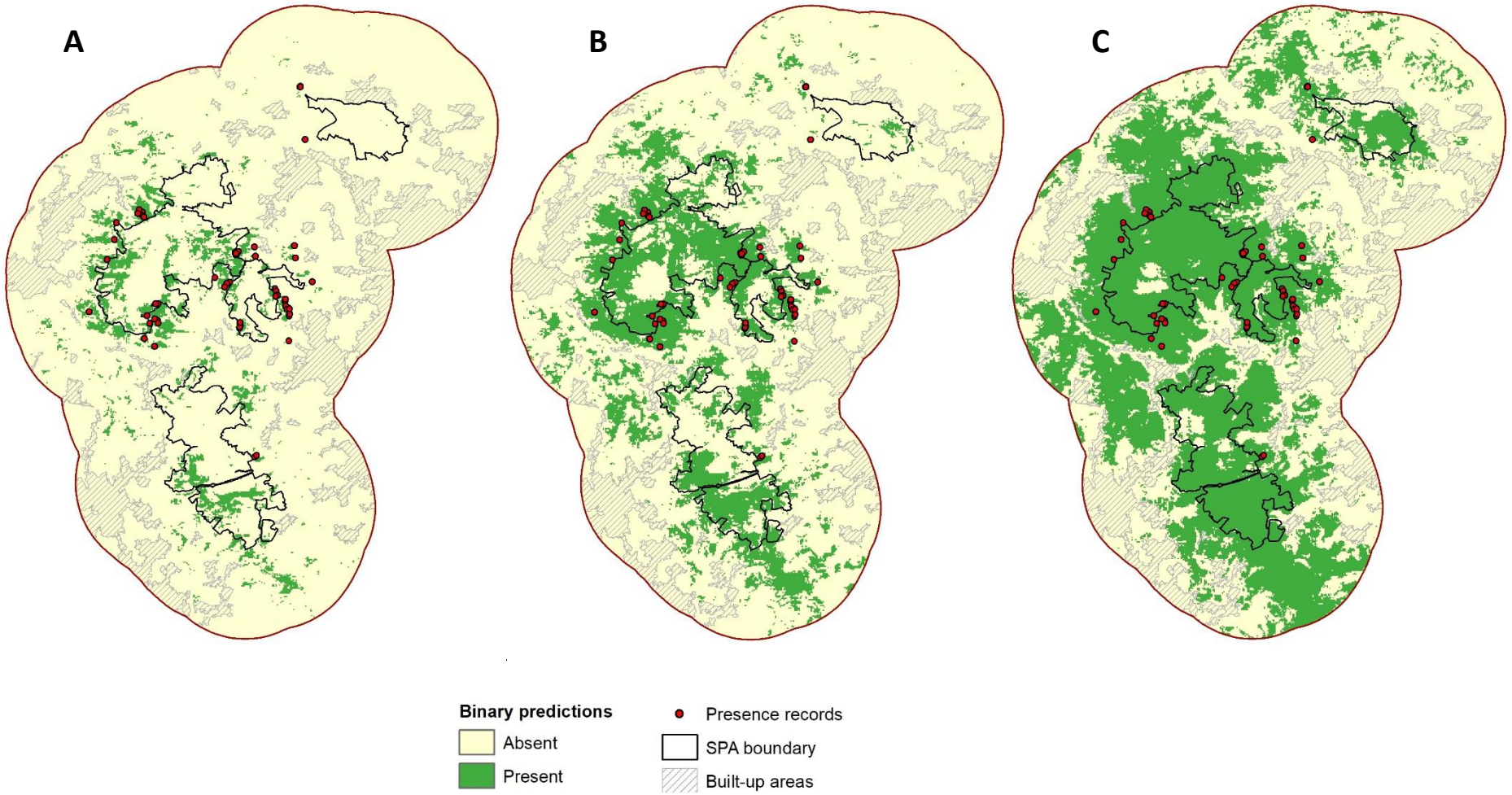


Figure 6. Binary presence/absence maps for daytime foraging golden plover. Presence is predicted according to three different occupancy thresholds: A) maximum training sensitivity plus specificity (MTSS), B) 10 percentile training presence (10PTP) and C) minimum training presence (MTP). The golden plover records used for modelling are shown in red. *Contains urban data based upon LCM2007 © NERC (CEH) [2018]. © Crown Copyright 2007, Licence number 100017572. © third party licensors.*

4. Discussion

4.1 Model performance

Both the regional and final local scale models performed well with AUC values of 0.71 and 0.82 respectively. Performance of the regional scale model was lower, but this is to be expected given that important local scale variables had not been included at this stage. The regional scale predictions contributed significantly to the final model with a positive effect on habitat suitability, showing that landscape scale variables are important for predicting the presence of foraging golden plover.

Although the final HSM for daytime foraging golden plover performed well, the results should be interpreted with caution at this stage as a relatively low number of presence points were used for modelling (n = 57). Re-running the models with larger datasets once more records have been collected should improve the accuracy and reliability of model predictions (see section 4.4 below).

4.2 Habitat associations

A range of environmental variables at both regional (1,000 and 7,000 m) and local (100 and 500 m) scales were found to influence the predicted presence of foraging daytime golden plover. The density of buildings had a negative effect at both regional and local scales. This relationship is expected, as golden plover are likely to avoid areas where human disturbance and predation risk are high. Foraging golden plover presence was also found to decline with proximity to woodland, which is likely to be related to increased predation rates by mammalian and avian predators (e.g. Amar *et al.* 2011, Douglas *et al.* 2014).

The cover of semi-natural grassland and improved grassland had a positive relationship with foraging golden plover presence at the regional and local scales respectively. The importance of improved grassland at the local scale suggests that golden plover are selecting this habitat for foraging, a finding that is supported by previous research (e.g. Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003). The richer, more fertile soils of improved grassland are likely to support a higher biomass of invertebrate prey, such as earthworms and tipulid larvae. The cover of semi-natural grassland was the most important variable at the regional scale, and there are several possible explanations for this. The presence of a variety of grassland types across the landscape may provide a broader range of prey species that golden plover can exploit according to availability across the season. A previous study in the South Pennines found that golden plover foraged on both improved grassland and less intensively managed fields, and field selection was dependent upon prey abundance and availability (Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003). The differences could also be due to the difficulty in reliably classifying grasslands using spectral data and the resulting overlap between categories (Morton *et al*. 2011). More specific and accurate vegetation data may be needed to better understand whether foraging golden plover have specific grassland preferences, or whether they forage in a broader range of habitats according to seasonal prey availability. This finding could also relate to the fact that landscapes with a greater cover of semi-natural habitats are likely to be less disturbed (see previous paragraph).

Soil and topographic wetness were also predictors of foraging golden plover presence. Soils that are wet but not permanently saturated were preferred. This is supported by other studies that found a preference for poorly drained fields (Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003, Whitfield & Thomas 2006) and is likely to be related to

prey availability, e.g. larval tipulid density is positively correlated with soil moisture (McCracken *et al*. 1995). Damp/wet soils are also more penetrable than drier soils, making it easier for waders to probe invertebrate prey from the soil. Habitat suitability declined at moderate to high TWI values, suggesting that although foraging golden plover prefer saturated, wet soils they will avoid areas with significant pooling of surface water, which could inhibit foraging. The cover of rivers and lakes also had a negative effect on golden plover presence at regional scales (with the exception of small amounts of water which had a positive effect at the largest scale). This is to be expected, given that golden plover are not typically wetland birds and do not have a strong association with inland water features.

Topography was found to have a relatively small effect on habitat suitability with west and south-westerly aspects preferred, which could be due to the effect of wind exposure. Westerly winds are generally warmer and wetter than the cold north and north-easterly winds, which occur at a high frequency in spring (Met Office 2018). Warmer conditions may reduce the energy expenditure required for birds to stay warm, and increased rainfall may enhance prey abundance and availability. Habitat suitability declined rapidly on slopes above approximately 2˚ at the 100 m scale. Pearce-Higgins & Yalden (2003) also found golden plover foraging consistently on flat fields. This could be due to a greater viewshed and reduced predation risk, or it could reflect the increased infiltration of rain water on flatter ground creating wetter soils and better foraging conditions.

Distance to breeding sites within the SPA had a negative effect on golden plover presence as expected. However, the effect of this variable was small and of low importance in the final model as the study region was already restricted to an area accessible to golden plover breeding within the SPA.

4.3 Conservation implications

For practical applications, we recommend using the continuous logistic maps showing Habitat Suitability Indices (Figure 5), as a gradient of presence is likely to be more realistic than using a single threshold value. Binary maps have been provided for information, but there is little agreement between experts as to which occupancy thresholds should be used. MTSS is the most stringent threshold and is recommended for presence-only models (Liu *et al*. 2013) but may under-estimate a species range. MTP is more liberal but can over-estimate a species range, particularly when data is gathered from multiple sources or with dissimilar sampling efforts (as is the case for this study). 10PTP is a relatively conservative threshold that is frequently used and can be considered a compromise between the MTSS and MTP thresholds. However, a single threshold value gives a narrow overview of a species distribution and should only ever be used for conservation purposes with extreme caution or following rigorous testing.

Although the model identifies potentially suitable daytime foraging sites for golden plover, this does not replace the need for conventional surveys. We recommend that sites are also assessed on the ground for potential suitability and surveys are carried out to determine whether sites are currently being used by golden plover. However, it is also important to maintain suitable foraging habitats even if they are not currently used, to ensure that alternative sites are available.

The results of this study largely support findings from previous research and we re-iterate the general management recommendations made by others (e.g. Whittingham *et al*. 2000, Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003 Whitfield & Thomas 2006). Building or development, planting of woodland, drainage and the use of

pesticides should be avoided on or in proximity to potential golden plover foraging sites. Potential foraging fields should also be grazed at an appropriate density to maintain a short sward height (e.g. <5 cm is recommended) from March to July inclusive (see Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003, Whitfield & Thomas 2006). These actions will help to maintain suitable foraging conditions for golden plover and will also benefit other wader species known to have similar foraging preferences, such as lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). However, habitat management may need to be balanced with the needs of other species of conservation concern, for example, snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and curlew (*Numenius arquata*) prefer breeding habitats with taller vegetation (Durant *et al*. 2008), and planting woodland will benefit many other bird species, bats and invertebrates.

4.4 Recommendations for further work

Further survey work to collect additional daytime foraging records for golden plover would be beneficial. It is recommended that the model is re-run with additional records as this is likely to improve the accuracy of model predictions. If sufficient new records can be collected, we also suggest discarding the oldest records (e.g. from 2003), as habitats may have changed significantly since these surveys. Similarly, it may improve the model to use more up-to-date habitat data, e.g. Land Cover Map 2015 (CEH 2017).

More detailed habitat data is also likely to improve model performance, although this may not be readily available for the entire study region. Data on specific vegetation types would be particularly useful, e.g. National Vegetation Classification (NVC) data can be generated from remotely sensed imagery using random forest algorithms to a high degree of accuracy (e.g. Bradter *et al*. 2011). Data on tree cover (e.g. National Tree Map, Bluesky 2018) and hedges and treelines (Woody Linear Features Framework, Scholefield *et al*. 2016) are also available, but may only confer small improvements to the model which may not outweigh the cost of obtaining the data. Information on sward height and livestock grazing would also be useful, but this data is currently unavailable/inaccessible and would be susceptible to seasonal changes and local management regimes.

The model developed for this study is for female golden plover that forage during the daytime. There is evidence to suggest that male birds (that forage at night) use different fields to females (e.g. Whittingham *et al*. 2000, Pearce-Higgins & Yalden 2003). If this is the case, additional surveys would be required to collect records of foraging males at night (e.g. through thermal imaging surveys) so that a separate model can be developed. It is important to protect suitable foraging fields for both female *and* male birds to ensure the conservation of golden plover populations breeding within the SPA.

References

Amar, A., Grant, M., Buchanan, G., Sim, I., Wilson, J., Pearce-Higgins, J. W. & Redpath, S. (2011) Exploring the relationships between wader declines and current land-use in the British uplands. *Bird Study*, **58**, 13-26.

Bellamy, C., Scott, C. & Altringham, J. (2013) Multiscale, presence-only habitat suitability models: fine resolution maps for eight bat species. *Journal of Applied Ecology,* **50**, 892-901.

Bellamy, C., & Altringham, J. (2015) Predicting species distributions using record centre data: multi-scale modelling of habitat suitability for bat roosts. *PloS one*, **10**, e0128440.

Bellamy, C. C., van der Jagt, A. P. N., Barbour, S., Smith, M. & Moseley, D. (2017) A spatial framework for targeting urban planning for pollinators and people with local stakeholders: A route to healthy, blossoming communities? *Environmental Research,* **158**, 255-268.

Bluesky (2018) *National Tree Map*. Available: https://www.bluesky-world.com/ntm

Bradter, U., Thom, T. J., Altringham, J. D., Kunin, W. E. & Benton, T. G. (2011) Prediction of National Vegetation Classification communities in the British uplands using environmental data at multiple spatial scales, aerial images and the classifier random forest. *Journal of Applied Ecology,* **48**, 1057-1065.

Brunsdon, C. & Chen, H. (2014) *GISTools: Some further GIS capabilities for R*. R package version 0.7-4. https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=GISTools

CEH (2017) *Land Cover Map 2015*. Available: https://www.ceh.ac.uk/services/land-cover-map-2015

Douglas, D. J., Bellamy, P. E., Stephen, L. S., Pearce-Higgins, J. W., Wilson, J. D., Grant, M. C. and Fuller, R. (2014) Upland land use predicts population decline in a globally near-threatened wader. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, **51**, 194-203.

Durant, D., Tichit, M., Kernéïs, E. & Fritz, H. (2008) Management of agricultural wet grasslands for breeding waders: integrating ecological and livestock system perspectives - a review. *Biodiversity and Conservation,* **17**, 2275-2295.

Hanczar, B., Hua, J., Sima, C., Weinstein, J., Bittner, M. & Dougherty, E. R. (2010) Small-sample precision of ROC-related estimates. *Bioinformatics*, **26**, 822–830.

Hijmans, R. J., Phillips, S., Leathwick, J. & Elith, J. (2017) *dismo: Species Distribution Modeling*. R package version 1.1-4. https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=dismo

JNCC (2015) *NATURA 2000 – STANDARD DATA FORM Special Protection Areas under the EC Birds Directive. South Pennine Moors Phase 2.* Available: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9007022.pdf

Joys, A. C. & Crick, H. Q. P. (2004) *Breeding periods for selected bird species in England.* BTO Report No. 352. Available: https://www.bto.org/file/335846/download?token=8DV4cjc8

Liu, C., White, M., Newell, G. & Pearson, R. (2013) Selecting thresholds for the prediction of species occurrence with presence-only data. *Journal of Biogeography,* **40**, 778-789.

Lobo, J. M., Jiménez-Valverde, A. & Real, R. (2008) AUC: a misleading measure of the performance of predictive distribution models. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, **17**, 145-151.

Lipsey, M. K., Naugle, D. E., Nowak, J., Lukacs, P. M. & Albright, T. (2017) Extending utility of hierarchical models to multi-scale habitat selection. *Diversity and Distributions,* **23**, 783-793.

McCracken, D. I., Forster, G. N. & Kelly, A. (1995) Factors affecting the size of leatherjacket (Diptera: Tipulidae) populations in pasture in the west of Scotland. *Applied Soil Ecology*, **2**, 203-213.

McGarigal, K., Wan, H. Y., Zeller, K. A., Timm, B. C., & Cushman, S. A. (2016) Multi-scale habitat selection modeling: a review and outlook. *Landscape ecology*, ***31***, 1161-1175.

Merckx, B., Steyaert, M., Vanreusel, A., Vincx, M. & Vanaverbeke, J. (2011) Null models reveal preferential sampling, spatial autocorrelation and overfitting in habitat suitability modelling. *Ecological Modelling,* **222**, 588-597.

Met Office (2018) *UK regional climates*. Available: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/regional-climates

Morton, D., Rowland, C., Wood, C. Meek, L., Marston, C., Smith, G., Wadsworth, R., Simpson, I. C. (2011) *Final Report for LCM2007 - the new UK land cover map*. Countryside Survey Technical Report No 11/07 NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology 112pp. (CEH Project Number: C03259).

Muscarella, R., Galante, P. J., Soley-Guardia, M., Boria, R. A., Kass, J. M., Uriarte, M., Anderson, R. P. & McPherson, J. (2014) ENMeval: An R package for conducting spatially independent evaluations and estimating optimal model complexity for Maxent ecological niche models. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, **5**, 1198-1205.

Naimi, B., Hamm, N. A. S., Groen, T. A., Skidmore, A. K. & Toxopeus, A. G. (2014) Where is positional uncertainty a problem for species distribution modelling? *Ecography*, **37**, 191-203.

Pearce-Higgins, J. W. & Yalden, D. W. (2003) Variation in the use of pasture by breeding European Golden Plovers Pluvialis apricaria in relation to prey availability. *Ibis,* **145**, 365-381.

Phillips, S. (2005) *A brief tutorial on Maxent*. AT&T Research, Florham Park, New Jersey. Available from: http://www.cs.princeton.edu/∼schapire/maxent/tutorial/tutorial.doc

Phillips, S. J., Anderson, R. P. & Schapire, R. E. (2006) Maximum entropy modeling of species geographic distributions. *Ecological Modelling,* **190**, 231-259.

Phillips, S. J., Dudík, M., Elith, J., Graham Catherine, H., Lehmann, A., Leathwick, J. & Ferrier, S. (2009) Sample selection bias and presence-only distribution models: implications for background and pseudo-absence data. *Ecological Applications,* **19**, 181-197.

Phillips, S. J. & Dudík, M. (2008) Modeling of species distributions with Maxent: new extensions and a comprehensive evaluation. *Ecography,* **31**, 161-175.

R Core Team (2017) *R: A language and environment for statistical computing*. RmFoundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. https://www.R-project.org/

Ratchliffe, D. A. (1976) Observations on the breeding of the Golden Plover in Great Britain. *Bird Study*, **23**, 63-116.

Scholefield, P. A., Morton, R. D., Rowland, C. S., Henrys, P. A., Howard, D. C. & Norton, L. R. (2016) *Woody linear features framework, Great Britain v.1.0*. NERC Environmental Information Data Centre. https://doi.org/10.5285/d7da6cb9-104b-4dbc-b709-c1f7ba94fb16

Swets, J. A. (1988) Measuring the accuracy of diagnostic systems. *Science*, **240**, 1285-1293.

Veloz, S. D. (2009) Spatially autocorrelated sampling falsely inflates measures of accuracy for presence-only niche models. Journal of Biogeography, **36**, 2290-2299.

Warton, D. I., Renner, I. W. & Ramp, D. (2013) Model-Based Control of Observer Bias for the Analysis of Presence-Only Data in Ecology. *PLOS ONE,* **8**, e79168.

Whittingham, M. J., Percival, S. M. & Brown, A. F. (2000) Time budgets and foraging of breeding golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. *Journal of Applied Ecology,* **37**, 632-646.

Whitfield, D. P. & Thomas, C. J. (2006) *Analysis of a survey of golden plover around the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands Special Protection Area*. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 181 (ROAME No. F01LB205/5). Available: http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F01LB205_5.pdf

Zuur, A. F., Ieno, E. N. & Elphick, C. S. (2009) A protocol for data exploration to avoid common statistical problems. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution,* **1**, 3-14.

Supplementary Material

The following project outputs are provided:

1. GIS files

Study site data

- SPA boundary ("SPA.shp")
- Study area ("Study_area.shp")

Species data

- Filtered daytime foraging golden plover records ("Foraging_GP.shp")
- Target Group bird records ("TG_birds.shp")

Environmental data

- All non-scalar and multi-scale environmental variables generated for modelling (ESRI ASCII files formatted for use in MaxEnt)

Habitat Suitability maps

- Habitat suitability map for daytime foraging golden plover: 100 x 100 m resolution ("GP_HSI.tif"). Note: the higher the HSI, the more suitable the habitat is predicted to be
- Predictive presence absence maps using the MTSS, 10PTP and MTP occupancy thresholds ("GP_MTSS.tif", "GP_10PTP.tif", "GP_MTP.tif")

When viewing the above maps in ArcGIS, the symbology provided in this report can be replicated by right-clicking on the map layer in the Table of Contents in ArcMap, go to 'Properties', 'Symbology', 'Import' (folder symbol), and browse to the .lyr file provided with the same name as the map.

2. Maps

High quality JPEG images of the figures and maps in this report

3. Report

A copy of this report in PDF format

Appendix A

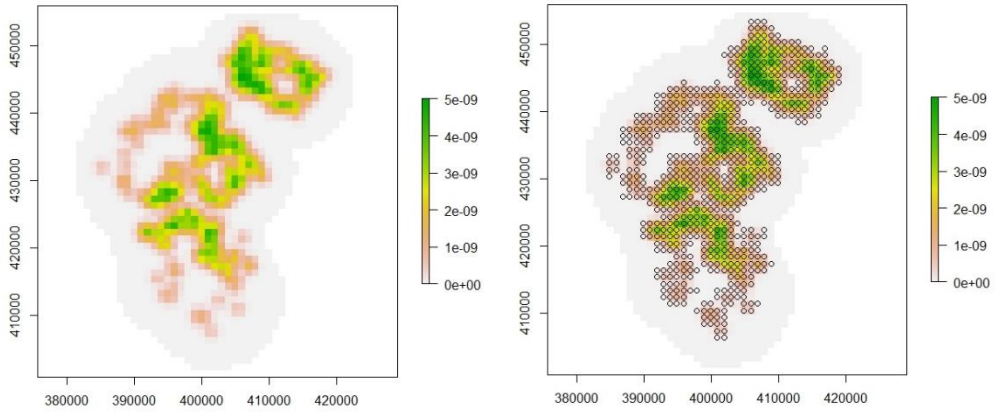


Figure A1. Bias file and pseudoabsences used for the regional scale model. Left: raster image of the sampling bias file generated from the Target Group bird records (1,000 m resolution), right: bias file with pseudoabsence points overlaid.

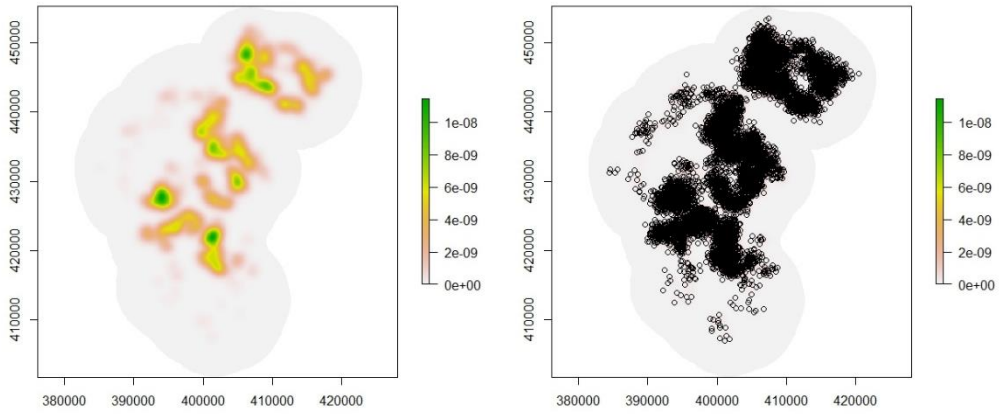


Figure A2. Bias file and pseudoabsences used for the local scale model. Left: raster image of the sampling bias file generated from the Target Group bird records (100 m resolution), right: bias file with pseudoabsence points overlaid.

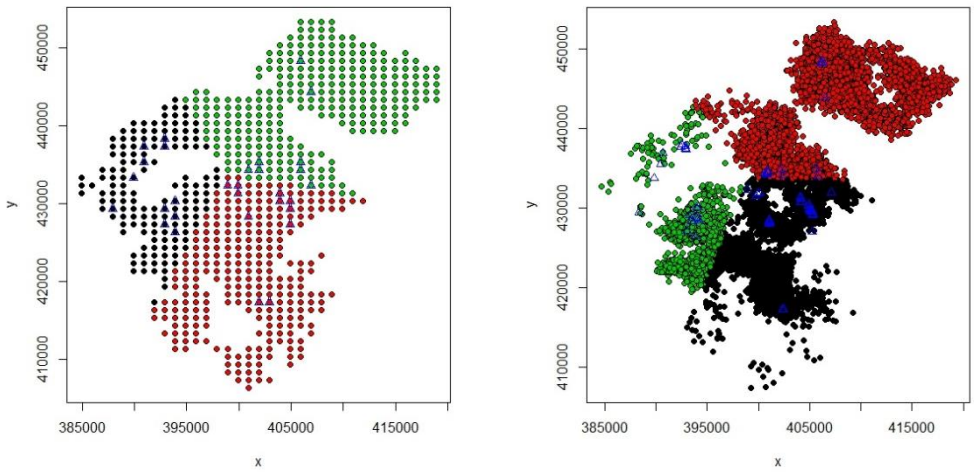


Figure A3. Spatially aggregated folds used for modelling. Plots show the pseudoabsence points separated into three spatial folds (red, green and black) for the regional scale model (left) and the local scale model (right). Golden Plover presence points are shown as blue triangles within each fold.

Appendix B

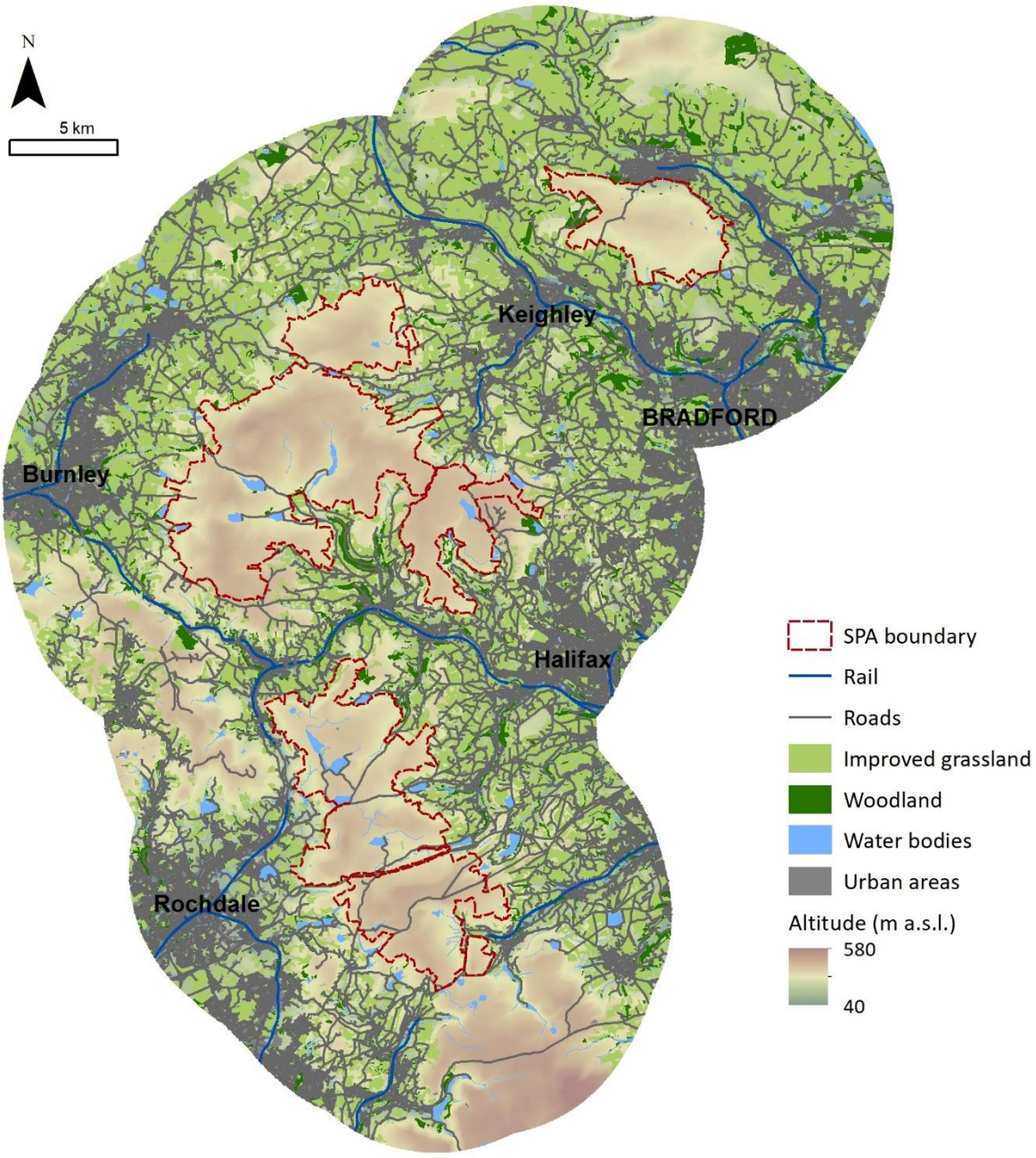


Figure B1. Map showing environmental data across the study region. An overview of some of the environmental data used for Habitat Suitability Modelling. *Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2015). Contains, or is based on, information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Natural England copyright. DTM data licensed to: Natural England for PGA, through Next Perspectives™.*

Appendix C

Table C1. Information on the nineteen environmental variables used for Habitat Suitability Modelling

Variable	Description	Data source
Aspect	Non-scalar, categorical variable (N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW)	Digital Terrain data 5 m Next Perspectives
Mean altitude (m.a.s.l)	Mean altitude at multiple scales	Digital Terrain data 5 m Next Perspectives
Mean slope (°)	Mean slope at multiple scales	Digital Terrain data 5 m Next Perspectives
Mean topographic wetness	Mean topographic wetness at multiple scales	Topographic Wetness Index Forest Research
Soil type	Non-scalar, categorical variable. One of 15 soil types*	NatMap Vector Cranfield University
Soil wetness	Non-scalar, categorical variable. One of six soil wetness classes*	NatMap Wetness Cranfield University
Cover of arable land (%)	Percentage cover of the broad habitat 'Arable and Horticulture' at multiple scales	Land Cover Map 2007 Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Cover of improved grassland (%)	Percentage cover of the broad habitat 'Improved Grassland' at multiple scales	Land Cover Map 2007 Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Cover of semi-natural grassland (%)	Percentage cover of the aggregate class 'Semi-natural Grassland' at multiple scales	Land Cover Map 2007 Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Cover of heath and bog (%)	Percentage cover of the broad habitats 'Dwarf Shrub Heath' and 'Bog' at multiple scales	Land Cover Map 2007 Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Cover of woodland (%)	Percentage cover of woodland (all types combined) at multiple scales	National Forest Inventory 2016 Forestry Commission
Cover of inland water (m)	Percentage cover of inland water at multiple scales	OS MasterMap Topography Ordnance Survey
Density of roads and railways (km/km2)	Length of field boundary per unit area at multiple scales	OS Open Map Local Ordnance Survey
Density of buildings (per ha)	Density of building centroids at multiple scales	OS MasterMap Topography Ordnance Survey
Distance to breeding sites (m)	Euclidean distance to nearest known golden plover breeding site	Natural England
Distance to inland water (m)	Euclidean distance to nearest inland water feature	OS MasterMap Topography Ordnance Survey
Distance to woodland edge (m)	Euclidean distance to the nearest woodland edge	National Forest Inventory 2016 Forestry Commission
Distance to roads (m)	Euclidean distance to nearest road	OS Open Map Local Ordnance Survey
Distance to paths (m)	Euclidean distance to nearest Public Right of Way classified as either a 'footpath' or 'bridleway'	PRoW data Natural England

*See Appendix D for definitions of soil types and soil wetness classes

Appendix D

Table D1. Soil types included in the 'Soil type' predictor variable. Based on NatMap Vector 'Simple Description' (Cranfield University)

Raster value	Soil type
1	Seasonally wet deep loam
3	Loam over sandstone
4	Shallow peat over limestone
5	Seasonally wet deep peat to loam
6	Peat to loam over sandstone
7	Blanket peat
8	Seasonally wet deep silty soils
9	Deep loam
11	Seasonally wet deep loam to clay
13	Seasonally wet deep clay over shale
16	Seasonally wet deep sand
17	Seasonally wet deep clay
19	Deep sandy soils
20	Deep red loam
24	Lake or water body

Table D2. Soil wetness classes included in the 'Soil wetness' predictor variable. Descriptions as given by Cranfield University for the NatMap Wetness dataset, with the exception of values 7 and 8 which were created to account for NA values

Raster value	Dominant soil wetness class	Description
1	I	The soil profile is not wet within 70cm depth for more than 30 days in most years
2	II	The soil profile is wet within 70cm depths for 30-90 days in most years
3	III	The soil profile is wet within 70cm depths for 90-180 days in most years
4	IV	The soil profile is wet within 70cm depths for more than 180 days, but not wet within 40cm for more than 180 days in most years
5	V	The soil profile is wet within 40cm depths for more than 180 days, and is usually wet within 70cm for more than 335 days in most years
6	VI	The soil profile is wet within 40cm depths for more than 335 days in most years
7	NA	Classification of soil wetness not provided – restored soils, mostly from quarry and opencast spoil
8	NA	Classification of soil wetness not applicable – water bodies e.g. rivers and lakes

Appendix E

The environmental variables retained for regional and local scale modelling following pruning of collinear variables:

Regional model
Cover of arable (1,000 m)
Cover of improved grassland (1,000 m)
Cover of semi-natural grassland (1,000 m)
Cover of semi-natural grassland (7,000 m)
Cover of inland water (1,000 m)
Cover of inland water (3,000 m)
Cover of inland water (7,000 m)
Cover of woodland (1,000 m)
Cover of woodland (7,000 m)
Density of buildings (1,000 m)
Density of roads and railways (7,000 m)

Local model
Aspect
Cover of arable (100 m)
Cover of arable (500 m)
Cover of improved grassland (100 m)
Cover of semi-natural grassland (100 m)
Cover of semi-natural grassland (500 m)
Density of buildings (100 m)
Distance to breeding sites
Distance to paths
Distance to roads
Distance to water
Distance to woodland
Mean slope (100 m)
Mean topographic wetness (100 m)
Mean topographic wetness (500 m)
Soil type
Soil wetness

From: Town Clerk | Normanton Town Council <townclerk@normantontowncouncil.co.uk>
Sent: 17 September 2025 15:55
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> You don't often get email from townclerk@normantontowncouncil.co.uk. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon,

I have received the documentation below however, we are not based all that close to Calderdale.

The site is 35 miles away and over an hour and a half by road.

I do not feel that we are best placed to comment on the application.

Kind Regards

Donna

[redacted]

Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Normanton Town Council

[redacted]

Email: enquiries@normantontowncouncil.co.uk

Normanton Town Hall, High Street, Normanton, WF6 2DZ

Office Hours – Monday to Thursday 8am to 4pm, Friday 8am to 1pm.

Please note that we are a small team who may be busy with events and meetings, as such our standard response time is TEN working days.

By Contacting Normanton Town Council you agree for your contact details to be held and processed for the purpose of corresponding.

To view the Normanton Town Council Privacy Notice please visit https://www.normantontowncouncil.co.uk/ntc-privacy-policy

From: clerk@northturton-pc.gov.uk <clerk@northturton-pc.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 September 2025 15:29
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

Good afternoon

Following on from our Parish Council meeting on 1 September 2025, North Turton Parish Council have no further comments to make as this proposed development would not directly impact our area.

Thanks

[redacted]

Parish Clerk

North Turton Parish Council

clerk@northturton-pc.gov.uk

From: [redacted]@northyorkmoors.org.uk>
Sent: 02 September 2025 16:36
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park

[redacted]

Dear Sir or Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park (the proposed development)

Thank you for consulting the North York Moors National Park Authority on the EIA Scoping process for the above project.

The Authority does not wish to make any comments at this stage but would wish to be consulted on any formal application when submitted.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Senior Minerals Planner

North York Moors National Park Authority

The Old Vicarage

Bondgate

Helmsley

York

YO62 5BP

[redacted]

Web: www.northyorkmoors.org.uk

CONFIDENTIALITY: The contents of this message are the views of the author, not necessarily the views of the North York Moors National Park Authority. This is a private message intended for the named addressee(s) only. Its contents may be confidential.
If you have received this message in error please reply to say so and then delete the message.
Any use, copying, disclosure or distribution by anyone other than the addressee is forbidden.
www.northyorkmoors.org.uk

This email has been scanned for email related threats and delivered safely by Mimecast.
For more information please visit http://www.mimecast.com

OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL

PO Box 623
Keighley
BD21 9HT

[redacted]
clerk@oxenhopevillagecouncil.gov.uk

28th September, 2025

Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
BRISTOL
BS1 6PN

Your Ref. EN0110023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park (the proposed development)

Thank you for consulting Oxenhope Village Council about this matter.

The Council would like to submit the following document, prepared by Stronger Together to Stop Calderdale Wind Farm, in response.

The Village Council supports the premise of this document, although not drafted by us directly.

Whilst we have been reliant upon others to consider this technical consultation and to prepare a detailed response, we also have an overarching observation with regard to the environmental impact of the proposals.

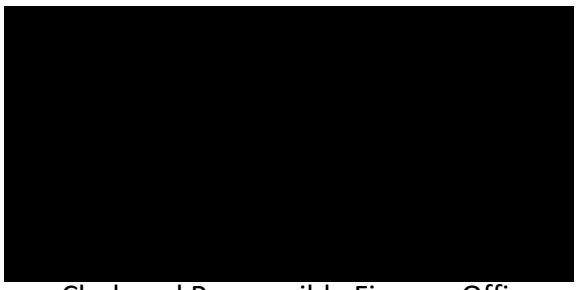
The Village Council remains to be convinced that the scale of the net environmental benefit of the proposed development, viewed over the entire lifecycle of the windfarm, would offset the impacts on the landscape and habitats. On that basis we would wish to see evidence of a lifecycle assessment encompassing ALL impacts including: -

Raw materials extraction, processing, manufacture, transport, construction, commissioning, impact on the peat moorland (direct carbon release), operation, maintenance, decommissioning and disposal and remediation etc.

Every aspect of the development and its operation should be considered, including energy consumption in extracting raw materials, producing cement and concrete and making steel and other materials required etc.

We consider a full analysis should be completed that transparently accounts for all environmental impacts and benefits to arrive at a net position which would enable informed consideration of the proposed development, balancing benefits against the wider impacts.

Yours faithfully,



Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Stronger Together response to CEP Scoping Report, September 2025

Stronger Together to Stop Calderdale Wind Farm (ST) is a coalition of eight local groups who intend to prevent the construction of Calderdale Energy Park (aka Calderdale Wind Farm).

www.stopcalderdaleenergypark.com

The groups involved in this response are:

Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network (UCWN)
Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm (WV)
Walshaw Turbines Research Group (WTRG)
For Peat's Sake (FPS)

Stronger Together note the unhelpful structure of this Scoping Report (SR), compared to Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd.'s previous SR of 22 September 2023:

(https://portal.calderdale.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S1E3AQDW0CF00)

- The first SR was published on 22 September 2023; the first response from a consultee (the Ministry of Defence) was not even **received** until 17 October 2023 and consultees continued to respond until the end of November 2023.
- This current SR has a closing date for responses of 29 September 2025, giving consultees less than a month to respond.
- The 2023 SR had 151 pages.
- The current SR has 577 pages - about four times as many.
- The 2023 SR had a series of questions for consultees at the end of each section, which made it easy for consultees to respond.
- The current SR has no questions for consultees, which makes it not user-friendly at all.

Numerous egregious errors are identified and described throughout this response.

It is a matter of concern to us and should be for all consultees and the Planning Inspectorate that CWF Ltd. have taken so little care in the production of the current SR. We look to the Planning Inspectorate to insist on a correct SR so that consultees, statutory or otherwise, can make properly informed comments instead of wasting further time and money on responses to such an inaccurate document.

6. Ornithology

(Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network)

We make an initial comment regarding the independence of this scoping report as we believe all sections should give unbiased and objective information. We consider that this is undermined by such comments as:

Table 6.4: In respect of scoping out of non-target species "given the low potential for significant habitat loss, the limited scale of land take..."

and

6.65 in respect of Golden Plover " which may use the study area during key periods..."

The first statement fails to accept that this would be the largest wind farm in England covering 2352ha and incorporating 41 x 200 m high turbines and their associated foundations and infrastructure on one of the most nature protected areas of land in England. To state then that there is a low potential for habitat loss and limited scale of land take shows a lack of understanding of the scale of operations and magnitude of construction to achieve this proposal.

The second statement at a more detailed level understates the presence of Golden Plover. Since the Golden Plover are explicitly cited in the Special Protection Area (SPA), to suggest that they MAY use the study area during KEY periods is disingenuous.

We believe statements such as these are pre-judging the conclusion of any future report and are unacceptable in this context.

We note the term 'ornithological features' is used frequently instead of 'Birds'. We request that this term is no longer used: it is unnecessarily obtuse and we feel commodifies nature. We prefer plain English please.

The Ornithology Chapter fails to cross reference CEP's potential impacts on birds with the potential impacts on habitats/hydrology, although the two subjects are intimately linked. The birds are unable to exist unless their habitats including the peat hydrology are healthy.

Continuing the theme of the inaccurate habitat map presented at the non-statutory public consultation, this chapter continues to peddle the false premise about the lack of blanket bog on Walshaw Moor, stating in **6.3.6**. that vegetation consists "mainly of rotationally burned upland heath managed for Grouse with areas of blanket bog and rough grazing…."

Literature cited

We note that nesting dates of moorland birds in English, Welsh and Scottish uplands published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is not cited as reference material, and we request that this is referred to, and breeding dates noted. Other important documents which are not referred to include:

UK Biodiversity Framework
The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
DEFRA's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy
Natural England: New Definitions of Favourable Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland

Surveys

1] **6.3.4** states that "a small area of land would be excluded in the NE of the turbines area and subsequently to include new areas that include

access roads". It is not clear on the accompanying **figures 6.2 and 6.3** where the excluded area is.

2] None of the areas affected by proposed access roads and cable corridors are shown as areas where surveys are to be carried out. In particular this applies to peatland habitats affected by alternative routes A, B and C and potential cable corridors. These areas must be included within the survey, since the survey information would surely inform the selection of a preferred route. Parts of the wider Phase 2 SPA are within these search areas and birds would be affected by any proposed construction works within these areas.
We request that **Figure 6.3** is updated to show this information, and the full extent of surveys to be undertaken in 2025 and 2026 is fully noted.

National Policy Statement EN-5 states that "the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both on shore and offshore at an early stage in the development process"

We are concerned that, given the timetable of the works, set out in the programme document indicating that the Environmental Statement will be published in September 2026, there will be insufficient time to carry out this important survey work.

3] Baseline surveys

6.3.13 Field Surveys Overview
UCWN requested in their response to the 2023 Scoping Report (SR) that a winter roost raptor survey was carried out. This does not appear to have been scheduled in and we again request that this is carried out, to demonstrate the importance of this area of moorland for winter roosting for these birds specifically. **6.3.65** notes the importance of the area for winter roost for Hen Harrier, but we can see no other formal survey of these or other raptors.

UCWN also requested that a control site be set up to aid future monitoring, and this was also requested by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). We cannot find any details of such monitoring in the SR.

We do not accept that land access restrictions are a major hurdle to achieving additional winter roost information, or control monitoring sites, since the Walshaw Estate owns most of the land surrounding the turbine area where such surveys would be done. This is all comparable peatland that forms part of the wider Phase 2 SPA. We consider this to be an important omission from the scoping report that must be addressed.

Given that this proposal is targeted at a site of national and international importance for birds, we consider it imperative that surveys are carried out to the highest standard to ensure a thorough baseline of the bird population living, breeding, feeding and roosting on and crossing Walshaw Moor is completely understood.

While we endorse the need for post construction monitoring as set out in **Table 6.2**, this does not provide equivalent data that comparable control and reference sites would.

There are no surveys cited that consider the effects of lighting on birds and particularly passage birds. It is known that artificial lighting can have a detrimental and disruptive effect on bird migration as well as local breeding populations of birds and this should be fully considered.

Passage Birds

The SR considers some passage birds which we note would be picked up in the vantage point (VP) surveys in spring and autumn. However, we are not satisfied that this would pick up high-level migrants of species such as Swift, particularly as surveys of these birds are planned in March and October, with Swift passage taking place around May and July -August. We realise that such high-altitude surveys would be challenging, however placing 200 m turbines on the highest land in the south Pennines is unprecedented, and could have a detrimental impact

on Swift and other migratory species that follow the high ground of the Pennine Chain. These vulnerable, declining, red-listed birds are understood to be susceptible to the low frequency infrasound emitted by wind turbines which can lead to disorientation.

We believe this is an under researched area which could have unintended consequences for bird populations, far beyond the proposed wind turbine site.

Receptors identified

6.3.6 states 'Habitats within the Turbine Area consist mainly of rotationally burned upland heath managed for grouse with areas of blanket bog and rough grazing (predominantly for sheep).' This is wrong and doesn't even match with the UK Habitat Classification Distribution map shown in chapter 7, which indicates that the largest part of the turbine area is blanket bog and degraded blanket bog, with upland heathland shown as a smaller proportion. We still consider that this map is inaccurate since we consider much of the area classified as upland heath is in fact degraded blanket bog.

We will expand further on this factor because it is a crucial part of understanding the importance of the peatlands on Walshaw Moor, which throughout this SR are underemphasised and wrongly defined. Both the active and damaged areas of blanket bog are recognised by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee citation for the SAC, which includes Walshaw Moor, and these are classed as Annex 1 habitats. This is confirmed by Natural England who state that:

'All blanket bog is a Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitat, and active blanket bog is a priority habitat under the Directive… the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat "encompasses all areas of blanket bog supporting semi-natural blanket bog vegetation, whether or not it may be defined as 'active'.'

Blanket bog habitat, both active and degraded, is the reason why this area is so important for birds.

6.3.60 UCWN have extensive records of raptors using Walshaw Moor and can confirm that there are at least two further species of owl including Short Eared Owl and Long Eared Owl known to breed on the moor and which are not noted in the SR. **6.3.60** also fails to mention Merlin, which is one of the birds cited in the designation of the SPA because of the internationally important breeding populations of this bird. Tawny Owl, Hobby, and Marsh Harrier are other raptors that have been recorded within the turbine area.
Raptor breeding habitat is not confined to cloughs, gritstone escarpments and dilapidated buildings but also heather and bilberry and flat open sites.
Other species not noted in the scoping report which can be present within the turbine area in significant numbers are Greylag Geese and Pink-footed Geese, and also Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper, and Common Sandpiper.

6.3.66 There are no target species listed in **6.3.16**. Can this be addressed?

Construction
6.4 4 states that the design of the turbine area has been adapted to minimise impacts. The design of the proposed development should take account of survey work yet to be completed, and we would expect the survey work to inform the design and turbine layout. If this is not the case, there seems little point in carrying out these surveys.

6.4.5 sets out the purpose of the outline Construction Management Plan and **6.4.7** states that construction work would avoid the peak nesting season. This is different to what we were told at the non-statutory consultation which was that construction would avoid the nesting season.

We have a number of concerns here:

1) The nesting season may change from year to year and April - May cessation in construction may not be appropriate every year.

2) The breeding season takes place over a much longer period than April to May, with some species arriving on the moor in February,

and not leaving until July. There are many fledgling birds on the moor until late June. These birds are extremely vulnerable as they are too young to fly and we are concerned that these species would be seriously affected by proposed construction works.

3) We are concerned about the phrase 'wherever practicable' in relation to construction work avoiding the peak breeding season. What are the circumstances where there would be construction work carried out during April and May?

4) **6.4.8** refers to the nesting season, is this April -May as noted above, or does it extend to encompass the whole nesting season, we believe it should, as the young of Lapwing etc are still at a fledgling stage in late June.

6.4.9 refers to the use of handheld equipment. This seems like an inserted generic paragraph: surely while desirable for wildlife, the use of handheld equipment will not be practical for this scheme.

6.4.10 states that artificial light will be avoided 'wherever practicable.' On a site of this importance for wildlife there should surely be a ban on any works taking place when artificial light is required. Again, it would be useful to understand the parameters for when this would not be practical.

6.4.11 states that all putrescible and edible wasteful be stored and disposed of in a timely manner. This must be off site.

6.4 15 there is no mention of habitat restoration during the operational phase of the wind farm, yet a major justification for this project being acceptable on this highly protected blanket bog habitat has been the restoration that is proposed.

6.4.1 states that 'consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur.' However, no time scale is given, and it is not clear if any environmental measures would take place during the construction phase.

Are we correct in assuming then that habitat restoration would not take place until the decommissioning stage?

We are also unsure of the intent of any proposed restoration, as removing the turbine structures and reinstating a veneer of peat like material over foundations and hard standings might result in the moor being returned to something like its prior appearance, but not its physical character.

Table 6.2 We endorse the RSPB's concern that not all VP surveys locations were located outside the Turbine Area, and are uncertain why there are access restrictions given that the Walshaw Estate owns the surrounding land.

Table 6.4 We do not agree with the premise that there is low potential for habitat loss and a limited scale of land take. Consequently, we do not consider it appropriate that all non-target bird species are screened out. Species that should be "common and widespread" such as Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Raven, Wheatear, Whinchat and Stonechat are not necessarily as common as they should be and should not be scoped out.

At a detailed level, we note that no mention has been made of the potential effects of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and its impacts on birds due to localised fragmentation of the habitats and loss of feeding and breeding areas, as we assume the BESS compound will be fenced off. It would be useful to know to what extent the selection of the BESS site will involve consideration of impact on the bird population.

(author: PB 12.9.25)

7: Biodiversity

(Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network)

We make an initial comment regarding the independence of this SR as we believe all sections should give unbiased and objective information. A major concern is the inaccuracy of the description of the moorland

habitats, particularly in respect of this chapter, and the general under-representation of blanket bog and over-emphasis on areas of dry heath.

There are some significant errors in this section of the report. **7.4.20** refers to sites in Scotland, while **7.5.14** and **7.5.15** are almost identical. Such egregious errors undermine our confidence that this is an accurate and professional report.

We are also concerned about the failure to cross-reference information between this chapter, and the previous chapter on ornithology, and the chapter on peat hydrology, all of which are fundamentally linked.

We are concerned about the lack of cross-reference between this section and Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual which considers mitigation. As restoration of the degraded areas of blanket bog is a key part of the Catchment Management Plan (CMP), we would expect consistent and accurate information to be emerging about how this is planned. However there appears to have been no collaboration between the authors of this chapter and that of Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual. At **7.5.27** reference is made only to mitigation at the decommissioning phase, 'this plan will aim to return the Proposed Development to a condition that aligns with the ecological and ornithological character and conservation objectives of the…. SPA' whereas at **10.4.6** reference is made to planting grasses alongside tracks and tree planting. Any thought of a comprehensive plan for restoration of areas of degraded blanket bog *NOW* seems to be ignored.

Literature

The following documents are not cited in the Policy Section of chapter 7:

UK Biodiversity Framework
The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
DEFRA's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy
Natural England: New Definitions of Favourable Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland

Surveys

7.3.3 states that to date surveys have only been carried out within the Turbine Area. If the survey work is to inform the preferred access route and cable routes into the site, this needs to be carried out in sufficient time to ensure this information can be used to inform the design.

Table 7.2 does not include an amphibians survey, apart from Great Crested Newt, although amphibians are mentioned in **7.5.22** and **table 7.13**, nor are they mentioned in the list of receptors in **7.4.22**.

The SSSI impact area (MAGIC) is not cited in **Table 7.3** with particular reference to the potential cable corridor and access routes.

7.4.7 states that in accordance with the Catchment Management Plan (CMP) , up to 100ha per annum will be restored.

1) Will there be an assessment as part of the scoping process to determine how much of this has been carried out and how successful this has been given that monitoring has not been carried out by Natural England (NE) since 2017?

2) Is it the intent to continue the process of the habitat restoration and management on Walshaw Moor as outlined in the CMP, during the construction of the wind farm, or, as implied in **7.5.25**, is the intent to continue restoration at the decommissioning stage?

7.4.8 states that 'Ongoing monitoring has not yet been provided but is subject to ongoing discussion with Natural England and the Walshaw Moor Estate.' It is of great concern to us that this SR is based on a complete lack of monitoring from NE since the commencement of the Catchment Management Plan.

The surveys need to take account of the impact of permanently lighting the turbine towers during the operational phase.

Habitats

7 4.10 doesn't mention flushes, rocky outcrops, bracken and woodland.

7.4.12 states that habitat surveys will be carried out AFTER identification of the preferred option. This is repeated in **7.4.25**. We are highly critical of this approach as we consider it imperative that some form of habitat survey informs the selection of the preferred routes for cable corridors and access routes. Should we assume that the selection of a preferred route will not be influenced in any way by the habitats that are potentially crossed?

This reinforces our opinion that these surveys are little more than a token gesture. Furthermore, National Policy Statement EN-5 states that 'the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both onshore and offshore at an early stage in the development process.' We are also concerned that, given the timetable of the works set out in the programme document indicating that the Environmental Statement will be published in September 2026, that there will be insufficient time available to carry out important survey work, as survey timings are very specific for species including bats.

7.4.14 states that 'after blanket bog, the most common habitat is dry heath which accounts for 544 ha (24.57%) of the Turbine Area including 513.54 ha of h1b5 dry heaths; upland heath (H4030)' which was in varying condition (225.54ha in good condition and 243.28 ha in poor condition)." This SR therefore shows that over 50% of the site is considered to be blanket bog, and we are confident that large sections of dry heath are in fact degraded blanket bog.

7.5.14 and **7.4 15** (which are almost identical) state that the oCEMP, oPMP and PWMS will be tailored to the ecology of the proposed development, and that biodiversity protection zones and areas will be identified. Are these a special designations that we have not heard about? Given that the existing SPA, SAC and SSSI designations are recognised as affording protection internationally and nationally why is a further layer required?

Insufficient consideration has been given to the importance of hydrological connectivity across the moorland, not only to the

mosaic of Peatland habitats but also the internationally important assemblage of CHEGD fungi, for which Calderdale is particularly well known, We know that the hydrological influence of the peatlands and blanket bog has an important impact on the fungi which thrive on grasslands below the moorland but sometimes outside the Turbine Area. Consequently, impact on the hydrology of the moorlands will have an impact on these important areas too. This must be explored fully in the ES.

The impact of the BESS and the installation of an area of fenced of hard paved industrial zone within the moorland has not been addressed in this chapter of the SR. Installation of security fencing and water storage bunds and changes to the land form to accommodate the specific requirements of the BESS have not been considered. This could include:

1) Fragmentation of habitats caused by fencing which is not wildlife permeable.

2) Creation of hardstandings and new buildings which will destroy habitat.

3) Noise, lighting and disturbance associated with operation and maintenance of the BESS.

4) Fire risk to vulnerable peatlands.

Construction

7.15.8 states that a sensitive lighting strategy will be employed to avoid unnecessary light pollution minimising the impact of lighting on sensitive species. However **5.14** suggests that some operations, including turbine movements, would be carried out over a 24 hour period to accommodate transport to site avoiding major disruption to local transport networks. It is vital that this area is fully explored as the implication is that there would be frequent times when lighting would be necessary.

7.5.20 refers to the mitigation and compensation for the loss of habitats. UCWN want to stress that irreplaceable habitats such as blanket bog are not possible to replace in any meaningful time scale. Consequently, we want all loss of habitats to be minimised otherwise the integrity of the entire peatland across the Turbine Area will be at risk.

7.5.21 notes the need for regular attendance on site during the operational period. The oCEMP must therefore take account of the sensitivities of many of the bird and animal species to disturbance, particularly during the breeding season, and timing of maintenance works needs to consider this.

7.5 27 states what elements of the scheme might be left in situ on completion of the project. The ES must give a clear assessment of the impact of leaving structures in place permanently and state precisely what would be left in place and particularly how this may affect the hydrology of the remaining peatland.

Table 7.10

In its Scoping Opinion of 2023 Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (CMBC) notes that assessments should be continued beyond the site boundary, but it is not explicitly stated that this will happen. Since blanket bog is a mosaic of interconnected habitats, there will be effects felt beyond the extent of the Turbine Area, so it is vital that any assessment covers these areas.

Table 7.2 states that bats will be surveyed within the Turbine Area. However, the SNC guidance states that bat surveys need to take account of the location and extent of commuting to foraging habitat used by bats which may include not just the site but also flight paths and habitats in the surrounding landscape. Since there is a large and diverse population of bats in and around Hardcastle Crags, it should be considered whether additional survey work needs to be completed to cover any bats moving between Walshaw Moor and Hardcastle Crags.

CMBC also requested the use of static detectors at height. While we recognise the difficulty of achieving this on open areas, we ask that this is explored within woodland areas within the Turbine Area, where this might be more easily achieved.

Table 7.12 sets out the definition of importance for Ecological Features. While the SAC, SPA features are noted as being of international importance, and the SSSI status of national importance, there is, however, no mention of the importance of this site towards meeting our obligations as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This requires protections for nature in the planning system to be maintained with the goal of providing "effective conservation and management" of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans by 2030. It is not possible for the UK to meet its international obligations if sites such as Walshaw Moor are irreparably damaged.

Table 7.13 gives no detail whatsoever of the construction process or operations. The section Operation of Wind Turbines **table 13** cites collision with turbine blades as a hazard for bats but fails to mention barotrauma.

Further baseline data

7.7. 15 states that further surveys are planned for potential cable routes and access routes and that once preferred designs and routes are agreed with the design team, surveys will be agreed with the design team based on the nature of the habitats and locations they are crossing.
We object strongly to the implication that the determination of the preferred route will be based solely on commercial, logistical and economic factors etc with no consideration of the ecology or of how potential new land uses, for cabling and access in the wider area might affect connectivity for wildlife, potential fragmentation of habitats and disturbance to the wider environment. We consider this is a major omission that should be timetabled in, and fully described in any decision making.

If this is not the case, the surveys proposed can only be used to inform small scale changes, within the preferred route and not be used to avoid areas of greatest value for wildlife, nor will appropriate information be available to consultees to make an informed decision about the scheme.

Table 7.15 implies that these surveys will only be carried 'where necessary' within cable corridor and site access search areas, despite extensive parts of these corridors and areas lying within zones of international importance for wildlife.

The long-term impacts of these installations need to be fully understood as we understand these elements will remain permanently in situ. There will be long term impacts arising from decommissioning that are not mentioned: for example habitats will be reinstated over areas of foundations where the hydrology has been completely altered, and it will not be possible to reinstate these habitats to their original status. This appears not to be understood.

PB 22.9.25

8: Hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and peat

(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

Comments on the peat slide risk laid out in **8.3.26** and **8.3.29** are given in the section on Chapter 12 Access Traffic and Transport.

8.3.15 States that “Some borehole records are available”. In fact many households and farms around the edge of the turbine area are served by boreholes and culverted surface flow from the turbine area dating back decades or centuries. A correct account of the water use by these households and farms can only be obtained by going house to house.

The Peat and Hydrology models used to design the Scoping Report layout are inadequate.

The information on peat and hydrology published by CWF Ltd and used to design the layout repeatedly published in the Scoping Report and at the Non-statutory Consultation is so inadequate that we believe the only option is to withdraw the Scoping Report; remove all turbine layouts; layouts; and also withdraw the layout published for the Non-statutory Consultation. The status of the Non-statutory Consultation which was based on this turbine layout must then be decided by the Secretary of State, advised by the Planning Inspectorate.

To comment here on the Scoping Report account of Peat and Hydrology in detail would be to condone the process that has led to the present position. Such a layout should not be given status by being published in the Scoping Report and for the Non-statutory Consultation. It was not necessary for any maps of this layout to be presented in the Scoping Report and all the maps that give it status by being so published should be withdrawn. A list of the relevant maps is given at the end of this section.

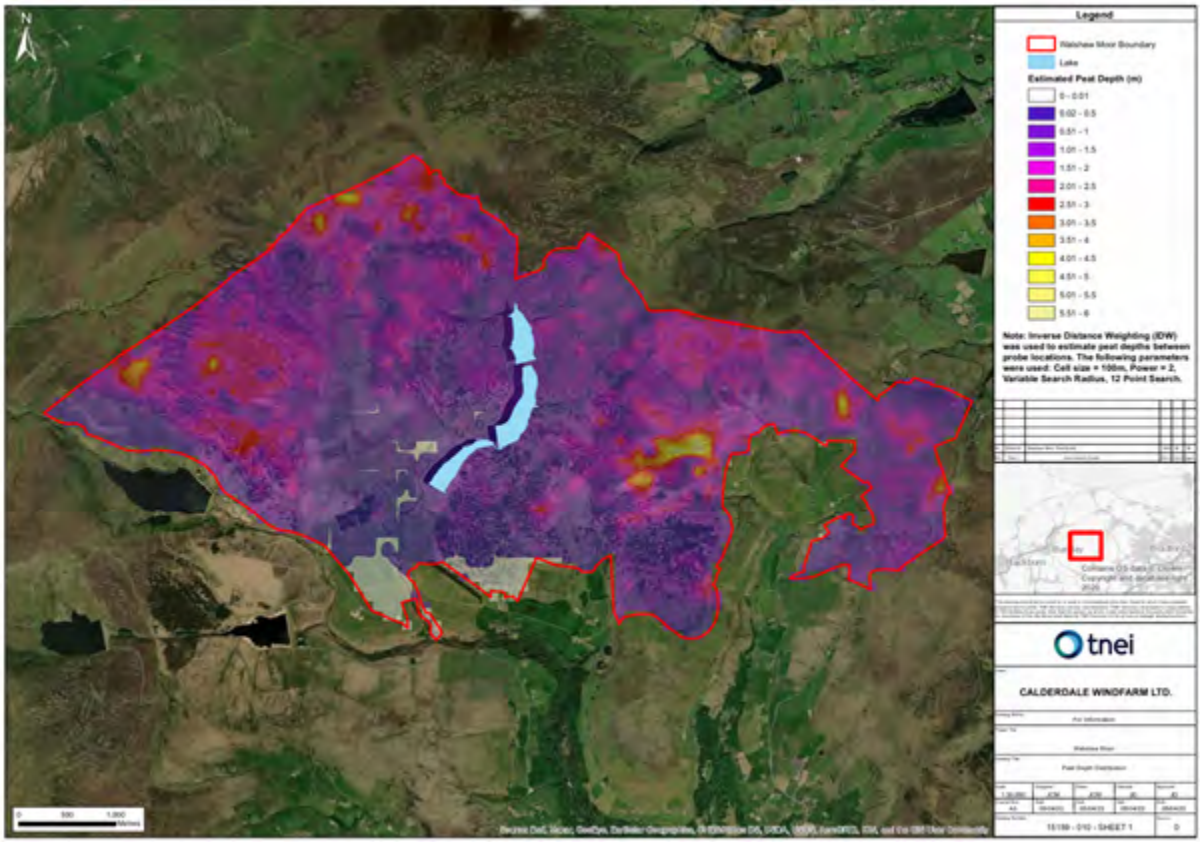
We therefore reserve full comment on Peat and Hydrology pending the withdrawal of all layout maps both in the Consultation Brochure and throughout the Scoping Report since they were designed on the basis of inadequate information about peat and hydrology.

Consultees could not know the intended status of the layout. None of the layout maps presented in the Consultation Brochure were described as "indicative" and the word "indicative" does not appear anywhere in the brochure. The repeatedly published layout was designed on the basis of two models: one of Peat Depth and one of Hydrology.

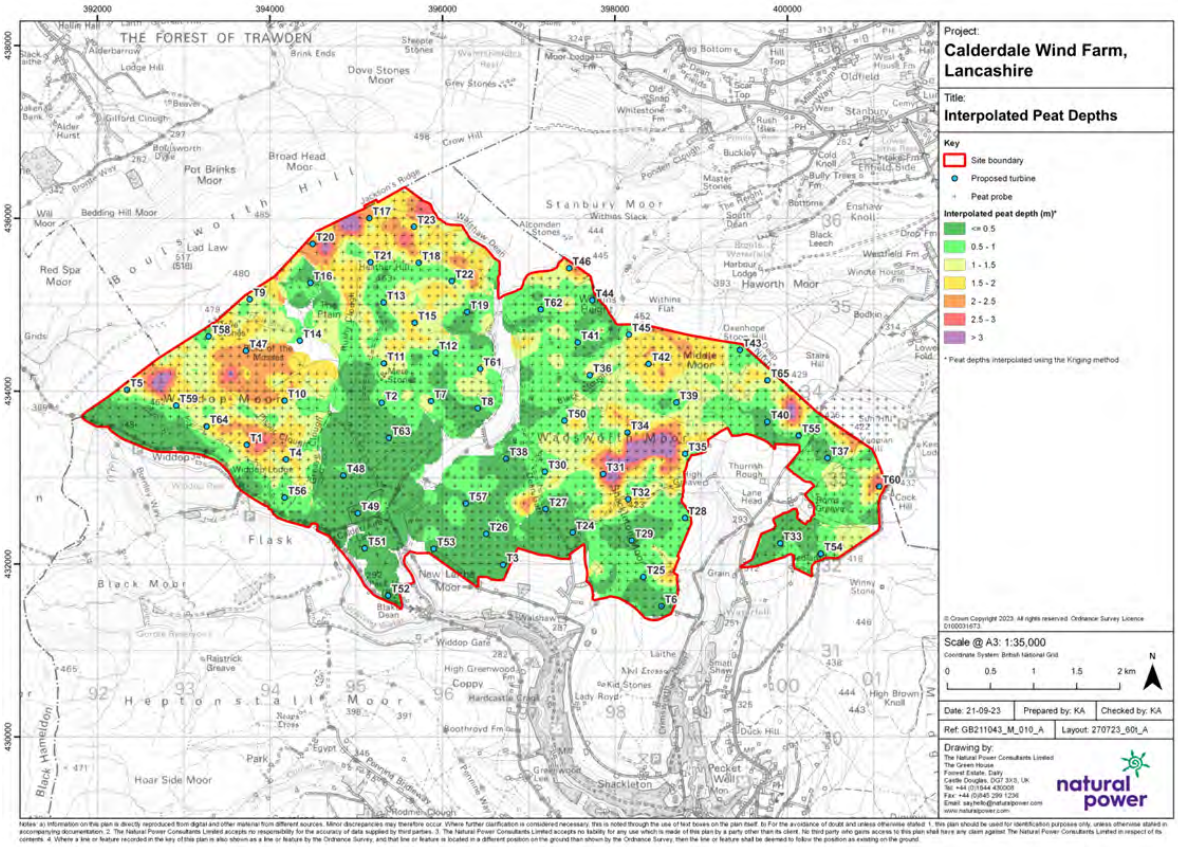
Our analysis will focus on what the SR calls "western Turbine Area" which is the triangular area west of Greave Clough.

Peat Depth Models

The published CWF Ltd. Peat Model currently consists of a Kriging-interpolated map of peat depths surveyed within the turbine area. The survey was made by TNEI in February 2022. The data set has not been published, but three maps of the data set have been published by CWF Ltd. and these are shown below as Peat Model 1, Peat Model 2 and Peat Model 3. The probing grid used by TNEI is preserved in Peat Model 2 and was based on a 100-metre interval.

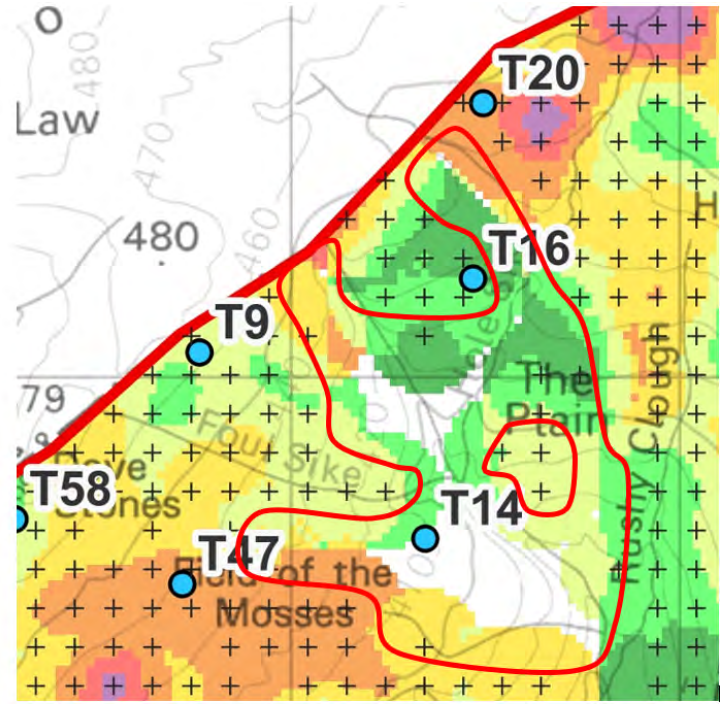


Peat Model 1 uses an inferior interpolation algorithm (inverse square distance weighting). A large area west of Greave Clough (usually called "the western turbine area" in the SR) might seem to have been adequately surveyed, but the algorithm has covered up the problem by using depth data far from the survey failure to be used to colour the map.



Peat model 2: Published September 2023 in the CWF Scoping Report

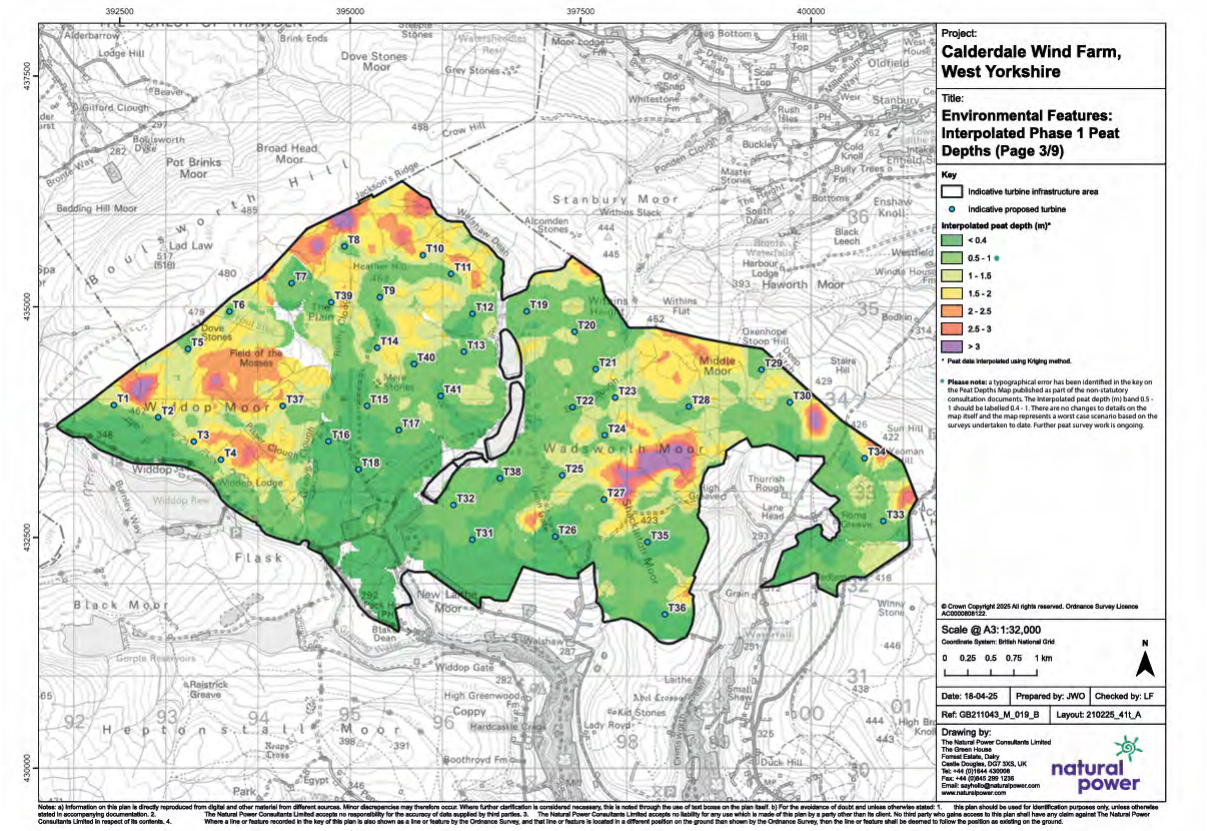
Peat Model 2 uses the superior Kriging algorithm to interpolate the depths found in the survey. It also shows the probing grid. Notice that probe points are shown outside the NE turbine area which correspond to the mapped hump in Peat Model 1. Natural Power should be strongly commended for publishing the probing crosses and for leaving some of the map blank where the probing carried out by TNEI had failed. Because of high standards pertaining at Natural Power, the Kriging algorithm did not colour the blank area west of Greave Clough (near T14) because the probing had failed there. The extent of the probing failure is clear from the absent crosses.



Area west of Greave Clough where the probing fails and the Kriging algorithm is out of its depth.

Inside the red line above the colouring of the peat depths is based on a wholly insufficient probing interval. The Kriging algorithm is guessing at depths based on distant probed depths. Once the distances are too great the algorithm does not attempt any colour and the map is left white. CWF Ltd were informed of the problem in this area by Robbie Moore M.P. in a letter from the House of Commons in October 2024. Far from remedying the problem, CWF Ltd. used the deficient Peat model to create a new 41-turbine iteration of the layout, published in the Consultation Brochure on 29 April 2025, and used throughout the Scoping Report. The area shown above may seem small as a percentage of the whole, but it is large as a percentage of the area west of Greave Clough and it is this area that we are discussing because of its relevance to catastrophic flooding.

Despite the high standards at Natural Power, the definition of "deep peat" in England is > 40 cm while in Scotland it is > 50 cm. Natural Power used the wrong definition to create Peat Model 2 which therefore lacks the 40 cm contour that defines "deep peat". This fault was remedied in Peat Model 3, which recalculated the colours without using any new data.



Peat model 3: Published for the Launch of CEP Non-statutory Consultation 29 April 2025 and corrected twice on 1 May 2025. Peat model 3 uses the same data as model 2 to colour the present depth of "deep peat" in England correctly. The model now has a 40 cm contour around the dark green area.

At publication on 29 April 2025, Peat Model 3 had two glaring errors. A turbine T42 was sited where T38 is now to be found; and the key had an error in that the scale read < 0.4 and 0.5 -1 with a gap for depths between 0.4 and 0.5. The T42/T38 error was corrected at 10.30 on 1 May 2025 after it had been pointed out by a member of the public at 09:06 on the same day. The scale error was corrected by the insertion of the note now present below the key. This note could not be inserted in the glossy version of the Consultation Brochure, so a sticker was inserted carrying the same information. The blank area west of Greave Clough remains in Peat Model 3. No further survey work had been done to remedy the survey problem that had now persisted from February 2022 until at least 29 April 2025. Survey work was then impossible until 1 August 2025 because of the ground nesting bird season.

The design iteration that led to the layout published at the Non-statutory consultation and used throughout the Scoping Report for CEP was therefore made using an incomplete peat model. That design originally had 42 turbines, with T38 lying between T37 and T39 and T42 where T38

now lies. This fact (evident from the turbine numbering) was confirmed by CWF lead consultant Donald Mackay at the Trawden Exhibition of CEP on 29 May 2025. When asked about the anomalous position of T38 in the layout he said, "T38 was originally on the blank area of the peat survey, so we moved it." The deficiency in the Peat Model was therefore obvious at the design meeting.
A fossil of the 42-turbine layout persists in the Scoping Report, because the Shadow Flicker map **18-1** still has T42 and no T38. The cause will be clear to any expert user of windPRO software. A second fossil is the stated power of CEP. It was intended to be 42 times 7.2 MW which is 302 MW. In fact it is 41 times 7.2 MW which is 295 MW.

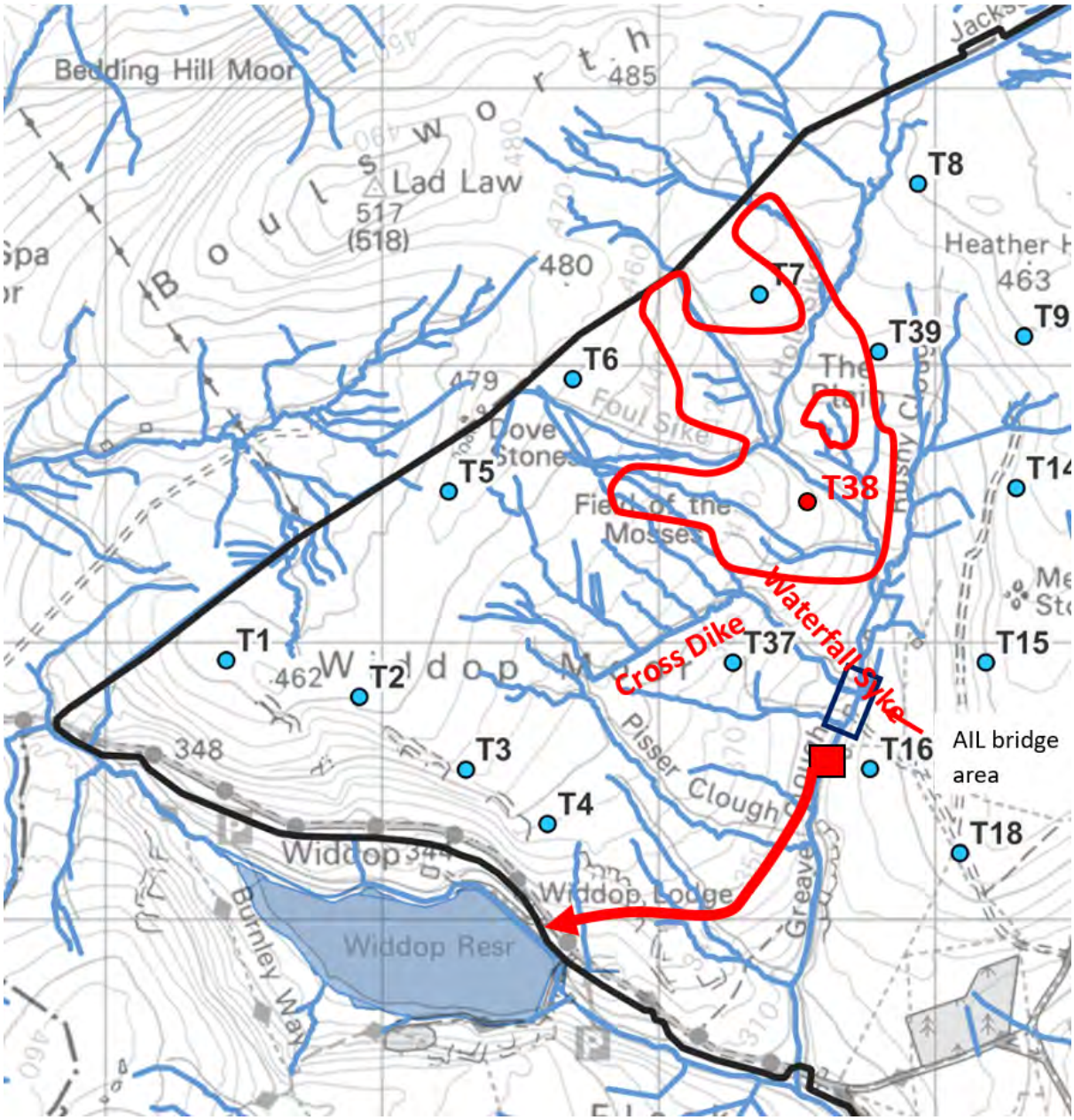
Hydrology
The CWF Ltd peat model used to design the layout repeatedly mapped in the Scoping Report is therefore at its most deficient in the only named area that **4.3.11** acknowledges is at risk of surface water flooding. "A large area at risk of surface water flooding, on the western side of the Turbine Area, is the Waterfall Syke and Cross Dike." No other area is named in the Scoping Report.
It is this western side of the Turbine Area (west of Greave Clough) where the worsty hydrology and peat errors in the models used to design the 42/41-turbine layout are concentrated.

A very serious omission is made in the hydrology models **Figures 8-1, 8-2, 8-3** and in the hydrology map presented at the Non-statutory Consultation. Most of the runoff in the Greave Clough catchment is intercepted by a sluice and sent by a tunnel to Widdop Reservoir as shown below. This sluice and tunnel is not represented at all on any hydrology map published by CWF Ltd.

Greave Clough sluice and tunnel in calm conditions.

In a storm the sluice and tunnel can be overwhelmed and the water goes over the sluice dam down a spillway designed for the purpose, direct to Hebden Bridge via Graining Water. The hydrology maps used to design the 42/41-turbine layout therefore do not correspond to peak flow.

We can summarise all these deficiencies on a detail of the hydrology map published for the non-statutory consultation. The hydrology maps published in Scoping Report are very weak and do not permit analysis of hydrology and layout.



The deficiencies of the Peat and Hydrology models west of Greave Clough.

The red outline shows the extent of probing failure in the peat depth model. Cross Dike and Waterfall Syke are at the centre of the surface water flooding risk described in 4.3.11. The original position of T38 is shown. The sluice in Greave Clough and the tunnel carrying normal flow to Widdop Reservoir are shown in red. Greave Clough cannot be bridged for AIL delivery except in the box shown west of T16 where there is currently a footbridge. Walshaw Moor Estate quadbike tracks climb the 11% slope west of this footbridge.

Access to T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7 and T37 therefore requires transit of terrain whose hydrology and peat were inadequately understood at the

design meeting. Coding on maps published by CWF Ltd suggest this design meeting was at the end of February 2025. It is much too early to publish any kind of layout west of Greave Clough, and the Scoping Report need not do so anyway. All layouts should be withdrawn from the Scoping Report.

The Scoping Report is part of the document sequence that forms the legal foundation of the proposal. It is not in the interests of Consultees, the investors in CWF Ltd. or the Secretary of State representing the British people that the Scoping Report should remain unrevised.
The following maps imply that the dangerous layout has a status that is not justified by the information available to CWF Ltd when it was designed.

The following maps in the Scoping Report give status to a layout that should now be explicitly withdrawn until proper work has been done in the area.
10-1 National Character Areas
10-2 Landscape Designations
10-3 Registered Parks and Gardens
10-4 Green belt
10-5 Visual Receptors
10-6 Blade Tip ZoV
10-7 Hub height ZoTV
13-1 Noise Sensitive Receptors
18-1 Study Area Shadow Flicker.
The following maps published for the Non-statutory Consultation display the layout designed on the basis of the inadequate information.
Proposed Turbine Layout [p 14]
International and National Designations [p 18]
Peat Depth and Hydrology [p 19]
Public Access and Cultural Heritage [p 20]

(Author: NIPM 22/09/25)

10: Landscape and visual

This response has been prepared behalf of Stronger Together to Stop Calderdale Windfarm by Penny Bennett who is a Chartered Landscape Architect with 44 years of experience.

Literature cited

The following reports need to be documented / referred to:

Visual Representation of Development Proposals TGN 06/19 (Landscape Institute) although under review it is the most comprehensive guidance for technical visualisations used in LVIA

Planning for onshore wind, Research Briefing for House of Commons Felicia Rankl Oct 2023

Study area

10.3.2 states that the assessment of cable connection would concentrate on a 1km buffer either side of the proposed route. There may well be points at which the cable corridor would have an impact on mature trees, groups of trees or woodland. Where this is the case, professional judgement should be used to extend the visual envelope appropriately.

Relevant Baseline Conditions: landscape character

10.3.4 states that the relevant landscape character areas will be verified on site and refined where appropriate. It is also good practice to review the landscape character information being used.

10.3.6 the author refers to weathered 'tors'. These are features of granite landscapes such as Dartmoor; gritstone features are termed outcrops. The inaccurate description continues further down this paragraph when it states that 'Landcover is predominantly open moorland, largely rough grassland…' This is incorrect. The moorland is **not** largely rough grassland and the National Character Area (NCA) 36 goes to some lengths to reinforce the importance and extent of the blanket bog areas which is usefully summarised in the table below:

7.2 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority habitats

The NCA includes the following areas of mapped priority habitats (as mapped by the national UK BAP habitat inventory March 2011 (unless stated)) Footnotes denote local/expert interpretation.

Habitat	Area (ha)	% of NCA
Blanket Bog	28,702	24%
Broadleaved Woodland (National Inventory of Woodland & Trees)	3,142	3%
Upland Heathland	1,419	1%
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	721	1%
Lowland Meadows	773	1%
Purple Moor-grass & Rush Pastures	613	1%
Floodplain Grazing Marsh	99	<1%
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	15	<1%
Upland Calcareous Grassland[1]	88	<1%
Upland Hay Meadows[2]	15	<1%
Fens	348	<1%
Lowland Heath[3]	18	<1%
Lowland Raised Bog	18	<1%

Source: Natural England (2011)

To say that the mosaic of upland landscapes is of ecological value is an underestimate, given much of the upland plateau in the South Pennines has international and national wildlife designations. This is reinforced in the summary of the first page of NCA 36 which states that "The area contains internationally important mosaics of moorland habitats"

10.3.8 cites wind farms in the vicinity. Those on Todmorden Moor should be included in the list.

Relevant Baseline Conditions: Landscape Designations

Table 10.1 does not include the Nidderdale National Landscape, and this should be added.

Viewpoint Assessment

10 3.25 notes that no viewpoints have been selected in relation to the site access search areas or cable corridor search areas. While it is understood that the identification of specific visual receptors is not appropriate at this stage, the SR should confirm that the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) has been used to help to inform route selection, particularly where there is a chance that areas of mature trees and woodland may be affected by cable and access routes, and loss of such trees and woodland due to cable works would have a visual impact.

Table 10.2 Proposed viewpoint locations

It is unclear at what stage viewpoints will be finalised. **Table 10.2** includes a number of new viewpoints which were omitted from the 2023 SR and in **10.3.23** and **10.3.24** the parameters for viewpoint selection are set out. It is stated that stakeholder feedback will be taken account of, but it is uncertain how this will happen. **Table 10.4** summarises comment from stakeholders from the 2023 SR and a number of important viewpoints are highlighted as missing in 2023, which are still omitted two years later for example:

Sheepstones Edge
The Yorkshire Three Peaks
Haworth, the Parsonage
Blackstone Edge
Leeds Liverpool Canal between Blackburn and Barrowford

The comments in **table 10.4** say that the viewpoint selection has been refined and altered in response to the previous SR, although we note the landscape and visual SR was written when turbine heights of between 149m and 200m high were being considered. Now the turbine heights are confirmed at 200m high the selection of viewpoints will cover a comparatively larger area. It is stated that viewpoints will be reviewed as the design process evolves, but at what point can stakeholders discuss this with the applicant?

Given the vast area over which this development will be visible, we would like to see viewpoints also from:

Lund Tower, above Cowling
Simon's Seat on the Bolton Estate in the Dales
Pinhaw Beacon above Lothersdale
Within the Peak District.

Environmental Measures

10.4.1 states 'Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur.' The NCA gives very clear guidance in the statements of environmental opportunity on the opportunities to restore and improve ecological links between moorland habitats, restoring degraded areas of blanket bog to active sphagnum dominated bog to promote peat formation, and heath communities where matt grass has become dominant.

This needs to be so much more than a 'consideration' but rather a complete ethos which thoroughly understands the critical importance of the landscape which is to be altered and embraces every opportunity to restore and enhance the moorland environment.

10.4.2 - 10.4.4 describe the scope for landscape design to mitigate the potential landscape and visual effects.

Given the importance of the ecological features on the potential turbine area, will there be a hierarchy of mitigation between issues of landscape and visual importance and ecological importance, and will this be clearly set out and made transparent in the ES?

Construction

10.4.6 refers to the routing and siting of elements of the proposed development to avoid notable landscape features. How are these notable landscape features defined, and, for instance, do these correspond with important ecological features such as blanket bog?

The 'key potential mitigation measures' miss the point completely with regard to the restoration of the blanket bog. The objectives state that native grass/ moorland species to be planted to assist in blending the track into the surrounding moorland context. Given that grasslands make up a small percentage of the areas on Walshaw Moor the emphasis here is misguided. Meanwhile mention of woodland creation (when blanket bog is not even mentioned) is bordering on the irrelevant. The mitigation process needs to consider what the objectives are in the restoration of the vegetation. It seems that the aim is to recreate the vegetation patterns that were here prior to development which in places is degraded habitat brought about by years of mismanagement, not to take the opportunity to restore an internationally important area of blanket bog, for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood control and protection of water quality.

There are the clear objectives set out in the NCA which provides clear and concise guidance that should be followed. The oLEMP would also need to fully understand the objectives of the Catchment Management Plan, and the requirements of any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

The statement that careful consideration will be made of any planting proposals to complement the landscape character is worrying and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the ecological value of the landscape of the proposed turbine area. Restoration must take full account of the restoration of the peatland vegetation and hydrology and understand the challenges of restoring irreplaceable and irreparable peatland habitats.

It is hugely concerning that the restoration of this precious landscape is being entrusted to those that appear to have no grasp of its importance.

Scope of the assessment

Table 10.4 reviews comments made by consultees. A recurring comment refers to need for cumulative assessment but there is no detail given as to what cumulative effects should be considered. These should include cumulative sequential effects along key public rights of way, including the Pennine Way in both directions, considering the effects from the furthest point north and south from where the proposal would be seen.
This will reinforce the massive scale of the visual impact on this path. Other important routes where cumulative sequential effects should be considered include:

The Pennine Bridleway
Brontë Way
Leeds Liverpool Canal
Calderdale Way
Burnley Way
Pendle Way
Calder Aire Link
E2 European Long-Distance Path
Scenic road routes: Widdop Road
A6033 from Hebden Bridge to Oxenhope

A further point made by UCWN when commenting on the 2023 SR was that the sense of openness should be considered. This is not quite the same as the sense of openness considered in a planning context which is related to the green belt, but the sense of being able to experience wide open spaces unimpaired by built development.

Effects scoped out from the Detailed Assessment

Table 10.5 states that no townscape assessments will be carried out in the urban parts of the study area. We consider that there will be sufficient impact on the urban areas to merit townscape studies which should be considered for Haworth, Heptonstall, Trawden, Pecket Well, Stanbury and Oxenhope as skylines and backdrops to these developments will be affected by this proposal.

The effects arising from the decommissioning phase should be considered as there are likely to be long term changes resulting from the reinstatement of vegetation over hard standings as outlined in chapter 7. This is because the impervious concrete hard standings and foundations remaining in the ground will result in a permanent change to the hydrology and patterns of vegetation that will be impossible to change.

Likely significant effects scoped into the Detailed Assessment

10.5.4 does not consider the BESS. In contrast to the largely clean lines of the wind turbines, the BESS will be a smaller scale but piecemeal development with security fencing and associated small buildings and the landscape and visual effects of this need to be fully assessed.

Table 10.6 states that the design of the Proposed Development should be considered in relation to the landform of local context, but there is a regional context here: Walshaw Moor is the highest ground in the South Pennines and the impact of this development on this landform will be felt across the region.

Similarly, the study area of 15km underestimates the extent of the potential impact of this development across the wider region.

Consultation

10.6.5 doesn't include perceptual qualities as one of the categories that will be assessed in the LVIA. **5.3.7** of GLVIA states that the importance of perceptions of landscape is emphasised in the European Landscape Convention: for instance, the perceptions of wildness and tranquillity and how this would be affected should be considered.

Physical effects on Landscape Elements

10.6.6 states that physical effects of the development are restricted to within the footprint of the development. We consider that these effects would extend beyond the footprint of the Turbine Area. As the blanket bog is hydrologically linked it is likely that the effects will extend to other parts of the peatland mosaic even if they are outside the proposed site.

Effects on views

10.6.8 we consider that there will also be perceptual effects caused by the introduction of lighting to turbines, such as the loss of dark skies.

Cumulative effects

Sequential cumulative effects which are described in **Table 7.1** of GLVIA are not mentioned as part of the scoping. This has already been mentioned in respect of views from footpaths etc (**10-4**).

Significance of Effects – nature of effects

10.6.28 suggests that the landscape and visual effects of windfarms are difficult to categorise as beneficial or adverse. We disagree: this is not necessarily the case and it is important that this is understood in the LVIA. For instance, if wildness is an accepted feature of the landscape character of the South Pennines NCA and, by introducing new development into that landscape, the character of wildness will be LOST, this is clearly a negative effect, because it is a clear attribute and characteristic of the landscape character which no longer exists. We consider that it is hard to claim that there is an element of subjectivity here. We note that the LVIA will adopt a precautionary approach here which we believe to be essential.

Decommissioning

As noted earlier, since it will not be possible to reverse the effects of much of the proposed installation there will be permanent changes to the hydrology of the moor which in turn will have an impact on the vegetation.

Assumptions Limitations and Uncertainties

LVIA should be iterative documents which respond to changes as they happen, so it is expected that there will be changes to the LVIA as the design evolves.

(Author: PB 21/9/25)

11: Cultural heritage

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

4.3.21

1] The diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted.
2] The landscape is known as 'Brontë country', not 'Bronte countryside (sic)'. Nor should the landscape be described solely as 'literary' for the reasons stated in our response to 10.3.06 below.
3] Top Withens is known simply as that, not 'Top Withens Farmhouse'.
4] Top Withens is believed to be the inspiration for the **location** of Wuthering Heights.

4.3.28

1] The diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted.
2] The 'Bronte Way (sic)' may have a closest point to the turbine area but does not have a 'closet point'.

10.3.06

The landscape is not purely 'literary'. It should be described as 'cultural'. It has connections not only with the Brontë sisters but also with Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many more.

10.3.21

The location of Wuthering Heights is Top Withens, not 'Top Witherns'.

10.3.22

Visualisations should include kinetic photomontages and should include imaging from both Penistone Hill looking west towards the proposed site, trig point TP7008 Withins Height looking west towards the proposed site and Heptonstall looking east towards the proposed site. Visualisations should also include night-time photomontages.

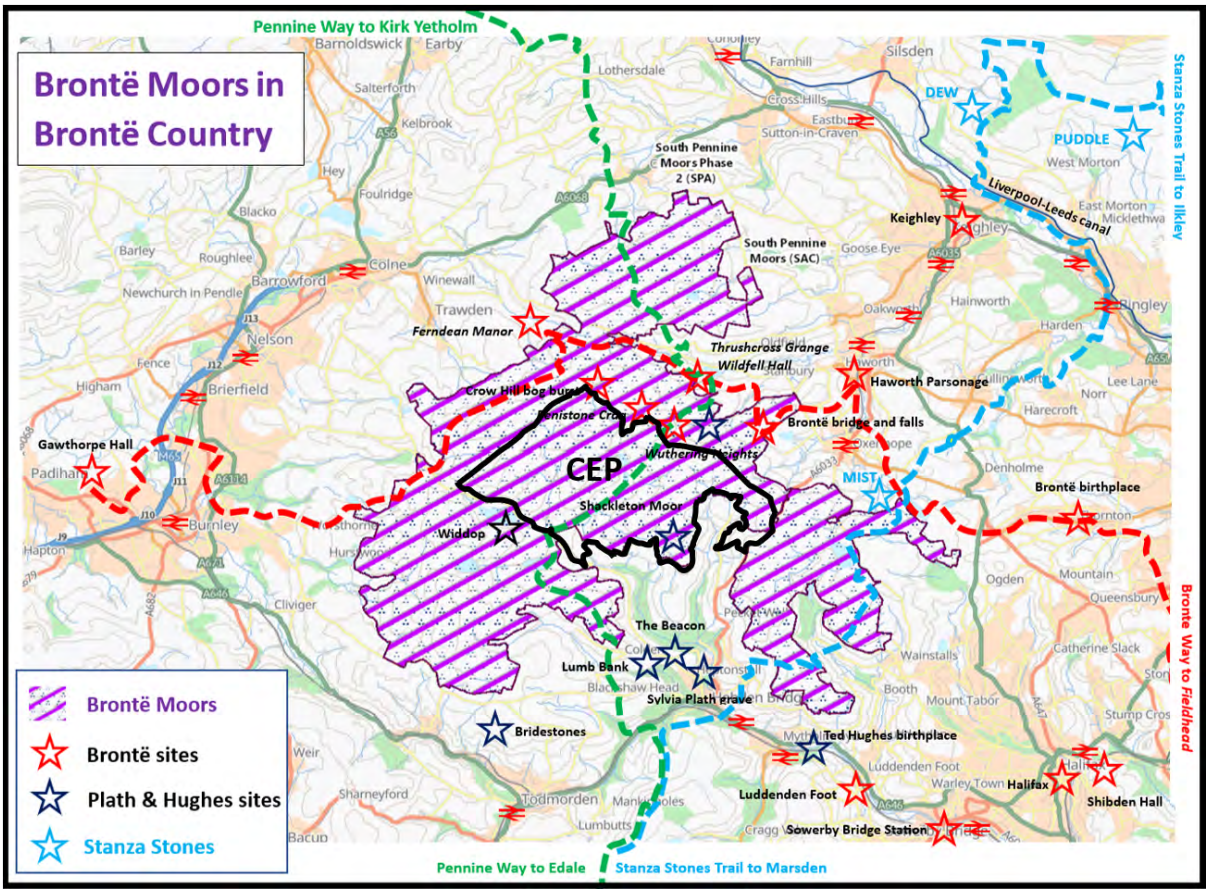
Table 10-2

1] Viewpoint 3: the diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted. Top Withens has connections not only with Emily Brontë but also those people referred to in 10.3.06 above and others.
2] Viewpoint 8: the diaresis in 'Brontë' is omitted in both the viewpoint location and the visual receptor type/rationale for selection in assessment.
3] Viewpoint 26: Crow Nest Bingley. Surely the location is meant to be Crow Nest Park in Lightcliffe, Halifax, the site of the mansion Crow Nest House which belonged to Ann Walker, the partner of 'Gentleman Jack', Anne Lister? This should be clarified.
4] Viewpoints from Great Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent should be included.
5] Viewpoints from the 'Brontë Stones Walk' should be included.

11.3.9

'The Proposed Development and the area surrounding the settlement at Haworth' is not an adequate description of the extent and cultural importance of the landscape. As the map below indicates, the culturally significant area of this moorland extends from Padiham in the east to Ilkley in the north-west to Fieldhead in the east and Marsden in the south, and

encompasses the work of Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Simon Armitage, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many others as well as the Brontës.



The area 'Brontë Moors' shaded in purple is also the South Pennines Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

Table 11-6

1] pp. 392-394: the diaresis in Brontë is omitted.
2] p. 392: The Brontë Society should be one of the 'external stakeholders'.
3] the general scope of the analysis of the impact of the proposed development on the cultural landscape should be extended to encompass the work of Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Simon Armitage, Fay Godwin, Bill Brandt, LS Lowry, Kate Bush and many others working across all media, as well as the Brontës. This analysis should also take into account the ongoing impact of the cultural landscape for future generations of artists of all practices.
4] p. 395: the assumption that 'decommissioning will remove all above ground elements of the Proposed Development (with the exception of

tracks and hardstanding) and thus return the landscape to its previous state (as it is now) or enhanced landscape state, therefore removing any ongoing effects on heritage assets through a change in setting. Therefore, there will be no likely significant effects on the significance of any heritage assets from the decommissioning process, so this has been scoped out of any further assessment' is incorrect. The remaining tracks and hardstanding will irrevocably alter the iconic and currently virtually untouched moorland landscape. This effect of the decommissioning process should be included in further assessment.

11.6.27 and 11.6.28

The diaresis in Brontë is omitted.

11.6.29

We reiterate the point that decommissioning will NOT return the landscape to its previous point or enhanced landscape state. The remaining tracks and hardstanding will irrevocably alter the iconic and currently virtually untouched moorland landscape. This effect of the decommissioning process should be included in further assessment.

(Author: LM 10/09/25)

12: Access, Traffic and Transport

(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

Omissions and errors in Chapter 12 are significant and systemic, so full comment is reserved, pending an accurate revision of the Scoping Report (SR) and an extended deadline to allow detailed attention to a more accurate document. Several prima facie A.I. hallucinations (plausible sounding random falsehoods) in the SR Chapter 12 are noted.

Policy on matters noted in these comments

These comments address important matters that are either absent from scoping, lack articulation because of weak integration across chapters, or are systemically erroneous.

Unexplained suppression of Option A

An Option A access route for AIL via Halifax was published in the non-statutory consultation on 10 June 2025 [Consultation Brochure (CB) p 23]. The suppression of Option A in SR is noted, and comment is reserved.

Prima facie A.I. hallucinations in the SR

The use of A.I. to produce the SR need not have been a problem, but uncritical use of A.I. is indicative of a failure of supervision by qualified human intelligence. Because providing information and analysis is not the purpose of the SR stated in **1.4.2**, it is surprising to find any prima facie A.I. hallucinations in the SR.
The EIA developed on the foundation of the SR will consist mainly of information and analysis and will be intensely vulnerable to A.I. hallucination if this is not nipped in the bud in the SR. Logika and CWF Ltd should supply a full account of A.I hallucination in the SR.

Weak cartography at critical points

Weak cartography at critical points is noted. Consultees should not have to provide adequate maps.

Failure to proofread by management of Logika and CWF Ltd.

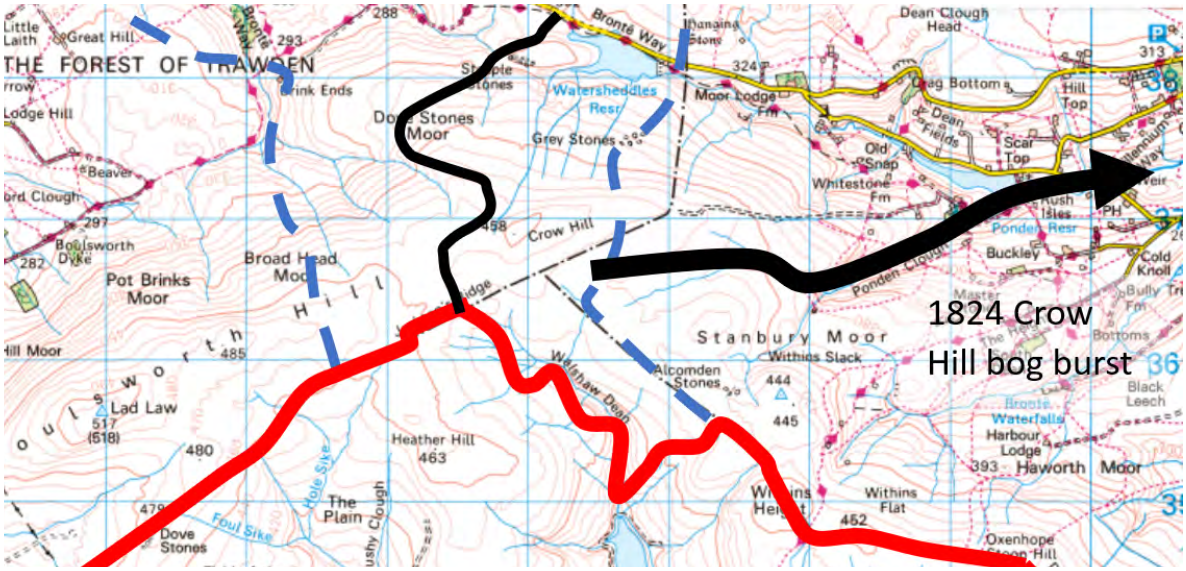
Readers should not have been embarrassed by extensive and systemic errors in a public document concerning a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. Subsequent revisions should be signed off as proofread by named Logika senior management and accepted as proofread by the Project Director of CWF Ltd.

Comment themes

A) The risk of a peat slide on the new Crow Hill access track.
B) Implications for traffic of the West Yorkshire aggregates problem.
C) Systemic errors in SR 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7
D) Rights of way and the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

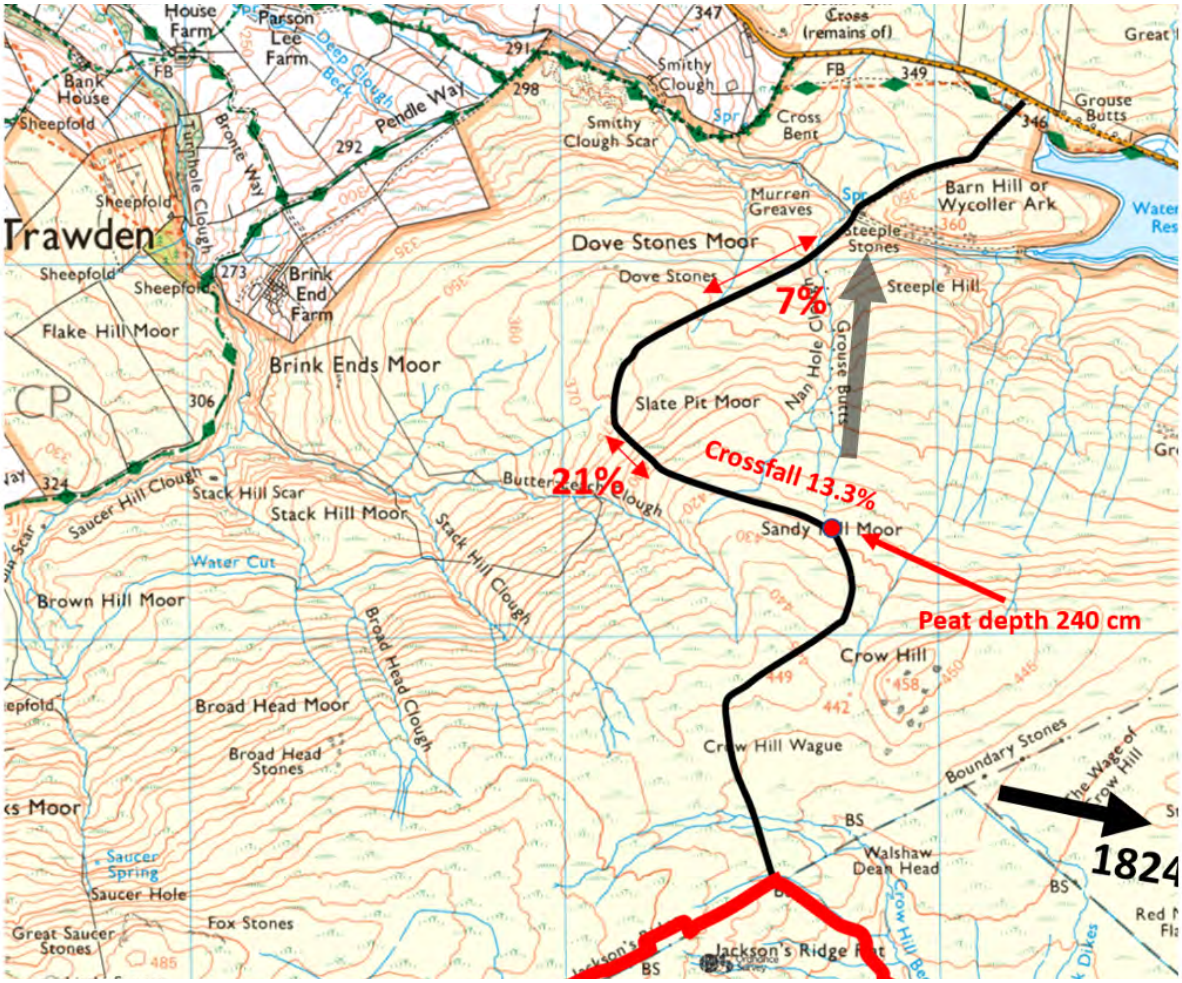
A) The risk of a peat slide on the new Crow Hill access track.

12.3.2 states that access to the turbine area for AIL will be by a new track. **4-2** has a map of the relevant Site Access Search Area and the brochure [CB p 24] for the non-statutory consultation gives a map of the Considered Access Route over Crow Hill. Neither map is adequate, so two maps are given in these comments. The route (black curve) over Crow Hill is shown on our Map 12A with the turbine area boundary (red), the search area borders (blue dashes) and the peat slide (thick black arrow) (**8.3.26**) known as the 1824 Crow Hill bog burst.



Map 12A Detail of the Site Access Search Area over Crow Hill showing path of 1824 Crow Hill bog burst. Map: WTRG after SR **4-2**]

Map 12B is on a larger scale and shows the Considered Access Route over Crow Hill.



Map 12B Considered Access Route over Crow Hill showing potential peat slide on Crow Hill access track and the 1824 bog burst on Crow Hill. Map: WTRG after CB p 24. Data: WTRG.

12.2 **12.3.2** states that all abnormal indivisible loads (AIL: the turbine components) will be delivered up the section of Crow Hill between the blue dashed lines in **Map 12 A**. **12.5.2** confirms that AIL will come via Crow Hill. The Crow Hill terrain is existential for the proposal because all turbine components come as AIL over Crow Hill.

The SR account of Crow Hill terrain is deficient

12.3 The SR has little to say about the soil mechanics of Crow Hill over which the turbine components must come. The remarks about Crow Hill are confined to **8.3.26** and **8.3.29,** both quoted in full:

8.3.26 *'To the north and outside of the Turbine Area, there are two recorded peat landslides, one of which is known as the Crow Hill bog burst*

(Ross, 2020), described by the Rev. Patrick Brontë. LiDAR data indicates no equivalent features within the proposed turbine area."

Note the tendency of this statement to minimise the significance of the Crow Hill bog burst for the proposal. Although the 1824 Crow Hill catastrophe indeed started slightly outside of the Turbine Area, all the turbine components will be delivered across Crow Hill. Ross 2020, though excellent, is primarily a post-doctoral literary resource and together with the instancing of the Rev. Patrick Brontë, who was not a soil engineer, but the father of three of the most famous women in the history of the world, **8.3.26** tends to suggest that the 1824 bog burst was a remote, academic, or even gothic event.

12.4 " ***8.3.29*** *A large proportion of the Cable Corridor Search Areas and eastern Site Access Search Areas have no superficial deposits and where present, lie within peat deposits. The western Site Access Search Area is underlain by superficial deposits of Glacial Till where present."*

This is prima facie A.I. hallucination on soil mechanics. The incoherence of **8.3.29** shows that no detailed consideration has been given to the Crow Hill soil mechanics, and essential matters to be scoped into the Access baseline, and dealt with at once, are therefore laid out here in detail.

Crow Hill peat slides

12.5 The Site Access Search Area over Crow Hill is adjacent to, and for 20 ha includes, the locus of the 1824 Crow Hill bog burst, the catastrophic peat slide of **8.3.26**. The reference (Ross 2020) states that the river of peat and boulders was over 2-metres deep at Ponden Hall, some 3 km from the burst. The explosion of the bog was heard in Leeds, and the river Aire above Leeds was so polluted by its tributary the Worth that the reservoir water pumps were stopped. A peat stain could be seen as far as the Humber.

12.6 The "considered access route" (CB p 24) traverses the top of the Nan Hole Clough drainage funnel (see Map 12 B). The traverse has a crossfall of 13.3% and a preliminary peat survey by WTRG has found peat of depth 240 cm on the traverse. The slope is convex.

12.7 The 1824 bog burst was not triggered by immediate human activity and began at a similar altitude to the Nan Hole Clough traverse. The considered access route crosses similar terrain as the 1824 slide, but the

ground will also have been disturbed by the construction of the track; will have been loaded by hundreds of tonnes of aggregate that form the track; and will carry the heavy AIL. There is a prima facie case that the track may cause a peat slide, that the probability during construction is at least Scale 3 (SR ref 133 5.5), and that the worst impacts of that peat slide would be catastrophic, involving multiple loss of life and the stranding of the project.

12.8 It is indicative of the danger of the Crow Hill terrain that in an otherwise overcrowded proposal, the layout advanced in CB, and mapped inconsistently in the SR, avoids putting turbines on Jackson's Ridge of Crow Hill, even though the wakes would stream NE in the prevailing wind and not reduce the aerodynamic efficiency of the array, as so many of the indicated turbines will do.

12.9 A second Crow Hill peat slide occurred on 19 May 1989. Dykes and Warburton (Mass movements in peat (2006)) give a photograph of the remnants of the 1989 slide taken in 2005. The extent was 3.6 ha, and 46000 m^3. The peat was originally 2-3 metres deep and 0.3-0.5 metres of depth remains. The terrain is not steep and corresponds to the ground crossed by the Crow Hill access road at 440 metres just before the last bend. A prolonged drought had affected England from November 1988, punctuated by short-lived but often abrupt phases of wet weather. On 19 May 1989, a record 2-hour point rainfall of 193 mm was recorded at Walshaw Dean Lodge in the middle of the turbine area. This is the record daily rainfall for May, and the most intense 2-hour rainfall recorded in Britain. It is known as the "Halifax Storm". The 1989 Crow Hill peat slide and 1824 Crow Hill catastrophe had in common intense rain following a drought. Droughts in the Walshaw catchment include 2023 when emergency pipes were laid by helicopter from Walshaw Dean to Ponden reservoirs, and the ongoing drought of Spring and Summer 2025.

Survey and analysis required

12.10 **8.2.2** references "Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Scottish Government, 2017) (SR footnote 133)" which should set the baseline method for peat landslide risk assessment on Crow Hill.

12.11 Equation 8 of SR footnote 133 states that the safety factor *F* can be modelled by the equation

$$F = \frac{c' + (\gamma - m\gamma_w) z \cos^2 \beta \tan \phi'}{\gamma z \sin \beta \cos \beta}$$

Given the existential nature of the peat slide risk for the whole proposal, slope convexity, the triggering factors of very heavy deliveries, the weight of aggregate used to build the track, a predicted pattern of long dry spells and intense rain, and the proximity of the catastrophic peat slide of 1824, values of *c*′ (effective cohesion) and *z* (peat depth) must be established by onsite peat coring and probing at a variety of saturations *m*. Note the known high *z*-value already found (peat depth 240 cm at the turn) and the high *β*-value = tan $^{-1}$(0.133) calculated on the published track. Other peat depths already obtained are reserved.

12.12 Values of *c*′ from peat coring should be presented in tabular form at a range of values of *m* including full saturation, correlated with values of *z* at the same locations and the resultant value of *F*. Peat cohesion is strongly dependent on fibrosity and saturation. Fibrosity is likely to vary over short scales, so a 10-metre probing-and-coring grid is minimum. Given the existential nature of the area, a finer grid may be indicated.

Site and access choice cause survey difficulties

12.12 Given the present drought, it is possible that *c*′ at values of *m* near (and at) saturation might not have been measured by 28 February 2026. A dispensation from Natural England to perform peat coring and peat depth probing during the ground nesting bird season of 1 March - 31 July 2026 should be sought to allow ongoing measurement of cohesiveness in a variety of saturation regimes.

12.13 Dykes and Kirk [p 391] explain why the Yorkshire drought of summer 1824 might be a proximate cause of the September 2 Crow Hill catastrophe. The same explanation applies to the 1989 Crow Hill peat slide. Dykes and Kirk explain that in a drought, dry peat masses with "lower water contents and lower liquid limits" undergo "a decrease in particle size" which triggers "the close packing of the organic particles and the consequently smaller pores and higher bulk density." Consequently, it "would take a smaller increase in water content to bring about significantly higher water pressures or even a change of state."

12.14 The present difficulty of obtaining cohesiveness values at high saturations is a consequence of weather instability that itself contributes to

the baseline risk of peat slides on Crow Hill, and are further consequent of the site choice and access choices made by CWF Ltd.

12.15 Because of the existential nature of the Crow Hill access, statutory consultees and the Secretary of State must have high confidence in the survey for peat depth *z* and effective cohesiveness *c'* and in the reliability of the subsequent analysis. The work should be independently conducted and peer reviewed and published in good time before the beginning of Statutory Consultation, which may have to be delayed.

Maximum parameter values should be justified

Justification of the maximum gradient of any access track over Crow Hill relative to safe practices in AIL delivery, likely delivery method, track engineering and default manufacturer limits, should be given. The present value on the presented track in CB p 24 is 21% (our **Map 12 B**).

12.17 Justification of the maximum crossfall of any access track made over Crow Hill should be given. The present value presented in CB p 24 is 13.3% (our **Map 12 B**)

Mitigation of peat slide risk on Crow Hill

12.18 On current evidence, the Crow Hill peat landslide probability under baseline worst-case scenario is "Likely: scale 3" or "Probable: scale 4" (SR ref 133 table 5.1)
The impacts (multiple deaths and stranding of the project) are "Extremely high: Scale 5" (SR ref 133, table 5.2)
The indicative risk baseline is then medium or high (SR ref 133 table 5.3) and the reference states:

"*Where the risk level for a zone is medium or high, avoidance or specification of mitigation measures would normally be the only means by which project infrastructure could be considered acceptable within that zone at the proposed development site*."

12.19 Specific measures to mitigate peat slide on Crow Hill must be stated in the baseline Access assessment and follow SR ref 133 table 5.66 . Mitigation measures should not be generic. Given a peat slide on Crow Hill, the trigger with the highest Bayesian likelihood would be an AIL convoy, and the only reliable mitigation may be avoidance of the area by AIL. If the

proposal continues to depend on Crow Hill access, a justification would be required. The baseline would give a foundation for ongoing monitoring during construction and operation if it has been shown to be reasonably safe to proceed.

12.20 A regime of ongoing monitoring of the Crow Hill terrain during operation should be scoped into baseline, since access over Crow Hill may be required by the emergency services in the event of a wildfire, turbine fire or BESS lithium fire, and a peat slide would form part of the Fire Service risk assessment. Robust data might then be available for the decommissioning phase, when frequent heavy traffic may again be using the Crow Hill access.

Requirement for an early report on Crow Hill

12.21 Given that access via Crow Hill is existential for the proposal, statutory consultees should not be required to maintain concern for the proposal as a whole under very short deadlines (42 days for the non-statutory consultation and just 29 days for the SR) until independent research is completed and the report on access via Crow Hill is published. Detailed research and analysis of the Crow Hill access should be published before the beginning of the Statutory Consultation since it is existential for the proposal. The consultation is anticipated to begin in "Winter 2025" and must be delayed if no conclusion on peat slide risk on Crow Hill has been reached. If consultees are to engage with confidence in Statutory Consultation, they must be convinced ab initio that there is safe access to the site before they are required to expend further public money, charitable funds and expert management time responding to the proposal. Consultees should not have to wait until the whole-site geomorphological map of **8.6.4** is complete, especially since that map will not necessarily include the off-site access across Crow Hill and might be too general and small scale.

Ecological status of Crow Hill

12.22 The Crow Hill section of the search area is part of the South Pennines Phase 2 SAC and SPA, should be part of the baseline assessment of the impact on designated land, and should be accorded a separate assessment as it is outside the Turbine Area boundary. A preliminary walkover found excellent active bog west of Nan Hole Clough. The area is part of the 7.1% already regarded by DEFRA as counting towards England's 30 by 30 target under the Kunming-Montreal GBF. Present policy on

SAC/SPA designated land and the K-M GBF is summarised in the joint Policy paper issued by DESNZ and DEFRA on 14 July 2025: Unlocking benefits for people, nature and climate: Actions to jointly address climate change and biodiversity loss in England. This paper should be referenced in future revisions of the SR, and its contents should inform all revised chapters.

SR is over-confident about Crow Hill

12.23 **19-1** states: "Given the nature and type of development, it is considered that the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in any type of major accident/disaster."

This is prima facie an over-confident assessment of Crow Hill.

B) Implications of the West Yorkshire Aggregate Problem for Access and Transport

12.24 It has been known for at least 70 years that if West Yorkshire sandstones are crushed to aggregate, they are too weak, porous and susceptible to frost for roadstone or technical concrete. This is called the West Yorkshire Aggregate Problem (WYAP).

12.25 The problem and its extent are confirmed in the fourteen separate annual aggregate assessments (2012-2025) of the five West Yorkshire councils. The assessments have not been found in the materials used for the desk study by Logika. A typical statement of the problem from the assessments is:
A1.2.2 "The sandstones are too weak and porous for the manufacture of concrete or for road building and are commonly used in low specification situations and for bulk fill."

12.26 The relation of the WYAP to Calderdale Wind Farm and Calderdale Energy Park has been a commonplace at least since April 2024. The matter was formally raised by Robbie Moore M.P. in a letter to CWF Ltd. from the House of Commons in October 2024. No indication of the WYAP appears in the SR.

12.27 The only public acknowledgement by CWF Ltd. or Logika of the WYAP, and only as it relates to the onsite rock, was made by CWF Ltd consultant Donald Mackay on the CEP Webinar (21 May 2025, 43:40-

45:27) in response to a question put by a member of the public during the Non-statutory Consultation. Donald Mackay's answer includes the statement that "The naturally occurring materials on the site are not the best quality for construction."

Borrow pits supply the equivalent of local quarry waste

12.28 5.8 "Borrow pits" should state the agreed deficiency of onsite rock for technical aggregates in the Chapter 5 baseline, and the West Yorkshire annual aggregate assessments should be explicit in the baseline assessment for Access and Transport in Chapter 12. The same point should be stated in **8.6.1. 9 (bullet point 8)**. Given the WYAP, the aggregates that can be won from onsite borrow pits are only suitable for bulk fill. This low-grade material is widely available in West Yorkshire as a waste product from the quarrying and cutting of building stone, a point repeatedly confirmed by the annual aggregate assessments.

Walshaw Moor is an internationally designated SAC and SPA and already part of England's attempt to reach the 30 by 30 requirement of the Kunming-Montreal GBF, so it is most unlikely that on-site borrow pits to extract what is available nearby as quarry waste will be consented. Once the force of this rationale has been understood, borrow pits should be scoped out of SR because there should not be any.

Limestone and ferrous sulphate are toxic to sphagnum

12.29 **4.3.16** describes the Natural England Walshaw Catchment Restoration Plan (2017-2042) a programme of interdependent habitat management and infrastructure management techniques agreed between Natural England and the Walshaw Moor Estate, designed to protect, restore and improve important blanket bog habitat. The plan states (8.1.6) "Aggregate used on tracks will be inert materials". The blanket bog is very acid; limestone aggregate is highly alkaline; and the reaction between bog and limestone releases bicarbonate which is toxic for sphagnum moss.

12.30 All concrete is strongly alkaline, so concrete turbine foundations must be protected from the acid environment. Since it will not initially interact with the bog environment, limestone immobilised as concrete aggregate may be thought acceptable on protected peatlands. **5.2.2** specifies a large rebar and concrete gravity foundation for each turbine and **5.1.16** states that the foundations will remain in situ after

decommissioning. The concrete/bog barrier will eventually rupture. The long-term poisoning of internationally designated blanket bog as concrete and rebar deteriorate to produce mobile toxic carbonate and ferrous sulphate, the moss killer sold in all garden centres, should be scoped in, and may be impossible to mitigate in a Special Area of Conservation without the careful removal of the foundations at decommissioning.

Integration of aggregate aspects across chapters

Aggregates are existential to the proposal and should be integrated in the SR and fully referenced in the Access baseline. An explicit worst-case scenario should be stated:
"Bulk fill will be local quarry waste imported from off-site; concrete aggregates and inert roadstone will be imported from out of West Yorkshire; if granite is specified for roadstone it will be imported from out of Yorkshire, or out of England if Glen Sanda on Loch Linnhe is chosen; the need to import all aggregates to CEP will cause unusual traffic intensity compared to the majority of large wind farms that are built from internal resources once the first borrow pit is reached."
Given its size, internationally designated blanket bog, distance from the sea and unfavourable geology, CEP as described in the SR may need the most extensive bulk material movements by distance and weight of any wind farm in the UK.

C) Systemic errors in SR 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7

12.32 The following list is restricted to errors indicating a systemic failure of drafting and supervision by Logika and the client CWF Ltd. A full list of errors is reserved. Some of the errors could not have been made by a qualified human. The simplest explanation of the extent and non-human nature of the errors is that they are A.I. hallucinations that were missed by the senior management of Logika and CWF Ltd when they proofread the chapter.

12.4.2

a] Bullet point 2. "A6068 between the M56 and Colne".
The A6068 does not join the M56. For "M56" read M65.

b] Bullet point 6. "A6063 between Hebden Bridge and Cross Roads."
For "A6063" read A6033.

c] Bullet point 7. "A464 between Todmorden and Mytholmroyd."
For "A464" read A646. This error is particularly indicative of A.I. hallucination, because any human qualified to write or check a chapter on Access and Transport would know that the "A464" must be in the M4 corridor from London to South Wales.

12.4.5

d] Bullet point 2. "A6068 between the M56 and Cowling; Count sites 28783 (Colne)"
For "M56" read Colne. Here "M56" cannot be read as "M65" because the M65 count is in the previous bullet point.

12.4.8

e] "Onsite PRoW present on the A6063".
For "A6063" read A6033 or A6068 or both.

12.4.11

f] "The A6068 is operated by Lancashire County Council and is mainly a two lane distributor road. It connects the M56 to West Yorkshire and passes through the town of Colne."
For "M56" read M65. For "West Yorkshire" read North Yorkshire.

12.4.16

g] "The A464 provides an east-west connection between Lancashire and West Yorkshire, connecting Burnley to Halifax."
For "A464" read A646. For "east-west" read "west-east" because Lancashire is west of West Yorkshire and Halifax is east of Burnley. This error is prima facie caused by A.I. hallucination, with the A.I. confused by the "West" in "West Yorkshire". No human qualified to write the chapter could make this error. It would have been picked up had human senior management at Logika or CWF Ltd proofread SR with care. Note that the A646 is not shaded in the Map 4-2 access corridors.

12.6.6
h] Bullet point 6: "Users of the A6063 between Hebden Bridge and Cross Roads."

For "A6063" read A6033.
i] Bullet point 9: "Residents living alongside the A6068 between the M56 and Cowling".
For "M56" read M65.
j] Bullet point 10: "Residents living alongside the A644 between Todmorden and Mytholmroyd."
For "A644" read A646.

12.7.1
k] Bullet point 6: For "A6063", read A6033.
l] Bullet point 7: For "A6063", read A6033.
m] Bullet point 8: For "A6063", read A6033.
n] Both **12.4.13** and **12.4.14** are incoherent. Other corrections are possible, but both items should probably read:
"It is unlikely that the peak of construction will have a significant impact on the A56, **but** an impact assessment will be undertaken, given that it may be used for the import of bulk materials to the site."
o] **12.4.17** states that the A629 may be used for bulk materials with significant impacts. The A629 does not connect with the site. The final distributor road after the A629 will be the A6033, but **12.3.3** states that "Currently, temporary access to the east will be taken for general construction traffic and construction staff from the A6033" with no mention of the significant impacts of bulk materials. The bulk materials on the A629 in **12.4.17** evaporate before they move onto the A6033 in **12.3.3**.

D) Public rights of way and the Pennine Way national trail

12.33 **12.4.16** states that PRoW users within the site will be considered as highly sensitive receptors. Since the site is almost all open moorland under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, a protocol for those exercising their rights under the CRoW Act should be scoped in, and such users should also be considered as highly sensitive receptors. The protocol should cover construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

12.34 The CRoW Act is an achievement of our democracy, governing the relation of ordinary English (and later Welsh, but not Scottish) people, and their guests, with the oligarchic and feudal landownership pattern of moorland. The access baseline should scope in the closing words of Lord Whitty, which are indicative of parliament's intention in the matter of this relation.

"In the spirit of compromise and balance, which I have advocated throughout the Bill, we have not taken away the land from the landowners, who have recognised their responsibilities. Tonight, we have, to some extent at least, given the land to the people."

12.35 Since the CRoW Act, a network of light-footed desire paths has become established on Walshaw Moor, often on previously suppressed rights of way. These should be mapped and scoped into the impact assessment on Access. The guidebook "West Yorkshire Moors" by Christopher Goddard will be of great use and should be part of the baseline Access assessment references. Goddard's 2nd edition maps a substantial aggregate track around Thurrish Rough, and a vehicular bridge over Mare Greave Clough, neither of which are present on the maps published by CWF Ltd. at the non-statutory consultation [CB p14 et al]. In all subsequent documents, CWF Ltd. must use maps which show all relevant features appropriate to scale and topic. Weak and incorrect cartography has been a systemic management problem for CWF Ltd. and has worsened as the project becomes more articulated. A full account has been lodged separately with the Planning Inspectorate.

12.36 Most of the SR array maps (they are inconsistent) and the array map published in the Consultation Brochure [p 14] when combined with the SR **note 291** on rotor diameter, indicate that the blades of T21 would oversail the Pennine Way, a National Trail, by 24 metres. The same maps show that T18 is sited directly on the junction of two PRoW. Buffer sizes around the Pennine Way and PRoW should be scoped into the Access baseline and in the case of the Pennine Way should be justified relative to its national and cultural status as an institution of our democracy.

12.37 Table 16-4 p 498 states that "Currently, construction works may temporarily disrupt use of public rights of way (PRoW) during construction […] Any potential physical impacts will be assessed in the Transport and Access chapter with mitigation measures secured to minimise disruption (see Chapter 12: Access Traffic and Transport)" . No indication of such assessment appears in Chapter 12. Several similar statements in **Table 16-4** are meant to be assessed in Chapter 12, but no indications of such assessments are present in Chapter 12. Integration across the chapter silos in the SR here, and elsewhere, has been neglected, and should be rectified in subsequent revisions. The EIA will not be an integrated assessment of the impacts of the proposal if the SR is allowed to remain so disjointed. The complexity of integration in the SR, and the EIA for which it is the

foundation, are consequent on the size of the proposal and the choice of controversial land on which to build it, and the complexities must be accepted by the applicant.

12.38 **16.4.5** refers to "Proposed permissive paths". Walshaw Moor is open access moorland under the CRoW Act (2000). The relationship between these "permissive paths" and the status of Walshaw Moor as open access moorland the CRoW Act should be made explicit in the Access baseline.

The systemic error rate in Chapter 12 is much too high in a planning document for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

12.39 Despite only being given 29 days for the task, careful human readers have found far too many serious systemic errors permeating the SR, some of which have been identified in these comments on Chapter 12. The error rate should be explained by Logika and CWF Ltd. and they should provide an accurate revision of the SR so that it forms a firmer legal foundation in the document sequence. Calderdale Energy Park is a controversial proposal because it is built on doubly internationally designated land, counting towards the 30 by 30 target being pursued jointly by DESNZ and Defra; and is "within the Brontë Country" – the CWF Ltd. description of the situation of CEP on the internationally revered landscape which has provided inspiration for some of the most famous novels ever written.
Given the choice by CWF Ltd of such controversial land, it is not in the interests of CWF Ltd, their investors, and the Secretary of State representing the British people, that the legal foundation of the document sequence for Calderdale Energy Park should be an unrevised SR that is riddled with errors and prima facie A.I. hallucination.

12.40 The deadline for comments on the SR should be extended, and the deadline for comment on any subsequent more accurate versions should be much longer than the 29 days provided for the SR, since consultees must take great care in reading when there is already a history of serious systemic error and omission, and prima facie A.I. hallucination.

12.41 The errors in Chapter 12 seem unusually egregious in a document relating to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project submitted to the Secretary of State. Lest this form a precedent, a justification for this

deviation from the normal courtesies of precision should be given by Logika and CWF Ltd, relative to their peculiar difficulties.

12.42 Several instances of a failure to integrate the SR across chapter silos have been noted. A full account of integration failures cannot be expected from consultees in just 29 days, especially when there are so many, and such serious, errors and lacunae within single chapter silos. Integration of an SR (and subsequent EIA) across disciplines is always complex for applicants, but particularly so if the proposal is large and on such controversial land.

12.43 Integration of the disciplines is the task of the CEP Project Directorate, which should have an overview of all chapters, and the agency to achieve some integration on key points at least. Far from attempting this complex task, the Project Directorate have not even checked the SR for glaring methodological errors in single chapter silos.

12.44 Generative A.I. has only recently become widely available, so there is little precedent for what is an acceptable rate of A.I. hallucination in such a document as this SR. As A.I. use by planning consultants can only increase, it may be helpful to all applicants for the Secretary of State to issue guidance on the nature and extent of A.I hallucination (and related A.I. slop) that might be condoned in an applicant document relating to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

(Author: NIPM 16/09/25)

13: Noise and Vibration

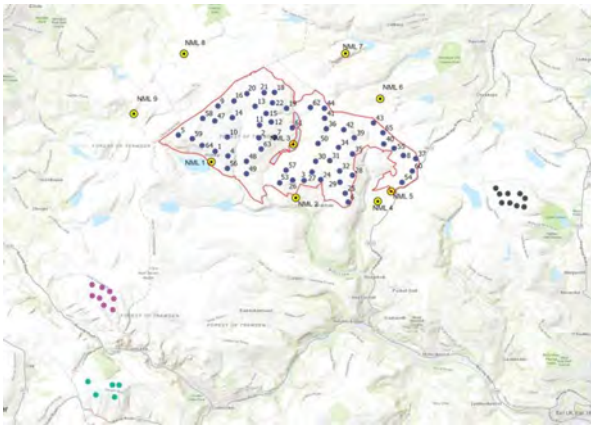
(Walshaw Turbines Research Group)

The omissions and errors in Chapter 13 are significant and systemic, and full comments are reserved pending a corrected SR with a realistic deadline for more detailed attention.

13.1 Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration was found to be unchecked with serious errors, to embed a fundamental modelling error, and to use cut-and-paste material from previous studies that would not apply to the layout being modelled. This very serious matter is dealt with in our 13.11 below.

The disclaimer in **13.6.18** does not excuse the conduct of Chapter 13. Either the SR should have waited for a correctly spaced layout, or noise modelling should not have been reported in the SR.

13.2 Figure 13-1 (Drawn by 'ST,' checked by 'MT' dated 19/08/2025) (below left) shows the result of modelling noise. It uses the layout for CEP presented at the Non-statutory Consultation on 29 April 2025 in the corrected version of 1 May 2025. Its last revision is 05, made on 29/08/2025.



13-2 (Drawn by 'ST', checked by 'MT' dated 09/07/2025) (above right) concerns the noise impact of cumulative wind turbines in the area. Its last revision 02 was made on 29/08/2025. For reasons that should be explained by Logika and CWF Ltd, but which would be immediately apparent to experienced users of windPRO, it uses the former 65-turbine layout for CWF described by CWF Lead Consultant Donald Mackay (Trawden public exhibition 29 May 2025) as "worse than useless".

Two completely different layouts, one of them "worse than useless", have been used on adjacent maps revised on the same day.

13.3 The General Notes printed on **13-1** and **13-2** state:
"This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all engineer's, architect's or other relevant drawings and specifications."

The authors of Chapter 13 have themselves not read **13-1** in conjunction with **13-2**. It is indicative of management weakness at Logika that the senior consultant for Noise did not do so either, nor did the CWF Ltd. Project Directorate notice these adjacent conflicting drawings when they checked the document before it was submitted to the Secretary of State.

13.4 The productions of ST and MT in SR must all be checked, corrected and published in a revised SR. An analysis of the work of ST appears below in our 13.20-13.25 below.

13.5 The modelling assumptions used in **13-1** are set out in **13.3.5**:

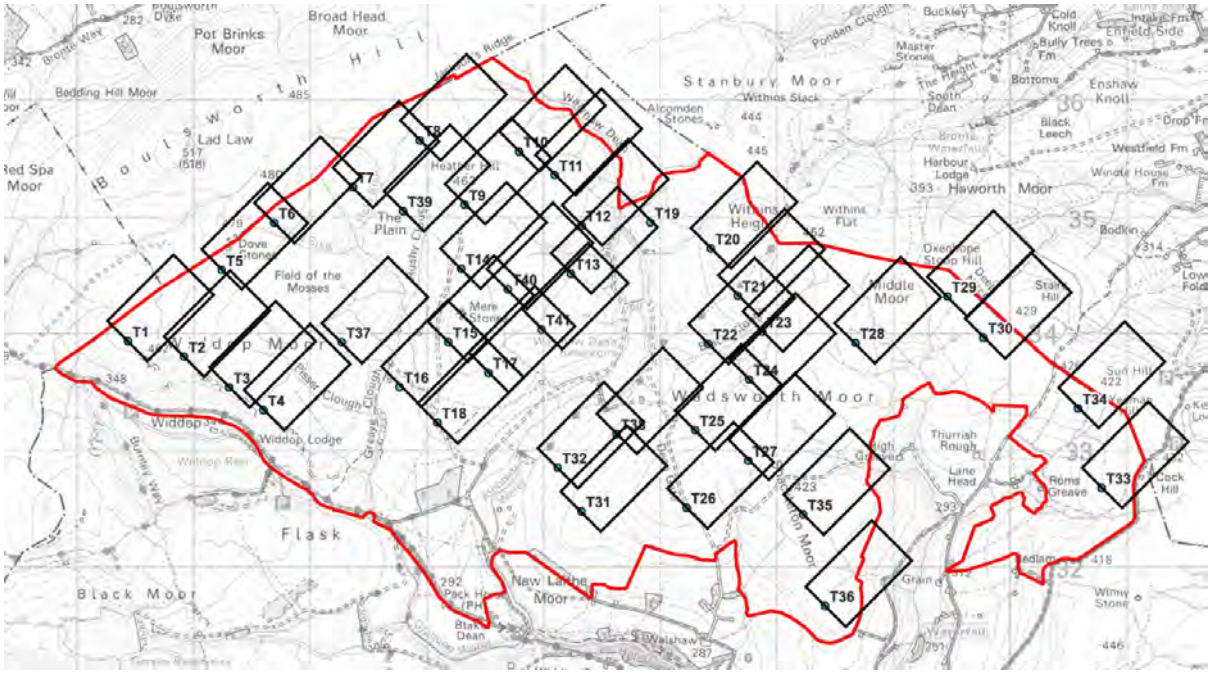
*"**13.3.5** In order to determine noise sensitive receptors for which it was suitable to undertake background noise monitoring for the wind turbine operational noise assessment preliminary desktop noise modelling was undertaken using EMD windPRO software290. An initial indicative wind turbine layout based on the layout presented at the non-statutory consultation was input into the software and, using noise data for a candidate turbine representative of the type that could be installed on the site[291], a noise contour plot was produced (shown on **Figure 13-1**)."*

Note 291 reads:

"Candidate turbine used for predictions is the Vestas V162 7.2MW with a 119 m hub and 200 m tip."

13.6 Overcrowded wind farms can generate penetrating noise and damaging vibration through resonance and by the amplitude modulation effect known as acoustic beats. This is mitigated by proper turbine spacing and is not found to a problem on existing properly spaced wind farms. The minimum spacing used in practice in all consented UK wind farms is 3 RD (across the prevailing wind) by 5 RD (downwind). The 5 RD downwind spacing is to allow the slow-moving turbulent wake behind a turbine to dissipate somewhat before the next downwind turbine. The 3 RD crosswind spacing is to prevent turbulence thrown off sideways by a turbine from affecting its neighbour in the row.

13.7 When the layout described in **13.3.5** is combined with the turbine type described in **note 291** (rotor diameter (RD) 162 metres) the result is gross overcrowding, particularly on Heather Hill and around Black Clough. One or other of the modelling assumptions in **13.3.5** must have been incorrect because the outcome of both assumptions used together is a grossly overcrowded wind farm. The figure below shows the minimum 3 RD by 5 RD footprints using the assumptions of the noise model in **13.3.5**. In correctly spaced wind farms, there is almost no overlap between the footprints.

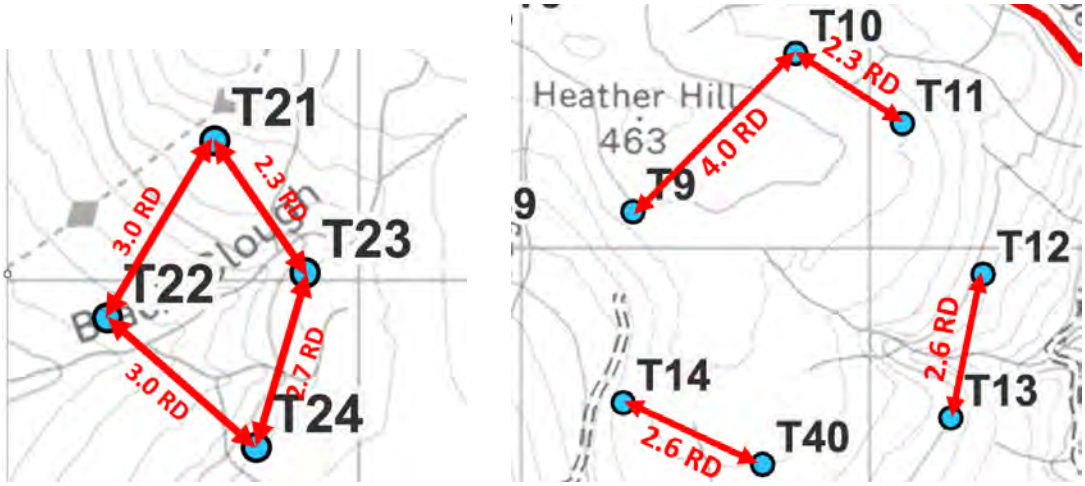


Map 13.7 When both assumptions of **13.3.5** are used, an unviable over-crowded wind farm results. Note the extreme overcrowding on Heather Hill (around T40) and especially in Black Clough (the cluster T21-T24).

13.8 For comparison, the 3 RD by 5 RD spacings of the three real wind farms (Todmorden Moor, Coal Clough and Ovenden Moor) in the study area of **13-2** are shown below.

Maps 13.8 a,b,c. The real wind farms shown in **13-2** are well spaced on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints.

13.9 The simplistic windPRO modelling used in **13-1** cannot identify potential resonance tonal noise and amplitude modulation noise caused by the tight-packed turbines, especially those in Black Clough and on Heather Hill,



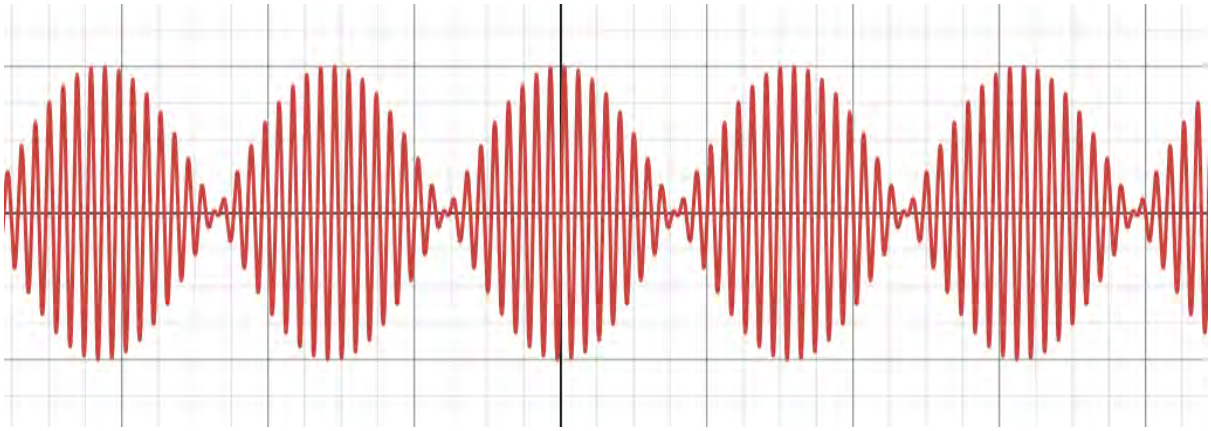
Map 13.9 Gross overcrowding in Black Clough and on Heather Hill.

13.10 The modelling method of **13-1** is simplistic and finds noise intensity by the inverse-square-distance weighted average noise intensities of the array turbines. Some noise due to a grossly overcrowded array will usually be tonal noise in narrow frequency bands at resonant harmonics; or amplitude modulation noise caused by acoustic beats, the interference pattern of two sound sources of similar frequency in proximity. Neither of these array-determined features can be captured by the averaging method of **13-1**.

Amplitude modulation (AM)

13.11 The paragraphs **13.5.2-13.5.20** constitute a cut-and-paste argument for scoping out AM noise. The argument is unsound because it adduces studies made on correctly spaced actual wind farms, but the layout mapped and modelled here is grossly overcrowded. **13.5.20** concludes: 'At present, it seems evident that reliable predictions of AM in the context of development planning and noise assessment guidance are unlikely to be practically feasible in the near future.'

This conclusion is wrong in the case of the overcrowded wind farm modelled in the SR, because there is an a priori mechanism for AM when the turbines are so close together, the familiar acoustic beats used by piano tuners.
If two turbines are close together the frequency and amplitude of their noise can be almost the same. To illustrate the a priori mechanism of AM in CEP by acoustic beats, we show the result of adding two sine waves with similar frequencies and equal amplitude. One is at 16 Hz (four octaves below middle C) and the other at 18 Hz.



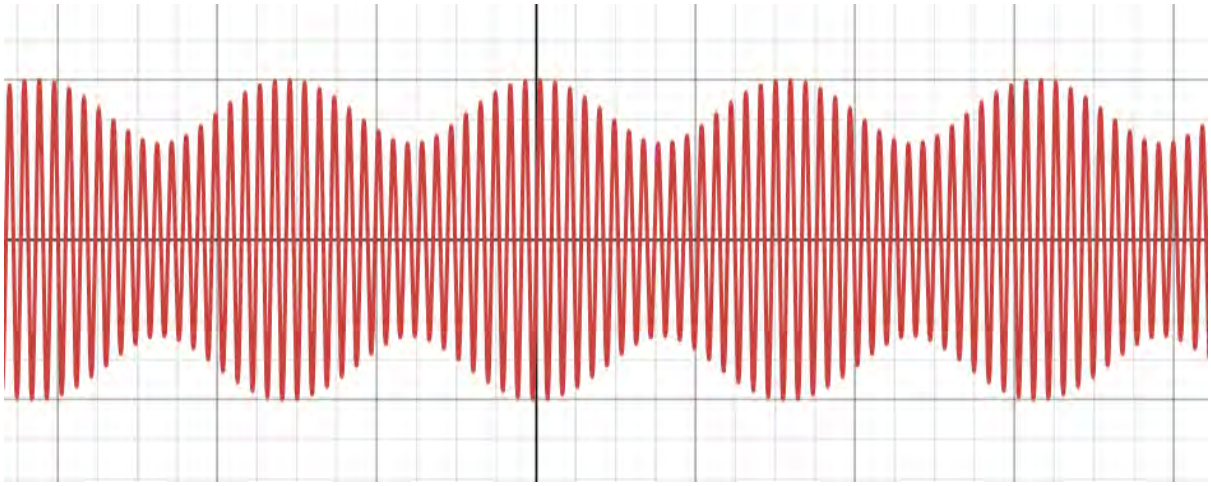
The resulting sound wave exhibits the amplitude modulation called acoustic beats. The envelope of the wave form can be calculated using a standard identity:

$$\sin A + \sin B \equiv 2 \sin\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{A-B}{2}\right)$$

.

The two waves with frequency 16 Hz and 18 Hz combine to give a wave form whose pitch will be 17 Hz but whose amplitude will modulate with a frequency of 1 Hz. The piano tuner knows the strings have the same pitch when no AM occurs when they are played together.

If the turbines are further apart, then the amplitudes of interfering waves will be more varied. In the diagram below we show sum of 16Hz and 18Hz wave forms but with different amplitudes. There will still be AM, but less extreme.



The grossly over-crowded wind farm modelled in Chapter 13, advanced at the non-statutory consultation, mapped throughout the SR except where other layouts are erroneously inserted, and used for modelling in SR Chapter 13, would make AM likely, a priori. AM must remain scoped in while the layout is overcrowded.

By international norms the layout is even more overcrowded

13.12 The upwind spacing in the 21-24 cluster is about half the traditional UK minimum of 5 RD. This minimum is itself well below the 6 RD-10 RD typical in countries with a higher regard for energy wastage, noise and vibration damage to turbines in onshore wind farms. Without ever being justified, wake losses through a skimped 5 RD spacing are now accepted in UK onshore wind farms, with the costs borne ultimately by electricity bill payers. It is not the intention of this comment to open a discussion of systemic wake losses in UK wind farms, but to highlight that 5 RD is already a bare minimum and the 2.6 RD upwind spacing in the 21-24 cluster in the model is thus far below the international norm.

13.13 Overcrowded wind farms have larger wake losses and generate less electricity from the expensive plant, with the wasted kinetic energy expressed as excess noise in turbulent air. The costs are borne by electricity bill-payers. Everyone pays for the noise.

13.14 Before further comments can be made on the noise modelling methods of 13.3.5, a correct revision of the SR should assess noise using modelling assumptions that do not result in a grossly overcrowded wind farm, and revised maps that all relate to the correct proposal. Critical thinking must always be used when deploying cut-and-paste research.

Vibration

13.15 The tone of **13.5.22** is polemical, as though the SR is picking a fight with itself. **13.5.22** does not mention that the principal victim of excessive operational vibration caused by resonance in an overcrowded wind farm is the wind farm itself. We all pay for resonance vibration in overcrowded wind farms.

As well as resonance tonal noise and AM noise, the impacts of the layout and turbine size modelled in **13.3.5** will include to some extent:

a) Higher vibration and bending stress on rotor blades
b) Uneven torque and dynamic forces in main shaft and bearings
c) Increased mechanical stress in the gearbox and generator

These impacts should be scoped into the Noise and Vibration baseline while the proposed layout remains grossly overcrowded. The mechanical costs of vibration in overcrowded wind farms are ultimately borne by electricity bill-payers.

Tendency to overcrowd by uprating

13.16 Developers and turbine manufacturers have strong incentives to overcrowd onshore wind farms. It should be nipped in the bud at Scoping, and consultees and regulators must pay attention to uprating consequences throughout the consent pathway, especially since UK onshore wind farms that use a 5 RD downwind spacing are already overcrowded by international norms.

13.17 Overcrowding is especially likely to occur when turbine uprating is implemented between proposals inside the same boundary, as it has been between Calderdale Wind Farm (4.8 MW turbines correctly spaced) and Calderdale Energy Park (7.2 MW turbines grossly overcrowded).

13.18 Overcrowding can inflate curtailment payments, about which Prime Minister Starmer has said "It's a problem that wasn't fixed over the last 14 years, but a problem that we are determined to fix as we go forward". As it happens, CWF Ltd. proposed a correctly spaced wind farm under the Conservatives and a grossly overcrowded one under Labour.

13.19 Some large wind farms built or consented on the Scottish islands (for which no Westminster government was responsible) form useful examples of overcrowding by uprating with which some CWF Ltd. consultants will be familiar. The uprating between CWF (65 4.8 MW turbines correctly spaced on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints) and CEP (41 7.2 MW turbines grossly overcrowded on 3 RD by 5 RD footprints) should be justified by Logika and CWF Ltd.

Maps drawn by 'ST'

13.20 Following the inconsistency found in **13-1** and **13-2**, the other drawings by 'ST' were tracked across the SR.

13.21 There is a very serious omission concerning storm runoff in Greave Clough in the hydrology maps **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** (drawn by 'ST' and checked by 'SM'). These omissions relate to **4.3.11** and the acknowledged

large area at risk of surface water flooding "on the western side of the turbine area, around Waterfall Syke and Cross Dike." The maps **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** omit the sluice and tunnel to Widdop Reservoir from Greave Clough. Normal outflow and storm outflow from the Greave Clough catchment are entirely different if the sluice and tunnel are overwhelmed. The correct normal outflow from Greave Clough is not as shown in the three maps.

13.22 Note that **8-1, 8-2 and 8-3** are all less useful than the single hydrology map published in the consultation brochure [CB p 19], which showed the indicative layout on the hydrology map and thus gave early warning of the flood danger potential, though the sluice and tunnel were also absent. CEP is dangerous for flooding because it is overcrowded. This has pushed infrastructure onto steep edges which will accelerate runoff. Consultees who want to remark in detail on the flood danger of CEP as laid out would have to refer to the Consultation Brochure for the Non-statutory Consultation because the maps in the SR, as well as being incomplete, are inadequate for that purpose.

13.23 **18-1** on Shadow Flicker (drawn by 'ST' and checked by 'MT') has a T42 but no T38. The same error on all seven maps published for the non-statutory consultation on 29 April 2025 was brought to the attention of the CWF Ltd Project Director on 1 May 2025 by a member of the public, who was thanked in writing. The error was then corrected on seven maps produced for non-statutory consultation, with a pop-up notification of the corrections to seven erroneous maps that has recently been taken down but is shown below.

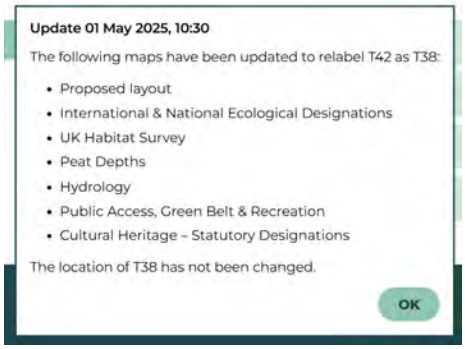


Fig 13.23 Pop-up notification of the T42 error. Image: CWF Ltd

The revision dates on **18-2** all long postdate the acknowledgment of the error by the Project Director, and why the error persists in **18-2** should be explained by the Project Director, but expert users of windPRO will know how a poorly trained user with no overall understanding of the proposal

and its document history might make this error. Logika should explain why the error was not caught by the more experienced chapter and volume editors, and CWF Ltd. should explain why it was not caught by the Project Director, who was acutely aware of the T42 problem following the events of 29 April-1 May 2025.

13.24 Across the SR, 'ST' drew, 'MT' checked, and clients were able to make comments on three maps (**13-1, 13-2, 18-2**) each having a final revision date of 29/08/2025 which used three different turbine layouts. It is not plausible that checker 'MT' could have missed these three variations if these maps were in fact checked on 29/08/2025 as stated, so they seem not to have been checked at any point.

13.25 Logika and CWF Ltd. should want to guarantee the correctness of all the maps in subsequent revisions of the SR submitted to the Secretary of State. Consultees and investors whose time and money has been wasted by this SR should be given an explanation for the authorship, drafting and checking failures, and clear lines of management and accountability at Logika should be published in subsequent revisions of the SR.

13.27 13.6.18 is a disclaimer. It states:

"An indicative layout and candidate turbine have been used to inform this Scoping Report, including predicted noise levels and the identification of noise sensitive receptors, and it is anticipated that these could differ from the candidate turbine and layout submitted with the DCO application."

CWF Ltd. and Logika should explain why Chapter 13 models a layout that should not be built. Comments on what CWF Ltd. hoped to gain from the incompetent chapter are reserved pending that explanation.

13.28 The noise analysis in Chapter 13 is neither competent nor scientific.

a) Two different layouts have been presented in adjacent drawings **13-1** and **13-2**. This is because the drafter 'ST' selected two layouts from the windPRO library, both with titles beginning "Calderdale" one of which was for Calderdale Energy Park and the other was for Calderdale Wind Farm. This is simple carelessness that should have been picked up by the chapter editor and by the senior management of Logika and CWF Ltd. during checking and proofreading.

b) Because Calderdale Energy Park is grossly overcrowded, including a cluster with a downwind spacing as low as 2.3 RD, the intensity averaging algorithm supplied by windPRO and used to draw the contours in **13-1** will not capture the resonance and AM noise phenomena.

c) The SR is oblivious to the overcrowding despite stating the model rotor diameter in the assumptions. The SR is modelling a wind farm that should never be built, and which would have noise properties that the simplistic modelling by inverse-square weighted averages cannot predict.

d) In **13.5.2-13.5.20** the SR presents some cut-and-paste research into Amplitude Modulation. Because that research was done with a sample of actual wind farms, they will not usually be grossly overcrowded, so the evidence adduced is irrelevant to SR's argument.

e) The cut-and-pasted research concludes that "At present, it seems evident that reliable predictions of AM in the context of development planning and noise assessment guidance are unlikely to be practically feasible in the near future."

For the SR grossly overcrowded model the reverse is the case. Acoustic beats will make AM predictable a priori in the grossly overcrowded CEP layout used in the model.

f) The studies adduced may be scientific. They way they are used is not scientific. Science is not a cut-and-paste activity. It always requires critical thinking.

g) Government policy on renewable energy is complex and expensive and depends on maintaining a widespread belief in scientific process among the electorate. It is essential that the modelling and the use of scientific research in any Scoping Report for a wind farm should be competent and scrupulous. This is not the case in Chapter 13 of the SR and this is not excused by the disclaimer **13.6.18**. All published modelling should have been delayed until a correct layout was available so that public confidence in the proposal was maintained.

13.29 Consultees include councils who are very short of money for basic activities, and charities that depend on public generosity. They should not have to spend money responding in a very short timeframe to a Scoping

Report that is riddled with errors and models a wind farm layout that should not be built.

(Author: NIPM 16/09/25)

15: Socio-economics and tourism

(For Peat's Sake)

Overall, this section leans towards overstating the benefits of CEP and understating its costs, both tangible & intangible.

15.2.1 *'No legislation specific to socioeconomics & tourism'* … leading to interpretation and bias towards CEP.
Much of the rationale in this section is based on broad brush regional/national secondary data, lacking focus on the more relevant local economy. To capture meaningful input primary research needs to be conducted supported by more targeted secondary data.
Some parts are void of specific relevance and true understanding of the area and its many tourist assets and unique South Pennine cultural heritage.
There are flaws in the BiGGAR's Economics Wind Farm Methodology. Using broad ONS data is limiting, missing out small local businesses and voluntary contributions. Regional averages don't focus on local impact. There's a bias towards project positives for CEP with client-commissioned reports/research. The broad approach masks local impacts, the tourism trade-offs hidden and cultural heritage and landscape effects diluted.

15.3.2 Regarding 'Study Areas' … other 'relevant' local authority areas is vague. This should clearly specify inclusion of all communities bordering Walshaw Moor and Brontë Country, with input from constituents, parish councils and bordering local authorities (in accordance with the Aarhus Convention).

15.3.3 Economic impacts and key tourism assets should be quantified in communities bordering Walshaw Moor and Brontë Country. They are inter connected.

15.3.4/5 Baseline data is macro level and not tailored to the communities the proposal impacts. This is too abstract to give clear understanding of the local economy surrounding the proposed development.

15.3.16 What is the relevance of this reference to fuel poverty? It is to be expected that populations in more northern or exposed locations will face higher fuel bills.

15.3.18 *"These figures indicate that tourism in Calderdale is no more important to the local economy than is the case for Yorkshire and the Humber and England as a whole".* What is the source for this misleading statement. Hebden Bridge/Haworth and surrounding communities are tourist hotspots. What percentage of tourism revenue in Calderdale (tangible & intangible) does Hebden Bridge tourism assets account for? What percentage of Bradford for Haworth?

15.3.20

Active should include several fell running events, winter Spine race, mountain biking, wild swimming, connection with nature/mental health/retreat/reflection/wellbeing. Ancient Packhorse/trekking routes, Calderdale Way, Pennine Way.

Discovery also Lumb Falls, Wuthering Heights & Bronte Moor, Gibson Mill, Hardcastle Crags, National Trust, Cragg Vale, Bell House Coiners/ 'King' David Hartley, the Arvon Foundation Centre at Lumb Bank, Heptonstall, Jerusalem Farm, the unique cultural heritage landscape, churches and farmsteads.

Events many village fetes celebrating cultural heritage & tradition, Hebden Bridge Open Studios events celebrating arts drawing inspiration from the uniqueness of surrounding South Pennine landscapes and poets like Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, besides the Brontës. Wainsgate Chapel music and spoken word events, the Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever on Penistone Hill in Haworth.

Films several film and tv versions of Wuthering Heights with a new one to be released in February 2026; Jane Eyre, The Gallows Pole, Gentleman Jack, Last Tango in Halifax, Happy Valley, Riot Women, God's Own Country.

There is a vibrant social economy locally with tourists supporting cafes, shops, pubs, restaurants and many local businesses in both Hebden Bridge, Haworth and neighbouring communities.

15.5.2 More emphasis should be placed on the relevance of Bradford, which is UK City of Culture 2025. In terms of the wider context of Brontë Country, Keighley, Thornton and Ilkley are just as relevant as communities directly bordering the site of the proposed wind farm.

'It is proposed that the decommissioning phase is scoped out of the socio-economics assessment as described in 15.9' This should be scoped in to the socio-economics assessment.

(Author: CS 18/09/25)

16: Human health

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

16.4.5

'Proposed permissive paths' have never been mentioned. At the moment most of the proposed wind farm site is open access land under CRoW: will this no longer be the case if the development goes ahead?

Table 16-14

This is NOT scoped in in Chapter 12 Access, Traffic and Transport.

16.5.4

'it is ***uncertain*** whether this land is important for access to open space, leisure and play': this needs to be established

(Author: LM 18/09/25)

17: Aviation

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

The Scoping Report has not included Oxenhope Airfield GB-0151. To be found at OS grid SE 045 344 this airfield is 4.3km from the nearest turbine on Yeomans Hill, has a number of regular local users and should definitely be scoped.

(Author: LM 18/09/25)

18: EIA Other Matters (Shadow Flicker)

(Worth Valley Against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm)

Fig 18-1

The map for the 'Study Area' for shadow flicker shows no Turbine 38 but includes a Turbine 42 (there are only 41 proposed turbines). The latter error appeared on the CEP website at the Launch on 29 April 2025 and was pointed out to CWF Ltd. on 1 May 2025 by a member of the public. The error was corrected by CEP, and a pop-up notification was put on the website which has only recently been taken down. Since the same error has now been perpetrated in the SR, CWF Ltd would do well to reinstate the correction notification for their own benefit. As CWF Ltd. acknowledge in **10.4.2** of the current SR, 'the layout of the Proposed Development is a vital part of the EIA process'.

(Author: LM 10/09/25)

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Corporate Directorate for Growth, Enterprise and Environment
Development Management
Seafield House
Kirkleatham Street
Redcar
TS10 1SP

Email: planning_admin@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/Planning
[redacted]

The Planning Inspectorate

Our Ref: R/2025/0570/LAC
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr D Pedlow
Date: 8 September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

PROPOSAL: **EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification - EN0110023**
LOCATION: **Calderdale Energy Park**
APPLICANT: **The Planning Inspectorate**

Thank you for your consultation received on **2 September 2025**.

I would advise that having considered the detail of the application, we have no comments to make at this point in time.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]
Development Management Team Leader

[redacted]
Sent: 04 September 2025 10:38
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]
[redacted]>
Subject: Calderdale Energy Park response from Roughlee Booth PC

Your Ref: EN01 10023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Roughlee Booth Parish Council lies some 16km to the north-west of the application site. As such we share similar South Pennine landscape areas and are committed to maintaining the integrity and character of such areas.

The application site is an area of unspoiled moorland which has high landscape value, is an important habitat for many species of flora and fauna and is of significant heritage and tourism value due to its proximity to Howarth and the Brontë countryside as well as the route of the Pennine Way. It is important that any scoping report should include a detailed and in-depth assessment of these unique attributes which would be lost or severely damaged if the proposed development takes place.

Whilst the Parish Council supports the principle of renewable energy, it is important that such schemes should not be sited at the expense of irreplaceable countryside which is of national and regional importance.

Regards

[redacted]

Clerk, Roughlee Booth Parish Council

Planning Services
Sefton Council
Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle L20 3NJ

Katherine King
Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Telephone: [redacted]
Email: planning.department@sefton.gov.uk
Date: 5th September 2025
Our Ref: DC/2025/01408
Your Ref: EN0110023

Dear Katherine,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park (the proposed development)

With reference to the above I write to confirm that after reviewing the submitted information and having regard to the distance of the proposed development from our administrative boundary Sefton Council has **no comments** to make.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Senior Planning Officer

From: Town Clerk <clerk@silsdentowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 September 2025 11:22
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: EN0110023 - scoping comment from Silsden Town Council

Dear Sirs

Please see below the comments made on behalf of Silsden Town Council at their meeting on the 18th of October

Kind Regards

[redacted]

Silsden Town Clerk

Calderdale Energy Park

The Site is located within the following designations: South Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA)

South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The Biodiversity Gain Requirements state, (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024, Blanket bog is included in these regulations.

Therefore this is not an appropriate site for this development, Blanket bog holds large amounts of Carbon, and this will be released if it is disturbed.

This application if approved would damage the peatland beyond repair, the infrastructure would be a scar on the landscape and destroy the visual amenity of the Bronte Heritage Site.

This Town Council therefore cite serious objection for the reasons above.

St.Helens Council

Town Planning
Town Hall
Victoria Square
St.Helens
Merseyside
WA10 1HP

Case Officer: [redacted]
Tel: [redacted]
[redacted]sthelens.gov.uk
Website: www.sthelens.gov.uk

8th September 2025

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

Our Reference	**PRE/2025/0068/PRE**
Your Reference	**EN0110023**
Proposal:	**Up to 41 wind turbines and associated Development**
Applicant:	**Calderdale Wind Farm Limited**

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity for St Helens Council to comment on the following development on Walshaw Moor, West Yorkshire:

• Up to 41 wind turbines, with associated foundations, crane hardstandings and external transformers;

• BESS, which would comprise a number of battery units;

• Associated infrastructure, which may include; onsite substation(s), access tracks and site accesses, off-site highways work, anemometer masts, underground cables, grid connection infrastructure, services, , borrow pits, construction compounds, drainage, watercourse crossings and landscaping, lighting, CCTV and fencing and enclosures; and

• Mitigation and enhancement measures, which may include offsite compensation measures.

It is understood that the main Turbine Area is located at OS grid reference SD 96688 33581. The Turbine Area consists of approximately 2,352 hectares (ha) of land at Walshaw Moor, located on either side of the three Walshaw Dean Reservoirs, in West Yorkshire. The nearest point of the Turbine Area is located approximately 3.5km to the north of Hebden Bridge, to the south-east is Halifax, and Burnley is to the west.

Given that the proposed development including the Cable Corridors are not within the Borough of St Helens, St Helens Council have no comment to make.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Principal Planning Officer

From: Admin <admin@todmorden-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 September 2025 14:19
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> You don't often get email from admin@todmorden-tc.gov.uk. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon

Following the consultation request, the EIA Scoping Report was considered at Todmorden Town Council's Full Council meeting last week and members resolved not to comment at this time.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Administration & Development Officer

Todmorden Town Council

[redacted]

admin@todmorden-tc.gov.uk

https://todmorden-tc.gov.uk/

Contact hours Monday - Thursday 9:30AM - 4:00PM

Friday - Closed

Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street, Todmorden, OL14 5AQ

****

Warning

This email and any attachments may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure. They must not be used by, or copied or disclosed to persons other than the intended recipient. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party acting, or refraining from acting, on any information contained in this email is excluded. If you have received this email in error please inform the sender and delete the email.

Email can never be 100% secure. Please bear this in mind and carry out such virus and other checks, as you consider appropriate. Todmorden Town Council accepts no responsibility in this regard.

Copyright of this email and any attachments belongs to Todmorden Town Council.

Should you communicate with anyone at Todmorden Town Council by email, you consent to the Council monitoring and reading any such correspondence.

UK Health Security Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department
Seaton House, City Link
London Road
Nottingham, NG2 4LA

nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ukhsa

Your Ref: EN0110023
Our Ref: CIRIS 93522

Ms Katherine King
Senior Environmental Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

26th September 2025

Dear Ms King

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Calderdale Energy Park (PINS Reference: EN0110023)
Scoping Consultation Stage

Thank you for including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in the scoping consultation phase of the above application. ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided below is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.*** The response is impartial and independent.

Please note we have replied to earlier consultations as listed below and this response should be read in conjunction that with that earlier correspondence:

Non-Statutory Consultation: 10/06/2025

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

Having considered the submitted scoping report we wish to make the following comments:

Environmental Public Health

We recognise the promoters' proposal to include a health section. We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an Environmental Statement (ES), we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document *Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime*', setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement[1]. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

Our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic or combustion, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold; i.e, an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.

---

1 https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658

United Utilities Water Limited
Haweswater House
Lingley Mere Business Park
Lingley Green Avenue
Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

unitedutilities.com

Planning.Liaison@uuplc.co.uk

Your ref:
Our ref:
Date: 29-SEPT-25

By email only: calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Calderdale Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Calderdale Energy Park (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

Introduction

Thank you for allowing United Utilities Water Limited (UUW) the opportunity to comment on the EIA Scoping Opinion Request for the proposal to build Calderdale Energy Park. Please note that UUW provides water and wastewater services for part of the area covered by the scoping boundary.

We understand that the proposals are evolving with a view to formally submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). It is important that we highlight that the costs for assessing the impact on our assets will be recoverable. We will advise the applicant on this matter and request that they contact me at planning.liaison@uuplc.co.uk to discuss further.

We have begun to conduct an initial high-level review of the scoping report and the initial search areas, however, we request continued engagement over forthcoming months and during the remainder of the determination period to ensure any of our concerns are adequately addressed and to ensure appropriate protective provisions are agreed. In the interim, we wish to provide the following initial comments for your consideration.

Having reviewed the Scoping Boundary, it appears that the turbine area is outside of land owned by UUW. In contrast the search areas for the site access to the north west and the search area for a cable route to the south west both fall within the area of operation of UUW.

We would be grateful if the applicant can provide the latest information for the proposed development areas in a shp file format so that we can confirm the impact on our land interests and operations.

1. Our Assets and Property

We would expect to see plans showing the proposals in relation to any existing UUW assets and infrastructure as part of the DCO. We would also request that specific protective provisions are included in the Order to ensure that our assets are protected. Our standard protective provisions can be provided on request however, we wish to highlight that these may need to be amended to reflect the nature of the proposed development.

There are a range of water mains and public sewers within the proposed scoping area boundary. It is important to highlight that they include strategic assets. Further dialogue and agreement in respect of UUW all assets is required.

Where UUW assets cross the proposed Order Limits, the applicant must contact UUW prior to commencing any works on site, including trial holes, groundworks or demolition.

Water pipelines

UUW will not allow building over or in close proximity to a water main.

For any works in the vicinity of water pipelines, including drainage, the applicant must comply with our '*Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines'*, which can be found on our website: Working near our pipes - United Utilities

Wastewater pipelines

UUW will not allow any new buildings or structures to be erected over or in close proximity to a public sewer or any other wastewater pipeline. This will only be reviewed in exceptional circumstances.

Water and wastewater pipelines and apparatus

A number of providers offer a paid for mapping service, including UUW. Alternatively, the plans can be viewed for free. See 'Contacts' for further details.

The position of underground apparatus shown on water and wastewater asset maps is approximate only and is given in accordance with the best information currently available. The actual positions may be different from those shown on the plans and private pipes, sewers or drains may not be recorded. We strongly recommend the applicant, or any future developer, does not rely solely on the asset maps to inform decisions relating to the detail of their site and instead investigates the precise location of any underground pipelines and apparatus.

Where additional information is requested to enable an assessment of the proximity of proposed development features to UUW assets, the proven location of pipelines should be confirmed by site survey; an extract of asset maps will not suffice. The applicant should seek advice from our Developer Services team on this matter. See 'Contacts' (below). UUW will not accept liability for any loss or damage caused by the actual position of our assets and infrastructure being different from those shown on asset maps.

Developers should investigate the existence and the precise location of water and wastewater pipelines as soon as possible as this could significantly impact the preferred site layout and/or diversion of the asset(s) may be required. Unless there is specific provision within the title of the property or an associated easement, any necessary disconnection or diversion of assets to accommodate development, will be at the applicant/developer's expense. In some circumstances,

usually related to the size and nature of the assets impacted by proposals, developers may discover the cost of diversion is prohibitive in the context of their development scheme.

Any agreement to divert our underground assets will be subject to a diversion application, made directly to UUW. This is a separate matter to the determination of a planning application. We will not guarantee, or infer acceptance of, a proposed diversion through the planning process (where diversion is indicated on submitted plans). In the event that an application to divert or abandon underground assets is submitted to UUW and subsequently rejected (either before or after the determination of a planning application), applicants should be aware that they may need to amend their proposed layout to accommodate UUW assets.

Where UUW assets exist, the level of cover to pipelines and apparatus must not be compromised either during or after construction and there should be no additional load bearing capacity on pipelines without prior agreement from UUW. This would include sustainable drainage features, earth movement and the transport and position of construction equipment and vehicles. The details of any services, including cable routes, that are proposed to cross our assets will need to be agreed with UUW.

Any construction activities in the vicinity of UUW assets, including any assets or infrastructure that may be located outside the applicant's red line boundary, must comply with national building and construction standards and where applicable, our '*Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines*', which can be found on our website: Working near our pipes - United Utilities.

The applicant, and/or any subsequent developer should note that our '*Standard Conditions'* applies to any design and construction activities in close proximity to pipelines and apparatus that are no longer in service, as well as pipelines and apparatus that are currently in operation. This advice is also relevant to any unchartered pipelines (pipelines that do not appear on our asset maps) that might be discovered on site either before or during construction. In this instance, the developer should contact our Developer Services team as soon as possible. Our Standard Conditions document includes details of trees and shrubbery suitable for planting in the vicinity of our assets. Deep rooted shrubs and trees should not be planted near to our apparatus.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that UUW's required access is provided within any proposed development and that our infrastructure is appropriately protected. The developer would be liable for the cost of any damage to UUW assets resulting from their activity.

Vibration, Loading and Settlement

UUW requests that the impact of the proposed development includes an assessment of any potential settlement and vibration on UUW assets. Similarly, any loading on UUW assets during operation or during construction requires further consideration with UUW. This is particularly important to consider in the context of the abnormal loads that are associated with a windfarm proposals.

Storage of Equipment and Materials within Easements / Offset Areas for Access and Maintenance

UUW has not undertaken a detailed assessment of where equipment and/or materials are proposed to be stored within a UUW easement / area required for access and maintenance. As a general requirement, UUW does not usually allow the easement area, easement width or the necessary offset distance from our assets to be obstructed or impeded in any way. This is due to, but not limited to:

- loading implications of the asset and probability of asset failure;
- implications on access and maintenance of the asset, especially for critical assets;
- security of supply; and
- health and safety implications.

UUW reserves the right to instruct the removal of the equipment and materials located within the easement / access and maintenance offset area. UUW requires further consultation and supplementary information to discuss any affected assets.

Construction Compounds / Construction Traffic

Construction compounds should not be located on top of our apparatus. This is because we require unrestricted access for maintenance, repair and replacement to discharge our statutory duties. Similarly, detailed consideration will need to be given to any proposed construction traffic routes to assess the impact on our assets. It will be necessary to ensure that any approach to construction / decommissioning is the subject of a construction management plan to address a range of issues including the protection of our assets as well as any wider impact on our operations.

Ecological Mitigation and Biodiversity Net Gain

Ecological mitigation and the delivery of areas for biodiversity net gain should not be located on top of our apparatus. This is because we require unrestricted access for maintenance, repair and replacement to discharge our statutory duties. Ecological proposals could have implications for the integrity of our assets, for example, proposed wetland areas near to our assets could compromise our assets.

Property Interests

Within the scoping area boundary, we have a range of property interests which include land in the ownership of UUW. In particular, we have a range of estates which fall within the scoping boundary. Our estates interests, which are largely associated with our water supply resources within, and in proximity to, the scoping boundary include:

- Laneshaw Estate
- Trawden Estate
- Worsthorne Estate
- Dunnockshaw and Lumb Estate;
- Ramsden Clough Estate;
- Whitworth Estate;
- Cowm Estate;
- Withens Estate; and
- Greenbooth and Naden Estate.

We wish to discuss with you the implications of your proposals for all our land interests.

Please note that the any easement associated with our apparatus is in addition to our statutory rights for inspection, maintenance and repair under the Water Industry Act 1991. The easements have restrictive covenants that must be adhered to. It is the responsibility of the developer to obtain a copy of the document, available from United Utilities Legal Services or Land Registry and to

comply with the provisions stated within the document. Under no circumstances should anything be stored, planted or erected on the easement width. Nor should anything occur that may affect the integrity of the pipes or the legal right of United Utilities to 24-hour access. The applicant should contact our Property team to discuss how the proposals affect our land interests and to ensure no detrimental impact. Our operational property team can be contacted at PropertyGeneralEnquiries@uuplc.co.uk.

2. Geo Environmental / Geotechnical

Water Resources and the Groundwater Environment

The boundary for the EIA scoping opinion extends to include water catchment land and a number of groundwater source protection zones (SPZs). Some of these areas are on land owned by UUW whilst others are non-owned. Water catchment land and SPZs are strategically important to water resources for public water supply. The way that land is managed and used in this area is critical to ensure that the public water supply resource is not compromised. The applicant will need to ensure that there is no unacceptable impact on water resources as a result of the proposed development. The first preference will be for proposals to be located away from land used for public water supply purposes. Where proposals are located on water catchment land used for public water supply, careful consideration must be given to the location of the proposed development and a risk assessment of the impact on public water supply will be required with the identification and implementation of any required mitigation measures including management plans. The approach to the assessment of the impact on water resources must be considered and agreed with UUW.

At the current time, we do not have sufficient information to assess the impact of the proposals where they lie on water catchment land and within a Source Protection Zone (SPZ), or directly overlie an abstracted aquifer. This assessment is necessary to ensure the proposals do not pose a risk of pollution or harmful disturbance to the water environment and public water supply resources, and to confirm that any risks can be reduced to an acceptable level.

The primary concern for wind development on water catchment land is its potential to impact raw water quality and damage the integrity of sensitive upland habitats, particularly where deep peat or blanket bog is present. Risks of wind development include:

- **Water quality impacts:** damaged peatlands can increase colour and turbidity in raw water creating challenges for water treatment potentially causing supply interruptions or increasing cost of raw water treatment;
- **Habitat loss and ecological damage:** blanket bog is a Defra-designated priority habitat. It is ecologically sensitive and difficult to restore once disturbed. The formation of blanket bog is dependent on very specific hydrological and topographical conditions;
- **Carbon:** the peat formed by blanket bog represents the largest terrestrial carbon store in the UK, damaged peat releases stored CO_2 into the atmosphere and reduces the ability of the land to sequester carbon.

We would expect any proposal to address the following principles.

1. **Protect water quality:** Proposals must evidence that sufficient mitigation can be put in place to ensure raw water quality and water treatment processes are protected during construction, throughout the operation of the site and during any decommissioning.

2. **Protection of peat and priority habitats:** development (including turbine bases, lifting zones and access tracks) will be excluded from areas of deep peat in line with latest regulatory guidance and best ecological practice.
3. **Environmental protection and improvement:** proposals must include independent environmental assessments, include a funded restoration plan, and commit to long-term monitoring. This should be led by an appointed environmental clerk of works. We also request that proposals deliver measurable improvements to the environment, this could include peatland restoration or wider biodiversity enhancement and should be detailed through an environmental management plan agreed in liaison with a range of stakeholders including UUW.

Following the construction of historic wind developments, several issues have been observed:

- poor adherence to construction and ecological risk mitigation standards;
- creation of large areas of bare peat and improper storage of excavated peat;
- drainage ditches excavated in deep peat, altering hydrology;
- construction materials left onsite, causing long-term disturbance; and
- increases in unauthorised off-road vehicle use exacerbated damage.

Whilst previous construction has highlighted concerns, construction methodologies have evolved, and industry standards have improved. Where wind development proposals are proposed on UUW water catchment land, we will require developers to provide:

- robust environmental risk assessments, including raw water quality monitoring in catchment to build baseline data;
- mandatory peat depth surveys and habitat mapping;
- overview by an independent ecologist during construction and operation;
- restoration guarantees;
- a pollution prevention incident plan. This should be created ahead of construction and updated at key milestones of the project (construction phase, operational phase and decommissioning phase). This plan should detail everyone's roles & responsibilities in the event of an incident;
- water quality trigger levels from sampling data taken ahead of construction, working with UUW site operations on the constraints of the water treatment works;
- compensation and/or response measures in place from the start for quicker incident response;
- an Environmental Manager / Clerk of Works who works for the developer and a second to work for UUW. Their roles will be to review Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMs) for water quality and undertake frequent site audits; and
- environmental insurance to be taken out to cover UUW costs in the event of an incident.

Storage of Hazardous Substances

The risks posed by storage and distribution of fuels, chemicals and wastes from the proposed development, should also be assessed for the risk to the water environment.

The applicant should follow best practice in their use and storage of fuels, oils, chemicals and other wastes, to remove the risk of causing pollution during construction and operation of the scheme.

This should be included in a Construction Environmental Management Plan. This will need to be specific to the environmental setting of the area and should fully reflect the implications of a location within a SPZ or on water catchment land.

Contaminated Land

UUW requests that the assessment of potential environmental impacts from contamination fully considers the impact on our assets, water resources and water quality as a result of construction of the proposed development.

Environment Agency's Approach to Groundwater Protection

As a nationally and regionally significant scheme, the applicant should follow '*The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection*' (hereafter referred to as '*the Environment Agency's approach*') in relation to protection of drinking water supply from UUW groundwater abstractions. This should be added to the list of documents at Paragraph 8.2.2 of the EIA Scoping Report.

We wish to draw attention to Position Statements C1, C2 and C5 of '*The Environment Agency's approach'* which state:

> ***'C1 - Nationally or regionally significant schemes***
>
> *The Environment Agency requires the promoters of schemes of national or regional significance to protect groundwater when choosing the location for their activity or development. In the cases where this is not possible due to national or regional interests, the Environment Agency expects to be fully involved in the scheme development to mitigate groundwater risks via EPR where applicable. Promoters are expected (via the environmental impact assessment process) to identify all the potential pollution linkages and apply best available techniques to mitigate the risks.*
>
> ***C2 - Non-nationally significant infrastructure schemes***
>
> *In SPZ1 and SPZ2, the Environment Agency will only agree to proposals for infrastructure developments of non-national significance where they do not have the potential to cause pollution or harmful disturbance to groundwater flow or where these risks can be reduced to an acceptable level via EPR if applicable.*
>
> ***C5 - Pipelines and high voltage fluid filled cables***
>
> *The Environment Agency will normally object to pipelines or fluid filled cables that transport pollutants, particularly hazardous substances that:*
>
> *• pass through SPZ1 or SPZ2 where this is avoidable*
>
> *• are below the water table* in principal or secondary aquifers*
>
> *Where there is an existing or unavoidable need for pipelines or fluid filled cables to pass through SPZ1 or SPZ2, operators are expected to adopt BAT and operate in accordance with the Energy Networks Association guidance.*
>
> *Where existing pipelines or fluid filled cables are already below the water table or if the water level subsequently rises, the Environment Agency will work with operators to mitigate the risks. The Environment Agency will only agree to any redevelopment scheme with sub water table pipelines or fluid filled cables for the transport of hazardous substances where there are substantial mitigating factors.*

When the opportunity to replace existing fluid filled cables in SPZ1 and SPZ2 arises the Environment Agency will work with the operators to agree the best environmental option.

The Environment Agency expects operators to carry out a site-specific risk assessment prior to the decommissioning of pipelines or fluid filled cables in SPZ1 and SPZ2. It will then work with operators to agree the best available environmental option.

Please note that this position statement applies to underground and on-ground cables but not aerial cables.

** For the purposes of this position statement, the term 'water table' is taken to mean any laterally continuous groundwater including perched groundwater. Operators should consider the lifetime of the pipeline or cable in their assessment of the depth to groundwater.*

Further position statements in section D may also apply.

Where the proposed development impacts on a sensitive location within a SPZ, relating to a drinking water abstraction resource (including those not currently in use for public water supply purposes but may need to be activated in the future), UUW requires a '*Hydrogeological Risk Assessment*' for the specific borehole abstraction. This risk assessment should form part of the Environmental Statement and identify the pollution and ground disturbance impacts on the SPZ and set out pollution prevention mitigation measures that will be needed, both during construction and during the operational life of the proposed development. The risk assessment should fully consider any related development activities and mitigation.

The need for a risk assessment reflects the Environment Agency Position Statement N7 of the aforementioned groundwater protection document. This states:

'N7 - Hydrogeological risk assessment

Developers proposing schemes that present a hazard to groundwater resources, quality or abstractions must provide an acceptable hydrogeological risk assessment (HRA) to the Environment Agency and the planning authority. Any activities that can adversely affect groundwater must be considered, including physical disturbance of the aquifer. If the HRA identifies unacceptable risks then the developer must provide appropriate mitigation. If this is not done or is not possible the Environment Agency will recommend that the planning permission is conditioned, or it will object to the proposal.'

Sustainable Drainage Systems

The risks posed by drainage from the proposed development, should also be assessed within the ES for the risk to groundwater abstractions (G11).

G11 - Discharges from areas subject to contamination

Discharges of surface water run-off to ground at sites affected by land contamination, or from sites used for the storage of potential pollutants are likely to require an environmental permit.

This applies especially to sites where storage, handling or use of hazardous substances occurs (for example, garage forecourts, coach and lorry parks/turning areas and metal recycling/vehicle dismantling facilities). These sites will need to be subject to risk assessment with acceptable effluent treatment provided.'

SPZ1

Any development taking place within and adjacent to SPZ1 is the most sensitive location from a groundwater protection viewpoint. We wish to highlight that development activities (such as construction compounds, storage facilities, temporary workers accommodation, fuel storage facilities, etc.) are more appropriately situated away from sensitive groundwater protection areas, especially land within and adjacent to SPZ1. Similarly, it is also preferable to locate mitigation activities such as wetlands and ecological mitigation away from SPZ1. Notwithstanding our strong preference for development to not take place in locations within SPZ1, if development in this location is necessary, we draw your attention to the Environment Agency's position statements as set out above.

3. Flood Risk

National policy is clear that flood risk from all sources, including reservoirs and sewers, must be considered in the delivery of new development. As such, it is important to ensure that the assessment of flood risk is undertaken in liaison with UUW. Whilst we do all that we can to reduce the risk of flooding, there remains a residual risk. We wish to note that there are locations within the search areas which are affected by reservoir and sewer flood risk. These should not be affected by the proposed development.

In relation to sewer flood risk we request that your proposed development does not result in an increase in flood risk from the public sewer as a result of:

i) altering any existing exceedance flood paths of losses from the public sewer;
ii) any changes in ground levels which could materially change existing sewer flood risk; or
iii) any changes to land or property currently affected by existing hydraulic sewer flooding incidents;
iv) any above ground elements in areas where there is an existing risk of sewer flooding. We would need to liaise with you to assess your proposals in relation to this point;
v) any diversions / works to watercourses or existing sewers which could materially affect hydraulic performance and therefore change / increase any risk of flooding; and
vi) any proposed new drainage connections to the public sewer. This is considered in further detail below.

Impact on Watercourses

UUW wishes to liaise with you to confirm the impact on any watercourses that interact with our assets to ensure that there are no detrimental consequences of these works in terms of asset operation, flood risk and changes to fluvial geomorphological processes.

4. Drainage - Foul and Surface Water

We would be grateful if the applicant can provide details of any drainage proposals in respect of both foul and surface water. This should include rates of discharge, volumes of discharge, points of connection, the nature and extent of any contaminants, and details of any necessary pre-treatment prior to connection to the public sewer. We request that the applicant provides details of drainage during operation of the proposed development and during the construction period. We request further details of any approach for the storage and disposal of any hazardous fluids. We wish to understand whether there is any intention to connect such flows to our public sewerage network and to ensure any potential impact on water supply assets, including the groundwater environment, is fully considered and mitigated.

Surface Water Management Hierarchy

Consistent with the principles of the hierarchy for the management of surface water in national planning policy and the obligations of the Environment Act 2021, no surface water will be allowed to discharge to the existing public sewerage system. Surface water should instead discharge to more sustainable alternatives as outlined in the surface water management hierarchy. This will ensure the impact of development on public wastewater infrastructure, both in terms of the wastewater network and wastewater treatment works, is minimised. We adopt this position as surface water flows are very large when compared with foul flows. By ensuring that no surface water enters the public sewerage system, the impact on customers, watercourses and the environment will be minimised.

Please note, UUW is not responsible for advising on rates of discharge to the local watercourse system. This is a matter for discussion with the Lead Local Flood Authority and / or the Environment Agency (if the watercourse is classified as main river).

There should be no land drainage, including dewatering proposals, discharged to the public sewer.

Rights to Discharge to Watercourse or Other Receiving Water Body

Given the importance of surface water discharging to an alternative to the public sewer, we request that all land that is necessary to facilitate a discharge to a watercourse is fully identified within the Order Limits. This will ensure the Order benefits from the requisite rights to discharge to more sustainable alternatives than the public sewer for the management of surface water, e.g., a right to discharge to a watercourse or other water body. For clarity, the extent of land should be sufficient to facilitate a surface water discharge to a watercourse / water body for all elements of the development. Ensuring that the extent of land within the Order Limits and the supporting Environmental Statement is sufficient for the purposes of the discharge of surface water is important as a sewerage company has limited powers to acquire the right to discharge surface water to a water body under the Water Industry Act.

It is equally important to ensure that any existing outfalls that it may be necessary to relocate because of any watercourse / culvert diversion are delivered under the powers of the Order.

Multi-functional Sustainable Drainage Systems

We request that surface water is only managed via sustainable drainage systems which are multi-functional and at the surface level in preference to conventional underground piped and tanked storage systems.

Wherever practicable, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be implemented in accordance with the CIRIA SuDS manual. Managing surface water through the use of SuDS can provide benefits in water quantity, water quality, amenity and biodiversity.

If the applicant intends to offer wastewater assets forward for adoption by UUW, their proposed detailed design will be subject to a technical appraisal by our Developer Services team and must meet the requirements outlined in the latest sewer adoption guidance and UUW's Asset Standards. This is important as drainage design can be a key factor in determining site levels and layout.

Acceptance of a drainage strategy does not infer that a detailed drainage design will meet the requirements for a successful adoption application. We strongly recommend that no construction commences until the detailed drainage design, has been assessed and accepted in writing by UUW. Any work carried out prior to the technical assessment being approved is done entirely at the developer's own risk and could be subject to change.

Management and Maintenance of SuDS

Without effective management and maintenance, sustainable drainage systems can fail or become ineffective. As a provider of wastewater services, we believe we have a duty to advise the determining authority of this potential risk to ensure the longevity of the surface water drainage system and the service it provides to people. We also wish to minimise the risk of a SuDS having a detrimental impact on the public sewer network should the two systems interact. We therefore recommend that the applicant includes details of a management and maintenance regime for any sustainable drainage system that is included as part of the proposed development.

Please note that UUW cannot provide comment on the management and maintenance of an asset that is owned by a third party management and maintenance company. We would not be involved in the approval of the management and maintenance arrangements in these circumstances.

5. Water Supply Requirements

We request that the applicant provides details of any water supply requirements for both construction and during operation as soon as possible. This should include details on rates of water supply required in litres per second and anticipated points of connection to the public water supply network. The details of water supply required should include details for any fire response purposes that may be necessary. For temporary related activities, such as construction compounds and workers accommodation, early consideration of any water supply requirements will also be required. If reinforcement of the water network is required to meet potential demand, this could be a significant project and the design and construction period should be accounted for. The applicant will need to ensure that the Environmental Statement fully considers any environmental impact of their water supply requirements.

6. General Advice

If the applicant intends to receive water and/or wastewater services from UUW they should visit our website or contact the Developer Services team for advice at the earliest opportunity. This includes seeking confirmation of the required metering arrangements for the proposed development. See 'Contacts' (below).

If the proposed development site benefits from existing water and wastewater connections, the applicant should not assume that the connection(s) will be suitable for the new proposal or that any existing metering arrangements will suffice. In addition, if reinforcement of the water network is required to meet potential demand, this could be a significant project and the design and construction period should be accounted for.

In some circumstances a water meter must be installed to premises. Detailed guidance on whether the development will require a compulsory meter is available on our website within our published Charges Schemes; Our household charges 2025/2026 | United Utilities (Section 8.7).

To avoid any unnecessary costs and delays being incurred by the applicant or any subsequent developer, we strongly recommend the applicant seeks advice regarding water and wastewater services and metering arrangements, at the earliest opportunity. See 'Contacts'.

Business customers can find additional information on our sustainable drainage incentive scheme at Incentive schemes | United Utilities

7.0 Contacts

Contact our **DEVELOPER SERVICES** team as follows:

Website (including 'Live Chat'): Building & Developing - United Utilities

Telephone (Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm): **0345 072 6067**

Email:

WATER (water mains, supply and metering):	DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk
WASTEWATER (public sewers and drainage):	SewerAdoptions@uuplc.co.uk
SLUDGE PIPELINES:	DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION ZONES:

Where the proposed site is located in a Groundwater Source Protection Zone, the applicant should contact our Engineering team for advice, by email at Groundwater@uuplc.co.uk

PROPERTY SEARCHES (FOR ASSET MAPS):

The public water and sewer records can be viewed via our online viewing facility for free. Viewings are by appointment only. To book an appointment, the applicant should email propertysearches@uuplc.co.uk or call **0370 751 0101**

Alternatively, a number of providers offer a paid for mapping service, including United Utilities. To purchase a sewer and water plan from United Utilities, visit Property Searches | United Utilities

UNITED UTILITIES LEGAL SERVICES (FOR EASEMENT DOCUMENTS):

Copies of relevant deeds may be purchased from United Utilities Legal Services. This information is also available from Land Registry. To purchase a copy of easement documents from United Utilities, please email: LegalServices@uuplc.co.uk

If you wish to discuss the detail of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at planning.liaison@uuplc.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

[redacted] MRTPI
Strategic Planning and Sustainability
United Utilities Water Limited

Wadsworth Parish Council's response to Calderdale Energy Park's Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Request to the Planning Inspectorate

September 2025

Contents

Introduction	2
Summary of Main Points	
An overall summary plus summaries of each detailed response by chapter	4
Chapter 1	31
Chapter 2	37
Chapter 3	48
Chapter 4	53
Chapter 5	61
Chapter 6	74
Chapter 7	80
Chapter 8	98
Chapter 9	120
Chapter 10	126

Introduction

The proposed development of Calderdale Energy Park (CEP) lies entirely within the parish of Wadsworth. The Planning Inspectorate has identified us as "a consultation body" and we can confirm Wadsworth PC wish to pass comment on the scoping report. The residents of Wadsworth are overwhelmingly opposed to the destruction of the moorland that the construction of CEP will cause, and in a recent online survey of parishioners conducted by Wadsworth PC, 93% of the close to 400 respondents were against the development. Therefore the Parish Council feels a particular responsibility to scrutinise the lengthy scoping report produced by CEP as much as is possible within the limited time frame available.

Despite the excessive length of the scoping report at 577 pages it contains very little definite substance or confirmed proposals. It does however contain a considerable amount of irrelevant information that inflates the size of the report and deters potential readers. As an example an ornithological survey of The North Pennines included within the scoping report has no relevance to this proposed development in The South Pennines.

Before commenting more specifically about the content of the scoping report we would like to make some general observations about the scoping report, which is a very lengthy tome that appears to have several sections copied and pasted in from other reports. The report is not in an accessible format and despite being an excessive length has no executive summary, and uses acronyms throughout that impair comprehension. As to the content we have found the scoping report to be riddled with errors to varying degrees of seriousness. Some are relatively minor and indicate that proof reading of the document was either non-existent or at best very poor, whilst others are positively misleading. For example with reference to routes into the site, the M65 is referred to as the M56, the A646 becomes the A464 where speed limits in Mytholmroyd are 20 mph not 30 mph as stated in the report, and the distance from Ovenden Moor wind farm to CEP is quoted as being 8.2 km whereas it is actually 2.8 km. Reference is also made to rivers in Scotland where text has obviously been removed from other documents and clearly not been altered.

It is easy to understand how such errors have occurred but is indicative of the lack of attention to detail paid by the authors of the scoping report in its preparation. Other errors are more fundamental and throw doubt over the credibility of the whole report. There is a clear lack of familiarity with the local area and its geography as the villages of Pecket Well and Heptonstall, two communities that will be significantly affected by the development should it go ahead, are separately described as being east of the site whereas they are in fact to the south. On page 51 of the report it is stated that Hebden Bridge (population 4,500) is 3.5 km to the south-east of the nearest boundary of the turbine area, yet on the very same page it states that there are "approximately 48 residential properties within approximately 3.5 km of the turbine area". This latter statement is not only wrong but is very misleading. Such erroneous and conflicting statements within the scoping report led us to be sceptical regarding the validity of the whole report. Nevertheless we wish to comment more specifically on certain aspects of the scoping report in the sections below.

To mention just one in this introduction however, the scoping report concentrates on the route from the west via Laneshaw Bridge for the abnormal loads including the turbines themselves, but the vast majority of traffic to the site will come from the north. Loads of limestone aggregate coming from quarries in The Yorkshire Dales, and crushed basalt from Cumbria, both will need to pass through Keighley town centre and Oxenhope. An engineer who has worked on similar developments in Scotland has calculated that the amount of aggregate required to construct 41 wind turbines on Walshaw Moor with an estimated 40 km of access roads and associated crane platforms to be approximately 700,000 tonnes. Assuming that the average payload of the trucks delivering the aggregate to be 20 tonnes, that equates to 35.000 deliveries full and 35,000 return journeys empty.

Expressed differently there would be **one lorry every three minutes** taking the route to and from site during working hours for the two years of construction. This would lead to a logistical nightmare and almost certain gridlock on local roads, and backs up our assertion that the Scoping Report has not been prepared to a level of accuracy or detail befitting a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, or to allow a reliable Environmental Impact Assessment to be made based on it.

Summary of Main Points

The following responses have been compiled by Wadsworth Parish Council in collaboration with local groups and individuals who have an active interest in the moors. In particular we would like to thank Ban the Burn and the Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network for their input, both groups have been actively involved in monitoring the habitat and wildlife on the moors for over a decade before the wind farm proposal was announced.
Due to time constraints we have only been able to comment in detail on chapters 1 to 10, by not responding to 11 to 19 does not mean we necessarily agree with any of the statements made in those chapters.

Overall Summary

At the start of the Scoping Report, the Planning and Policy Context analysis is characterised by a lack of objectivity. It seems to prejudge the SOS decision on the upcoming DCO application, through its overemphasis of the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects, and its disregard of policies that constrain it.

Such policies include protections for peatland, and the exception to the presumption of consent in the event of residual unacceptable flood risk and risk to irreplaceable blanket bog. (EN-1, 4.2.15) Relatedly, its EN-NPS overview fails to include the flood risk Section 5.8 of a relevant EN-NPS.

This missing policy is crucial for the Hebden Bridge Flood Area, which already experiences severe flooding that academic research shows is worsened by drainage of Walshaw Moor Estate. The Scoping Report doesn't even mention the Flood Area.

Representation of the planning policy context can be tracked through to the Scoping Report's many errors and omissions - first and foremost the cardinal failure of the EIA approach (Chapter) 3 to follow the 2017 EIA regulations.

We believe the EIA approach in Chapter 3 cannot be carried out lawfully according to the 2017 EIA regulations, as long as the apparent misuse of the Rochdale Envelope approach continues as an apparent pretext for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment.

The Rochdale Envelope approach to environmental impact assessment is intended to permit an application to be made when it includes uncertain ***details*** about the Proposed Development. But **the whole Proposed Development is uncertain** at the moment. This creates the impression that the Scoping Report is taking advantage of the Rochdale Envelope approach as "a blanket opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment" - despite the Planning Inspectorate's warning in its online Advice Note 9 not to do this.

Given the uncertainty of everything about the Proposed Development, how can the Scoping Opinion fulfill its task of requiring the Proposed Development to remain materially the same, when the Applicant submits the Environmental Statement and the DCO application?

This would require an actual Scoping Report description of the Proposed Development that is sufficient to enable the main effects of the scheme to be properly assessed. But key elements turbine layout, tracks, cable routes, grid connection, substation and BESS locations, and restoration and possible compensation measures for blanket bog and other peatland habitats are all still only indicative.

The Scoping Report's EIA approach completely ignores the Ecosystem Approach for assessing impacts on a complex peatland system. This requires an understanding of hydrological and ecological connections across the entire peatland area. Instead, EIA focusses separately on different aspects of the peatland, and the Scoping Report fails to link across the different technical chapters.

The result is a failure to understand how the Proposed Development's likely significant adverse impacts on the SAC/SSSI and SPA extend far beyond the infrastructure footprint, because of the complex hydrological and ecological connections across the whole mosaic of interrelated peatland habitats.

Chapter 5, The Proposed Development, is inadequate to its purpose of explaining its "the likely significant environmental effects" (para 1.4.6, Table 1-1), because all the Proposed Development's elements are still only indicative. (Para 13.6.18) You can't identify the impacts of something you can't define.

There is no information about the range of options under consideration for the Proposed Development, and no clarity about the process for coming up with Proposed Development preferred options/design parameters between now and January 2026. This is when both the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and the statutory consultation are due.

Notably, in Chapter 5 there seems to be no a grasp of restoration measures. But they were touted in the non-statutory consultation as a key justification of the choice of location for the Proposed Development. This omission is repeated throughout the technical chapters.

We think this is a direct consequence of the lack of objectivity in Chapter 2, and its disregard of the exception to the presumption of consent in the event of residual unacceptable flood risk, and risk to irreplaceable blanket bog. It's almost as if the Scoping Report prefers not to draw attention that that, because it is potentially a key stumbling block to the Proposed Development.

Be that as it may, it is a common feature of all the technical chapters that they persistently overlook and underestimate the extent of blanket bog on Walshaw Moor Estate, and also fail to consider the Proposed Development's blanket bog restoration, mitigation and enhancement measures.

With all its lack of objectivity and accuracy, and its dangerous errors and omissions, we think the Scoping Report is basically a mockery that, if not sorted in the Scoping Opinion, would make it impossible for the Secretary of State to know if the DCO application, Environmental Statement and Shadow HRA, if and when they arrive on his desk, refer to the same Proposed Development

as this Scoping Report sketches. Because there simply is not enough information here about what the Proposed Development is, and *sketches* is the operative word.

All the Scoping Report is, is a list of uncertainties that matches the degree of uncertainty allowable for offshore wind farms, under Planning Inspectorate guidance on the Rochdale Envelope. Everyone knows that Walshaw Moor is an extremely difficult site for a big energy park, but if is is as difficult as offshore, really what's the point?

The rebrand of the Proposed Development as Calderdale Energy Park has not addressed the fundamental problem of the unsuitability of the location. We have said from the start, in response to the first Scoping Report in September 2023, that the choice of location is clearly inappropriate. This is still the case with the current rebrand and its reduced number of turbines of an increased size, retaining a comparable overall capacity.

The real problems of this new indicative turbine layout are brushed under the Scoping Report carpet. Chapter 5 - The Proposed Development doesn't refer to the impacts of the resulting overcrowding in the indicative turbine layout, although a desktop study of industry guidelines would have given them pause for thought. Such guidelines point to environmental, economic, and safety impacts of overcrowded turbine layout, including implications for noise and vibration.

The economic impacts might seem to be the applicant's problem not ours. But they are a public problem to the extent that onshore wind power is publicly subsidised through the Contracts for Difference scheme and constraints payments. So we have a legitimate concern for the energy park's engineering efficiency.

Like the first Scoping Report, this one gives no convincing climate or nature-based justifications for choosing to place an offshore-scale wind farm on the South Pennine Moors SAC, SPA, and SSSI - the most highly environmentally protected land in the country. The site is a vital carbon sink of national importance, with at least 50% of the Turbine Area comprising blanket bog, according to the questionable UK Hab survey reported in the Biodiversity Chapter. We are confident this underestimates the blanket bog area since much of what the Scoping Report classifies as dry heath is degraded blanket bog.

The Scoping Report throughout shows a dangerous lack of baseline knowledge of the moor and its surrounding area. To a considerable extent this is because of a disregard for local, situated knowledge - when it has been freely offered, but rebuffed. Cavendish Consulting has failed to respond to many attempts at communication by the parish council forum chair, the Keighley and Ilkley MP and local voluntary environmental groups such as Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network.

The lack of local knowledge and adequate baseline information is particularly exemplified in Chapter 8 about hydrology. By any normal standards of probity and accuracy, it should provide a clear assessment of the flood risk to the Hebden Bridge Flood Area from the Proposed Development and indicate what in order to mitigate this risk. But it lacks clear, assessable

information on how the Scoping Report proposes to assess and mitigate the flood risk impacts of the Proposed Development on the Hebden Bridge Flood Area.

We think this is a breach of a national policy requirement for Local Planning Authorities and statutory advisors to have the best and most assessable information from applicants. (2025 Draft NPS EN-1 para 4.2.13)

This does not hide the fact that baseline hydrology, peat and habitats information is dangerously lacking, which means that the Applicant is oblivious to flood risks to Hebden Bridge that are obvious to anyone who knows the moor from experience.

The Scoping Report's ignorance of what it has to deal with in terms of the Proposed Development's location is also the result of an evident failure to carry out basic desktop study (eg regarding the borrow pits and the unsuitable aggregate they'd produce) and lack of, or poor quality of, baseline surveys. Habitats, peat depth and hydrology baseline surveys are a case in point.

The arrogance shown in Chapter 2 at the start of the Scoping Report, in overlooking policies aimed at providing additional protection for peatland, and exceptions to the presumption of consent when there is an unacceptable risk of flooding and/or loss of irreplaceable blanket bog, tracks directly through the Scoping Report. And the persistent failure to link across the different technical chapters obscures this line of causation, making it harder to tease out.

We find the Scoping Report unfit for purpose. A few further examples from Upper Calderdale Wildlife's response to the Ornithology Chapter show additional grounds for this conclusion.

Chapter 6 on Ornithology is weakened by downplaying the scale of the Proposed Development. Saying a 41-turbine wind farm on 2352ha of protected peatland has "low potential for significant habitat loss" shows a lack of understanding of the scale of the Proposed Development and its construction.

The chapter fails to integrate impacts on birds with impacts on their peatland habitats, although they are inseparable. The species list is incomplete, omitting known breeding birds including Merlin—a key SPA species. The presence of Golden Plover is downplayed.

The proposed surveys are insufficient, and the process of environmental survey/Proposed Development design seems to be back to front in terms of the design of the turbine area. Para 6.4 4 states that the design of the turbine area has been adapted to minimise impacts. But the design of the proposed development should take account of survey work yet to be completed, so we would expect the survey work to inform the design and turbine layout.

As elsewhere in the Scoping Report, the description of the moorland habitats under-represents blanket bog and over-emphasises areas of dry heath. Using the best scientific evidence is a

material planning consideration (2025 EN-3 Draft National Policy Statement) but this seems to be disregarded often.

There is a failure to cross reference information across ornithology, peat hydrology and carbon and climate chapters. But these aspects of the moor are all fundamentally linked and the environmental impacts of the Proposed Development can only be understood if they are considered as such.

Survey flaws and a back-to-front approach to the relationship between environmental surveys and design of the Proposed Development are evident.

There are no proposed restoration measures, and no clarity about any category of restoration, whether additional restoration to enhance the Walshaw Moor habitat as part of the Proposed Development, or Natural England's stated position that restoring SAC habitats to favourable condition, and the Walshaw Moor Restoration Plan, are existing obligations.

There is no clarity about *any* of these categories of restoration, given Natural England's lack of monitoring for the Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan since 2017.

There isn't any attempt to link concerns for the Proposed Development's likely impacts on Walshaw Moor's biodiversity on and above (birds) the protected peatland, with impacts on hydrology, and so on the peat carbon impacts that are the subject of Chapter 9.

We could go on. We have not exhausted examples of the Scoping Report's characteristic errors, omissions and distractions, but feel further repetition is unnecessary.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

In addition to this Chapter, together with Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network we have responded in detail to Chapters 2-10 of the Calderdale Energy Park Scoping Report.

Our core response is that the Scoping Report is fundamentally flawed and fails in its statutory purpose, as defined by relevant sections of the EIA Regulations 2017.

These are the key points that have led us to this view.

1. Lack of Independence and Objectivity

We believe the Scoping Report is not the unbiased, objective document it should be. For example, Chapter 2 presents a selective overview of national energy policy. It heavily emphasises the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects while omitting crucial policies that qualify or override this presumption on environmental grounds.

We believe the impression this creates, of a misleadingly favourable policy context for a big onshore wind farm development on internationally protected peatland, appears to prejudge the outcome of the vital Habitats Regulations Assessment.

This bias is compounded by a consistent under-representation throughout the Scoping Report of the extent of the protected blanket bog habitat on Walshaw Moor, which skews the entire environmental impact assessment.

2. Misuse of the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach to environmental impact assessment

The Scoping Report admits the Proposed Development is almost entirely indicative and uncertain. (Para 13.6.18). This level of vagueness seems to make a proper assessment of environmental impacts impossible and undermines the Scoping Opinion's purpose (which is to provide a description of the Proposed Development which is sufficient to enable the main environmental effects of the scheme to be properly assessed.)

The Scoping Report uses the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach for dealing with uncertainty about the Proposed Development, but we think it is misusing the approach as an opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment – despite the Planning Inspectorate's warning in its online Advice Note 9 not to do this.

If the Scoping Opinion allows this to continue, the Proposed Development is likely to undermine environmental protections for Walshaw Moor and the surrounding areas.

However, as far as we know, if Calderdale Energy Park wants this kind of flexibility about the Proposed Development, initial design parameters for the Proposed Development have to be properly assessed and taken into account in the pre-application stage. We think this means the Applicant has to produce preferred options for most elements of the Proposed Development by

January 2026 - the scheduled date for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and statutory public consultation. This seems unrealistic and unsafe,

3. Inadequate Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment

Compounding the misuse of the Rochdale Envelope Approach, the Scoping Report reveals critical deficiencies in proposed environmental assessments.

Inaccurate descriptions of moorland habitats consistently overemphasise dry heath and under-represent the extent of priority protected blanket bog. The Scoping Report doesn't seem to have a grasp of blanket bog restoration measures. It makes only the barest mention of blanket bog restoration as an existing part of Walshaw Moor's status as an SSSI/ SAC, or of the Walshaw Moor Estate 2017-2042 Catchment Restoration Plan.

Proposed additional mitigation, restoration, and compensation measures are vague, misconceived, and demonstrate a lack of understanding of peatland ecology.

Despite claims in Table 7.11 that their approach now meets Natural England's expectations, the technical chapters reveal errors and omissions. For example, a back-to-front approach to environmental assessment is stated in Chapter 7, where habitat surveys for offsite cable corridors and access routes are scheduled *after* preferred routes have been chosen. This suggests these surveys are a token gesture and we are highly critical of this topsy-turvey process.

4. Flawed representation of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

We can't imagine that the bias shown in Chapter 2 will help with the decision-making process for Calderdale Energy Park's DCO application, Environmental Statement and the Shadow HRA that the Applicant intends to submit.

The real policy context for a large wind farm on protected peatland is conflicted, attempting to balance climate goals with binding international commitments to restore nature (the Kunming-Montreal Treaty) and the government's drive for economic growth.

In presenting a self-serving version of the policy context, the Scoping Report obscures crucial exceptions to the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects, such as when mitigation of adverse impacts still leaves residual impacts that present an unacceptable flood risk or risk to irreplaceable habitats. Both are of direct relevance here.

The report fails to even mention the Hebden Bridge Flood Area, which already suffers severe flooding that is worsened by Walshaw Moor Estate's mismanagement. It is disturbing that HRA issues, including potential derogation, are clouded by this pro-development bias and a disregard for policies that provide additional protections for peatland. We are deeply concerned that the restoration of this precious landscape could be entrusted to people who appear not to grasp its importance.

5. Socio-Economics and a Lack of Corporate Transparency

There is a lack of transparency in the Scoping Report's cursory information about the applicant, Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd, and the “sponsorship” provided by Next Gen Infra, a subsidiary of Al Gihaz Holding.

Although we are not aware of any legislative or regulatory requirement for this, we contend that the public has a right to know more about who will be the ultimate owner and custodian of this internationally significant protected site, and accountable to Natural England and Defra.

Transparency is also in the public interest regarding:

- Corporate responsibility for potentially significant adverse impacts on water quality and flood risk.
- Who would pay for off-site biodiversity compensation.
- Who would manage the Community Benefit Fund.

So we would appreciate it if some corporate due diligence could be scoped into the socio-economics assessment.

6. Conclusion

In short, we find the Scoping Report is biased, vague, and unsafe. It fails to provide a robust or objective basis for the many decisions that need to be made about the Proposed Development in a short timeframe during the pre-application stage. Let alone the Environmental Statement and crucial Habitats Regulations Assessment. We call upon the Planning Inspectorate to sort out these problems in its Scoping Opinion.

Summary: Chapter 2 – The Planning Policy Context

Our response focuses on the Scoping Report's biased and incomplete overview of National Policy Statements for renewable energy. We believe this creates a misleadingly favourable policy context for the Proposed Development on internationally protected peatland.

The report's selective presentation of policies heavily emphasises the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects while omitting crucial policies that qualify or override this presumption on environmental grounds. Key omissions that seriously undermine the report's objectivity include:

Exceptions to the presumption of consent: – such as when mitigation of "adverse impacts" from a big renewable energy project still leaves a "residual impact", and this presents an unacceptable flood risk or risk to irreplaceable habitats. (EN-1, 4.2.15) We are shocked at this omission. The Scoping Report's missing information is crucial for the Hebden Bridge Flood Area. It already experiences severe flooding that is worsened by mismanagement of Walshaw Moor Estate. The Scoping Report doesn't even mention the Flood Area.

Additional 2025 peatland protections for designated peatlands as sites for wind farms, such as requiring applicants to seek and rule out other locations first.

Requirements for clarity and scientific evidence in big onshore wind farm planning applications, which should be clear and assessable and make "appropriate and extensive use" of the best scientific evidence (Draft EN-3, 2.12.148).

Selective quotation from a policy statement that omits the crucial sentence stating that designation of a protected site "may make consent for such construction more difficult to secure."

We argue these omissions are self-serving, designed to downplay the significant policy hurdles CEP faces, particularly concerning the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Relatedly, we challenge the policy direction to follow NatureScot guidance on siting infrastructure on shallower peat. We contend this guidance is flawed and not supported by peat science literature, citing the IUCN UK Peatland Programme, which states that shallow peat is a significant carbon store and often ecologically vital, and it is more appropriate to site big windfarms on mineral soils. We reject the Scoping Report's depth-based definition of peat (>0.3m) as scientifically inadequate and inappropriate for conservation purposes.

Finally, we highlight the omission of a policy requiring the Secretary of State to consider if adverse effects on site integrity are temporary or reversible (Draft EN-3, 2.12.150). Given that peatland damage from drainage is effectively irreversible over meaningful timescales (potentially centuries), this is a critical consideration for a 35-year project. We stress that the "best scientific evidence" must be a material consideration and that all monitoring data from wind farms on peat should be made public for peer review.

In summary, we believe Chapter 2 presents a garbled and biased policy overview that prejudges the outcome of the application and fails to provide the objective, comprehensive information required for a proper assessment.

Summary: Chapter 3 – Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment

We question the feasibility of the Scoping Report's Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment, because of the high level of uncertainty surrounding the Calderdale Energy Park Proposed Development.

It seems impossible for Calderdale Energy Park to comply with Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017. This requires the description of the Proposed Development to be sufficient to enable the main effects of the scheme to be properly assessed. But key elements—turbine layout, tracks, cable routes, grid connection, substation and BESS locations, and restoration and possible compensation measures for blanket bog and other peatland habitats—are all still only indicative.

There are fine words about complying with the regulatory requirements for environmental impact assessment of the Proposed Development, but little about what that means in practice. And where there is specific Habitat survey information in the Biodiversity Chapter, it says these surveys of the Cable Corridor and Site Access Search Areas will be completed *after* identification of the preferred options. We are highly critical of this back-to-front approach.

The Scoping Report plans to use the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach for dealing with uncertainty about the Proposed Development, but we think it is misusing the approach as an opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment - despite the Planning Inspectorate's warning in its online Advice Note 9 not to do this.

The 'Rochdale Envelope' approach requires the DCO application and Environmental Statement to contain details of the outline Design Parameters for the Proposed Development. Even though currently no such parameters exist, Chapter 3 says the Applicant will have these details by next summer, when they plan to submit the DCO application.

But as far as we know, if Calderdale Energy Park wants this kind of flexibility about the Proposed Development, initial design parameters of the Proposed Development have to be properly assessed and taken into account in the pre-application stage.

The timeline allows only three and a half months to develop these parameters. January 2026 is the scheduled date for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and statutory public consultation. This seems unrealistic and unsafe, given the inadequate and questionable baseline surveys for habitats, hydrology and peat.

We don't know what to make of a mention that the Planning and Infrastructure Bill could upset the statutory consultation applecart, and that Calderdale Energy Park will follow the latest requirements.

Finally, Chapter 3 completely ignores the Ecosystem Approach for assessing impacts on a complex peatland system. This approach, endorsed by the Convention on Biological

Diversity, requires an understanding of hydrological and ecological connections across the entire peatland area. Instead, the Scoping Report focusses on isolated aspects of the peatland, and fails to link across the different technical chapters. The result is a failure to understand how the Proposed Development's likely significant adverse impacts on the SAC/SSSI and SPA extend far beyond the infrastructure footprint, because of the complex hydrological and ecological connections across the whole mosaic of interrelated peatland habitats.

In short, we believe the EIA approach in Chapter 3 cannot be carried out lawfully according to the 2017 EIA regulations, as long as the apparent misuse of the Rochdale Envelope approach continues as a pretext for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment.

Summary: Chapter 4 – Scoping Boundary and the Surrounding Area

The Scoping Report in general, and Chapter 4 in particular, give us no reason to change our response to the first Calderdale Windfarm Scoping Report in September 2023, that Walshaw Moor Estate is an inappropriate place for a big wind farm. The rebrand of Calderdale Energy Park since then has done nothing to alter our view.

These are our reasons.

1. There is a better alternative

We think landscape scale blanket bog restoration is a better way of achieving the net zero carbon, biodiversity, flood management and local economy aims that Calderdale Wind Farm developers claim their £500m scheme would deliver – while unaccountably proposing to build it on internationally important, highly protected blanket bog and other peatland habitats.

We are at a loss as to why the Applicant thinks it is a good idea to put a wind farm on the most highly environmentally protected land in the country, when both the non-statutory consultation and the current Scoping Report fail to demonstrate convincing climate or nature reasons for it.

We oppose placing a wind farm on the South Pennine Moors SAC, SPA, and SSSI - the most highly environmentally protected land in the country. The site is a vital carbon sink of national importance, with at least 50% of the Turbine Area comprising blanket bog, according to the project's questionable UK Hab survey. We are confident that the area is more than that, as much of what the Scoping Report classifies as dry heath is degraded blanket bog.

The Scoping Report fails to provide convincing climate or nature-based justifications for this location, leading us to question if the motive is simply profit. This would not bode well for the future of this protected moor.

2. Inaccurate Baseline Information and Too-Tight Timeframes

We are not reassured by the promise of "extensive survey effort and assessment through both EIA and HRA approaches." This chapter alone contains basic errors; paragraph 4.3.2 misdescribes the habitat, contradicting the Biodiversity Chapter.

We have detailed in our response to Chapter 3 why it seems unlikely that the Applicant will meet a January 2026 deadline for producing preferred design parameters for the Proposed Development, that will enable the main effects of the scheme to be properly assessed. But that is the schedule for the statutory consultation and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

3. Failure to Address Past Concerns

In 2023, the Scoping Report errors and omissions served to obscure the unsuitability of the site. The 2025 Scoping Report has not satisfactorily addressed the serious errors and omissions we identified in the 2023 report.

Our response to Chapters 7, 8 and 9 points out that none of these and other issues that we raised back in 2023 has been resolved in the 2025 scoping report. These issues included:

1. An incorrect definition of deep peat.
2. Failure to consider the implications of Natural England's removal of a proposed track from the measures in the 2017-2042 Walshaw Moor Estate Catchment Restoration Plan, after interpolated "shallow peat" depth measurements along the proposed track turned out to be deep peat, once probed in real life by a member of the public.
3. Proposed use the Scottish Government Carbon Calculator for Wind Farms on Peat (2023 Scoping Report, 15.1.2), while ignoring experts's calls for an urgent review of the calculator's continued applicability because of developments in the science of peatland management and significant drops in emissions factors for electricity generation.

4. The Newly Emerged Aggregate Problem

Walshaw Moor looks even more inappropriate now. Since the 2023 Scoping Report, some simple citizen desktop study (which the project team should have done for itself) has shown that the proposal to source aggregate from onsite borrow pits is unrealistic, and that there would be quite extreme likely adverse environmental and transport impacts of importing the necessary aggregate onto the site. There is more about this in our response to Chapter 5.

5. Expansion of the Project's Spatial Extent

The project's spatial extent has grown to include Cable Corridor and Site Access Search Areas, threatening further damage to the protected SAC and SPA which includes some of these areas. We are extremely worried about the proposed North West access track, carrying constant aggregate traffic as well as heavy mobile cranes and hundreds of Abnormal Indivisible Loads.

The current Scoping Report fails to rectify past flaws and introduces new, significant concerns. We continue to campaign, as part of a wider Peatland Alliance, for a legislative ban on wind farms on protected peatlands. The Walshaw Moor Estate and its surrounding areas remain completely unsuitable for the Proposed Development.

Summary: Chapter 5 – The Proposed Development

Chapter 5 is inadequate for its purpose. According to (para 1.4.6, Table 1-1) this is to explain "the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development on the environment" [sic]. But it doesn't do this.

Key points are:

- All elements of the Proposed Development are still only indicative, 3 months on from the non-statutory consultation.

- It is unclear what the process is for coming up with preferred options for all elements of the Proposed Development between now and January 2026. Both the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and the statutory consultation are due then.

- The Scoping Report seems to be exploiting the Rochdale Envelope approach to environmental impact assessment, which is intended to permit an application to be made when it includes uncertain details about the Proposed Development. But the whole Proposed Development is uncertain at the moment. It looks as if the Scoping Report is taking advantage of the Rochdale Envelope approach as "a blanket opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment" - despite the Planning Inspectorate's warning in its online Advice Note 9 not to do this.

- Because the Proposed Development is almost entirely indicative, we can't see how the Scoping Opinion can fulfill its task of requiring the Proposed Development to remain materially the same when the Applicant submits the Environmental Statement and the DCO application. So we think the Scoping Opinion will have to require the production of preferred options for the various elements of the Proposed Development by January 2026.

- The Scoping Report consistently under-represents the extent of blanket bog on Walshaw Moor. This skews the assessment of environmental impacts. Additional blanket bog restoration is intended to be a key part of the Proposed Development. But mitigation and restoration measures in Chapter 5 are vague, misconceived, and lack understanding of peatland ecology.

- The Proposed Development is stymied by lack of local knowledge and failure to carry out basic desktop studies of engineering and practical realities on Walshaw Moor and offsite areas. Chapter 5 makes an unrealistic claim about sourcing suitable aggregate from onsite borrow pits which would have been resolved by a quick desktop study. As it is, Chapter 5 fails to address the massive logistical and environmental impacts of importing the aggregate into the site. These and potential health impacts need to be scoped in.

- Other areas of ignorance about major engineering constraints presented by the moor include evident carelessness about the instability of the peat and impossibly steep

gradients in the NW search area for an access road for Abnormal Indivisible Loads and crane lorries.

- Related Scoping Report Chapters show that key Walshaw Moor baseline surveys were not done properly or even at all, particularly peat depth, habitats and hydrology surveys. The environmental consequences are not good, particularly for the moor's hydrology and increased flood risk in the Hebden Bridge Flood Area. There is an inadequate plan for subsequent environmental surveys to offsite areas.

- For these reasons, the Proposed Development is shown to be potentially environmentally destructive and dangerous.

Summary: Chapter 6 – Ornithology

1. Belittling Environmental Impacts, Lack of Objectivity

We find that the report's independence is compromised by statements that pre-judge the conclusion of other reports and significantly understate the project's scale and impacts. Saying a 41-turbine wind farm on 2352ha of protected peatland has "low potential for significant habitat loss" shows a lack of understanding of the scale of the Proposed Development and its construction. Similarly, when Golden Plover is explicitly cited in the SPA, stating that they "may" use the area during "key" periods is disingenuous, We also object that the term 'ornithological features' is unnecessarily obtuse and commodifies nature. We request plain English be used.

2. Inadequate Baseline Data and Survey Methodology

The Scoping Report persistently underplays the extent and importance of blanket bog, although this is the priority habitat in the SAC and vital for the birds that live on the moor.

The habitat map is inaccurate, classifying large areas of degraded blanket bog as upland heath. This is contradicted by Magic Map, DEFRA's Priority Habitats map, and the JNCC's citation about the SAC, which confirms all blanket bog is an Annex I habitat. This misclassification undermines the entire environmental impact assessment of Proposed Development on the protected site.

The species list is incomplete, omitting known breeding birds like Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Merlin—a key SPA species. Other omitted species include Greylag and Pink-footed Geese, and several waders. Target species are not named in section 6.3.16.

The chapter fails to integrate impacts on birds with impacts on their peatland habitats, although they are inseparable. Critically, the proposed surveys are insufficient:

* Winter raptor surveys and the establishment of control monitoring sites, as requested by us and the RSPB, are omitted. Land access cannot be a valid excuse given Walshaw Moor Estate's ownership of comparable surrounding land.
* Survey areas do not include proposed access roads and cable corridors, despite National Policy requiring early routing consideration. The timetable risks making this survey work redundant.
* Surveys for high-altitude passage birds, like the red-listed Swift, are mis-timed (March/October vs. May/August), and the specific threat of turbine-infrasound is ignored.
* The impacts of artificial lighting on migration and breeding birds are not considered.

In addition, we are concerned that the survey- design process seems to be back to front in terms of the design of the turbine area. Para 6.4 4 states that the design of the turbine area has been adapted to minimise impacts. But the design of the proposed development should take account of survey work yet to be completed, so we would expect the survey work to inform the design and turbine layout. If this is not the case, there seems little point in carrying out these surveys.

This back-to-front process has been noted in habitat surveys too, in our response to Chapter 7. Ban the Burn's response to Chapter 3 notes it as a systemic problem with the Applicant's approach to EIA.

3. Construction and Blanket Bog Mitigation/Restoration Lip Service

The construction proposals are vague and inadequate:

- Avoiding only the peak nesting season (April-May) is not enough - as the breeding season extends from February to July. The phrase "wherever practicable" provides a worrying loophole.
- Proposals to use handheld equipment seem like a cut and paste from somewhere else - how can you build a massive windfarm with handheld tools? Avoiding artificial lighting "wherever practicable" requires an explanation.
- There is no commitment to off-site waste disposal.
- Proposed restoration has been a major justification for the acceptability of the project on this highly protected blanket bog. But there is no mention of habitat restoration during the windfarm's operation, and no clarity about any environmental measures and mitigation during construction to help avoid or reduce the potential for significant adverse effects.

5. Scoping Out Effects of the Proposed Development

We strongly disagree with scoping out all non-target species. Buzzard, Kestrel, Whinchat and other non-target bird species that should be "common and widespread" are not necessarily so and the Proposed Development's effects on them need to be assessed.

The impact of the fenced Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound on habitat fragmentation must also be assessed.

6. Conclusion

We hope these flaws will be remedied in the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion and that statutory consultees will support this.

Summary: Chapter 7 – Biodiversity

1. Generally

A major concern across a number of Scoping Report Chapters - including this- is the inaccuracy of the description of the moorland habitats, under-representing blanket bog and over-emphasising areas of dry heath. This is the case in this chapter.

Using the best scientific evidence is a material planning consideration (2025 EN-3 Draft National Policy Statement) but this seems to be disregarded often.

There is a failure to cross reference information between this chapter, the previous chapter on ornithology, the chapter on peat hydrology and the chapter on carbon and climate. But these aspects of the moor are all fundamentally linked and need to be thought of as such in order to understand the environmental impacts of the Proposed Development.

2. Policy and legislative context omissions

This section of Chapter 6 omits some key policy documents:

4. The UK Biodiversity Framework 2024,
5. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,
6. Defra's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy, and
7. Natural England's new Definitions of Favourable Conservation Status for blanket bog and heathland.

3. Surveys and Baseline Conditions

Survey flaws and a back-to-front approach to the relationship between environmental surveys and design of the Proposed Development are evident in this Chapter. This problem is also highlighted in other Chapter summaries (1,3,6) so is not repeated here.

Apart from to say that while Chapter 7 has corrected the error in the seriously misleading Walshaw Moor Estate UK Habitats survey map, that was used in the non-statutory consultation Brochure, and now records approximately 50% of the turbine area as blanket bog (a significant correction from next to nothing), we are fairly confident that large areas that are described as dry heath are in fact probably degraded blanket bog.

4. Blanket bog restoration and monitoring

As with all the other chapters that mention it, the Biodiversity chapter's references to blanket bog restoration are muddled, confusing, and vague. There are no proposed restoration measures - a feature of the entire design process for the Proposed Development which Chapters 3 and 5 particularly address. A key uncertainty seems to be around the idea of using restoration to enhance the Walshaw Moor habitat as part of the Proposed Development, and Natural England's

stated position that restoring SAC habitats to favourable condition, and the Walshaw Moor Restoration Plan, are existing obligations, and any restoration measures carried out as part of the proposed development must be additional.

There is no clarity about *any* of these categories of restoration, given Natural England's lack of monitoring for the Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan since 2017.

There isn't any attempt to link concerns for the Proposed Development's likely impacts on Walshaw Moor's biodiversity on and above (birds) the protected peatland, with impacts on hydrology, and so on the peat carbon impacts that are the subject of Chapter 9i.

The decommissioning plan is to leave turbine foundations and roads in place, which will permanently alter hydrology, habitat, birds and natural carbon capture and storage. Meaning that the Scoping Report should scope in continued environmental monitoring of Walshaw Moor over several decades as the only way to begin to understand the long-term impacts.

Additional critical Issues have been raised in other Chapter summaries, so won't be repeated here

5. Conclusion – how to keep it all interlinked?

We are aware that in trying to make the links that the Scoping Report hasn't bothered with, there is a fair amount of repetition across our response to different chapters. This makes us wonder whether maybe Scoping Reports for big wind farms on protected peatland need another format that structurally links consideration of all the different aspects that make up upland blanket bog. Instead of splitting them apart and so coming up with what is more or less ecological and environmental impact nonsense.

As it is, an attempt to link everything up ends up meaning having to say some permutation of the same things across about 5 different chapters. Maybe a set of common topics should be put in a pool with a set of little tethered satellites where each individual topic can put their distinct environmental survey/proposed development design material, while interacting with the common material.

Summary: Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat

Our main concern is the lack of clear, assessable information on how the Scoping Report proposes to assess and mitigate flood risk impacts of the Proposed Development on the Hebden Bridge Flood Area.

We think this is a breach of a national policy requirement for Local Planning Authorities and statutory advisors to have the best and most assessable information from applicants. (2025 Draft NPS EN-1 para 4.2.13)

This failure is compounded by the apparent misuse of the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach, already described in summaries of Chapters 1, 3 and 5. So we won't repeat it here.

There are various means by which Chapter 8 evades the issue of the Proposed Development's unacceptable flood risk to Hebden Bridge Flood area.

- **Lack of clarity about Study Areas**

The proposed 1km Flood Risk Study Area does not extend to the Hebden Bridge flood area. While the 2-5km hydrology study area should include it (since Hebden Bridge is 3.5km from Walshaw Moor) the Scoping Report doesn't explicitly confirm this or properly address the direct hydrological pathways from the moor to the town.

2. Lack of Local Knowledge & Ecological Thinking

The chapter displays a poor understanding of local hydrology. It fails to mention crucial infrastructure like the sluice and spillway in Greave Clough, which directs overflow runoff towards Hebden Bridge, and does not reference the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme, which has just been submitted for planning permission.

3. Fundamental Omission of Blanket Bog

The chapter astonishingly ignores the presence of the living blanket bog habitat. It treats peat, hydrology, and biodiversity as separate issues, failing to recognise they are an interdependent system. The destruction of the bog's surface vegetation through both intentional and unintentional drainage due to the Proposed Development would increase flood risk by speeding up runoff.

4. An Outdated and Flawed Definition of Peat

The report's reliance on a depth-based definition of peat (>0.3m) is scientifically unsound. It disregards Natural England's new guidance and IUCN UK Peat Programme advice that shallow peat <0.3m is ecologically and hydrologically critical. This error underpins ill-founded environmental mitigation measures.

5. Ineffective and Unclear Environmental Measures

The proposed measures during construction and operation are vague and based on the flawed definitions above. Key details are missing, such as volumes of peat to be excavated relative to volumes of peat to be reinstated, the duration of impacts (which evidence of peatland drainage show could last 150+ years), and how runoff will be managed without causing more peat damage. The plan for 'permeable' access tracks can't disguise the fact that they will still disrupt the peat hydrology, with the near-certain consequence of damage to irreplaceable blanket bog and the disruption of the internationally protected site's integrity that implies.

6. Dangerous Scoping-Out of Major Risks

We strongly disagree with the decision to scope out the risk of major accidents, including peat slides. The protected moor North West of the site, proposed as the location for the Abnormal Indivisible Load access road, has a history of bog bursts (e.g., Crow Hill, 1824).

Recent peat slides in Shetland linked to wind farm tracks construction show the risk is not necessarily mitigated by reliance on the Scottish Government Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments guidance, which the Scoping Report advocates.

Although the guidance is the best there is, when it comes to windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment work, developers have tended to cherry-pick only those parts that they can easily address, while ignoring or glossing over the more difficult parts

7. Underestimation of Cabling Impacts

The Scoping Report incorrectly dismisses underground cabling as having no hydrological effects once in operation. Cable trenches can act as drainage channels, disrupting peat hydrology and causing drying, especially on steep slopes. The report also fails to address the potential heat output from cables and its impact on peat.

8. Conclusion

In short, we are dismayed by Chapter 8. It lacks the scientific rigor, local knowledge, and objectivity required for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project on internationally protected peatland that is the source of a flood-prone river in a tightly-packed valley town. It fails to provide the necessary information to assess the true flood risk to Hebden Bridge and identify if it is mitigable, or the irreversible damage to the protected blanket bog and interrelated peatland habitats of the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA.

Summary: Chapter 9 – Carbon and Climate Change

1. Fundamental Flaw in Peatland Carbon Accounting

Chapter 9 lacks a credible methodology for measuring carbon emissions from the destruction and drainage of peatland. The developers repeatedly reference the Scottish Carbon Calculator for Wind Farms on Peat, ignoring the fact the IUCN UK Peat Programme has told the DESNZ that before this tool is applied across England's peatlands, the calculator should be significantly updated in the light of recent policy changes and advancements in science.
This is also the recommendation of the recent Scottish government-commissioned Phase 1 review, as detailed in the report 'Carbon Calculator for wind farms on Scottish peatlands: an evidence assessment'.
This means any assessment of the single most significant carbon cost of this development on blanket bog is entirely speculative. A worst-case scenario must be assumed for these emissions until the recommended Calculator updates have been made.

2. Unjustified Assumptions and Lack of Robust Baselines

We strongly object to the unsupported assumption in paragraph 9.3.6 that baseline GHG emissions are "likely to be small." This pre-judges the outcome and avoids the necessary rigorous analysis. A thorough baseline must be established, requiring a range of site survey data.
This should include an assessment against a future scenario where the blanket bog is restored, as per the Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan and other restoration measures which Table 7_10 in Para 7.5.28 refers as "normal practice" under the objectives of the designated sites.
This idea is supported by the carbon calculator evidence assessment already referred to. It suggests that the Calculator's focus should shift to evaluating the impacts of windfarm and other development on peatlands/habitat carbon emissions. Specifically, whether it improves the environment and sequesters CO2 effectively. This would redefine 'payback time' as the period needed to restore peatland to a 'near pristine' condition from a reported baseline, compared to, for example, the restoration of the site without a wind farm development, through a variety of other financial sources, given Scotland's widespread peatland restoration efforts.

3. Vague and Meaningless Mitigation Commitments

Section 9.4 on 'Environmental Measures' is devoid of substance. It states that measures "will be implemented" but fails to specify what these measures are, instead using anticipatory language like "it is anticipated that measures...will be included." Crucially, there is no explanation of how the magnitude of "likely significant effects" will be measured, which risks making the entire Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) a meaningless exercise.

4. Misleading Use of "Carbon Benefits" and Flawed Displacement Logic

We repeatedly object to the use of the term "carbon benefit(s)" (e.g., 9.5.1, 9.5.7), as it prejudges the assessment's outcome. The logic used to calculate these supposed benefits is fundamentally

flawed. The alternative baselines (9.5.13) assume the development will displace gas generation, but this is inaccurate. With over 31GW of wind power already in the pipeline, new developments cannot claim to displace generation that will already have been largely supplanted. Gas generation will primarily act as backup for periods of low wind. The only valid comparison is the emissions intensity of the electricity produced compared to other practical large-scale sources like nuclear, solar, and other wind farms, particularly those on mineral soils.

5. Inappropriate Scoping Out of Emissions and Lack of Clarity

We disagree with the proposal to scope out any emission sources that allegedly constitute less than 1% of the lifecycle carbon (9.5.3). If these emissions have not been quantified, the developers cannot possibly know if they meet this criteria. Furthermore, the statement that "The significance of effects for individual emissions sources will not be considered" (9.5.6) is incomprehensible and requires urgent clarification.

6. Unsubstantiated Methodological Claims and Speculative Statements

The document makes references to methodologies in the 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat assessment' (Chapter 8) for measuring peat emissions (9.5.18, 9.5.23), but no such methodology is evident in that chapter. We also reject as entirely speculative the claim that embodied carbon is "likely to represent the largest component" of the lifecycle footprint (9.5.38), especially given the unquantified and potentially massive emissions from peat disturbance, and the likely loss of carbon sequestration as peat forming vegetation and habitats are degraded as a result of adverse impacts on the peat hydrology.

7. Over-optimistic Projections and a Better Way Forward

The use of a 35-year project lifetime is optimistic; a more standard 25-year lifespan should be adopted. Finally, we believe the current site-selection process, driven by developer profit, is flawed. We advocate for a strategic, plan-led approach, where a body like Great British Energy, building on work by the University of Exeter and the RSPB, identifies viable sites with the least impact on communities and nature, thereby streamlining planning and ensuring genuinely green outcomes. We also advocate for landscape scale blanket bog restoration as a better alternative use of Walshaw Moor Estate.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the chapter, in its current form, is inadequate, relies on unjustified assumptions, and fails to provide the rigorous and transparent assessment required to evaluate the true carbon cost of developing on this sensitive peatland habitat.

Summary: Chapter 10 - Landscape and Visual Scoping Report

As a group dedicated to protecting our precious upland landscapes, particularly the irreplaceable blanket bog, we have serious concerns about the adequacy of the assessment and the apparent lack of understanding of the landscape's ecological criticality.

Generally & Literature

We note the report is prepared by a qualified professional, but the foundational understanding of the landscape is flawed.

Study Area & Baseline Conditions

The proposed 1km study area for the cable corridor is insufficient. The potential loss of mature trees and woodland will have visual impacts extending well beyond this limit, requiring professional judgement to extend the visual envelope.
Critically, the baseline description is inaccurate. Describing the landcover as "largely rough grassland" is wrong and dangerously underestimates the extent and importance of the internationally designated blanket bog habitats, as clearly outlined in National Character Area (NCA) 36. The description of geological features is also incorrect. Furthermore, the list of nearby wind farms omits those on Todmorden Moor, and landscape designations fail to include the Nidderdale National Landscape.

Viewpoint Assessment

The selection of viewpoints is inadequate and lacks transparency. Despite stakeholder feedback in 2023 highlighting major omissions like Sheepstones Edge and the Yorkshire Three Peaks, these are still missing. Now that turbine heights are confirmed at 200m, the visibility zone is vastly larger, yet key viewpoints within the Peak District and from locations like Lund Tower are not included. We are concerned about how and when stakeholder feedback will genuinely be incorporated.

Environmental Measures & Construction

The approach to mitigation is wholly inadequate. Describing environmental restoration as a "consideration" is unacceptable; it must be a core ethos. The proposed mitigation, focusing on grassland planting and woodland creation, is entirely misguided for a blanket bog environment and demonstrates a fundamental failure to grasp the primary objective: restoring the peatland hydrology and sphagnum-dominated bog for biodiversity, carbon, and water management.
The report fails to define "notable landscape features" and seems oblivious to the fact that the most important feature is the blanket bog itself. Entrusting the restoration of this internationally important habitat to a process that shows such a lack of understanding is hugely concerning.

Scope of Assessment & Effects Scoped Out

The cumulative assessment lacks detail. It must include sequential effects along key rights of way (e.g., Pennine Way, Brontë Way) and consider the loss of 'sense of openness'—the experience of wild, unimpaired spaces.
We strongly disagree with scoping out townscape assessments for villages like Haworth and Heptonstall, whose skylines will be dramatically altered. The permanent hydrological changes caused by buried concrete foundations mean decommissioning will not restore the site; these long-term effects must be assessed.

Likely Significant Effects & Other Omissions

The landscape and visual impact of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is not properly considered. The 15km study area underestimates the regional impact of placing development on the highest point of the South Pennines.
Major omissions include: a failure to assess perceptual qualities like wildness and tranquillity (as required by the GLVIA); a failure to recognise that physical effects on the hydrologically connected blanket bog will extend beyond the development footprint; and a failure to acknowledge the clear adverse effect on landscape character, such as the loss of wildness, which is not a subjective matter.

In conclusion, the scoping report demonstrates a critical failure to understand the landscape it proposes to alter. Without a fundamental shift towards prioritising the restoration and protection of the blanket bog ecosystem, the resulting Environmental Statement will be fundamentally flawed.

PB 21/9/25

Full Responses to Scoping Report by Chapters

The following more detailed responses have been compiled by Wadsworth Parish Council in collaboration with local groups and individuals who have an active interest in the moors. In particular we would like to thank Ban the Burn and the Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network for their input, both groups have been actively involved in monitoring the habitat and wildlife on the moors for over a decade before the wind farm proposal was announced.
Due to time constraints we have only been able to comment in detail on chapters 1 to 10, by not responding to 11 to 19 does not mean we necessarily agree with any of the statements made in those chapters.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

The Introduction refers to three topics which align closely with Ban the Burn's concerns about the Proposed Development:

- Approach and methodologies for environmental impact assessments (paras 1.1.3, 1.1.4)
- Socio economics (paras 1.2.1, 1.2.2)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (para 1.4.8)

We touch on these topics below.

Initial comment regarding the independence of this Scoping Report

Our initial comment is that we believe the Scoping Report should present unbiassed, objective information in all its sections. But throughout the Chapters that we have responded to (1-9) we find that this is not the case, and that the Scoping Report is not independent, as it should be.

For example, the Chapter 2 overview of renewable energy policies omits and misquotes key aspects of Energy National Policy Statements that determine the Secretary of State's decision on the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

We consider that the selection of policies in **Chapter 2** creates a misleading impression of the policy context for big wind farms on protected peatland – particularly with regard to the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects like Calderdale Energy Park.

We believe such a biassed selection of policy statements about what the Secretary of State has to consider when deciding whether to consent a big windfarm on protected peatland creates a false impression. It seems to prejudge the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment

The Scoping Report's apparent unwillingness to confront the fact that the proposed development's location is internationally significant protected peatland seems to be reflected in its consistent under-representation of the extent of blanket bog on Walshaw Moor. This skews the assessment of environmental impacts.

Additional blanket bog restoration is intended to be a key part of the Proposed Development. But mitigation and restoration measures are vague, misconceived, and lack understanding of peatland ecology.

The Proposed Development is still almost entirely indicative and uncertain

The Scoping Report **Para 13.6.18** says the Proposed Development is almost entirely indicative.

Because the Proposed Development is almost entirely indicative, we can't see how the Scoping Opinion can fulfill its task of requiring the Proposed Development to remain materially the same when the Applicant submits the Environmental Statement and the DCO application.

So we think the Scoping Opinion should require the production of preferred options for the various elements of the Proposed Development by January 2026. (When the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and Statutory Public Consultation are due,)

It looks as if the Applicant is taking advantage of the Rochdale Envelope approach as "a blanket opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment" - despite the Planning Inspectorate's warning in its online Advice Note 9 not to do this.

There is evidence of insufficient detail in the environmental assessment in Technical Aspect Chapters 6-8.

And the Applicant doesn't seem to be following the required constraints analysis and design process for the Proposed Development.

This seems to undermine several Energy National Policy Statements: for Energy (EN-1), the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and the NPS for National Networks. All stress the need to ensure that the significant effects of a Proposed Development have been properly assessed. (Source: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope, para 1.3)

If the Scoping Opinion doesn't address this problem, we fear the Applicant will undermine environmental protections for Walshaw Moor and the offsite areas where Calderdale Energy Park infrastructure would be sited.

We hope this apparent misuse of the Rochdale Envelope approach will be stopped in the Scoping Opinion.

Approach and methodologies for environmental impact assessments

Paragraph 1.1.3 says "The Proposed Development will include offsite compensation measures, and opportunities for mitigating, restoring and where possible, enhancing biodiversity on the moor that will retain water and restore designated bog habitat. Consultation with Natural England has commenced on the approach to mitigation, compensation, restoration and enhancement and the measures will be included with the Environmental Statement (ES)."

Paragraph 1.4.2 says "The purpose of this Scoping Report is to request an opinion from the SoS on the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the Environmental Statement under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations…[It] is also used to obtain agreement on the approach and methodologies for assessments which will be reported in the ES, which will accompany the Application."

We find that it seems impossible for Calderdale Energy Park to comply with Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, which requires the description of the Proposed Development to be sufficient to enable the main effects of the scheme to be properly assessed.

This is because the whole project seems currently too vague for the environmental impacts to be assessed, even on the basis of the Rochdale Envelope approach which the Scoping Report

says they will use because of uncertainty about the Proposed Development. (Scoping Report 2.3.12, and section 3.2, page 33.)

The Scoping Report consistently underrepresents the extent of Walshaw Moor's blanket bog, which is protected as a Priority Annex 1 habitat by the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation. It doesn't seem to have a grasp of restoration measures.

There seems little understanding that blanket bog restoration is a key part of Wlashaw Moor's status as an SSSI/ SAC, and that in addition the Wlashaw Moor Estate 2017-2042 Catchment Restoration Plan prescribes restoration and infrastructure measures intended to restore 1,000ha of the moor by 2042.

These are given only the barest mention and the Scoping Report doesn't consider the implications of Natural England's failure to monitor the Catchment Restoration Plan.

It is impossible to gather what the Biodiversity Chapter means when it refers to additional restoration measures as part of the Proposed Development.

A major concern is the inaccuracy of the description of the moorland habitats in a number of Chapters, which under-represents blanket bog and over-emphasises areas of dry heath.

As with all other elements of the Proposed Development, the Scoping Report only refers to indicative measures for mitigation, restoration and, where possible compensation (including off site, within an area defined in Fig 4.3.).

Chapter 5 "The Proposed Development" barely mentions these measures. When it does, proposed measures in the Scoping Commitment Appendix A turn out to be vague and misconceived.

We have focused carefully in our response to Chapters 6-9 on the proposed approach and methodologies for assessments.

This was initially because in the Calderdale Energy Park non-statutory consultation (29 April 2025- 10 June 2025) the baseline survey information and methods for Walshaw Moor's peat depth, hydrology and habitats were full of errors and omissions.

Ban the Burn, Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network and others raised this problem with the Calderdale Energy Park project team both by email and at the Hebden Bridge public exhibition on 13th and 17th May 2025. Their answers made little sense and were self-contradictory. We included this in a complaint about the non-statutory public consultation that we emailed to the Calderdale Energy Park team FAO Christian Egal on 10th June 2025.

Since Calderdale Energy Park failed to respond we sent a Statement of Concern to the Local Planning Authority in early August 2025. It is downloadable here, in case of interest.

Chapter 7 Biodiversity, **Table 7.11** says that the Project Team is now following Natural England's advice about baseline survey data collection, assessment, and delivery of mitigation/compensation now meets Natural England's expectations.

We have checked this claim carefully against further information in Chapter 7, as well as Chapters 6, 8 and 9. Our analysis is given in our response to these chapters.

With all due respect, we find it hard to believe the Scoping Report's claim **(Table 7.11)** that baseline survey data collection, assessment, and delivery of mitigation/compensation now meets Natural England's expectations.

For example, Chapter 7, para **7.4.12** says Habitat surveys of the Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Areas will be completed after identification of the preferred options. This is repeated in **para 7.4.25**. We are highly critical of this approach as we consider it imperative that some form of habitat survey informs the selection of the preferred routes for cable corridors and access routes.

Should we assume that the selection of a preferred route will not be influenced in any way by the habitats that are potentially crossed?

This reinforces our opinion that these surveys are little more than a token gesture.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Paragraph 1.4.8 says that Calderdale Energy Park will also undertake and provide a detailed assessment of potential effects upon the internationally-designated Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area that are part of the Walshaw Moor site, as part of a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)).

Our comments on inadequate environmental assessments that are apparent in the Scoping Report and the non-statutory consultation before it, also apply to the Shadow HRA that the Applicant intends to submit along with the ES and DCO application.

We've already commented that we think the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment seems to have been prejudged in the Applicant's favour as a result of the Scoping Report's lack of independence and objectivity in its Chapter 2 overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Renewable Energy,

We don't think this is accurate or helpful in arriving at the best decision in ecological, climate, health and socio-economic terms.

As far as we can see, the policy context for a big wind farm on protected peatland isn't anything like as cut and dried as Chapter 2 and its overview of renewable energy policies makes out. And we can't imagine that the decision-making process is helped by pretending it is.

We believe the Scoping Report should tell the story of the real renewable energy policy context that Calderdale Energy Park has to negotiate. The UK - like everywhere else - faces twin nature and climate crises, plus a government drive for economic growth that is expected international investment will deliver.

So the current policy context for big onshore wind farms/renewable energy parks is conflicted. Although the government is bent on accelerating the construction of big onshore wind farms, it also has a binding international policy commitment to restoring and protecting nature and biodiversity (The Kunming-Montreal Treaty). Ministers from Defra, and Ed Miliband himself, explicitly recognise the need to balance nature and climate in this time of the interlinked nature and climate crises.

This is the real context that the Proposed Development has to negotiate, with significant real-world consequences.

So we are particularly shocked that the policy overview in Chapter 2 omits to identify exceptions to the presumption of consent – such as when mitigation of "adverse impacts" from a big renewable energy project still leaves a "residual impact", and this presents an unacceptable flood risk or risk to irreplaceable habitats. (EN-1, 4.2.15)

Both unacceptable flood risk and risk to irreplaceable blanket bog are of obvious relevance to the Proposed Development, and they are interlinked in ways the Applicant seems not to recognise, judging from the Scoping Report. Neither is adequately addressed in the Scoping Report's account of environmental impact assessment.

The Scoping Report's missing information is crucial for the Hebden Bridge Flood Area. It already experiences severe flooding that is worsened by mismanagement of Walshaw Moor Estate. The Scoping Report doesn't even mention the Flood Area.

The only reason why we know about the unacceptable flood risk exception to the presumption of consent is because the Environment Agency told us at their Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme public consultation in March this year.

It is disturbing that throughout the Scoping Report, Habitats Regulations Assessment issues, including regarding derogation, seem clouded by the Scoping Report's bias towards the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects and its disregard of National Policy Statements that provide additional protections for peatland. It is hugely concerning that the restoration of this precious landscape is being entrusted to those that appear to have no grasp of its importance.

Socio-economics

Paragraph 1.2.1 identifies the applicant as CWFL, who are sponsored by Next Gen Infra, a global investment group and subsidiary of Al Gihaz Holding.

Para 1.2.2 identifies Al Gihaz Holding as a player in the UK power supply chain through UK subsidiaries Lamprell and Enshore Subsea

We think the lack of information about CWFL (Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd) is problematic, as is the use of the word "sponsorship" to describe the relationship between Next Gen Infra, its parent company Al Gihaz Holding and Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd.

As far as we have been able to establish from Companies House records and email communication with Gibraltar Companies House, the corporate inter-relationships are more complicated than Paragraphs 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 suggest.

We think transparency about the ownership, financial obligations, corporate governance and interrelationships of Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd. could usefully be scoped into the Socio-economics impact assessment.

This suggestion probably won't go anywhere, since there is no policy or legislative basis to require it, at least as far as we know. But we contend that the public need more information about who would be the owner and custodian of Walshaw Moor, accountable to Natural England and Defra for managing and restoring the internationally significant and Habitats Regulations-protected site.

Likewise we think the public need to know who would hold corporate responsibility for Calderdale Energy Park's impact on water quality and flood risk in the Upper Calder Valley.

Transparency would be in the public interest regarding who would be responsible for paying off-site areas for compensatory biodiversity restoration and any schemes to "make up for" habitat, bird and wildlife destruction on the protected site, caused by the wind farm.

The public also need to know that due diligence would be done into whatever company would be responsible for payments into a Community Benefit Fund.

Chapter 2 – The Planning Policy Context

In responding to Chapter 2, Planning Policy Context, Ban the Burn has focused on its overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Renewable Energy that relate to environmental impact assessments and determine the decisions the Secretary of State has to make about them. (Scoping Report Section 2.3, down to paragraph 2.3.27)

As far as we know this may be the first big onshore wind farm application for a protected peatland site in England. So we see it as a test case for all the government's Net Zero planning reforms. Whatever can go here, on this most highly protected site, will go on any protected site anywhere in England.

We have commented on policies that are included in the overview, and how the Scoping Report presents them.

We have also commented on policies that are omitted from the overview, but which are important to Calderdale Energy Park's environmental impact assessments and will help to determine the Secretary of State's decision about the DCO application.

There are many crucial omissions from the overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Renewable Energy that are relevant to Calderdale Energy Park.

Initial comment regarding the independence of this scoping report

We believe all Chapters and sections should give unbiased and objective information.

We consider that the selection of policies creates a misleading impression of the policy context for wind farms on protected peatland – particularly with regard to the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects like Calderdale Energy Park, and how this affects the Secretary of State's decision on the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the proposed development.

The overview of renewable energy policies omits and misquotes key aspects of the Statements that determine the Secretary of State's decision on the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

We believe such a biassed selection of policy statements about what the Secretary of State has to consider when deciding whether to consent a big windfarm on protected peatland creates a false impression. It seems to prejudge the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment.

Key omissions

The Scoping Report's renewable energy policies overview omits policies about:

- Exceptions to the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects (including that unacceptable flood risk creates such an exception) (EN-1, 4.2.15)
- NONE of draft NPS EN-1 Section 5.8 relating to Flood Risk is included in the overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Energy

- The need for applications to be clear and accessible to both the public and decision makers (2025 Draft NPS EN-1 para 4.2.13) and for Local Planning Authorities and statutory advisors to have the best and most assessable information from applicants. (2025 Draft NPS EN-1 para 4.2.14)
- The requirement for applicants to make "appropriate and extensive use" of the best scientific evidence (Draft EN-3, Paragraph 2.12.148)
- Additional protections for peatland as a potential site for big onshore windfarms (Draft EN-1 Paras 2.3.2, and 2.12.74 and others)
- The requirement that "unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference with…irreplaceable habitats" (eg blanket bog) overrides the presumption of consent. (EN-1, 4.2.15)
- How the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects overrides existing legal protections for Green Belt and SSSIs (EN-1, 4.2.17)
- The requirement for the Secretary of State to secure compensatory measures to offset adverse effects to site integrity as part of a derogation of Habitats Regulations Assessments, when an applicant has shown that there are no deliverable alternative solutions, and that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Importance, (EN-1, 4.2.22)
- The requirement for applicants whose surveys have found peat in their project location, to follow new NatureScot guidance on principles in development design – eg infrastructure should be sited on areas of shallower peat, and soil disturbance should be minimised. (Draft EN-3 paragraph 2.12.76)
- A requirement for the Secretary of State to consider the extent to which predicted adverse effects on site integrity/conservation objectives are temporary or reversible, and the timescales for recovery. (Draft National Policy Statement EN-3 para 2.12.150)

Analysis of these missing policies and why the omissions matter to Calderdale Energy Park

We are sorry that our analysis is a bit messy. The timeframe for response is short, we are not experts, and it has been hard to tease what is missing from the overview of current and draft renewable energy policies, and why it matters.

But we believe it is important to try and tell the story of the real renewable energy policy context that Calderdale Energy Park has to negotiate.

We think the current policy context is quite conflicted. Although the government is hell-bent on accelerating the construction of big onshore wind farms, it also has a binding international policy commitment to restoring and protecting nature and biodiversity (The Kunming-Montreal Treaty). Ministers from Defra and Ed Miliband himself overtly recognise the need to balance nature and climate in this time of the interlinked nature and climate crises.

We don't think the policy context for a big wind farm on protected peatland is anything like as cut and dried as Chapter 2 and its overview of renewable energy policies makes out.

We are particularly shocked that the overview of renewable energy policies omits information about exceptions to the presumption of consent that attach to infrastructure projects that are deemed a Critical National Priority.

We are also shocked at the Scoping Report's silence about the policy that unacceptable flood risk creates such an exception.

In other words, it could be grounds for the Development Consent Order Application to fail, if Calderdale Energy Park's environmental impact assessment/shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment doesn't show that the runoff from the site would be no greater than before the wind farm was built. (There is more about this in our response to Chapter 8, Hydrology, Peat etc.)

But the policy overview in Chapter 2 seems to omit any mention of renewable energy policies about flood risk, as it affects Hebden Bridge and downstream valley towns.

Instead Chapter 2 of the Scoping Report is keen to draw attention to a presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects like Calderdale Energy Park, in paragraph 2.3.7 (referencing EN-1, Section 4.2); and in paragraph 2.3.16 (referencing Draft EN-1, Section 4.2),

But it omits any balancing reference that the presumption of consent appears to be modified by Draft EN-1 Paras 2.3.2, and 2.12.74 (and others) which provide additional protections for designated peatland as a site for big windfarms.

It also omits to identify exceptions to the presumption of consent – such as when mitigation of "adverse impacts" from a big renewable energy project still leaves a "residual impact", and this presents an unacceptable flood risk or risk to irreplaceable habitats. (EN-1, 4.2.15)

These omissions make the presumption of consent for Calderdale Energy Park seem way more cut and dried than we believe it in fact is

We can see a probable reason why Calderdale Energy Park feels the need to make these self-serving policy selections. The Scoping Report is clear that Calderdale Energy Park will submit a shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment along with their DCO application (para 1.4.8) and anticipates that this will lead to an Appropriate Assessment that may well include facing the derogation tests (para 3.11.4, Table 7-16).

In other words, they know they need a get out of jail free card to get Calderdale Energy Park consented by the Secretary of State. Because renewable energy policies covering irreplaceable habitats and additional protections for peat make it appear that the presumption of consent can be overridden.

So it is in their interest to make the claim in Scoping Report paragraph 2.3.16, that Calderdale Energy Park's status as a Critical National Priority Infrastructure project makes that process easier, without mentioning any policy qualifications due to the fact that they plan to build on protected peat. They prefer to focus on the fact that Critical National Priority status:

"significantly reduces the likelihood of consent being refused due to residual impacts that remain after the mitigation hierarchy has been applied, [enabling] the SoS to give due weight to the strategic importance of low-carbon infrastructure when making planning decisions."

Another apparently self-serving policy reference is in Para 2.30.20. This selectively quotes the Draft EN-3 Para 2.12.149 policy about how the Secretary of State assesses impacts on ecologically designated sites including SACs, SPAs and SSSIs. It makes Calderdale Energy Park's chances of getting consent look more certain than maybe they are. The selective policy quote is:

"the designation of an area as a protected site (including SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites and SSSIs) does not necessarily restrict the construction or operation of onshore wind farms in, near, or through that area (see also Sections 4.3 and 5.4of EN-1)."

This is what Draft EN-3 para 2.12.149 actually says:

"The designation of an area as a protected site (including SACs,SPAs, Ramsar sites and SSSIs) does not necessarily restrict the construction or operation of onshore wind farms in, near, or through that area (see also Sections 4.3 and 5.4 of EN-1). However, it may make consent for such construction more difficult to secure. "

Those examples show why we think information presented in the overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Energy is garbled and not objective

We think this is an attempt to fudge the issue of building a wind farm on protected peatland, downplay the habitat's policy protections and prejudge the outcome of the application.

It also makes unnecessary work for readers who have to try and tease out meaning and carry out additional fact checking when they should be able to take it as read that the Scoping Report information is clear, accurate, unbiassed and objective.

This undermines the renewable energy policy requirement for applicants to provide the best and most assessable information

The relevant policy requirements are for:

- Applications to be clear and accessible to both the public and decision makers (2025 Draft NPS EN-1 para 4.2.13)
- Local Planning Authorities and statutory advisors to have the best and most assessable information from applicants 2025 (Draft NPS EN-1 paras 4.2.13- 4.2.14)

"Applicants and their consultants and advisors must ensure that their applications are clear and accessible to both the public and decision makers. To meet the Clean

Power 2030 Mission proportionality, clarity and focus will be priceless." (2025 Draft NPS EN-1 para 4.2.13

"Local Planning Authorities and statutory advisors need the best and most assessable information from applicants so that they can easily spot all the relevant issues, agree the majority of those issues early and focus their attention on any controversial issues." (Draft NPS EN-1 para 4.2.14).

How the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects overrides existing legal protections for Green Belt and SSSIs

The overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Energy omits the policy (EN-1, 4.2.17) that clarifies how the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects overrides existing legal protections for Green Belt and SSSIs, both of which apply to Calderdale Energy Park.

Doesn't Calderdale Energy Park think this policy is important? We think it is, because until now we have been wracking our brains about how Green Belt and SSSI protections could possibly be overridden.

This policy turns out to list the tests that the Secretary of State ASSUMES a Critical National Priority infrastructure project will pass, including:

"where development within a Green Belt requires very special circumstances to justify development; where development within or outside an SSSI requires the benefits (including need) of the development in the location proposed to clearly outweigh both the likely impact of the development on the features of the site that make it an SSSI, and any broader impact on the national network of SSSIs."

The Scoping Report disregards exceptions to the presumption of consent

Why? This is obviously crucial to Calderdale Energy Park, which is relying on presumption of consent because of its status as a Critical National Priority infrastructure project.

As already mentioned, EN-1, 4.2.15 clarifies that an exception to the presumption of consent is residual impacts that remain after the mitigation hierarchy has been applied, if they:

"present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference with, human health and public safety, defense, irreplaceable habitats…or unacceptable risk…onshore to flood…risk."

It is hugely important to Hebden Bridge and downstream that unacceptable flood risk creates an exception to the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects like Calderdale Energy Park (EN-1 para 4.2.15).

We need to know that if Calderdale Energy Park can't find a way to make sure that it won't worsen the flood risk in the valley, it will not be consented. This is what the Environment Agency told us during the public consultation on the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme.

So why doesn't the Scoping Report say so?

The renewable energy policy about Flood Risk is omitted

NONE of draft NPS EN-1 Section 5.8 relating to Flood Risk as it affects Hebden Bridge and downstream valley towns is included in the overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Energy.

Confusing omission of key policies relating to Habitats Regulations Assessments, irreplaceable habitats and the presumption of consent

The overview of current and draft National Policy Statements also omits Energy EN-1, 4.2.22 about Habitats Regulations Assessments:

"For HRAs, where an applicant has shown that there are no deliverable alternative solutions, and that there are IROPI, compensatory measures must be secured by the SoS as the competent authority, to offset the adverse effects to site integrity as part of a derogation."

But this seems to be checkmated by the EN-1, 4.2.15 requirement that "unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference with…irreplaceable habitats" (eg blanket bog) overrides the presumption of consent.

So does this mean that the Secretary of State can't secure compensatory measures for damage to site integrity, if the damage is to irreplaceable habitats?

The Scoping Report needs to at least try to clarify this.

Chapter 2 pretty much avoids peat-related renewable energy policies

It gives peat short shrift in Para 2.3.19, by garbling the requirement in Draft EN-3 para 2.12.52 for applicants to have regard to the specific biodiversity, ecological, hydrological and environmental considerations relating to peat:

"with regards to environmental considerations [Draft EN-3]para 2.12.52 states 'applicants should have regard to the specific biodiversity, ecological, hydrological and environmental considerations that relate to the proposed onshore wind development…namely Birds and bats: and Peat.' "

Our analysis became particularly tangled here, because a typo in Draft EN-3 makes it hard to find the paragraphs referring to peat that it directs applicants to consider. They turn out to be Draft EN-3, 2.12.74-2.12.78.

Draft EN-3 para 2.12.74 says,

"Onshore wind farm sites within England may be proposed on peatland. Peat soils are rich in carbon and disturbance can lead to climate impacts. Peatlands are sensitive habitats that are important for many species of flora and fauna. In some instances, soil disturbance may lead to change in the local hydrological regime which can affect biodiversity and the water environment. Applicants should therefore seek and rule out other locations before siting developments on peatland."

New guidance from NatureScot about windfarms on peat

Finally, the Scoping Report's overview of relevant current and draft National Policy Statements on Energy omits the direction to applicants whose windfarm project is on peatland to follow new guidance from NatureScot (Draft EN-3 paragraph 2.12.76.). This is that minimising soil disturbance and siting infrastructure on "areas of shallower peat" are key design principles for the Proposed Development:

"New guidance is available from NatureScot on a good practice approach to development on peatlands. Where the survey has identified the presence of peat, applicants should demonstrate adherence to these principles in development design. For example, infrastructure should be sited on areas of shallower peat, and soil disturbance should be minimised." (Draft EN-3 paragraph 2.12.76)
This policy doesn't make a lot of sense to us.

The South Pennine Moors are very different from Scotland

The South Pennine Moors are very different from Scotland. And shallower peatlands (ie 30cm or less) are hugely significant for the range of peatland ecosystem services that we now value, and should not be damaged by wind farm developments.

In Scotland, windfarms like Strathy and Whitelee are built on peatland that was formerly non-native commercial woodland. For example 35 wind turbines are proposed at South Strathy of a similar size (7 MW) to those proposed for Walshaw Moor. Strathy North Wind Farm is already constructed and operating. The area is in the Flow Country, one of Europe's most important

blanket bogs, however, at Strathy the wind farm will see removal of some 1000 hectares of non-native commercial woodland and restoration of the peatlands, so it is seen as environmentally beneficial rather than the case here in Calderdale where destruction of blanket bog is inevitable should this project go ahead.

Siting infrastructure on areas of shallower peat is not supported by the peat science literature

The IUCN UK Peatland Programme have challenged the draft National Policy Statement EN-3 section on peatland habitats (2.12.76), as the suggestion is not supported by the literature.

Areas of shallow peat are, if anything, less resilient and more vulnerable to degradation than deeper peat. (https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/news/draft-legislation-potentially-puts-large-carbon-stores-risk)

They nevertheless continue to be substantial carbon stores. The carbon content of shallow peat up to 30cm is the same as tropical rainforest, so sacrificing it as a policy principle could have substantial implications for UK emissions reporting and the UK's Nationally Determined Contributions.

Areas of shallow peat are often vital to the wider ecology and hydrological function of connected deeper peat deposits, and often have their own distinctive biodiversity as part of important areas of transitional habitat.

The IUCN UK Peat Programme response to the Draft NPS EN-3 consultation concluded,

"The ideal sites would generally be situated on mineral soils."

This is Ban the Burn's position too and we explain why in our response to Chapter 4.

We also return to this question in our response to Chapter 8, in relation to the Scoping Report's depth-based definition of peat, which is inappropriate and contradicts Natural England's definition of peat in its new Definitions of Favourable Conservation Status for blanket bog and heathland.

A June 2023 briefing from the IUCN UK Peat Programme pointed out that

"To meet climate change goals, as much peat carbon stock as possible needs to be secured, including that contained in shallower peats…regulation should start with a science-based definition."

Science-based definition of peat

"Peat is an aggregation of dead plant matter that has resisted complete decomposition, specifically as a result of waterlogging, whether by groundwater, rain, fog or dew (rather than by desiccation, acidity or other means) and has accumulated in situ (Lindsay and Andersen, 2016; Lourenco et al., 2022)…An area possessing such an accumulation of material is termed a peatland, and this remains the case, whether or not the area continues to support peat-forming conditions or peatland vegetation.

"Peatlands display a continuum of depths from initial thin layers to deposits of 15 m or more (Lindsay, 2010). Peat thickness may vary for several reasons, including date of peat initiation, slope, water chemistry and climate. In the natural, untouched scenario, waterlogging unites all parts of a peatland with different depth profiles into a hydrologically connected entity." (IUCN UK Peat Programme, Use of Peat Depth Criteria: Accounting for the Lost Peatlands, June 2023)

In contrast, as mentioned above, the Scoping Report (8 3.23) seems to be using a depth-based definition of peat – it refers to "a peat model interpolated from the Phase 1 data [that] confirms the presence of peat (>0.3m by the Soil Survey of England & Wales definition) over much of the Turbine Area."

Ban the Burn does not accept the Scoping Report's depth-based definition of peat. We explain this in our response to Chapter 8's hydrology section, together with the explanation in the June 2023 IUCN Peat Programme 'Use of Peat Depth Criteria' paper that

"Modern [conservation' requirements… cannot so easily be met by using a simple depth threshold: moss-generated surface roughness which slows flood peaks may require a moss carpet only a few centimeters thick; peat soils of only 30 cm are still sufficiently carbon-rich to exceed the emissions of many other habitats if destroyed, and peatland margins are often biodiversity hotspots because they represent transition zones between differing habitats. As a consequence…an increasingly widespread move away from minimum depth thresholds when defining peat…helps to highlight, in a way that a depth threshold does not, the extraordinary quantity of carbon stored in peat soils when compared with other soil types."

The best scientific evidence is a material planning consideration

Chapter 2, The Planning Policy Context (paragraph 2.3.18) does refer to the Draft EN3, Section 2.12 which provides detailed guidance on what onshore wind proposals may consist of and how they should be assessed.

But it omits any reference to Draft EN-3 Paragraph 2.12.148, which requires that:

"The Secretary of State should be satisfied that in the development of their proposal, the applicant has made appropriate, and ext45ensive, use of on-site assessments and up-to-date evidence from previous deployments and research results from scientific peer reviewed papers, and assessed through Habitats Regulation Assessment processes (including the mitigation

hierarchy) the impact on any protected species or habitats, as well as having regard to requirements set out in 5.4.39 of EN-1 (e.g. the Environment Act 2021)."

We think that any "evidence from previous deployments", that Calderdale Energy Park may rely on in its Environmental Statement and Shadow Habitats Regulation information, should be put in the public domain and open to scientific peer review.

Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network have recently written to the Calder Valley MP about this. In a constituency surgery meeting on 20th August 2025 our MP Josh Fenton-Glynn referred to evidence he had, that infrastructure on peatlands doesn't necessarily damage their ecological integrity, and so doesn't need to be avoided. As he refused to reveal the source of the evidence, we are fairly confident this evidence is not in the public domain. We therefore assume that it is windfarm companies' "evidence."

We know windfarm companies are meant to carry out impact monitoring but as far as we know practically none of the results from such monitoring ever reaches the public domain, so the data are never subject to critical scientific peer review.

Ban the Burn believe that monitoring by windfarm companies should be made public and subject to scientific scrutiny – surely such openness would be in the public interest? (In this context, we think Chapter 8 should explain the reasons why it thinks proposed environmental measures to avoid or mitigate the hydrology effects of the construction of the Proposed Development by avoiding deep peat are going to be effective.)

Secretary of State should consider the extent to which adverse effects are temporary or reversible, and the timescales for recovery

A final significant omission from the Chapter 2 overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Energy, is this peat-science-related requirement for the Secretary of State to consider the extent to which predicted adverse effects on site integrity/conservation objectives are temporary or reversible, and the timescales for recovery. (Draft National Policy Statement EN-3 para 2.12.150)

Our response to Chapter 8 includes detailed comments on the Scoping Report's omission of this policy.

The worst-case duration of the effects of peat drainage, which is an inevitable consequence of building infrastructure of peatland, is estimated at 150 years. Examples in The Fens (see the Holme Fen Post) continue to show shrinkage (up to 4 m) more than 150 years after initial drainage.

But the actual duration and data will only be known retrospectively, pointing to the need for decades-long monitoring even after operation and decommissioning of the Energy Park [Chico, G., Clewer, T., Midgley, N.G. et al. The extent of windfarm infrastructures on recognised European blanket bogs. Sci Rep 13, 3919 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-30752-3]

Restoration of peatland damage caused by windfarm construction is impossible over the net zero timeframe. The peat has taken thousands of years to form and cannot be replaced faster. So damage could not be restored at the end of Calderdale Energy Park's 35-year life. Even shallow (30cm) peat has taken 300 hundred years to form.

According to peat scientist Dr Guaduneth Chico,

"establishing windfarms on peatland in pursuit of greener energy risks compromising and undermining the green-energy transition." [Add REF]

Full depth blanket bog stores around 1600 tonnes of carbon per hectare – four times as much as tropical rainforest. It's one of the most biodiverse habitats in the world – and one of the most threatened.

There is more info on the extent to which the effects are temporary or reversible, and the timescales for recovery (if possible) in our Response to Chapter 8. Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat, and Chapter 9. Carbon and Climate Change).

Chapter 3 – Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment

How is the Scoping Report Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment in Chapter 3 feasible, when there is no certainty about the Proposed Development? (See also our response to Chapter 5.)

It seems impossible for Calderdale Energy Park to comply with Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, which requires the description of the Proposed Development to be sufficient to enable the main effects of the scheme to be properly assessed.

The whole project seems currently too vague for the environmental impacts to be assessed, even on the basis of the Rochdale Envelope approach which the Scoping Report says they will use. (Scoping Report **para 2.3.12**, and **section 3.2, page 33.**)

The Rochdale Envelope approach is for carrying out environmental impact assessments when details of the Proposed Development are still uncertain. But the whole Proposed Development is uncertain (Scoping Report Chapter 5), just as it was in the non-statutory consultation from 29th April to 10th June 2025.

Pretty much all aspects of the Proposed Development are still only indicative and it is likely to be subject to change even after the DCO application is submitted (Scoping Report **paragraph 13. 6.18**).

Calderdale Energy Park seem to be hiding behind the fact that it is a complex onshore wind farm on blanket bog, and claiming that there is a lot of uncertainty (the same as for an offshore windfarm, according to Planning Inspectorate 'Rochdale Envelope' guidance), that they can't resolve before making the application.

We think, more haste less speed. They need to do the baseline and environmental assessment work properly that is needed to define the range of design parameters for the Proposed Development, so it is at least clear what they are considering.

At the moment there is nothing really to go on, turbine placement, tracks, cable routes, grid connection, location of onsite substation and BESS are all only indicative, so how do you make a sensible judgement?

Para 2.3.12 notes that the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach requires the identification of reasonable worst-case scenarios. This applies to all elements of the Proposed Development. **Para 3.2.1** refers to PINS Advice Note Nine on the Rochdale Envelope.

The use of worst-case scenario parameters is so that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not done on the basis of the indicative Proposed Development, because this could result in under-reporting of effects if the scheme is built differently.

This would breach Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017 (Scoping Report **para 3.10.1**), which requires the description of the Proposed Development to be sufficient to enable the main effects of the scheme to be properly assessed.

At the moment there are almost NO design parameters for the Proposed Development – it is vague with little indication of the range of options they're considering. An exceptionn seems to be that **para 4.1.12** says that the search areas defined in Fig 4-3 allow consideration of the likely significant environmental effects of the full range of options for two site access roads, the two offsite cabling route options to whichever grid connection is eventually approved, and off-site compensation and highways works.

However this is put in doubt by **paras 7.4.12** and **7.4.25 which** say Habitat surveys of the Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Areas will be completed following identification of the preferred options.

We are highly critical of this approach. It is no good making a statement of intent to consider the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development if some form of habitat survey is not then carried out to inform the selection of the preferred routes for cable corridors and access routes.

Should we assume that the selection of a preferred route will not be influenced in any way by the habitats that are potentially crossed? This reinforces our opinion that these surveys are little more than a token gesture.

This has to be a major flaw in the approach to environmental impact assessment. Will this be described in detail in the ES? (**Para 3.10.1** promises that "The EIA process will be documented in an ES which will describe the Proposed Development, give full details of the EIA methodology and any technical methodologies and data used in support of the assessment."

Para **3.10.1** indicates that the ES will detail any enhancement, mitigation and compensation measures that have been employed; present the assessment of likely significant environmental effects; and provide a schedule of proposed mitigation and monitoring arrangements.

But Chapters 5 and 7 are garbled about the Proposed Development's additional restoration measures, on top of restoration that is already part of of Walshaw Moor's status as an SSSI/ SAC, and the Walshaw Moor Estate 2017-2042 Catchment Restoration Plan that prescribes restoration and infrastructure measures intended to restore 1,000ha of the moor by 2042 (although Natural England has not been monitoring this.) The Proposed Development includes indicative mitigation, restoration and, where possible, compensation measures But Chapter 5 barely mentions this and when it does, proposed measures in the Scoping Commitment Appendix A turn out to be vague and misconceived.

So as far as we can see there are fine words about complying with the regulatory requirements for environmental impact of the Proposed Development, but little about what that means in practice. This is why we think the Scoping Report is misusing the Rochdale Envelope approach as an opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment" - despite the Planning Inspectorate's warning in its online Advice Note 9 not to do this.

Somehow, by the time they submit their DCO application they need to have come up with Proposed Design parameters that are not so flexible and indicative that the likely effects of the scheme cannot be established.

Para 3.2.2 says they will have "details of the outline Design Parameters for the Proposed Development" by the time they make the DCO application next summer. We think these have to feature realistic maximum and minimum parameters, so that an assessment of the reasonable worst-case scenario can be undertaken.

The trouble is, Calderdale Energy Park can't just rock up to the DCO application next summer, with their realistic maximum and minimum outline "Design Parameters for the Proposed Development" as the basis for reasonable worst-case scenario assessment.

Apparently if Calderdale Energy Park wants this kind of flexibility about the Proposed Development, the design parameters of the Proposed Development have to be properly assessed and taken into account in the pre-application stage. How can they get this sorted in time?

And we also think that the Scoping Opinion has to define the Proposed Development sufficiently clearly for it to be possible to identify if the application, Environmental Statement and Shadow HRA describe the Proposed Development that is materially the same.

They have until January 2026 to present the Proposed Development design parameters to statutory consultees at the pre-application stage

January 2026 is when the Applicant intends to publish the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, as well as the start of the 6 week statutory consultation.

Para **3.4.6** says the Preliminary Environmental Information must include information that:

'is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)' (Regulation 12(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations).

So it looks as if the Applicant has three and a half months to come up with realistic maximum and minimum outline Design Parameters for the Proposed Development. Because that is what's needed to assess the worst-case environmental impacts that the Rochdale Envelope approach requires.

We understand that the Gunning Principles also require that the Statutory Public Consultation (scheduled for January 2026) presents the public with a clear range of options for all elements of the Proposed Development.

How is this going to be possible?

Para 3.3.1 says they will use relevant baseline conditions of the site and its surrounds to identify environmental constraints and opportunities needed to develop the design of the Proposed Development.

But the baseline surveys for hydrology, peat depth and habitats that they presented in the non-statutory consultation brochure were not fit for purpose. Our response to Chapters 7, 8 and 9 shows there are still problems with environmental surveys for these technical aspects.

A lot more work is likely to be needed to bring baseline conditions data for the site and its surrounds to the point where they're fit for identifying the environmental constraints and opportunities that will determine the design parameters for the Proposed Development. (More info below in section headed 'Ecosystem approach is needed for hydrology and other peatland baseline surveys', and in our responses to Chapters 6,7,8.9.)

The Scoping Report 3.4 says the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report will indicate the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development. That sounds like an extra step on top of the the Proposed Development design process indicated in **3.3.1**.

How are they going to do all this in three and a half months?

The Scoping Report indicates the Planning and Infrastructure Bill could upset the statutory consultation apple cart

Maybe they won't have to – **para 3.4.7** randomly mentions that at the time of statutory consultation (starting in January 2026), if the UK government has by then passed the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which includes two clauses that remove the requirement for statutory consultation at the pre-application stage for major infrastructure projects, Calderdale Energy park will follow:

" the latest requirements, to ensure adequate consultation has been undertaken."

That seems an odd way of putting it, since "the latest requirements" are intended to "scrap burdensome statutory consultation requirements." (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government). The Planning and Infrastructure Bill also aims to amend the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017.

So it might have been truer for 3.4.7 to say Calderdale Energy Park will follow "the latest requirements, to ensure consultation is avoided."

What with one thing and another, we think it's impossible for Calderdale Energy Park to comply with Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, and their approach to Environmental Impact Assessment is untenable.

Unless it is saved by the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, this seems pretty terminal for the project, given that:

"The purpose of this Scoping Report is to request an opinion from the SoS on the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the Environmental Statement under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations…[It] is also used to obtain agreement on the approach and

methodologies for assessments which will be reported in the ES, which will accompany the Application." (**Para 1.4.8**)

Ecosystem approach is needed for hydrology and other peatland baseline surveys

The Ecosystem Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment doesn't seem to get a mention in Chapter 3. It was introduced in 1994 through the Convention on Biological Diversity and includes defining functional units of analysis that reflect the spatial and temporal linkages of peatland elements through hydrological connections, rather than a focus on individual vegetation types and simple distance buffers.

This is what Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife were trying to get across to Cavendish Consulting when we started asking them in May 2024 how the Calderdale Wind Farm developers had been carrying out hydrology and peat surveys for the environmental baseline data. (Please see more info in our response to the Scoping Report Chapter 2's omission of renewable energy policy statements on Flood Risk from its overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Energy.)

During the non-statutory consultation we persisted with questions about the use of the ecosystem approach in any baseline hydrology survey, because there was no evidence of it in the non-statutory consultation brochure. The Project Team admitted no hydrology survey had yet been carried out, but said they would be doing one later.

We have sent Calderdale Council Planning Department and other statutory consultees our Statement of Concerns about the non-statutory consultation. Section 2 of the Statement of Concerns is about Hydrology and Peat Map errors and omissions and there is more detail in Appendices.

Chapter 4 – Scoping Boundary and the Surrounding Area

We respond to Chapter 4 in terms of whether the 2025 Scoping Report has adequately addressed the inappropriateness of the Turbine Area that we identified in our response to the 2023 Scoping Report.

In 2023 we rejected Walshaw Moor Estate as an inappropriate site for the proposed windfarm. We still do.

Nothing that the rebranded Calderdale Energy Park has proposed in its non-statutory consultation or this new Scoping Report has satisfactorily addressed the inappropriateness of the site.

We are at a loss as to why the Applicant thinks it is a good idea to put a windfarm on the most highly environmentally protected land in the country, when both the non-statutory consultation and the current Scoping Report fail to demonstrate convincing climate or nature reasons for it.

We have ended up assuming that the shortsighted motive is profit. This creates doubts about the eventual landowner's suitability (if this application is consented) as a custodian of this highly protected moorland which is of vital importance to the lives of people who live near it, and has intrinsic value as a part of nature. (Please see our response to Chapter 15)

Our response to the September 2023 Calderdale Wind Farm Scoping Report was:

“We are in favour of onshore as well as off shore wind energy, but Walshaw Moor Estate is not an appropriate site for the huge proposed Wind Farm.

“Walshaw Moor is one of the rare areas of upland blanket bog in the UK and should be protected as a vital carbon sink on a par with tropical rainforest. But The Habitat Survey for the Scoping Report shows that most of the proposed turbines would be built on blanket bog or degraded blanket bog.”

The rebrand of Calderdale Energy Park since then has not altered our view that Walshaw Moor Estate should not be the location for a wind farm

Table 7.16 in the 2025 Scoping Report sums up Ban the Burn’s 2023 rejection of the wind farm’s location as:

“Concerns…the development will have detrimental impacts on the blanket bog, degraded blanket bog priority habitats and any associated wildlife within the indicative site.”

It says the concerns related to the sensitive habitats on Site have been noted and:

"The nature and extent of habitats on site, in particular blanket bog will be subject to extensive survey effort and assessment through both EIA and HRA approaches. Appropriate and proportionate mitigation and compensation measures are being developed to account for losses of sensitive habitat and will be provided in greater detail at PEIR and ES stage. These will also consider potential impacts on species associated with these habitats."

We are not reassured by the promise of "extensive survey effort and assessment through both EIA and HRA approaches".

Our response to Chapter 3, Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment, explains why we find this unfeasible.

In our response to Chapter 2, we have explained our concerns about the HRA process under the new "presumption of consent" for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects.

Our complaint to Calderdale Energy Park about environmental baseline surveys errors and omissions in the non-statutory consultation, and our subsequent Statement of Concerns to Calderdale Council Planning Department and other statutory consultees, don't seem to have had the effect of improving the baseline information in the Scoping Report. Please see our response to Chapters 7-9 for more info.

The Chapter on the Scoping Boundary and the Surrounding Area can't even get its desciption of the Turbine Area's habitat right. Para 4.3.2 wrongly says the Turbine Area habitat is mainly rotationally burned upland heath, managed for and used as a grouse moor, with areas of rough grazing (predominantly for sheep).

It isn't, and it contradicts the Biodiversity Chapter. The Special Area of Conservation is mainly designated for blanket bog. The Biodiversity Chapter 7.4.10 says the Turbine Area comprises typical upland habitats including areas of blanket bog, dry and wet heath, acidic and neutral grasslands. 7.4.13 says the UK Habitat Classification survey results (see Table 7-8) show that approximately 50% of the 2,262 ha Turbine Area comprises of blanket bog in varying condition.

Ban the Burn sent a complaint to Calderdale Energy Park at the end of the non-statutory consultation about errors and omissions in the habitats map and they failed to reply, so we sent a Statement of Concerns to Calderdale Council Planning Department and other statutory consultees. We have more comments about the habitats baseline data in our response to Chapter 7.

The Applicant intends that the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and the Environmental Statement will provide baseline survey and assessment information, and appropriate and proportionate mitigation and compensation measures to account for losses of sensitive habitat.

As we have said in our response to Chapter 3, we doubt that by January 2026, when the Preliminary Environmental Information Report is due, all the information will be available that **3.4.6** says 'is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)' (Regulation 12(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations).

The Applicant is using the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach to environmental impact assessment, because of uncertainties about what the Proposed Development is going to be. (Chapter 5, The Proposed Development)

In such a case, we believe that the information that is reasonably required for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report has to include realistic maximum and minimum outline Design Parameters for the Proposed Development. They are needed in order to assess the worst-case environmental impacts that the Rochdale Envelope approach requires.

How are the Project Team going to be able to pull all that information together, when they currently seem quite clueless about the range of design parameters for the Proposed Development?

The 2023 "concerns" Calderdale Energy Park attribute to Ban the Burn in Table 7.16 are incomplete

Our concerns about the 2023 Scoping Report remain. The 2025 Scoping Report hasn't addressed them all.

We were and remain concerned that Scoping Report errors and omissions serve to obscure the unsuitability of the site. Table 7.16 in the 2025 Scoping Report has ignored the points we made about the 2023 Scoping Report:

- It defined deep peat wrongly (>50cm, when at the time it was >40cm, and is now >30cm).

- It omitted to say that in 2019 Natural England had amended the 2017-2042 Walshaw Moor Estate Catchment Restoration Plan to remove the proposed firefighting track from its measures, because the interpolated "shallow peat" depth measurements along the proposed track turned out to be wrong. A member of the public probed the length of the track and found it was deep peat. Despite this, the 2023 Scoping Report still proposed to build 65 onsite tracks over the peat on the basis of interpolated peat measurements – one track for each wind turbine, designed to allow for abnormal loads (2023 Scoping Report, 3.5).

- Its proposed scope of assessment for potential impacts on the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological environment completely omitted the issue of peat as a carbon sink/source of emissions. (2023 Scoping Report, 9.9)

- It proposed to use the Scottish Government Carbon Calculator for WInd Farms on Peat (2023 Scoping Report, 15.1.2), but omitted to say that experts, including the calculator's main author, were calling for an urgent review of the calculators' continued applicability because the science of peatland management has moved forward, and emissions factors for electricity generation are likely to drop significantly owing to reduced fossil-fuel use in electricity generation.

Please see our response to Chapters 7, 8 and 9 which points out that none of these issues has been resolved in the 2025 scoping report.

The current Scoping Report seems unaware that in 2019 Natural England removed the firefighting track from the Catchment Restoration Plan. The 2025 Scoping Report **(7.4.7)** mistakenly still includes "installation of a track" as one of the measures to achieve the CRP aims of "restoration of 1,000 ha of blanket bog over the term of this agreement." This is part of a more general failure to carry out adequate desktop studies. (For example the issue of the unsuitability of aggregate from Walshaw Moor borrow pits, discussed below.)

Another indication of the failure to carry out adequate desktop studies is the Scoping Report's silence on the 2024 detailed review of the Scottish Government Carbon Calculator for Wind Farms on Peat. This has resulted in the recommendation that it should be significantly updated In the light of recent policy changes and advancements in science. (More info in our response to Chapter 9.)

Since 2023, the aggregate problem has emerged why Walshaw Moor is not an appropriate site for a massive infrastructure project

Our response to Chapter 5 recounts how this is due to a failure to carry out a 5 minute desktop study, which would have yielded the January 2025 West Yorkshire Local Aggregates Assessment information that aggregate from the kind of underlying rock on Walshaw Moor isn't suitable for the proposed energy park's infrastructure.

Chapter 5 says:

5.8.1 Suitable volumes of quarried stone will be sourced from onsite borrow pits, where it is possible. The utilisation of onsite borrow pits will assist with minimising the potential environmental and transport network effects associated with transporting imported aggregate to the Turbine Area.

5.8.2 Further information on the borrow pits and identification of aggregate requirements for the Proposed Development will be presented in the ES.

But onsite borrow pits would be most unlikely to yield the kind of aggregate needed for the wind farm's infrastructure. We are surprised that the news doesn't seem to have reached the Project Team. They still seem to think that they can quarry sufficiently hard aggregate out of sandstone borrow pits on Walshaw Moor.

Even though the Scoping Report explains that Walshaw Moor is underlain by Namurian Sandstones (Millstone Grit), which a quick desktop study would have told them is a relatively weak sandstone, suitable as a building stone but when crushed breaks down to small pieces of gravel and sand. It doesn't weather well, is susceptible to frost and liable to crushing under wheel loads and it does not have the inherent compressive strength for use in concrete as is available with Limestone, Basalt and Granite.

Chapter 4 needs to comment on this and explain why the Scoping Report persists in ignoring the unsuitable aggregate for the purposes of the Energy Park that onsite borrow pits would produce.

Existing tracks which were bult in 2012 with sandstone (so that driven grouse shooters didn't have to get their feet wet) have since been re-dressed with hard blue-grey chippings that we have been told are probably crushed Basalt. This would have to come from further afield, Cumbria most probably.

Apparently there are also some old limestone quarries on Walshaw Moor. As far as we know, the limestone can't be used for tracks because it's alkaline and blanket bog is acidic so it would damage the priority protected blanket bog habitat. (**Para 4.3.5** says Blanket bog peat soils are widespread across the Turbine Area. **Para 4.3.16** specifies that the aggregate on tracks has to be inert materials).

Significant adverse environmental impacts are likely from transporting the required hard aggregate from elsewhere, and the Chapter 4 should take this into account when considering the suitability of Walshaw Moor as the location for the energy park. Particularly since there is an Energy National Policy Statement requirement for the Secretary of State to be able to satisfy themself that for DCO renewable energy applications on protected peatland, the Applicant has considered alternative non-peatland sites and had good reason for not selecting them.

The potential environmental and transport network effects associated with transporting imported aggregate to the Turbine Area referred to in 5.8.1 look pretty extreme. An engineer who worked on the South Strathy wind farm near Thurso has used that experience to estimate the required quantities of aggregates to construct a 41 turbine wind farm at Walshaw Moor with an estimated 40 kilometres of access roads and the associated crane platforms all of which are permanent during the life of the wind farm.

The total quantity is over 700,000 tonnes and with a payload of just 20 tonnes per 40 tonne 8 wheel tipper, that is 35,000 deliveries full and 35,000 empty returning tippers.

Put another way, if one takes the number of minutes available in a two-year construction period, based on 96 five day weeks at 8 hours per day, that is 230,400 minutes. Dividing this number of minutes by 70,000 journeys means a truck must pass the entrance gate about every 3 minutes.

The split would be around 600,000 tonnes of basaltic or granitic crushed rocks (for road and crane platform construction) and 100,000 tonnes of limestone (for concrete).

Chapter 5 should explain this.

We comment further on this in our response to Chapter 8, Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat.

Ban the Burn continue to reject the South Pennine Moors SAC, SPA and SSSI as a site for the proposed wind farm/energy park

As part of a wider Peatland Alliance of groups, Ban the Burn are campaigning for a government ban on wind farms on protected peatland in England, through:

- A Parliamentary Petition that ran from January-July 2025
- Two proposed amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

Over 15,500 people nationally signed the petition. In Calder Valley constituency over 2,500 people signed the petition – a very high number for parliamentary petitions.

Our proposed amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill aim to:

8. Exclude protected peatland in England as a permissible site for the development of wind farms or energy parks,
9. Reserve any and all protected peatland in England for restoration without any windfarm or other development

The Peatland Alliance's proposed amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill were discussed by MPs in an information event we held in Parliament at the end of April. Since July we have been corresponding about the amendments with Peers for the Planet.

In the House of Lords' Second Reading of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill the Peers for the Planet Chair, Baroness Willis of Somerton, said the idea of destroying and then compensating or restoring elsewhere the SSI blanket peat bog on Walshaw Moor in Yorkshire…

"is clearly ridiculous, and allowing harm to those irreplaceable habitats in exchange for future compensation would be a grave misstep."

The expansion of the Proposed Development's "spatial extent" threatens more damage to the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

The 2025 Scoping Report says that,

"The spatial extent of the Proposed Development could be subject to change and may impact habitats and locations not yet considered." **(7.6.7)**

In fact there is no "could be" or "may." The spatial extent of the Proposed Development has grown into "surrounding areas" because of "ongoing design and development of access routes and cable connection options." **(7.6.7)**

This means they are going to have to assess the environmental impacts of both the search, and the construction and operation of infrastructure, on the Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Areas.

Some of these areas are on the same South Pennine Moors SAC, SPA and SSSI as the Turbine Area and so will also need Habitats Regulations Assessment. (7.6.7)

We are extremely worried that the North West access track will have to carry "general construction traffic as well as Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) traffic associated with the delivery of wind turbine components."(12.3.2) The likely aggregate traffic alone, outlined above, would be a huge burden for the protected peatland in the Site Access Search Area between the Turbine Area boundary and the road.

The Abnormal Indivisible Load traffic is a whole other story. We think it would amount to about 300 slow, weather dependent abnormal loads required to transport the towers (probably in 3 components), the blades (3 components) and the nacelles (1 component). And that's without bringing in the substation and the battery energy storage system.

In addition the very large 200 tonne mobile cranes used to construct the wind turbines have 8 or more axles and arrive under their own power with a train of 3 or 4 heavy articulated loads carrying the counterweights and additional booms, the final erected weights are around 400 tonnes. The maximum gradient they can negotiate is 1 in 10.

How are they going to negotiate both the North West access track to the site, and then the Turbine Area itself? And at what cost to the peat's hydrology? At best the tracks would cause drawdown of the water table and at worst the site will be very susceptible to peat slides, either outcome will destroy the habitat and considerably reduce the sequestration of carbon contained within the blanket bog. (More info in our response to Chapter 8.)

The extension of the area impacted by the windfarm to include the search/construction of offsite access tracks (including for abnormal indivisible loads), and for cabling to transmit electricity from the onsite substation to the eventual grid connection, just compounds the problem that the Walshaw Moor Estate site and its surrounding areas are completely inappropriate for the windfarm.

Our response to Chapter 8 includes some comments on the likely environmental impacts on the Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Area.

The North West site access search area looks like a terrible idea, environmentally

Fig 7.3 shows that it includes Dove Stones Moor. This is part of the same South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA as Walshaw Moor, and the site of the massive 1824 Crow Hill bog burst. The Scoping Report refers to it in 8.3.26 as one of two recorded peat landslides in the area.

Thanks to records by Reverend Patrick Bronte and others, we know that the peat flow from the Crow Hill bog burst was 30 to 60 metres wide and five to six metres deep and continued for 10 to 15 miles. Substantial fish kills (1,270 kilograms of perch and trout taken from the River Aire at Horsforth) and disruption to the woollen industry were reported.

Table 19-1 (page 543) says:

“During construction, there is a potential for existing peat deposits to be disturbed and generate a landslide. As detailed in Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat a peat landslide hazard and risk assessment will be undertaken providing details on how the Proposed Development will be constructed and operated, as well as any details relating to mitigation embedded in the design of the development. This will set out the measures which will be implemented to ensure major accidents are avoided.”

Our response to Chapter 8 has more information about this.

Chapter 5 – The Proposed Development

What is Chapter 5 The Proposed Development for? It doesn't tell us what we need to know.

Key points

- All elements of the Proposed Development are still only indicative, 3 months on from the non-statutory consultation.

- It is unclear what the process is for coming up with preferred options for all elements of the Proposed Development between now and January 2026. Both the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and the statutory consultation are due then.

- The Scoping Report seems to be exploiting the Rochdale Envelope approach to environmental impact assessment, which is intended to permit an application to be made when it includes **uncertain details** about the Proposed Development. But **the whole Proposed Development is uncertain** at the moment. It looks as if the Scoping Report is taking advantage of the Rochdale Envelope approach as "a blanket opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment" - despite the Planning Inspectorate's warning in its online Advice Note 9 not to do this.

- Blanket bog restoration is a key element of the Proposed Development. It is already a key part of Walshaw Moor's status as an SSSI/ SAC (give ref), and in addition the Walshaw Moor Estate 2017-2042 Catchment Restoration Plan prescribes restoration and infrastructure measures intended to restore 1,000ha of the moor by 2042. The Proposed Development includes indicative mitigation, restoration and, where possible compensation measures (including offsite within an areas defined in Fig XXX. But Chapter 5 barely mentions this and when it does, proposed measures in the Scoping Commitment Appendix A turn out to be vague and misconceived.

- Other Scoping Report Chapters show that key Walshaw Moor baseline surveys were not done properly or even at all (peat depth, habitats and hydrology). There is an inadequate plan for subsequent environmental surveys to offsite areas, and there is a grievous lack of local knowledge about the moor and offsite areas. For these reasons, the Proposed Development is a potentially environmentally destructive and dangerous mess.

These points are responded to more fully below,

We expected that by now the Scoping Report would have clear information about the range of options under consideration

Such as:

- The likely range of generating capacity (all we know at the moment is it has to be >100MW and Christopher Wilson told the Parish Council forum in late 2023 that it had to be at least 200MW to be economically viable. There is no certainty about the range of options around the indicative 300 MW capacity,

- Possible BESS capacity, functions and location.

- Off site cabling - they don't know what kind of cable they'll use, as it depends on which grid connection point they use - National Grid or DNO - and the Planning Inspectorate told them in their first meeting that they'd do better in the DCO application process with one connection point than 2 options.

- Access roads - there are two proposed construction access roads (**para 5.10.2**) but they don't seem to have been surveyed and we've not managed to find out what surveys are proposed. The NW access road is proposed to take the Abnormal Indivisible Loads but there might also be other Abnormal Indivisible Loads access roads somewhere but they don't know (**5.10.4**).

- Mitigation and enhancement measures, including any offsite compensation measures.

But **Para 13.6.18** says: An indicative layout and candidate turbine have been used to inform this Scoping Report, including predicted noise levels and the identification of noise sensitive receptors, and it is anticipated that these could differ from the candidate turbine and layout submitted with the DCO application. Additionally, the design of the substation, BESS and cable route(s) considered in this Scoping Report are also indicative and will be subject to change.

In the absence of hard information about the Proposed Development, Ban the Burn expected this Chapter to say how the Applicant intends get to the point where they have this information.

We haven't found any such account.

This is problematic because the planning process for big onshore wind farms requires a lot of key decisions to be made during the pre-application stage. But Chapter 5 doesn't include enough information to base decisions on.

The Biodiversity Chapter does say that provisional information about the Proposed Development will be presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (in January 2026). But the time frame and sequence of events seem implausible.

There is still site-specific environmental survey work that needs to be done first. But the Biodiversity Chapter seems to propose putting the Proposed Development 'preferred options' cart before the environmental survey horse. And environmental survey timings are seasonally specific and might not fit in with being done this autumn.

We explain below why we do not have confidence in the proposed environmental survey regime. In some cases, at least, we think surveys are little more than a token gesture.

The Scoping Report needs to outline the process and schedule for how the Proposed Development is to get from current near-total uncertainty about all its elements (para **13.6.18**) to the promised point that technical assessments presented in the ES will define a 'design envelope' for the Proposed Development.
The Scoping Report needs to say what work the developers are doing NOW – not just to get to the point of the Proposed Development design envelope for inclusion in the ES next June, but more urgently, how they are going to produce the Preliminary Environmental Information by January

2026, in time for decisions during the pre-application process and for a statutory public consultation that satisfies the Gunning Principle of presenting clear information about the range of options under consideration for the Proposed Development.

At the moment Chapter 5 only announces good intentions about the Proposed Development at the ES Stage. It postpones the time of reckoning by saying Information provided on layout and design within the DCO application will be based on the principles of the 'Rochdale Envelope' (**Para 5.1.2**)

But the DCO application is next June. Not next January. How is the required provisional information going to be available then?

The Scoping Report seems to be using the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach to environmental impact assessment, in order to take advantage of "a blanket opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the environmental assessment". Something the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 9 warns against.

Like para 5.1.2, **Para 5.1.4** similarly says the ES will define which elements of the Proposed Development have yet to be finalised and provide reasons for this. Where flexibility is sought for any elements, the ES will set out the parameters that would apply, clearly setting out any proposed limits of deviation, ensuring a design envelope that has considered the reasonable worst-case environmental effects.

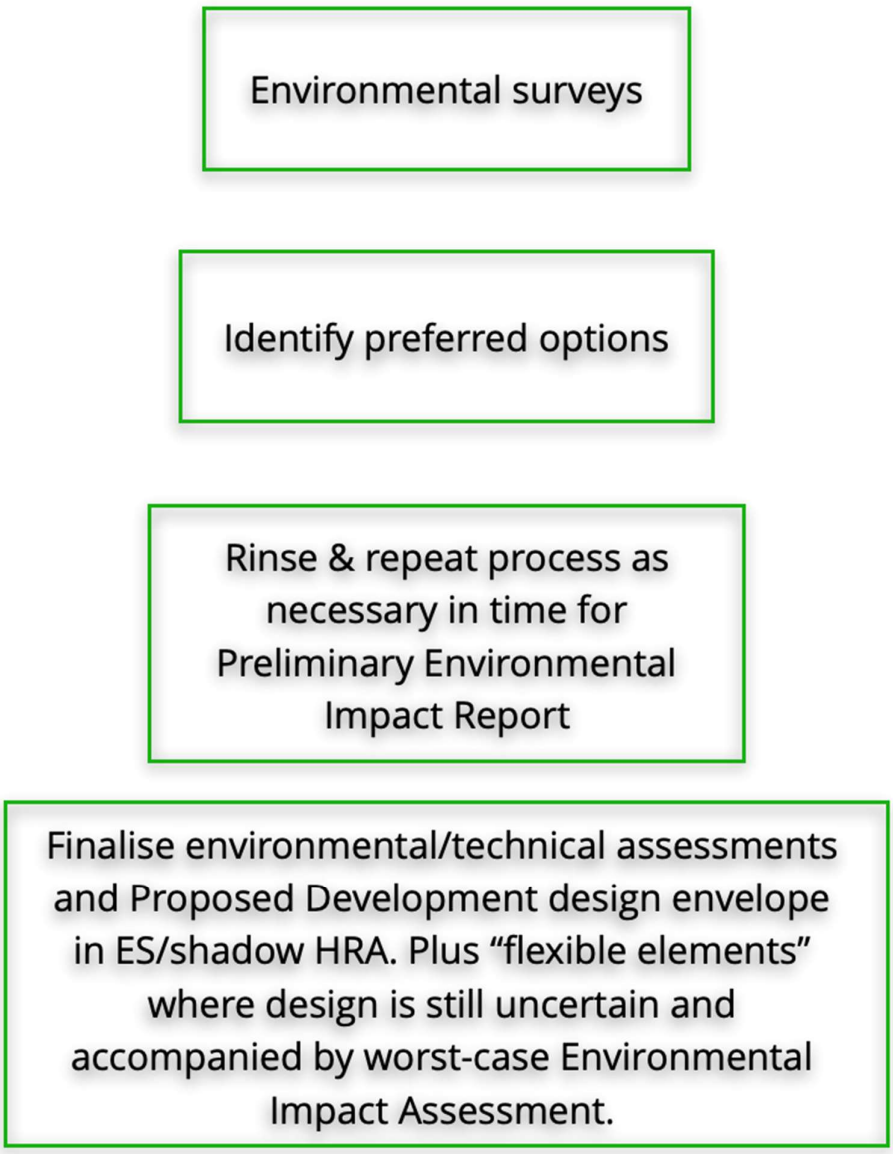
Para 5.1.4 just seems like a way for the Scoping Report to avoid saying that it hasn't a clue about the design options for the Proposed Development NOW, and will still be unclear about some of them next June.

But **Para 3.4.6** admits the Preliminary Environmental Information Report must include information that 'is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)' (Regulation 12(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations).

Chapter 5 needs to outline the process to get from Indicative Everything, to Identification of Preferred Options in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, to Proposed Development Design Envelope (ES).

It would be helpful if Chapter 5 provided a simple algorithm to show the process for generating that information between now and January 2026.

Would it look something like this? (On the next page)


Environmental surveys
Identify preferred options
Rinse & repeat process as necessary in time for Preliminary Environmental Impact Report
Finalise environmental/technical assessments and Proposed Development design envelope in ES/shadow HRA. Plus "flexible elements" where design is still uncertain and accompanied by worst-case Environmental Impact Assessment.

Chapter 5 should justify the Scoping Report's use of the Rochdale Envelope process, because the justification isn't self-evident

Does the Rochdale Envelope approach apply to the specifics of designing the Proposed Development at this point in time?

Or is it just invoked in order to justify the current near-total uncertainty about the Proposed Development?

Under these circumstances, how can use of the Rochdale Envelope approach be justified?

It seems problematic that the Applicant is exploiting the "Rochdale Envelope" approach, in a way that seems to counter para 1.2 in the Planning Inspectorate's
Advice Note 9. This says the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach is employed where "some details" of the whole project, eg precise dimensions of structures, have not been confirmed when the application is submitted.

But the Scoping Report **paragraph 13. 6.18**, already referred to, is clear that the uncertainty isn't about "some details" - the whole Proposed Development is still only indicative.

The Scoping Report needs to explain where that leaves the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Nine, which says:

> "5.2 Implementation of the Rochdale Envelope assessment approach should only be used where it is necessary and should not be treated as a blanket opportunity to allow for insufficient detail in the assessment.
>
> "5.6 Relevant parameters enabling flexibility within a DCO will be project and sector-specific. Examples include maximum/ minimum number of turbines, or maximum turbine blade tip height, associated with an offshore wind farm;...
>
> "5.7 In determining what is an acceptable level of flexibility applicants should have regard to information contained within relevant NPSs, notably: NPS EN-3 which states (paragraph 2.6.43) that the 'wind farm operators are unlikely to know precisely which turbines will be procured for the site until sometime after the consent has been granted...' "

We think the Scoping Report seems to be making a mockery of the Rochdale Envelope approach, so that the Applicant can continue to kick the environmental assessment process needed to define the Proposed Development's design parameters, down the road.

Surely this is unacceptable.

We can't see the justification for this high degree of uncertainty about the proposed development at this stage in the planning process. The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 9 shows that Calderdale Energy Park's level of uncertainty, as defined in Scoping Report para **13.6.18,** is that of an offshore windfarm.

Our response to Chapter 4 points out that Walshaw Moor Estate is undoubtedly a difficult and unsuitable site for the Proposed Development. If this gives rise to a stalled process - which

currently seems the case, and the same level of uncertainty as building an offshore windfarm, what's the point?

We have found the whole issue of the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach whole issue very confusing.

As already indicated, we think the Scoping Report should urgently narrow the areas of uncertainty about the Proposed Development that currently justify the use of the Rochdale Envelope.

"Technical" chapters 6-8 indicate the Proposed Development design process is flawed

Various Scoping Report chapters indicate the Applicant doesn't seem to be following the required constraints analysis and design process for the Proposed Development, that Chapter 3 outlines.

Para 3.3.1 states: As part of the EIA and design process, the relevant environmental baseline conditions of the site and its surrounds will be used to identify any environmental constraints and opportunities relevant to the technical assessments. This enables design principles to be created to support the evolution of the Proposed Development, to help ensure that important environmental considerations are taken into account during the design development process…"

So the Proposed Development design process should be based on information about baseline conditions, that is derived from site-specific environmental surveys and data. The purpose is to identify, avoid, prevent, mitigate or compensate for likely significant adverse impacts on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and SSSI. These measures in the Proposed Development are crucial for the Habitats Regulations Assessment and the Applicant has to include them in the Shadow HRA (add para no's)

This requirement applies to both Walshaw Moor Estate, and offsite in the search areas for site access tracks and cabling to potential grid connection options. Some of theses offsite areas have the same conservation designations as the Walshaw Moor Estate so the HRA requirements apply there too.

5. The Scoping Report needs to explain why some proposed environmental surveys sidestep the national policy requirement to ensure that the significant effects of a Proposed Development have been properly assessed

Chapter 7 Biodiversity, for example, indicates that the cart of identifying preferred options is being put before the habitats surveys horse.

This undermines several Energy National Policy Statements: for Energy (EN-1), the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and the NPS for National Networks. All stress the need to ensure that the significant effects of a Proposed Development have been properly assessed. (Source: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope, para 1.3)

If the Scoping Report doesn't address this problem, the Applicant will undermine environmental protections for Walshaw Moor and the offsite areas where Calderdale Energy Park infrastructure would be sited.

How this seems to be happening is shown in Chapter 7,para **7.4.12**. It says Habitat surveys of the Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Areas will be completed following identification of the preferred options. This is repeated in **para 7.4.25**.

We are highly critical of this approach as we consider it imperative that some form of habitat survey informs the selection of the preferred routes for cable corridors and access routes. Should we assume that the selection of a preferred route will not be influenced in any way by the habitats that are potentially crossed?

This reinforces our opinion that these surveys are little more than a token gesture. Furthermore, National Policy Statement EN-5 states that "the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both on shore and offshore at an early stage in the development process"

We object strongly that the determination of the preferred site access route will be based solely on commercial, logistical and economic factors etc, with no consideration of the ecology and how potential new land uses, for cabling and access in the wider area might affect connectivity for wildlife, potential fragmentation of habitats and disturbance to the wider environment. We consider this is a major omission that should be time tabled in, and fully described in any decision making.

If this doesn't happen, the surveys proposed can only be used to inform small changes, within the preferred route and not be used to avoid areas of greatest value for wildlife, nor will appropriate information be available to consultees to make an informed decision about the scheme.

We are also concerned that the Programme Document sets out a timetable for publication of provisional survey results in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report in January 2026, and for the production of the Environmental Statement in September 2026.

We think the schedule for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report in January 2026 gives insufficient time to carry out important survey work, as survey timings are very specific for habitats and species including bats.

In a consultation meeting on 10th July 2025, Natural England stated a preference for National Vegetation Classification surveys where there are botanically diverse habitats, (Para 7.5.33). They are best carried out in Spring and Summer, but those seasons have come and gone already.

The Scoping Report consistently under represents the extent of Walshaw Moor's blanket bog and doesn't seem to have a grasp of restoration measures

A major concern in Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network responses to a number of Scoping Report Chapters (Ornithology, Biodiversity, Peat/Hydrology and Landscape and Visual) is the inaccuracy of the description of the moorland habitats, which under-represents blanket bog and over-emphasises areas of dry heath.

This misleading feature of the Scoping Report not only undermines its independence and objectivity. It also leaves blanket bog mitigation, restoration and enhancement measures in the dark, even though they are a key element of the Proposed Development.

This is the case with Chapter 5. Like other Scoping Report Chapters, there is no coherence about measures to avoid, mitigate, restore or, if possible, compensate for damage to the blanket bog and interrelated moorland habitats. There isn't even any sign of understanding the ecological and hydrological processes that mean such damage is highly likely to extend well beyond the infrastructure footprint.

There doesn't seem to be any mention of preferred options for blanket bog restoration measures in Chapter 5, although these would be a crucial part of the Proposed Development. (Compensation for damage to blanket bog is not possible, as it is an irreplaceable habitat.)

Para **5.13.1** says the Proposed Development is anticipated to include offsite compensation measures. These measures will be included in A stand-alone shadow HRA will be submitted within the DCO Application. (5.13.2)

Figure 4-3 shows the current area of search for off-site biodiversity compensation measures.

Neither **5.13.1 nor Fig 4.3** say what the compensation measures would be or what they would compensate for.

Apart from that there's just a reference in **para 5.1.5** to a **Scoping Commitments Register in Appendix A.** This is a live document with details of the management plans which are currently anticipated to be submitted as part of the DCO Application and any specific commitments made by the Applicant at this (scoping) stage of the Proposed Development.

At least some of the measures in the management plans seem to be at a meaningless level of generality and aspiration, and they are also misconceived. For example, CO3 says an Outline Landscape and Ecology Plan will lay out the design parameters for proposed site restoration measures following construction, taking account of the surrounding local landscape character.

Cross referencing CO3 with Chapter 10 Visual and Landscape, **Para 10.4.6** refers to the routing and siting of elements of the proposed development to avoid notable landscape features. Penny Bennett's response to Chapter 10 Visual and Landscape asks: How are these notable landscape features defined, do these correspond with important ecological features such as blanket bog for instance?

Her Chapter 10 response continues:

> "The 'key potential mitigation measures' miss the point completely with regard to the restoration of the blanket bog. The objectives state that native grass/ moorland species are to be planted to assist in blending the track into the surrounding moorland context. Given that grasslands make up a small percentage of the areas on Walshaw Moor the emphasis here is misguided. The mitigation process needs to consider what the objectives are in the restoration of the vegetation. It seems that the aim is to recreate the vegetation patterns that were here prior to development which in places is degraded habitat brought about by years of mismanagement, not to take the opportunity to restore an internationally important area of blanket bog, for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood control and protection of water quality.

> These are the clear objectives set out in the NCA which provides clear and concise guidance that should be followed. The OLEMP would also need to fully understand the objectives of the Catchment Management Plan, and the requirements of any BNG.
> The statement that careful consideration of any planting proposals to complement the landscape character is worrying and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the ecological value of the landscape of the proposed turbine area. Restoration must take full account of the restoration of the peatland vegetation and hydrology and understand the challenges of restoring irreplaceable and irreparable peatland habitats.
> It is hugely concerning that the restoration of this precious landscape is being entrusted to those that appear to have no grasp of its importance."

In addition to such questions about the inappropriateness and misguidedness of proposed mitigation/restoration measures, the same questions arise as for other elements of the Proposed Development - how is the Applicant going to move from indicative blah to a provisional range of specific options for blanket bog restoration in time for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and the statutory consultation, while following the constraints analysis and design process?

It doesn't look possible.

Particularly since the Biodiversity Chapter is so confusing about restoration and compensation measures, and Natural England has not been monitoring the ongoing 2017 -2042 WME Catchment Restoration Plan. (More info in Ban the Burn's and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network's response to the Biodiversity Chapter.)

Other key omissions from Chapter 5

Chapter 5 doesn't only omit information about the process of identifying preferred options for most aspects of the Proposed Development, tested against robust site-specific environmental survey data. (The constraints analysis and design process.)

It hasn't outlined the engineering constraints imposed by the moor in respect of all elements of the Proposed Development as defined in **para 5.1.7**. They are crucial constraints on the design process of identifying preferred options for the Proposed Development, including safe and feasible locations.

This omission is particularly critical when it comes to emergency access and the need for detailed survey work of the engineering constraints on the proposed North West site access route for abnormal indivisible loads, over historically unstable peat.

The proposed offsite NW access road seems highly likely to be seriously environmentally damaging to the ecological integrity of the SAC - and dangerous too. (More info in our response to Chapter 8, including our disagreement with the proposed scoping out of the danger of peat slides.)

Para 12.3.2 says that currently, access to the west will provide access for general construction traffic as well as Abnormal Indivisible Load traffic associated with the delivery of wind turbine components. It doesn't mention the huge 8 axle crane lorries that are limited to a maximum 1 in

10 gradient. Or that the substation and BESS would also have to be trucked in over this highly unstable, highly protected peatland which at points well exceeds the crane lorries' maximum possible 1 in 10 gradient.

We think the absence of information about the engineering constraints imposed by the moor is because of inadequate baseline surveys of peat depths, hydrology and habitats, in the first place. Added to that are deficiences in later surveys, and the Project Team's ignorance of and disregard for local knowledge. (More info in our response to Chapters 7 and 8.)

This is part of the reason why Chapter 5 has nothing about the range of possible specifications for infrastructure, or of the possible range of locations for infrastructure.

Some examples follow.

Options for accessing aggregate are ignored

We don't know why the Scoping Report persists in claiming (**para 5.8.1**) that "suitable volumes of quarried stone will be sourced from onsite borrow pits, where it is possible." They must know that it is not possible, given the unsuitability for hard aggregate of Walshaw Moor's prevalent sandstone, millstone grit, mudstone and siltstone. The prevalence of these underlying rocks on Walshaw Moor is stated (**8.3.12)**

Chapter 5 needs to explain how both paras 5.8.1 and 8.3.12 can be true, because they can't.

Para 5.8.1 says the Proposed Development would require quarried stone to construct new tracks, hardstandings and compound areas, and where suitable to improve the existing tracks within the Turbine Area. The crushed stone will be required to form the track and hard-standing surface areas for the cranes and the site tracks. Suitable volumes of quarried stone will be sourced from onsite borrow pits, where it is possible. The utilisation of onsite borrow pits will assist with minimising the potential environmental and transport network effects associated with transporting imported aggregate to the Turbine Area.

5.8.2 "Further information on the borrow pits and identification of aggregate requirements for the Proposed Development will be presented in the ES."

How can the Scoping Report say that Walshaw Moor borrow pits would "assist with minimising the potential environmental and transport network effects" of trucking in aggregate to the Turbine Area?

A little desktop baseline investigation would surely have turned up plentiful evidence that none of these rocks produce hard aggregate suitable for the purposes of the Proposed Development.

Our response to Chapter 4 includes a wind farm engineer's calculation that the required amount of aggregate imported to the Walshaw Moor site over a two-year construction period would mean a loaded or empty truck passing the entrance gate every three minutes, over 96 five day weeks at 8 hours per day.

The Scoping Report needs to consider the many likely adverse effects on the environment and on human health and safety of trucking in the required quantities of aggregate, for example on air quality on public roads that pass through towns close by people's houses that stand right on the street

Para 5.9.2 says the details of the watercourses crossings will be presented in the ES - in other words, they haven't a clue about where these would be needed. How are they going to sort that in time to identify a provisional preferred option for wind turbine access roads on Walshaw Moor Estate?

Para 5.11.1 says cable undergrounding from the energy park substation to the eventual National Grid/DNO connection point is proposed unless there are technical reasons not to or statutory bodies want overgrounding – in other words, it seems they haven't a clue, but the Scoping Report has proposed underground cables for probable PR reasons.

Other contentious elements of the Proposed Development

The current wind turbine site layout seems overcrowded in terms of general industry spacing guidelines. As already mentioned, **Para 13.6.18** says "An indicative layout and candidate turbine have been used to inform this Scoping Report, including predicted noise levels and the identification of noise sensitive receptors." But Chapter 5 doesn't refer to the layout's overcrowding, or consider the environmental, economic, and safety ramifications, including implications for noise and vibration.

The economic ramifications might seem to be the applicant's problem not ours. But they are a public problem to the extent that onshore wind power is publicly subsidised through the Contracts for Difference scheme and constraints payments. So we have a legitimate concern for the energy park's engineering efficiency.

The wind turbine overcrowding is a result of the Applicant having done what lots of people predicted at the time of the original September 2023 Scoping Report. That is, reduce the number of turbines in the hope of pacifying public opinion by limiting the turbine layout to degraded or shallow peat.

Except we didn't predict that they'd do this by upsizing the turbines to try and keep the windfarm capacity more or less the same.

This is what's made the proposed layout overcrowded. Big turbines need more land space to function efficiently and safely.

The Scoping Report doesn't indicate the minimum/maximum design parameters for wind turbine layout, that would safely avoid overcrowding according to industry guidelines for environmental and safety as well as economic viability.

Our response to Chapter 8 comments on the likely increased flood risk to Hebden Bridge, as an unintended consequence of the current overcrowding with 41 proposed wind turbines, in combination with the indicative layout that has attempted to avoid siting them on deep peat.

We don't know where the windturbine access tracks would go, but reasonable inferences from the indicative turbine layout can be made. They lead us to believe that the Scoping Report has disregarded the implications for increased runoff from the access tracks during rainstorms or snowmelt, because of their indicative layout for the wind turbines.

We think this increases the flood risk to the Hebden Bridge flood area, which the Scoping Report disregards.

The indicative turbine layout seems to have been designed in the total absence of local knowledge and on the basis of a completely inadequate baseline hydrology map.
We complained about this to Calderdale Energy Park in our response to the non-statutory consultation. After they ignored our complaining we sent the Peatland Alliance Statement of Concerns to Calderdale Council Planning Department - downloadable here:
https://saverestorewalshawmoor.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/concerns-cep-non-stat-consultation_calderdale-council-planning-department_final-with-appendices.pdf

So Chapter 5 should reconsider the indicative layout on the basis of improved baseline peat, hydrology and habitats surveys, as well as local knowledge, and taking account of general industry spacing guidelines.

Chapter 5 includes other contentious points about the design of the Proposed Development. **Para 5.11.3 says** the cabling could need 2 single circuit trenches with haul road in between. Why? What will happen to the haul road once the cables are installed and the trenches filled in?

Construction

By the time Chapter 5 gets to construction activities the proposals float free of any realities of trying to build on Walshaw Moor.

Even more so when we get to **operation and maintenance**, 2031-2066. The operation and maintenance environmental management plans are just vague statements of intent with no intermeshing with reality.

Same goes for construction. An example of the disengagement with reality is **Para 5.14.2 construction activities,** which is still going on about borrow pits, despite the fact that a little basic desktop baseline investigation would have shown that Walshaw Moor's rocks are unsuitable for the hard aggregate the Proposed Development would need.

So what hope is there of producing a realistic Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan that would apply nearly 40 years into the future? Provisional information is needed in time for the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report, which is due to be presented to statutory consultants in January 2026.

But the Scoping Report **Appendix A - Scoping Commitments Register C05** promises to show how the Applicant will "avoid significant effects in the decommissioning environment" on biodiversity, hydrology, hydrogeology and peat .."

Para 5.2.2 "The wind turbine foundations are anticipated to be based on a reinforced concrete gravity base design…At this stage, it is not known whether concrete batching will be required. Should this be necessary, potential impacts resulting from the concrete batching process, including from the abstraction of water and discharge of wastewater, will be considered in the ES."

The stuff about not knowing about concrete batching at this stage about is nonsense. The foundations to the turbine towers are reinforced concrete, about 25 to 27 metres diameter and 3.5 metres thick at the centre. You cannot batch off-site concrete and deliver it in trucks for the

volumes involved which are about 1000 cubic metres per base. A concrete truck supplies only 6 cubic metres, so 167 trucks. Multiply that by 41. It is a continuous process from start to finish which will involve night shifts to pour a base like this, so it has to be site batched as there is no other way of doing it.

Para 5.14.6 says Works are not anticipated to be required at night. But they will be, at least with the concrete batching and pouring the turbine foundations. What are the likely effects on birds and wildlife? Is it possible to mitigate them? If not, what are the likely consequences?

Chapter 6 – Ornithology

We make an initial comment regarding the independence of this scoping report as we believe all sections should give unbiased and objective information. We consider that this is undermined by such comments as:

Table 6.4: In respect of scoping out of non-target species "given the low potential for significant habitat loss, the limited scale of land take..."

and

6.65 in respect of Golden Plover " which may use the study area during key periods..."

The first statement fails to accept that this would be the largest wind farm in England covering 2352ha and incorporating 41 x 200 m high turbines and their associated foundations and infrastructure on one of the most nature protected areas of land in England. To state then that there is a low potential for habitat loss and limited scale of land take shows a lack of understanding of the scale of operations and magnitude of construction to achieve this proposal.

The second statement at a more detailed level understates the presence of Golden Plover. Since the Golden Plover are explicitly cited in the Special Protection Area (SPA), to suggest that they MAY use the study area during KEY periods is disingenuous.

We believe statements such as these are pre-judging the conclusion of any future report and are unacceptable in this context.

We note the term 'ornithological features' is used frequently instead of 'Birds'. We request that this term is no longer used: it is unnecessarily obtuse and we feel commodifies nature. We prefer plain English please.

The Ornithology Chapter fails to cross reference CEP's potential impacts on birds with the potential impacts on habitats/hydrology, although the two subjects are intimately linked. The birds are unable to exist unless their habitats including the peat hydrology are healthy.

Continuing the theme of the inaccurate habitat map presented at the non-statutory public consultation, this chapter continues to peddle the false premise about the lack of blanket bog on Walshaw Moor, stating in **6.3.6**. that vegetation consists “mainly of rotationally burned upland heath managed for Grouse with areas of blanket bog and rough grazing….”

Literature cited

We note that nesting dates of moorland birds in English, Welsh and Scottish uplands published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is not cited as reference material, and we request that this is referred to, and breeding dates noted. Other important documents which are not referred to include:

UK Biodiversity Framework
The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
DEFRA's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy
Natural England: New Definitions of Favourable Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland

Surveys

1] **6.3.4** states that "a small area of land would be excluded in the NE of the turbines area and subsequently to include new areas that include access roads". It is not clear on the accompanying **figures 6.2 and 6.3** where the excluded area is.

2] None of the areas affected by proposed access roads and cable corridors are shown as areas where surveys are to be carried out. In particular this applies to peatland habitats affected by alternative routes A, B and C and potential cable corridors. These areas must be included within the survey, since the survey information would surely inform the selection of a preferred route. Parts of the wider Phase 2 SPA are within these search areas and birds would be affected by any proposed construction works within these areas.
We request that **Figure 6.3** is updated to show this information, and the full extent of surveys to be undertaken in 2025 and 2026 is fully noted.

National Policy Statement EN-5 states that "the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both on shore and offshore at an early stage in the development process"

We are concerned that, given the timetable of the works, set out in the programme document indicating that the Environmental Statement will be published in September 2026, there will be insufficient time to carry out this important survey work.

3] Baseline surveys

6.3.13 Field Surveys Overview
In their response to the 2023 Scoping Report (SR) Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network requested that a winter roost raptor survey was carried out. This does not appear to have been scheduled in and we again request that this is carried out, to demonstrate the importance of this area of moorland for winter roosting for these birds specifically. **6.3.65** notes the importance of the area for winter roost for Hen Harrier, but we can see no other formal survey of these or other raptors.

UCWN also requested that a control site be set up to aid future monitoring, and this was also requested by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). We cannot find any details of such monitoring in the SR.

We do not accept that land access restrictions are a major hurdle to achieving additional winter roost information, or control monitoring sites, since the Walshaw Estate owns most of the land surrounding the turbine area where such surveys would be done. This is all comparable peatland that forms part of the wider Phase 2 SPA. We consider this to be an important omission from the scoping report that must be addressed.

Given that this proposal is targeted at a site of national and international importance for birds, we consider it imperative that surveys are carried out to the highest standard to ensure a thorough baseline of the bird population living, breeding, feeding and roosting on and crossing Walshaw Moor is completely understood.

While we endorse the need for post construction monitoring as set out in **Table 6.2**, this does not provide equivalent data that comparable control and reference sites would.

There are no surveys cited that consider the effects of lighting on birds and particularly passage birds. It is known that artificial lighting can have a detrimental and disruptive effect on bird migration as well as local breeding populations of birds and this should be fully considered.

Passage Birds

The SR considers some passage birds which we note would be picked up in the vantage point (VP) surveys in spring and autumn. However, we are not satisfied that this would pick up high-level migrants of species such as Swift, particularly as surveys of these birds are planned in March and October, with Swift passage taking place around May and July -August. We realise that such high-altitude surveys would be challenging, however placing 200 m turbines on the highest land in the south Pennines is unprecedented, and could have a detrimental impact on Swift and other migratory species that follow the high ground of the Pennine Chain. These vulnerable, declining, red-listed birds are understood to be susceptible to the low frequency infrasound emitted by wind turbines which can lead to disorientation.

We believe this is an under researched area which could have unintended consequences for bird populations, far beyond the proposed wind turbine site.

Receptors identified

6.3.6 states 'Habitats within the Turbine Area consist mainly of rotationally burned upland heath managed for grouse with areas of blanket bog and rough grazing (predominantly for sheep).' This is wrong and doesn't even match with the UK Habitat Classification Distribution map shown in chapter 7, which indicates that the largest part of the turbine area is blanket bog and degraded blanket bog, with upland heathland shown as a smaller proportion. We still consider that this map is inaccurate since we consider much of the area classified as upland heath is in fact degraded blanket bog. This is supported not only by the Magic Map application, the governments own Priority Habitats map but also by the initial 2023 Habitats map produced by Natural Power which shows a large area to the East of the reservoirs as blanket bog – on the latest map this is shown as upland dry heath.

We will expand further on this factor because it is a crucial part of understanding the importance of the peatlands on Walshaw Moor, which throughout this SR are under-emphasised and wrongly defined. Both the active and damaged areas of blanket bog are recognised by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee citation for the SAC, which includes Walshaw Moor, and these are classed as Annex 1 habitats. This is confirmed by Natural England who state that:

> 'All blanket bog is a Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitat, and active blanket bog is a priority habitat under the Directive… the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat "encompasses all areas of blanket bog supporting semi-natural blanket bog vegetation, whether or not it may be defined as 'active'.'

Blanket bog habitat, both active and degraded, is the reason why this area is so important for birds.

6.3.60 UCWN have extensive records of raptors using Walshaw Moor and can confirm that there are at least two further species of owl including Short Eared Owl and Long Eared Owl known to breed on the moor and which are not noted in the SR. **6.3.60** also fails to mention Merlin, which is one of the birds cited in the designation of the SPA because of the internationally important breeding populations of this bird. Tawny Owl, Hobby, and Marsh Harrier are other raptors that have been recorded within the turbine area.
Raptor breeding habitat is not confined to cloughs, gritstone escarpments and dilapidated buildings but also heather and bilberry and flat open sites.
Other species not noted in the scoping report which can be present within the turbine area in significant numbers are Greylag Geese and Pink-footed Geese, and also Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper, and Common Sandpiper.

6.3.66 There are no target species listed in **6.3.16**. Can this be addressed?

Construction

6.4.4 states that the design of the turbine area has been adapted to minimise impacts. The design of the proposed development should take account of survey work yet to be completed, and we would expect the survey work to inform the design and turbine layout. If this is not the case, there seems little point in carrying out these surveys.

6.4.5 sets out the purpose of the outline Construction Management Plan and **6.4.7** states that construction work would avoid the peak nesting season. This is different to what we were told at the non-statutory consultation which was that construction would avoid the nesting season.
We have a number of concerns here:

1) The nesting season may change from year to year and April -May cessation in construction may not be appropriate every year.

2) The breeding season takes place over a much longer period than April to May, with some species arriving on the moor in February, and not leaving until July. There are many fledgling birds on the moor until late June. These birds are extremely vulnerable as they are too young to fly and we are concerned that these species would be seriously affected by proposed construction works.

3) We are concerned about the phrase 'wherever practicable' in relation to construction work avoiding the peak breeding season. What are the circumstances where there would be construction work carried out during April and May?

4) **6.4.8** refers to the nesting season, is this April -May as noted above, or does it extend to encompass the whole nesting season, we believe it should, as the young of Lapwing etc are still at a fledgling stage in late June.

6.4.9 refers to the use of handheld equipment. This seems like an inserted generic paragraph: surely while desirable for wildlife, the use of handheld equipment will not be practical for this scheme.

6.4.10 states that artificial light will be avoided 'wherever practicable.' On a site of this importance for wildlife there should surely be a ban on any works taking place when artificial light is required. Again, it would be useful to understand the parameters for when this would not be practical.

6.4.11 states that all putrescible and edible wasteful be stored and disposed of in a timely manner. This must be off site.

6.4.15 there is no mention of habitat restoration during the operational phase of the wind farm, yet a major justification for this project being acceptable on this highly protected blanket bog habitat has been the restoration that is proposed.

6.4.1 states that 'consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse

significant effect to occur.' However, no time scale is given, and it is not clear if any environmental measures would take place during the construction phase.

Are we correct in assuming then that habitat restoration would not take place until the decommissioning stage?

We are also unsure of the intent of any proposed restoration, as removing the turbine structures and reinstating a veneer of peat like material over foundations and hard standings might result in the moor being returned to something like its prior appearance, but not its physical character.

Table 6.2 We endorse the RSPB's concern that not all VP surveys locations were located outside the Turbine Area, and are uncertain why there are access restrictions given that the Walshaw Estate owns the surrounding land.

Table 6.4 We do not agree with the premise that there is low potential for habitat loss and a limited scale of land take. Consequently, we do not consider it appropriate that all non-target bird species are screened out. Species that should be "common and widespread" such as Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Raven, Wheatear, Whinchat and Stonechat are not necessarily as common as they should be and should not be scoped out.

At a detailed level, we note that no mention has been made of the potential effects of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and its impacts on birds due to localised fragmentation of the habitats and loss of feeding and breeding areas, as we assume the BESS compound will be fenced off. It would be useful to know to what extent the selection of the BESS site will involve consideration of impact on the bird population.

Chapter 7 Biodiversity

Generally

1. We make an initial comment regarding the independence of this scoping report as we believe all sections should give unbiased and objective information. A major concern across a number of Chapters is the inaccuracy of the description of the moorland habitats, which under-represents blanket bog and over-emphasises areas of dry heath. This is the case in this chapter.

   Using the best scientific evidence is a material planning consideration. The 2025 Draft National Policy Statement – Energy 3, para 2.12.148 says that 'The Secretary of State should be satisfied that in the development of their proposal, the applicant has made appropriate, and extensive, use of … up-to-date evidence from previous deployments and research results from scientific peer reviewed papers…' "

   CEP acknowledged this requirement during the non-statutory consultation. In response to public concerns about significant errors and omissions in the Brochure's baseline environmental information about Walshaw Moor, CEP emailed that "The Environmental Impact Assessment documentation will include references to external sources where relevant, including details of the relevant publications."

2. We are also concerned about the failure to cross reference information between this chapter, the previous chapter on ornithology, and the chapter on peat hydrology, which are all fundamentally linked. (For example, the 'relevant baseline conditions' section in the Hydrology Chapter ignores the presence of blanket bog in the Turbine Area and offsite areas. More info in our response to Chapter 8.)

   In the Ornithology chapter, **Table 6.4** refers to "the low potential for significant habitat loss, the limited scale of land take…"

   This fails to accept that Calderdale Energy Park would be the largest wind farm in England covering 9 square miles and incorporating 41 x 200 m high turbines and their associated foundations and infrastructure on one of the most nature-protected areas of land in England. To state then that there is a low potential for habitat loss and limited scale of land take shows a lack of understanding of the scale of operations and magnitude of construction to achieve this proposal.

   It also fails to recognise hydrological and ecological connections across the protected blanket bog habitat and interrelated mosaic of peatland habitats, which mean that the highly likely adverse effects on the integrity of the protected SAC and SPA would extend far beyond the infrastructure footprint. Table 6.4 misleadingly implies that such adverse impacts l would only result from the actual infrastructure "land take".

We believe statements such as these are prejudging the conclusion of any future report and are unacceptable in this context.

There appears to have been no collaboration between the authors of this chapter and the landscape and visual SR section although they both refer to mitigation. As restoration of the degraded areas of blanket bog is a key part of the Catchment Restoration Plan we would expect consistent and accurate information to be emerging about how this is planned.

The Biodiversity section doesn't talk about mitigation until decommissioning, **para 7.5.27:** "this plan will aim to return the Proposed Development to a condition that aligns with the ecological and ornithological character and conservation objectives of the.... SPA." While the landscape and visual SR section talks about planting grasses along side tracks and tree planting.

Any thought of a comprehensive plan for restoration of areas of degraded blanket bog NOW seems to be ignored, although it is a key reason for Walshaw Moor's designation as a Strategic Area of Conservation.

3. There are some significant typos. **Para 7.4.20** refers to survey sites on rivers in Scotland apparently, while **paras 7.5.14** and **7.5.15** are almost identical, this undermines the readers confidence in this being an accurate and professional report.

4. Relatedly, the Peatland Alliance of Ban the Burn, Forus Tree and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network sent Calderdale Council Planning Department a Statement of Concerns about significant errors and omissions in the non-statutory consultation Brochure.

We followed online Planning Inspectorate Guidance that this was the appropriate course of action if the developer didn't acknowledge complaints about their public consultation/s. The Statement is downloadable here. https://saverestorewalshawmoor.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/concerns-cep-non-stat-consultation_calderdale-council-planning-department_final-with-appendices.pdf

It informs our response in 6.5 and 6.6, below.

5. Literature

Para 7.1.1 policy and legislative context omits:

- The UK Biodiversity Framework 2024, which sets out the shared objectives and processes for co-operation and collaboration between the four countries of the UK, in order to meet the UK's international biodiversity commitments.
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which requires protections for nature in the planning system to be maintained with the goal of providing "effective

conservation and management" of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans by 2030.

- Defra's Irreplaceable Habitats Policy which requires developers to "Think about irreplaceable habitat at the design and planning stage, and look at how to avoid any adverse impacts."
- Natural England's New Definitions of Favourable Conservation Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland.

6. **Surveys**

6.1 Search areas for the cable corridor and access routes

Further baseline data

Para 7.3.3 states that to date surveys have only been carried out within the turbine area.

Para 7.7. 15 states that further surveys are planned for potential cable routes and access routes and that once preferred designs and routes are agreed with the design team, surveys will be agreed with the design team based on the nature of the habitats and locations they are crossing.

Chapter 7 indicates that all the work needed to identify the preferred options for the offsite cable corridor and access routes, and then generate provisional habitat survey results for them will be done into time for inclusion in the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report. This is due to be produced in January 2026.

Desk study, baseline survey and assessment are to be completed in the current design's broad search areas for the cable corridor and access routes (**para 7.7.19)**

Para **7.7.19** says the preferred options will then determine the extent and scope of any further works.

7.4.12 says Habitat surveys of the Cable Corridor Search Areas and Site Access Search Areas will be completed following identification of the preferred options.

This is repeated in **para 7.4.25**. W e are highly critical of this approach as we consider it imperative that some form of habitat survey informs the selection of the preferred routes for cable corridors and access routes. Should we assume that the selection of a preferred route will not be influenced in any way by the habitats that are potentially crossed.

This reinforces our opinion that these surveys are little more than a token gesture. Furthermore, National Policy Statement EN-5 states that "the applicant should consider and address routing and avoidance/ minimisation on environmental impacts of both on shore and offshore at an early stage in the development process"

We are also concerned that given the timetable of the works, set out in the programme document indicating that the Environmental Statement will be published in September 2026, that there will be sufficient time available to carry out important survey work as survey timings are very specific for species including bats.

It is anticipated that that provisional results will be available for inclusion in the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in January 2026.

UCWN object strongly that the determination of the preferred route will be based solely on commercial, logistical and economic factors etc, with no consideration of the ecology and how potential new land uses, for cabling and access in the wider area might affect connectivity for wildlife, potential fragmentation of habitats and disturbance to the wider environment. We consider this is a major omission that should be time tabled in, and fully described in any decision making.

If this is not the case, the surveys proposed can only be used to inform small changes, within the preferred route and not be used to avoid areas of greatest value for wildlife, nor will appropriate information be available to consultees to make an informed decision about the scheme.

Table 7.15 implies that these surveys will only be carried 'where necessary' within cable corridor and site access search areas, despite extensive parts of these corridors and areas lying within zones of international importance for wildlife.

The long-term impacts of these installations need to be fully understood as we understand these elements will remain permanently in situ.

There will be long term impacts arising from decommissioning that are not mentioned: habitats will be reinstated over areas of foundations for example where the hydrology has been completely altered, and it will not be possible to reinstate these habitats to their original status. This appears not to be understood.

Judging from info in paras 7.3.3, 7.7.19 and 7.4.12, habitat surveys will be carried out in the autumn. In a consultation meeting on 10th Jully 2025 Natural England stated a preference for NVC survey where there are botanically diverse habitats. (Para 7.5.33 Table 7-11.

These are best carried out in Spring and Summer, not autumn. So the Scoping Report needs to say how confident the Applicant can be in the quality of the habitat survey results for the offsite cable corridor and access routes.

7.4.9 says that the SAC and SPA are both within the Cable Corridor Search Area and Site Access Search Area, as well as the Turbine Area, information for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be prepared as a “Shadow HRA”.

The SSSI impact area (MAGIC) is not cited in **Table 7.3** with particular reference to the potential cable corridor and access routes.

6.2. Ban the Burn disagree with the assumption in **para 7.6.9** that "there will be no operational effects associated with the cable connection or selected access routes once constructed. The current proposals assume a buried cable which will remain in situ for the duration of the operational period."

Chapter 8 Table 8-6 scopes out cabling from hydrology matters environmental assessment. Ban the Burn's response to Chapter 8 is that we disagree with scoping out Cabling. Our reasons are:

- During operation, cable trenches across peatland can alter the hydrology in the same way as tracks. The unintended drainage effect of cabling can disrupt the connectivity of the blanket bog hydrology in the same way as tracks do, particularly on thin peat.
10. The Scoping Report doesn't say what is the heat output of the cables, or what the impact is of heat on peat. It needs to.
11. Some of the potential offsite cabling route to Rochdale is across the same South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation as the windfarm site itself, and so surely needs to be subject to the shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment.

This needs to be scoped into the EIA/ Shadow HRA.

6.3 Amphibians and Bats

Table 7.2 does not include an amphibians survey, apart from Great Crested Newt, although amphibians are mentioned in **para 7.5.22** and table **7.13.** Nor are they mentioned in the list of receptors in **para 7.4.22**.

Table 7.2 notes that bats will be surveyed within the turbine area, however the SNC guidance is that bat surveys need to also cover flight paths and habitats in the surrounding landscape, because bats may commute offsite to foraging habitat. Since there is a large and diverse population of bats in and around Hardcastle Crags, additional survey work may need to be completed to cover any bats moving between Walshaw Moor and Hardcastle Crags.

CMBC also requested the use of static detectors at height. While we recognise this is difficult on open areas, we ask that this is explored within woodland areas in the turbine area, where this might be more easily achieved.

6.5 Habitats - Baseline surveys of the Turbine Area from 2023 throughout 2024 and 2025

Para 7.3.6 refers to Turbine Area baseline surveys that were started in 2023 and have been ongoing throughout 2024 and 2025. It says the provisional survey results were used to inform

the Scoping Report, and will form the baseline data set for the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Para 7.3.6 Table 7-2: Summary of baseline habitats surveys of Walshaw Moor Estate completed to date:

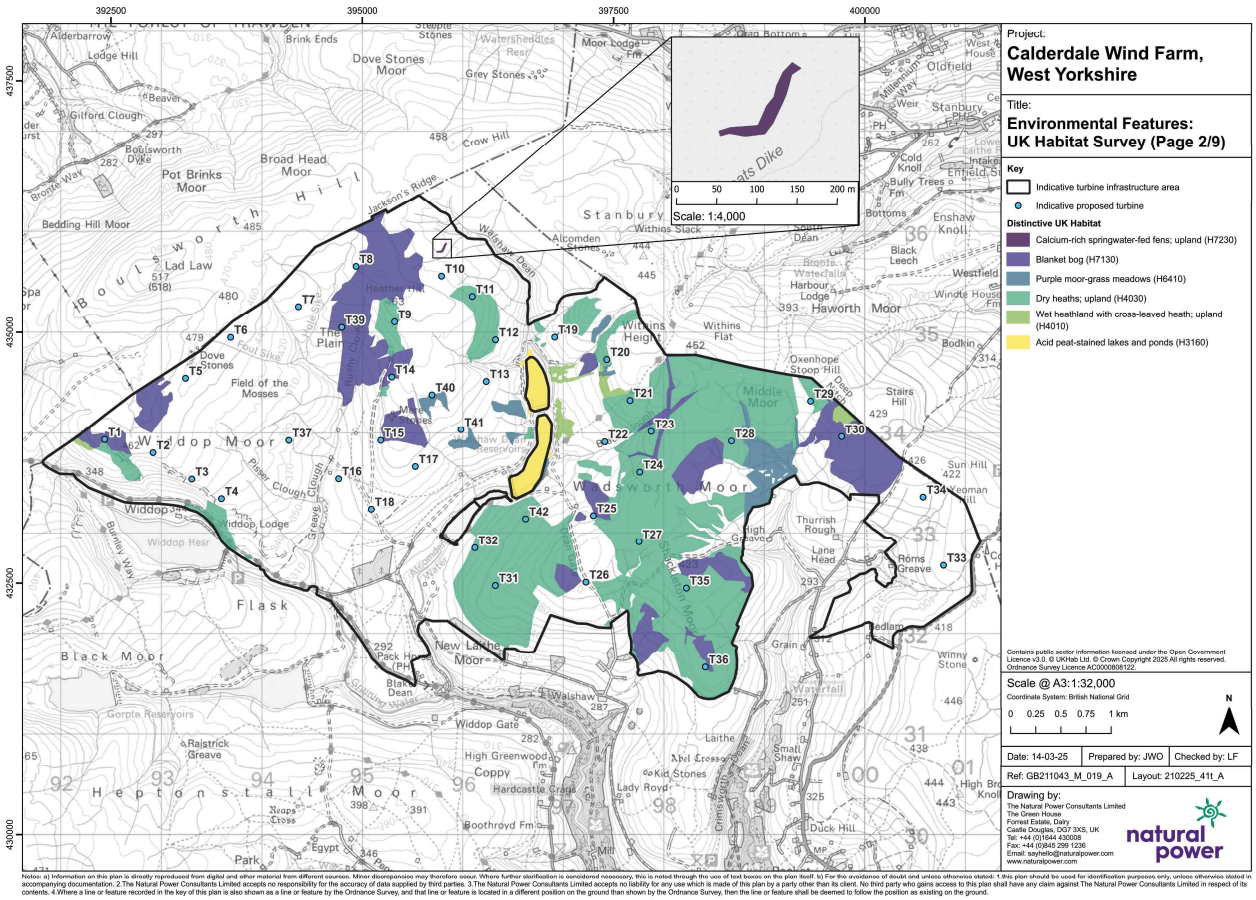
- High-Level habitat walkover assessment, August and March 2023
- UK Habitat Classification and Condition Assessment. Condition assessments to support BNG calculations were completed alongside this. September– October 2024
- Modular (MoRPH) River Surveys August –September 2024
- National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Surveys, designed to provide detailed botanical information to enable identification of specific habitat types and inform impacts on sensitive habitats. September– October2024

These UK Hab Classification and Condition Assessment Survey results were the basis of the inaccurate Habitats map in the non-statutory consultation Brochure. (6.6, below)

Para 7.3.6 omits that some of the "provisional" survey results were presented in the non-statutory consultation Brochure as the Walshaw Moor UK Habitats map. It was inaccurate and misleading. Corrections were not made and, as mentioned in Para 2 above, the Peatland Alliance sent Calderdale Council a Statement of Concerns – downloadable here. https://saverestorewalshawmoor.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/concerns-cep-non-stat-consultation_calderdale-council-planning-department_final-with-appendices.pdf

Para 7.5.33, Table 7.11 says that since the Project Team's introductory meeting with Natural England on 20.5.2025 and receipt of Natural England's written recommendations on 1.7.2025, they are now following Natural England's advice about baseline survey data collection, assessment, and delivery of mitigation/compensation now meets Natural England's expectations.

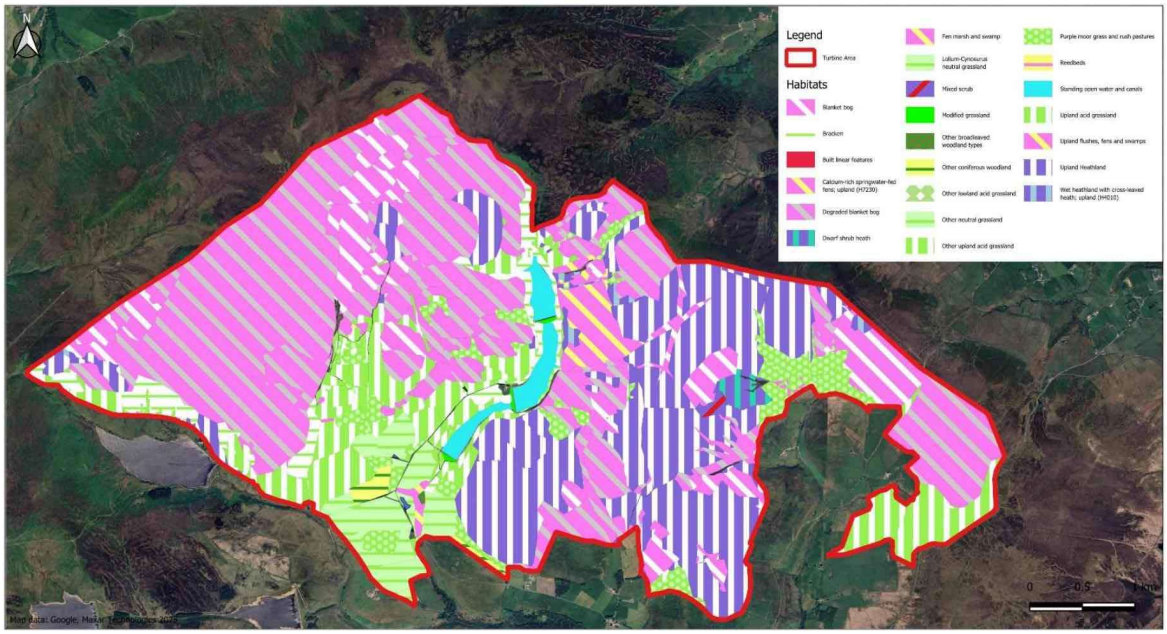
6.6 Habitats - section 7.4 Relevant baseline conditions



We have noticed that the Scoping Report Fig 7.5: UK Habitat map has corrected the error in the non-statutory consultation Brochure's UK Habitat map, screenshot below.

For purposes of comparison, here is a screenshot of Scoping Report Fig 7.5. UK Habitat Classification Distribution. It is quite hard to read here as it's lo res, but there is an explanation

Figure 7-5: UK Habitat Classification Distribution



in **Para 7.4.14,** quoted below.

By comparing the maps, you can see what the difference is. The non-statutory consultation Brochure map on the previous page only shows what the key calls H7130 blanket bog - shown as a few small purplish areas.

Those small areas are shown on Scoping Report Fig 7-5 as white diagonal stripes on pink, and the key calls them blanket bog. In addition, the Scoping Report Fig 7-5 shows a big area of grey stripes on pink which the key calls degraded blanket bog. The non-statutory consultation Brochure UK Hab map had omitted all the degraded blanket bog, as if it doesn't count or doesn't exist. But it does.

As a result of emailed information from the Project Team, we knew this was what the non-statutory consultation Brochure map had done, and how they'd done it - and that it was a huge under-representation of the extent of Annex 1 blanket bog on Walshaw Moor.

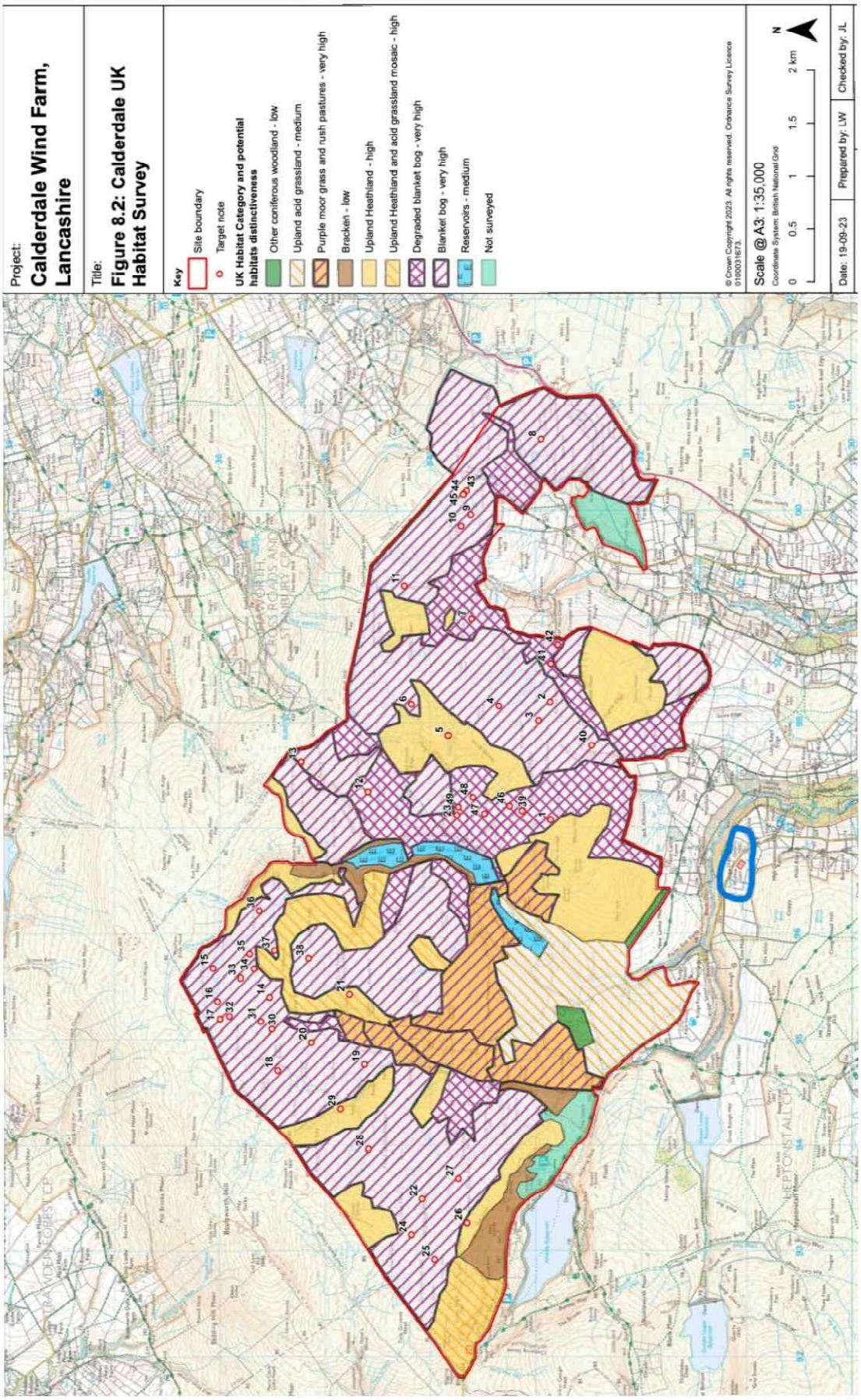
Calderdale Energy Park Project Team emailed us that the reason for the discrepancy was because the UK Habitat Survey Map in the non-statutory consultation brochure, had "filtered the full UKHab data from 2023-2024 to only show 'Annex 1' habitats."

In contrast, the Calderdale UK Habitat Survey Map in the Sept 2023 Scoping Report, had recorded the high-level habitat walkover survey results from 2022, identified in Phase 1 habitat codes, showing much more blanket bog (Map follows on next page)

The omission of just about all of Walshaw Moor's blanket bog from its non-statutory consultation Brochure UK habitats map (except the UKHab classification of H7130 blanket bog), misleadingly made it look as if a large area of the moor could support infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance without the likelihood of significant damage to the integrity of the Habitats Regulations-protected site.

Although the error in the non-statutory consultation Brochure UK Habitats map has been corrected in the Scoping Report Fig 7-5, the misleading impression created by the non-statutory consultation Brochure map seems to have spilled into the Scoping Report's many underrepresentations of the extent of the "Turbine Area's" protected blanket bog. This misleading feature of the Scoping Report undermines its independence and objectivity.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee citation for South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation explicitly states that most of the area's blanket bog is botanically poor, but both active and damaged/degraded blanket bog are protected by the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation that includes Walshaw Moor, and as such are classed as Annex 1 habitats.



The actual Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture shown on the Habitat Network map is shown in the blue outline, which we've added, and is outside the proposed Calderdale Wind Farm site. The eastern part of what the Calderdale Wind Farm map shows as Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture is shown on the wYES Calderdale SAC Map as mainly European Dry Heath H9 Calluna vulgaris - Eriophorum vaginatum with a small area of Molinia Wet Heath, and the western part a mix of blanket bog M20,M17,M18 and M25 and Molinia Wet Heath'

The Standard Data Form for the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation clarifies that blanket bog is one of the Annex 1 habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (ie active and botanically poor).

Natural England confirmed this in its response to EIR2023/00901, 07 December 2023:no EIR2023/00901,

"All blanket bog is a Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitat, and active blanket bog is a priority habitat under the Directive… the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat "encompasses all areas of blanket bog supporting semi-natural blanket bog vegetation, whether or not it may be defined as 'active'."

Natural England's Freedom of Information response added that this is now a habitat of principal importance in England under the Natural Environment and Rural of 25 34Communities Act (2006) and that, "Blanket bog has been assessed as Near Threatened in the European Red List of Habitats…"

The non-statutory consultation Brochure's presentation of such misleading information about the blanket bog was a key aspect of our complaint to the Calderdale Energy Park CEO, and then of our Statement of Concerns to Calderdale Council Planning Department.

Now that the non-statutory consultation Brochure habitats map has finally been corrected in Fig 7-5, **Para 7.4.13** says the UK Habitat Classification survey results in **Table 7-8** show that approximately 50% of the 2,262 ha Turbine Area comprises of blanket bog in varying condition. Of the 1,110.19 ha of blanket bog habitat recorded, 134.65 ha was f1a5 Blanket bog (H7130) in good condition, whilst 878.05 ha comprises fla6 degraded blanket bog in varying condition.

Para 7.4.14 states that "after blanket bog, the most common habitat is dry heath which accounts for 544 ha (24.57%) of the turbine area including 513.54 ha of h1b5 dry heaths; upland heath (H4030)" which was in varying condition (225.54ha in good condition and 243.28 ha in poor condition)."

So even in this Scoping Report over 50% of the site is considered to be blanket bog, and we are confident that their large sections of dry heath are in fact degraded blanket bog.

Para 7.4.10 (habitats) doesn't mention flushes, rocky outcrops and woodland, although it does mention that at the time of survey, bracken and exposed peat could be seen in some areas.

We think its description of the Turbine Area as comprising "typical upland habitats including areas of blanket bog, dry and wet heath, acidic and neutral grasslands" misrepresents and downplays Walshaw Moor Estate's international conservation significance.

This is a feature of the Scoping Report. Every Chapter of the Scoping Report should acknowledge the international significance of the plant communities and habitats which are designated in the SSSI and SAC, and the inclusion of blanket bog as a priority Annex 1 habitat. This is a defining feature of Walshaw Moor Estate.

As it stands, the designated SAC and SSSI habitats are only obscurely listed in **Table 7-3.**

We wish the Scoping Report would stop referring to Walshaw Moor Estate as the "Turbine Area." This has the effect of stripping the moor of its identity and portraying it as a generic industrial function.

A lot of the problem with the Scoping Report is that is has no understanding of Walshaw Moor as a place, so it makes basic errors in its iterations of the Proposed Develoment.

We think the refusal to name Walshaw Moor and the insistence on referring to it generically as 'the Turbine Area' contributes to this ignorance of local knowledge and understanding. In our response to various Chapters, Ban the Burn has commented on Applicant errors in proposing design features of the Proposed Development, that are the result of lack of local knowledge.

This is potentially catastrophic, as design iterations based on survey data have to inform and be informed by minimum/maximum design parameters for the Proposed Development. This is required by the Scoping Report's use of the Rochdale Envelope approach to Environmental Impact Assessment.

Getting the design wrong because the Applicant treats Walshaw Moor like a generic industrial estate, rather than a living entity, with its own distinct features, would almost certainly be a climate and nature disaster.

Paras 7.5.14 and 7.4 15, which are almost identical state that the oCEMP, oPMP and PWMS will be tailored to the ecology of the proposed development, and that biodiversity protection zones and areas will be identified. Are these a special designations that we have not heard about? We understood that the existing SPA, SAC and SSSI designations are recognised as affording protection internationally and nationally, is a further layer required?

(We think it may be the case that biodiversity protection zones and areas may be areas where construction activities are excluded from unless working under a task specific method statement, but the Scoping Report needs to explain this. It needs a glossary.)

Consideration has been given to the importance of hydrological connectivity across the moorland, not only to the mosaic of Peatland habitats but also the internationally important assemblage of CHEGD fungi, which Calderdale is particularly important for. We know that the hydrological influence of the peatlands and blanket bog has an important impact on the fungi which thrive on grasslands below the moorland but sometimes outside the turbine area. Consequently impact on the hydrology of the moorlands will have an impact on these important areas too. This must be explored fully in the ES.

7. Scope of assessment - potential ecological features

We have commented above (6.6) that the non-statutory consultation Brochure UK Habitats Map showed blanket bog reduced to a few scattered areas of Walshaw Moor Estate.

We now wonder if this underrepresentation of blanket bog is possibly explained somewhat by **para 7.6.1 and para 7.6.2.**

Para 7.6.1 says "The starting point for defining which ecological features will be taken forward to the detailed assessment stage will be to use the baseline data collected through the desk study and field surveys to determine which of the identified ecological features are 'important' at the level of the project. Following CIEEM (2018, version 1.3) guidance, the importance of ecological features will be determined using a geographic scale and described in relation to UK legislation and policy, and with regard to the extent of habitat or size of population that may be affected by the Proposed Development."

Para 7.6.2 says the importance of ecological features can therefore differ from that which will be conferred solely by legislative protection or identification as a conservation notable species.

Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network has commented on this in their response to the Ornithology chapter.

We think it's the same order of daftness as saying don't pick up a bit of litter because there's so much else lying around.

Table 7.12 sets out the definition of importance for Ecological Features. While the SAC, SPA features are noted as being of international importance, and the SSSI status of national importance, however, there is no mention of the importance of this site towards meeting UK obligations as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This requires protections for nature in the planning system to be maintained with the goal of providing "effective conservation and management" of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans by 2030. It is not possible for the UK to meet its international obligations if sites such as Walshaw Moor are irreparably damaged.

Para **7.6.11 Table 7-13** gives no detail whatsoever of the construction process or operations. The section Operation of Wind Turbines table 7-13 cites collision with turbine blades as a hazard for bats but fails to mention barotrauma.

Para **7.6.11 Table 7-13** recognises loss of ecological connectivity through severance of habitats resulting in fragmentation (already commented on above)

The scoped in likely significant effects relating to biodiversity in Walshaw Moor Estate include:

- Degradation and/ or loss of habitat (including irreplaceable habitats)
- Loss of ecological connectivity through severance of habitats resulting in fragmentation.
- Changes to local hydrology resulting in changes or loss of surrounding habitats with
- subsequent effects on fauna that they support.
- The introduction of toxic pollutants or sediments into the environment resulting in changes, loss or damage to terrestrial or freshwater environments and the species/species groups they support.
- Emissions from plant and delivery traffic during the construction phases could lead to
- habitat change through nutrient deposition, acidification and direct toxicity.
- Permanent changes to the landscape from the presence and operation of wind turbines which may result indirect habitat loss with species being displaced by turbines and associated infrastructure (to include cable corridors and off-site access routes).

A lot of these likely significant effects are impacts on peat hydrology, but Chapter 8 ignores them, as a consequence of completely ignoring blanket bog and biodiversity.
This is jaw-dropping, given that the surface vegetation of blanket bog is crucial in both slowing the flow and in peat formation.

8. Blanket bog restoration

References are scattered throughout Chapter 7 and other Chapters, to blanket bog restoration. Some seem mutually contradictory. The Scoping Report is muddled and confusing about the topic.

Could the lack of coherent blanket bog restoration measures be because the Applicant presumes consent for the Proposed Development on the basis of a Habitats Regulation Derogation, due to its status as Critical National Priority Infrastructure? So they see no reason to bother about jumping through that hoop? Or is that question too cynical?

8.1 Chapter 7 of the Scoping Report mentions the aim of identifying peatland restoration opportunities to improve the quality of the peatland undisturbed by the Proposed Development, in order to compensate for potential impacts on peat hydrology and habitat.

But Table 7 - 11 reports Natural England's statement that that actions to restore areas of blanket bog in 'unfavourable declining' condition won't be considered compensation, as the objectives of the SAC/SPA include a commitment to restore the extent and condition of habitats to a favourable condition.

Aren't these two preceding statements incompatible?

8.2 Catchment Restoration Plan, **Para 7.4.7** states that in accordance with the 2017-2042 Walshaw Moor Estate Catchment Restoration Plan (CRP) 1,000 ha of blanket bog were to be restored over the term of this agreement, and up to 100 HA per annum will be restored.".

Para 7.4.8 states that Ongoing monitoring has not yet been provided but is subject to ongoing discussion with Natural England and the Walshaw Moor Estate." And it is of great concern to us that this scoping report is based on a complete lack of monitoring from Natural England since the commencement of the Catchment Restoration Plan.

Para 4.3.16 states that the Turbine Area is currently managed, and will continue to be managed until 2042, under the terms of the Natural England Walshaw Catchment Restoration Plan (2017-2042).

1) Will there be an assessment as part of the scoping process to determine how much of this has been carried out and how successful this has been given that monitoring has not been carried out by NE since 2017 (**Para 7.4.8**) - and as they have told us in response to a set of FOI requests.

2) How does the intent to continue the process of the habitat restoration and management on Walshaw Moor as outlined in the CRP until 2042 sit with the implication in para **7.5.25** that the intent is to continue restoration at the decommissioning stage?

7.3 Chapter 6 (Ornithology) **Para 6.4.15** is about a comprehensive post-decommissioning habitat reinstatement plan, stating "Upon cessation of operations, the majority of infrastructure associated with the wind farm will be removed." But the Scoping Report says the turbine foundations and access roads won't be removed, nor will areas of hard standing as removal will increase the risk of damage to habitats **(7.5.27)**, so this isn't exactly true.

1) How is that going to affect the stated aim that "Where feasible, restoration efforts will seek not only to restore but to enhance the quality of habitats to support and potentially improve condition for the key breeding species of the SPA/SSSI"?
2) To what extent would it not be feasible?
3) And how would that affect the integrity of the SAC/SPA?

Para 7.5 27 states what elements of the scheme might be left in situ on completion of the project. The ES must give a clear assessment of the impact of leaving structures in place permanently and state precisely what would be left in place and particularly how this may affect the hydrology of the remaining peatland.

7.4 **Para 7.5.28 Gibberish in Table 7_10** states Initial consultation with Natural England has indicated that an additionality in respect of compensation or BNG will need to be additional actions which are not described in the Catchment Restoration Plan and will need to be in addition to actions which will be considered "normal practice" under the objectives of the designated sites.

So, translated, it seems that Restoration will be:

a) "normal practice" for SAC
b) Catchment Restoration Plan measures

c) Compensation or BNG on top of both those things

The Scoping Report needs to clarify if that is the case, and also clarify what normal restoration measures are for the SAC.

7.5 Please explain how the Proposed Development will combine offsite compensation measures, and onsite opportunities for mitigating, restoring and where possible, enhancing biodiversity on the moor that will retain water and restore designated bog habitat. **(Para 1.1.3**)

What advice has Natural England given so far in Consultation meetings about off-site compensation measures to compensate for the loss of bog habitat; and the approach to mitigation, compensation, restoration and enhancement? (**Para 5.13.1**)

7.6 What does this mean? "**7.5.20** To mitigate and likely compensate for the loss of habitats. Areas of habitat enhancement or restoration will be identified. Due to the sensitive nature of the habitats within the Site, a bespoke strategy for the delivery of habitat enhancement or restoration will be required"

What kind of bespoke strategy?

With reference to the mitigation and compensation for the loss of habitats, UCWN want to stress that irreplaceable habitats such as blanket bog are not possible to replace in any meaningful time scale. Consequently all loss of habitats would need to be minimised otherwise the integrity of the entire peatland across the turbine area would be at risk.

Ban the Burn thinks the site is so inappropriate it should not be used for Calderdale Energy Park (Our reasons are in our response to Chapter 4)

And how does **para 7.5.20** sit with Natural England's statement in **Table 7 - 11**, that actions to restore areas of blanket bog in 'unfavourable declining' condition won't be considered compensation, as the objectives of the SAC/SPA include a commitment to restore the extent and condition of habitats to a favourable condition?

Chapter 8 Para 8.3.24 says "In the west of the Turbine Area, extensive natural gully networks have eroded peat and focus drainage into the valley floors. In the centre, north and east of the Turbine Area, extensive artificial drainage networks (moor drains or 'grips') have the same effect. Both sets of features have been subject to a degree of restoration to slow water flows under the Walshaw Moor Estate Catchment Restoration Plan ('WMECRP', 2017-2042)."

Ban the Burn has commented in our response to Chapter 8 that Natural England has admitted in response to a set of Freedom of Information requests, that as of February 2024 they had not monitored the Catchment Restoration Plan.

Since the Catchment Restoration Plan was set up, Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network have observed new tracks and grouse butts, apparently unconsented, each with a 50m buffer for drainage. As Natural England hasn't been monitoring the Catchment Restoration Plan, presumably these drainage features are not on its records, although Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network sent detailed documentary evidence of them.

9. Impact of lighting during construction and operation

The surveys need to take account of the impact of permanently lighting the turbine towers during the operational phase.

There is also a need to consider the effects of night work to pour the turbine foundations. Chapter 5 **para 5.14.6** says Works are not anticipated to be required at night.

Ban the Burn comments on **Chapter 5, Para 5.2.2** that concrete batching will be necessary on site for the reinforced concrete wind turbine foundations. We think it is nonsense for para 5.2.2 to say it isn't known at this stage whether concrete batching will be required onsite.

You cannot batch off-site concrete and deliver it in trucks for the volumes involved which are about 1000 cubic metres per base. A concrete truck supplies only 6 cubic metres, so 167 trucks/turbine base, x 41. It is a continuous process from start to finish which will involve night shifts to pour a base like this, so it has to be site batched as there is no other way of doing it.

The potential impacts on biodiversity resulting from the concrete batching process, including from the abstraction of water and discharge of wastewater, will need to be considered in the ES.

Para 7.15.8 states that during construction a sensitive lighting strategy will be employed to avoid unnecessary light pollution minimising the impact of lighting on sensitive species. However **section 5.14** suggests that some operations including turbine movements would be carried out over a 24 hour period to accommodate transport to site avoiding major disruption to local transport networks, so it is vital that this area is fully explored as the implication is that there would be frequent times when lighting would be necessary.

10. The impact of the BESS and the installation of an area of fenced of hard paved industrial zone within the moorland has not been addressed in this chapter of the scoping report. Installation of security fencing and water storage bunds and changes to the landform to accommodate the specific requirements of the BESS have not been considered. This could include:

- Fragmentation of habitats caused by fencing which is not wildlife permeable
- Creation of hard-standings and new buildings which will destroy habitat which will destroy habitat
- Noise, lighting and disturbance associated with operation and maintenance of BESS

- Fire risk to vulnerable peatlands

11.**Para 7.5.21** notes the need for regular attendance on site during the operational period, the oOEMP must take account of the sensitivities of many of the bird and animal species to disturbance, particularly during the breeding season, and timing of maintenance works needs to consider this.

Table 7.10

CMBC notes that assessments should be continued beyond the site boundary, but it is not explicitly stated that this will happen. Since blanket bog is a mosaic of interconnected habitats, there will be effects felt beyond the extent of the turbine area, so it is vital that any assessment extends into these areas.

PB 22.9.25

JS 25.9.2025

Chapter 8 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat

Introduction

For someone living in Hebden Bridge, the main concern about the Hydrology and Peat Chapter is how the Applicant is going to assess and mitigate the flood risk impacts of the Proposed Development to Hebden Bridge.

We hunted for this information, but only found a few snippets.

Table 8.5 'Consultation Undertaken to Date' reports that on 27th May 2025, Calderdale Energy Park held an initial meeting with the Environment Agency. Consultation will continue as the design evolves and in particular to agree the scope of assessment in relation to flood risk and the Water Framework Directive.

This is late in the day - a couple of weeks before the end of the non-statutory consultation, when the Project Team admitted to us that no hydroIogy survey had been carried out. (Please see information in the Peatland Alliance Statement of Concerns, downloadable here: https://saverestorewalshawmoor.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/concerns-cep-non-stat-consultation_calderdale-council-planning-department_final-with-appendices.pdf

Table 8.5 sounds as if the fact that they don't know what they're doing with the Proposed Development has got in the way of figuring out what damage it might do, and whether it's possible to prevent or reduce it.

But apparently they couldn't bring themselves to say so - or didn't think it mattered.

We think this is a massive failure to provide the clear, assessable information that is required as a matter of national policy. The relevant policy requirements are for:

- Local Planning Authorities and statutory advisors to have the best and most assessable information from applicants 2025 (Draft NPS EN-1 paras 4.2.13- 4.2.14)
- Applications to be clear and accessible to both the public and decision makers (2025 Draft NPS EN-1 para 4.2.13). ((Info in our response to Chapter 2.)

It is clearly a problem that to date the minimum and maximum design parameters for the Proposed Development don't exist. These are necessary in order to work out its worst-case hydrological impact assessment on Hebden Water. It has to be worst case when using the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach. Our response to that is mostly in Chapter 5).

The design of the Proposed Development is still uncertain (Scoping Report paragraph 13. 6.18), and they don't have the design parameters to base the worst-case environmental impact

assessment of flood risk and water quality risk on, that is required by their use of the "Rochdale Envelope" approach. (More info in our response to Chapters 3 and 5.)

The lack of information about proposals for assessing and mitigating the flood risk impacts of the Proposed Development to Hebden Bridge, seems to be because when the Scoping Report was written, that information didn't exist. Chapter 8 should have just said so.

But apparently they couldn't bring themselves to say so - or didn't think it mattered.

1. Table 8.1 Study Areas could be relevant to proposals for assessing and mitigating the flood risk impacts of the Proposed Development to Hebden Bridge

It is hard to see if the Study Areas extend to the Hebden Bridge Flood Area. **Table 8-1** says a Flood Risk Study Area will only extend to a 1km buffer from the Turbine, Cable Corridor and Site Access Areas (when the latter have been decided).

That 1 km buffer does seem to include Hebden Water, which is located approximately 0.5km south from the nearest point of the Turbine Area. (4.3.9) But the actual Hebden Bridge Flood Area is well past the 1 km buffer. So the Flood Risk Study Area doesn't seem to be about flood risk in Hebden Bridge. Just about flood risk on the Turbine Area.

Table 8.1 also says hydrological effects to waterways will be covered in Calderdale Energy Park's **Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat study area** which includes a 2km buffer around the Turbine, Cable Corridor and Site Access Areas (when the latter have been decided).

They assume that hydrological effects are likely to have attenuated at distances from the site infrastructure of 2km. But consideration of hydrological effects will extend to up to 5km downstream for a direct pathway through a watercourse - which is what Hebden Water is.

Chapter 8 needs to make it clear if they are going to study the hydrological effects of the Proposed Development to Hebden Water, as it flows through Hebden Bridge.

It seems that it should, because Table 8.1 says this is 3.5km from the Turbine Area, and so within the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat study area.

And Chapter 4, para **4.3.9** describes direct watercourses from Walshaw Moor Estate into Hebden Bridge, **8.3.36** is about Hebden Water catchment and **8.3.39** is about the drainage of the Turbine Area by hundreds of kilometres of gullies formed by erosion and artificial drains cut to dry the land for grouse shooting, some of which have been blocked.

But it's not clear what all this adds up to, and it needs clarifying.

It is clearly a problem that to date the minimum and maximum design parameters for the Proposed Development don't exist. These are necessary in order to work out its worst-case hydrological impact assessment on Hebden Water. It has to be worst case when using the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach. Our response to that is mostly in Chapter 5.

2. There is some information about flood risk in the Turbine Area, but Chapter 8 doesn't really join the dots to flood risk in the Hebden Bridge flood area.

This seems to be because of lack of local knowledge. Para 8.3.68 says baseline reviews have identified risks from surface water discharge rates, volume and quantity of runoff to Graining Water, Alcomden Water and Crimson (sic) Dean Beck, which all flow into Hebden Water.

But Chapter 8 doesn't cross reference Chapter 4, para 4.3.11 which identifies the large area of Waterfall Syke and Cross Dyke, west of Greave Clough, as at risk of surface water flooding.

And none of the Chapter 8 maps of the Walshaw Moor Estate watercourses and reservoirs, flood zones or areas at risk of surface water flooding seem to show the sluice and tunnel to Widdop Reservoir where most of the runoff in Greave Clough is sent, or the spillway that takes the overflow during rainstorms or snowmelt into Graining Water and so into Hebden Water and downstream to the Hebden Bridge flood area, which Chapter 8 doesn't mention.

3. A Flood Alleviation Scheme for Hebden Bridge has just been submitted to Calderdale Council for Planning Permission.

This is a collateral scheme to the Proposed Development but doesn't seem to be mentioned in Chapter 8.

During the Flood Alleviation Scheme public consultation earlier this year, the Environment Agency told us they have not taken into account the flood risk impacts of the windfarm when designing the Flood Alleviation Scheme, because it's entirely the developer's responsibility to ensure that the runoff from the site would be no greater than existing conditions. So there was no need for the Environment Agency to accommodate additional runoff in their scheme.

This principle is confirmed in one of the National Policy Statements for Energy:

"Development should be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the lifetime of the development." (Renewable energy national policy EN-1 para 5.8.12)

The Environment Agency also told us that under current planning rules, the developer has to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment to show that the runoff from the site

would be no greater than before the wind farm was built. If it can't show this, it could be grounds for the Development Consent Order Application to fail.

If it fails to do this, unacceptable onshore flood risk creates an exception to the presumption of consent for Critical National Priority infrastructure projects like Calderdale Energy Park (EN-1 para 4.2.15).

Therefore, assessment and mitigation of the flood risk impacts of the Proposed Development to Hebden Bridge is a very high stakes aspect of the pre-application and application planning process.

National policy EN-1 para 4.2.15 was omitted from Chapter 2's overview of current and draft National Policy Statements on Energy. But we think the Scoping Report should make it widely known, in the interests of objectivity and independence, which we expect the Scoping Report to show.

Just how the developer would make sure the runoff from the site would be no greater than before the wind farm was built, is a moot point. For example, if they started attempting to construct attenuation ponds, this would involve large areas of peat disturbance and the peat would not be suitable for embankment construction in any case, all this could make the carbon impacts of the wind farm far worse.

So we have thought carefully about **Para 8.4.1, Table 8.2 and Table 8.3.** This is where Chapter 8 lays out its stall for environmental measures that seem relevant to preventing or mitigating increased flood risk in Hebden Bridge, and to preventing water pollution.

4. It is a big problem that the 'relevant baseline conditions' section ignores the presence of blanket bog in the Turbine Area (and offsite areas)

This significant omission from Chapter 8 means the environmental measures are basically misconceived.

The only mention of habitats in the Baseline Conditions section is **8.3.27**. This says peatland habitats are considered separately in Chapter 7: Biodiversity.

There is no mention of the extensive, priority blanket bog that is one of the main reasons for Walshaw Moor's designation as part of the South Pennine Moors SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. Nor of any other peatland habitats on Walshaw Moor.

How can Chapter 8 talk about Walshaw Moor, peat and hydrology and the likely significant adverse impacts of building, operating and decommissioning a windfarm on it, without talking about blanket bog?

Chapter 8 needs to say that blanket bog is not just the waterlogged accumulation of dead, partially decomposed vegetation, but the living layer of peat-forming plants that grows on and dies into it. If the moor is drained by intentional and unintentional drainage

resulting from infrastructure construction and operation, this can destroy the living surface layer of blanket bog and so stop the process of peat formation and carbon sequestration. In the process, the rough plants and microtopes are destroyed and with it their property of slowing the flow of run off in rainstorms, and so reducing peak flooding in Hebden Bridge.

It is devastating that judging from this chapter on peat and hydrology, the people responsible for assessing the hydrological impact of the Proposed Development seem to lack a basic grasp of the iimportance of blanket bog and the fact that it is the living surface layer of waterlogged peat, and responsible for building the lower layer of dead peat at a rate of around 1mm/year. So that peat, blanket bog and hydrology - not to mention its natural carbon capture and storage - all act together as one interdependent whole, not separately.

Another massive omission is that Walshaw Moor's designation as Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area means that the application will also have to include a shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment, as well as defining the scope of an environmental impact assessment of the likely damage to Walshaw Moor's hydrology, and therefore its protected peatland habitats and protected birds and other wildlife,

That is the basis of the ecosystem approach to environmental impact assessment, which defines functional units of analysis that reflect the spatial and temporal linkages of peatland elements through hydrological connections. Which the Scoping Report should be using.

5. **The Scoping Report's problematic depth-based definition of peat as >0.3m is another reason why the Scoping Report's proposed environmental measures are ill-founded.**

The **para 8.2.23** depth-based definition of peat excludes shallow peat of 0.3m, defining it as peaty soils. This seems to be based on the Soil Survey of England and Wales definition of peat as >0.3m. (8.2.22)

The depth-based definition of peat disregards Natural England's new Definitions of Favourable Conservation Status for Blanket Bog and Heathland, which clarify that blanket bog may occur on peats shallower than 0.3m, especially upon the periphery of blanket bog masses. Areas of shallower peat will often support blanket bog vegetation and should also be regarded as blanket bog and an integral part of the hydrological unit of the peat mass or body.

It also disregards the IUCN UK Peat Programme's June 2023 briefing, "Use of Peat Depth Criteria", which points out that using a simple depth threshold to define peat doesn't serve modern conservation and restoration requirements:

"[M]oss-generated surface roughness which slows flood peaks may require a moss carpet only a few centimetres thick; peat soils of only 30 cm are still sufficiently carbon-rich to exceed the emissions of many other habitats if destroyed, and peatland margins are often biodiversity hotspots because they represent transition zones between differing habitats.

"As a consequence, there is an increasingly widespread move away from minimum depth thresholds when defining peat and a move towards the use of % organic matter as a key indicator (Joosten et al., 2017). …% organic matter is a standard measure for all soils, It also… helps to highlight, in a way that a depth threshold does not, the extraordinary quantity of carbon stored in peat soils when compared with other soil types."

We believe that the Scoping Report's failure to use Natural England's definition of peat and to recognise the facts in IUCN UK Peat Programme's "Use of Peat Depth Criteria" briefing, mean that its environmental measures, proposed during construction, operation and maintenance to minimise likely significant adverse hydrological effects, are based on misconceptions and would be largely ineffective. (Scoping Report Tables 8.2 and 8.3)

The implication of the Scoping Report's depth-based definition is that the adverse environmental/hydrological impacts of the Proposed Development on shallow peaty soils would be less significant and more acceptable than on deep peat (>0.3m, according to Natural England's new definition.). So it is ok to put the infrastructure on what are only "peaty soils". This is an unjustified assumption.

We think every section of the Scoping Report should present unbiassed and objective information. We do not believe that the Scoping Report's depth-based definition of peat meets this standard.

Peat hydrology is central to the flood risk impacts of the Proposed Development, and to the water quality impacts in both Hebden Water and the Yorkshire Water reservoirs.

So the definition of peat used in the Scoping Report is crucial - but it does not align with Natural England's definition of peat, or the IUCN UK Peat Programme's.

6. Environmental Measures to reduce significant adverse hydrological impacts during construction

The Scoping Report's omission of any reference to blanket bog in connection with peat hydrology and its related mis definition of peat as only consisting of what Natural England has defined as deep peat (>30cm) mean that it lacks the knowledge and understanding needed to analyse the likely effectiveness of its proposed environmental measures.

In addition, if they can't identify the likely hydrological adverse impacts, because the Proposed Development is still only indicative (**para 13.6.18)**, how do they know what environmental measures can effectively prevent or reduce them?

Regardless, **Para 8.4.1** says that these environmental measures will form part of the Proposed Development. (We have responded to the Proposed Development chapter) The environmental measures will be based on the assessment of its likely significant adverse effects.

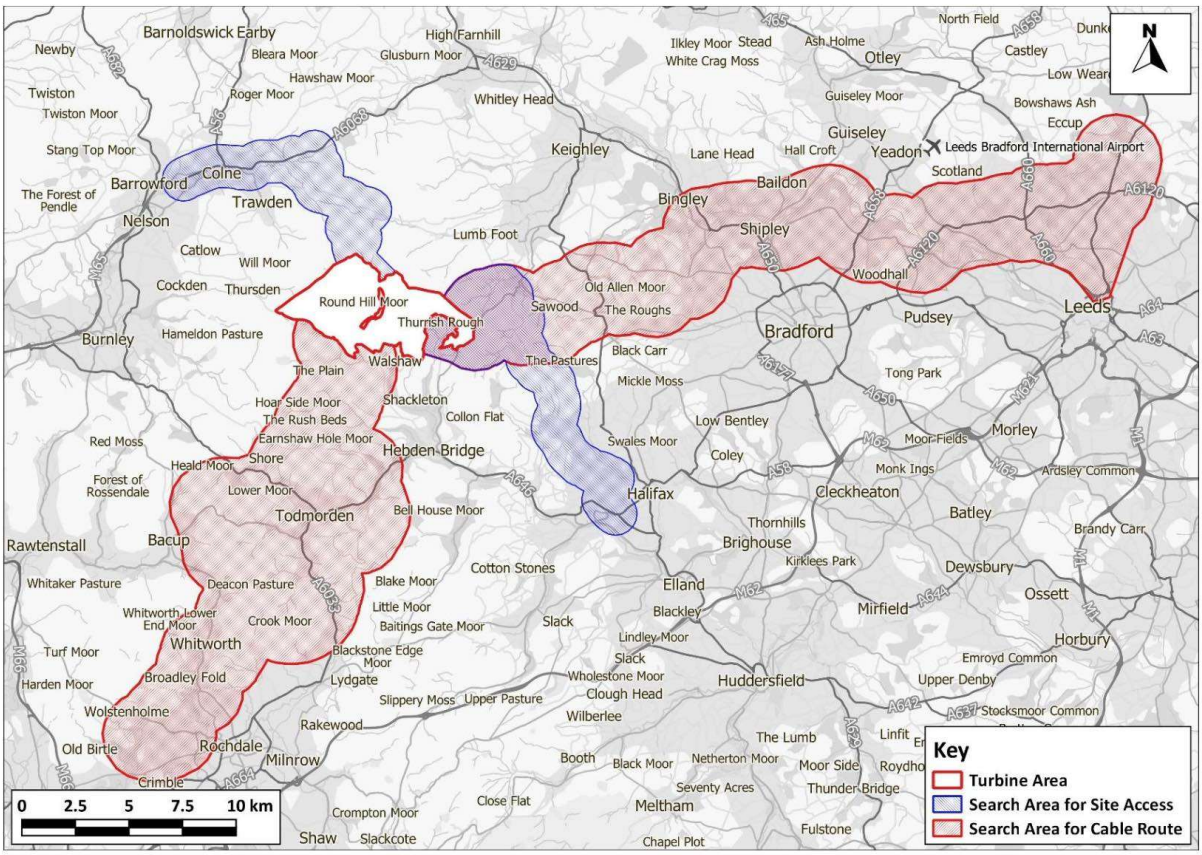
Para 8.4.1 needs to add that the Proposed Development currently lacks the design parameters needed to produce the worst-case environmental impact assessment required by Calderdale Energy Park's use of the 'Rochdale Envelope' Approach.

Our response to Chapter 8's information about likely significant adverse hydrological impacts during construction is in section 9 below. Our headline summary is that the baseline surveys and data that are needed to identify likely adverse impacts are confusingly presented and key information is missing.

6.1 It is unclear whether the proposed environmental measures are intended to apply to offsite areas which are included in the proposed flood risk and hydrology study areas

Para 8.3.3 says the proposed study areas will be finalised once the cable corridor and site access routes are finalised and will include the buffers outlined in Fig 4.2. (Screenshot follows)

Figure 4-2: Calderdale Cable Search Areas and Access Routes



6.2 Duration of proposed environmental measures during construction

A general point is that the duration of these environmental measures doesn't take account of the requirement for the Secretary of State to consider the extent to which predicted adverse effects on site integrity/conservation objectives are temporary or reversible, and the timescales for recovery. (Draft National Policy Statement EN-3 para 2.12.150)

The Scoping Report needs to acknowledge that the planning system mistakenly assesses impacts in the short term – but peatland is a long-term habitat and only decades-long monitoring will tell us the real impact. Restoration is glacially slow, with new peat forming at a rate of 1mm/year. This means damage could not be restored at the end of Calderdale Energy Park's 35-year life. Even shallow (30cm) peat has taken 300 hundred years to form.

And impacts of infrastructure on peatland hydrology might not be apparent in the short term but, for instance, through time floating access tracks will potentially sink and compress the peat, affecting the hydrology and causing the release of more carbon and other greenhouse gases.

The worst-case duration of the effects of peat drainage, which is an inevitable consequence of building infrastructure of peatland, is estimated at 150 years. Examples in The Fens (see the

Holme Fen Post) continue to show shrinkage (up to 4 m) more than 150 years after initial drainage.

The actual duration and data will only be known retrospectively, pointing to the need for decades-long monitoring even after operation and decommissioning of the Energy Park [Chico, G., Clewer, T., Midgley, N.G. et al. The extent of windfarm infrastructures on recognised European blanket bogs. Sci Rep 13, 3919 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-30752-3]

7. Specific proposed environmental measures during construction

These are listed in **Para 8.4.4, Table 8.2**

7.1 Iterating individual turbine locations

Table 8.2 says individual turbine locations will be iterated in response to additional peat depth data from Phase 2 surveys, in order to avoid any identified areas of deeper peat or to prioritise deeper peat for temporary infrastructure.

It is not self-evident that this is a good idea. Even shallow 30cm peat stores as much carbon as a tropical rainforest. And its hydrological and ecological connectivity means damage to it risks knocking on to the whole mosaic of peatland habitats, in a way that can only be estimated on the basis of site-specific surveys, that don't seem to have been done.

Given that the Scoping Report uses a depth-based definition of peat that excludes shallow areas of 30cm or less, and instead counts them as "peaty soils", Chapter 8 should clarify whether "peaty soils" areas would or would not require peat reinstatement measures that are identified in Table 8.2.

If these reinstatement measures are not applied to shallow peat 30m or less, what happens to it if it's cut out to build infrastructure?

7.2 Reinstating excavated peat

The Scoping Report should give minimum and maximum estimates for the volume of peat that will be excavated in constructing the Proposed Development, and for the volume of peat that would be used in peat reinstatement measures to patch repair bare ground, restore gullies and reinstate peat in in cutover areas, etc.

Is it anticipated that the whole volume of excavated peat would be reinstated in these measures? There won't be borrow pits to reinstate, because the aggregate they'd produce isn't suitable.

The assumption may be that most of the peat excavated for the cabling trenches could simply be reinstated once the cabling is installed. But large Joint Bays in the ground (concrete coffin-like

boxes the size of a small low barn) are needed to join the cables and this peat will not be filled back in.

The Scoping Report should not leave all these things open to question and uncertainty. It should at least explain the likely parameters

7.3 Aligning access routes to minimise peat impacts

On this inappropriate site for a wind farm (please see our response to Chapter 4), aligning access routes to minimise overlap with deeper peat deposits or route over gradients sufficiently shallow to allow floated construction is going to be problematic.

Table 8.2 should consider that because of the specific terrain of Walshaw Moor, it seems likely that there would be a trade-off between reducing the peat carbon impact by keeping infrastructure off deep peat as much as possible, and increasing the flood risk by aligning the access tracks with turbines sited on shallow peat (which the Scoping Report denies is peat, reassigning it as “peaty soils.”

For example, flood risk would increase if the plan is to truck in all the abnormal indivisible loads and cranes from the north west access point, down a watershed spine to what is T18 on the non-statutory consultation turbine layout map, before somehow crossing Alcomden Water in order to cut across to T32 and up a wind turbine array to T21.

But where else could it go? Unless the indicative turbine layout is changed radically as a result of iterating the turbine locations?

The Heather Hill spur uphill from the watershed spine would gather and speed what is currently slow runoff over a flattish plateau into the steep cloughs. In a rainstorm the runoff would reach the Walshaw Dean reservoirs much faster. If the reservoirs were full, the storm water would go straight down the spillways to Hebden Bridge.

Spur tracks going west off the north-south spine, uphill on the other side of Greave Clough, would turn into storm drains that would pour runoff into Greave Clough, overwhelm the Yorkshire Water sluice in Greave Clough and end up in Hebden Water. Chapter 8's failure to consider such a risk is probably because, as already mentioned, the Scoping Report seems oblivious to this Greave Clough sluice and its spillway.

7.4 Permeable access tracks and other surfaces

Hopefully people aren't duped into equating the words 'permeable' and beneficial SuDS features. Reference to the use of ‘permeable materials for access roads where appropriate sounds grand. Butit just means either a floating track on deep peat areas over 1m, made of a geotextile grid which is then infilled with aggregate - basically slapping different grades of chippings in a groove

until it's good enough to run heavy loads on- or a fully engineered excavated road on the shallower peats where the peat is scraped out as a trench then infilled with aggregate.

Since as far as we know there are no possible borrow pits on Walshaw Moor or quarries in West Yorkshire with hard enough rock for this purpose, trucking in the aggregate is going to be a massive and environmentally unfriendly task. (More info in our response to Chapter 4) And there will be no borrow pits to put the excavated peat in.

7.5 Pollution prevention measures

The Scoping Report needs to clarify that the pollution prevention measures include preventing pollution in the form of wash off from areas of stored peat that has been excavated to make foundations for infrastructure. It should say what these measures involve.

7.6 Identification of compensatory peatland restoration activities to improve the quality of the peatland undisturbed by the Proposed Development

The Scoping Report needs to join the dots between its aim of identifying peatland restoration opportunities to improve the quality of the peatland undisturbed by the Proposed Development, in order to compensate for potential impacts on peat hydrology and habitat, and Natural England's statement in Table 7 - 11 that actions to restore areas of blanket bog in 'unfavourable declining' condition won't be considered compensation, as the objectives of the SAC/SPA include a commitment to restore the extent and condition of habitats to a favourable condition.

8. Environmental measures to reduce impact on peat hydrology during operation and maintenance

They are in **Table 8.3,** and mostly concern:

- Pluvial modelling of unavoidable surface water flow routes to determine baseline and proposed flow routes.

- Managing surface water runoff from new impermeable surfaced areas (eg concrete turbine foundations)
- Appropriate control prior to discharge, of the potential for pollutants.
- Peat landslide risk assessment to inform measures and general good practice that should be applied across the site.

8.1 Pluvial modelling of unavoidable surface water flow routes to determine baseline and proposed flow routes.

We don't know what this means. The Scoping Report should explain this.

Is it the same thing as Pluvial modelling of the Turbine Area, mentioned in **paras 8.3.46-8.3.49** and in **C31 and C32 in Appendix A: Scoping Commitments Register (p 573**)?

C31 says:

"Pluvial modelling will be undertaken to quantifiably prove that there would be no offsite flood risk impact. (Scope and methodology to be discussed and agreed with Lead Local Flood Authority/Environment Agency.)"

C32 says:

"Surface water runoff from new impermeable surfaced areas will be managed to ensure that there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere."

It looks as if the pluvial modelling for offsite flood risk could include Hebden Bridge, because the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat study area in Table 8.1 extends to 5km downstream from the wind turbines area for consideration of hydrological effects for a direct pathway through a watercourse - which is what Hebden Water is.

But pluvial modelling in the Turbine Area is not enough to quantifiably prove that there would be no offsite flood risk impact.

Surface water runoff from the turbine bases, crane pads etc is not the major problem with the Proposed Development creating additional flood risk in the valley. The extent of intended and unintended drainage impacts on the peat is, and the peat and habitats degradation they cause.

We think Calderdale Energy Park should take notice of the renewable energy policy requirement for big onshore wind farm applicants to make "appropriate and extensive use" of the best scientific evidence (Draft EN-3, Paragraph 2.12.148) - in this case, about peat hydrology and the extent of drainage - intended and unintended - from infrastructure.

8.2 Managing surface water runoff from new impermeable surfaced areas (eg concrete turbine foundations)

This is to ensure that there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere. It is anticipated that surface water runoff will be encouraged to infiltrate wherever possible, to maintain the saturated condition of the adjacent peat.

How? The Scoping Report should explain this.

In addition, we have already noted that surface water runoff from the turbine bases, crane pads etc is not the major problem with the Proposed Development creating additional flood risk in the

valley. The extent of intended and unintended drainage impacts on the peat is, and the peat and habitats degradation they cause.

8.3 Appropriate control prior to discharge, of the potential for pollutants.

What pollutants and how? Are they talking about dissolved peat washed out from stores of excavated peat waiting to be reinstated, or what? The Scoping Report should provide this information.

8. 4 Peat landslide risk assessment to inform measures and general good practice that should be applied across the site.

Para 8.2.2 - Calderdale Energy Park will adopt the Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Scottish Government, 2017) because "They are considered to be the most established and tested guidance to date."

But **Table 19.1** scopes out risk of major accidents/disasters, including peat slides.

The Scoping Report is required to base all their environmental impact assessments on worst-case scenarios, as a result of it using the "Rochdale Envelope" approach. This is because pretty much all aspects of the Proposed Development are still only indicative and it is likely to be subject to change even after the DCO application is submitted (**Para13. 6.18**).

How can it make any sense to scope out the worst of worst-case scenarios: major accidents and/or disasters?

The question is particularly urgent because of the peat slide and bog burst history in the North West site access search area.

This offsite area includes Dove Stones Moor and is part of the same South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area as Walshaw Moor. It is also the site of the massive 1824 Crow Hill bog burst.

Para 8.3.26 refers to this as one of two recorded peat landslides in the area.

Contemporary accounts by Reverend Patrick Bronte and others record the peat flow from the Crow Hill bog burst was 30 to 60 metres wide and five to six metres deep and continued for 10 to 15 miles. Substantial fish kills (1,270 kilograms of perch and trout taken from the River Aire at Horsforth) and disruption to the woollen industry were reported.

Despite this, **Table 19-1** scopes out peat slides. **Para 8.2.2** says that Calderdale Energy Park will just adopt the Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Scottish Government,

2017), because:

"They are considered to be the most established and tested guidance to date."

9. Ban the Burn does not agree that peat slides should be scoped out from Environmental Impact Assessment

Relying on the Scottish Government Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments is problematic for two reasons:

- Despite the guidance, there have been recent peat slides in Shetland associated with the construction of windfarm and cabling/overhead powerline tracks

- The guidance provided by the Scottish Government is the best there is – but when it comes to windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment work, developers have tended to cherry-pick only those parts that they can easily address, while ignoring or glossing over the more difficult parts

For instance, developers often fail to use peat-appropriate tests of the shear strength of the on-site peat that the Guidance recommends, and instead stick with more easily available, less complicated conventional tests that only work for mineral soils.

They sometimes also give blithe assurances that they have fully surveyed subsurface peat pipes (channels within peat that form areas of weakness), when they haven't.

In heavy storms, water entering peat pipes can make peat buoyant. This can help cause peat slides as it reduces the cohesion of the peat and creates artesian pressure (this is where there is enough pressure underground to force water, or in this case peat – which 90% water- to the surface.)

Despite the Scottish Government Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments best practice guidance, in May 2024 there was a big peat slide in Shetland, in an area where a road/track was being constructed for the installation of new overhead lines and underground cabling to connect Shetland windfarms to the national grid by subsea cable.

And in July 2022 there was a peat slide next to a newly constructed track on the Viking Energy Windfarm in Shetland.

In both cases the peat slides took place during fine weather, so they didn't even need heavy rainstorms to destablise the peat.

It's crucial for Environmental Impact Assessments to use peat-appropriate tests to find how vulnerable to shearing and peat slides a peatland wind farm site is. From May 2024, Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network started asking Cavendish Consulting how the Calderdale

Wind Farm developers had been carrying out hydrology and peat surveys for the Environmental Impact Assessment, (in relation to the September 2023 Scoping Report).

Their answers were unsatisfactory, and then stopped altogether, even though the Keighley and Ilkley MP Robbie Moore asked them for answers.

10. Likely significant adverse impacts on hydrology that are scoped into the detailed environmental impact assessment

Figuring out where they are up to with baseline surveys and data for these scoped in impacts is difficult.

Partly this is because some relevant info is in Chapter 7, Biodiversity, but Chapter 8 doesn't cross reference this. It should

Partly this is because **Para 8.6.1**, under 'Assessment Methodology, Further baseline data' doesn't seem clear where they are up to with baseline surveys of run off to Hebden Water, including flow rates, water quality, and its physical qualities eg erosion/sedimentation. This should be clarified.

For the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat study identified in **Table 8.1,** it looks as if they will have to do baseline surveys and an environmental impact assessment of "hydrological effects" of the Proposed Development to Hebden Water, such as changes in:

- Water quantity (eg flow rates)
- Water quality (such as pollution levels and quantity of dissolved organic carbon, ie peat)
- The physical characteristics of watercourses (like erosion or sedimentation)

Partly it is because Chapter 8 is so far from meeting the national policy standard of clear and assessable information for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects planning documents.

10.1 Hydrology info in the Biodiversity Chapter

Chapter 7 Table 7-13

'Likely Significant Effects Scoped in to Detailed Assessment', lists the introduction of toxic pollutants or sediments into the environment, resulting in changes, loss or damage to terrestrial or freshwater environments and the species/species groups they support. This is due to use of chemicals (e.g. fuels, solvents etc.) and liberation of pollutants and fine material through excavation, demolition, maintenance work or surface water flows during rainfall events.

This is clearly relevant to the Water Framework Directive and needs to be cross referenced in Chapter 8.

Chapter 7 Biodiversity, Para 7.7.4 says that throughout the assessment process, the initial results regarding potentially significant effects will be used to inform whether additional baseline data collection is required.

What is the timeframe for this? Is it compatible with the timeframe for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which the design parameters of the Proposed Development have to be properly assessed and taken into account in the pre-application stage. How can they get this sorted in time?

This information in the Biodiversity Chapter is clearly relevant to the hydrology chapter and the hydrology chapter should cross reference it.

10.2 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat matters that are likely to cause significant adverse effects.

These matters are listed in **Para 8.5.4, Table 8.7**. They will be scoped into a detailed assessment of the impact on watercourses and groundwater, both within the Turbine Area and within the final defined access route area in the respective Search Area. The areas will include a 2km buffer beyond the respective boundaries. It may be up to 5km for watercourses.

We assume this includes significant adverse effects on flood risk in Hebden Water and water quality in watercourses and Yorkshire Water's Reservoirs.

Chapter 8 should make this clear.

It should also say that the Proposed Development's likely significant adverse effects need to be calculated using minimum and maximum design parameters that will allow the Proposed Development to be designed based on the worst-case scenario, as required by the use of the Rochdale Envelope approach.

Table 8.7 shows that likely significant adverse impacts scoped in for environmental impact assessment include:

- Erosion and sedimentation of watercourses during construction and decommissioning.
- Alteration of Flow, Natural Drainage Patterns/Runoff Volumes and Rates during construction, operation and decommissioning,
- Effects on peat instability
- Effects on peat: loss of peat/carbon loss because of potential for construction activities to result in loss of peat during construction, operation and decommissioning.

10.3 Our response to these scoped-in adverse impacts

10.3.1 Erosion and sedimentation of watercourses during construction and decommissioning.

Increased peat erosion is caused by runoff from impermeable surfaces like turbine foundations and crane pads, infrastructure drainage, peat pipe formation and the loss of peat-forming vegetation due to the lowered water table. So runoff carries a load of peat. It can cause blockages in streams and rivers - as well as harming aquatic life and affecting the physical structure of watercourses.

Chapter 8 should say if they've done baseline surveys for existing flow patterns, water quality and erosion and sedimentation in Hebden Water.

We wonder if there is any obvious source of accurate, current desk- based data for a baseline survey of the moor's hydrological state.

Para 8.3.9 refers to restoration of a "subset" of gullies and grips through the 2017-2042 Walshaw Moor Estate Catchment Restoration Plan. But Natural England has admitted in response to a set of Freedom of Information requests, that as of February 2024 they had not monitored the Catchment Restoration Plan.

Snce the Catchment Restoration Plan was set up, Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network have observed new tracks and grouse butts, apparently unconsented, each with a 50m buffer for drainage. As Natural England hasn't been monitoring the Catchment Restoration Plan, presumably these drainage features are not on its records, although Ban the Burn and Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network sent detailed documentary evidence of them.

Nonetheless **para 3.8.3** makes a generalised claim that:

"At this scoping stage, the level of baseline collection is appropriate to allow the gaining of an understanding of whether the Proposed Development has the potential to cause significant effects. In many cases this means that there has been a reliance on desk study data. Therefore, in the future, and to inform the detailed assessment as will be documented within the ES, further baseline data will be collected. Identification of sensitive receptors that could be affected by the Proposed Development will come from an analysis of this baseline data."

Chapter 7 Biodiversity, para 7.5.31 says that a suitable level of hydrology surveys have been completed or will be completed in support of the design and assessment of the Proposed Development.

This is all a bit vague and should be clarified.

10.3.2 Alteration of Flow, Natural Drainage Patterns/Runoff Volumes and Rates during construction, operation and decommissioning.

Chapter 8 doesn't really explain that this is scoped in because peak flow and flood risk are likely to increase as a result of various impacts of wind farm construction on peat.

These include watercourse sedimentation and blockages from increased peat erosion, peat compaction by heavy machinery increasing runoff, and unintentional drainage through peat pipes which can extend for up to 400m from infrastructure (including cable trenches from turbines to onsite substation).

Access tracks and cable trenches alter natural drainage by altering preferential flow pathways. The Scoping Report needs to explain that this would continue as long as the tracks were in existence. Since they are not intended to be decommissioned this would be an indefinite process that could involve peat subsidence, potentially continuing for up to 150 years.

10.3.3 Effects on peat instability

Peat instability has associated effects on terrestrial habitats, aquatic habitats and water supply in the Turbine Area and final cable and access routes with 2km buffer, during construction, operation and decommissioning.

But Table 19.1 says they are scoping out peat slides.

Chapter 8 should explain the difference between effects on peat instability and peat slides.

Chapter 8 doesn't say - but should - that the following aspects of the Proposed Development risk being a starting point of peat instability causing a bog burst/slide:

- pumping to dewater infrastructure
- culverts to drain runoff below access roads
- cabling trenches to connect individual turbines to onsite substation

10.3.4. Effects on peat: loss of peat/carbon loss because of potential for construction activities to result in loss of peat during construction, operation and decommissioning.

The Scoping Report needs to say the duration of peat carbon loss as a result of the Proposed Development is potentially longer than the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

Alteration of drainage patterns, through intended and unintended drainage would persist beyond the duration and decomissioning of the energy park. This long-lasting disruption to hydrological units and drainage has the potential to degrade large areas of the Turbine Area's blanket bog and interrelated mosaic of peat habitats, causing the loss of peat-forming vegetation due to the lowered water table. This would both reduce or stop new carbon sequestration and increase loss of stored carbon.

This Risk of flooding from all sources to offsite areas (during construction, operation and decommissioning) is scoped in for TA + 1km buffer. Again the duration of flood risk needs to be longer. And the geographical area needs to be larger and include Hebden Bridge.

Chapter 8 should also provide information about Water Quality Degradation. Runoff from industrial areas like windfarms can introduce pollutants into watercourses, affecting aquatic life and human health.

11. Scoped-out hydrology matters in Table 8-6

11.1. We disagree with scoping out Cabling

We disagree with the anticipation that during operation, groundwater flows, if any, surrounding cable route locations will flow as existing or around and therefore remain unaffected.

We also disagree with the related statement in **Chapter 7 7.6.9 I**t is assumed that there will be no operational effects associated with the cable connection or selected access routes once constructed. The current proposals assume a buried cable which will remain in situ for the duration of the operational period."

Some of the potential offsite cabling route to Rochdale is across the same South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation as the windfarm site itself, and so surely needs to be subject to the shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment. Chapters 7 should say so.

We think Table 8.6 is wrong to anticipate that groundwater flows will not be affected by cabling during operation.

Table 8.6 should say that cable trenches across peatland can alter the hydrology in the same way as tracks. They can disrupt the flow of water across and within the peat, causing pooling in the peat on the uphill side of the cable and unintended drainage of the peat on the downhill side. If the cables run up/down a hill, they will (shouldn't but will) carry a flow of water in the drainage ducting. The Good Practice Guide to Windfarm Construction confirms,

"Cable trenches can act as water drainage routes; the amount of water transport dependant on the design of the cable trench.

"The hydrology of an area can be affected by a cable trench containing disturbed backfill material, sand bedding and surround. The steeper the cable route the higher the volume of water is likely to be transported through the cable trench. It is important to consider the gradient of cable routes and the use of clay plugs and impermeable barriers within the cable trench to limit water flow.

"…Separate cable routes on steep gradients, especially with soft ground… may be…subject to erosion by surface water flow"

Para **8.3.5** says that the Rochdale Cable Corridor Search Area crosses peat over Heptonstall Moor, Blackshaw Head and peat is present over much of the route corridor between Bacup and

Rochdale (Option 1) and Warland and Rochdale (Option 2). There is also peat in the western area of the Bradford West Corridor (Option 2) and Option 2 crosses deep peat to the south.

8.3.5 needs to say that the unintended drainage effect of cabling can disrupt the connectivity of the blanket bog hydrology in the same way as tracks do, particularly on thin peat. Less so on thick peat given the ratio of disturbance in the depth profile is less. But "cables should not be installed in deep soft peat as they will slowly sink adding tension into the cable, which may require premature replacement. " (2022 guide to Good Practice in Windfarm Construction)https://1library.net/document/zp0nrkk0-publication-scottish-renewables-scottish-heritage-environment-protection-commission.html.

Chapter 8 also needs to say that if deep peat is present, alternative engineering solutions may be required, such as deeper trenching, protective ducting, or rerouting.
https://greenvoltoffshorewind.com/peat-probing-along-the-green-volt-cable-corridor-why-it-matters/

11.2 The Scoping Report doesn't say what is the heat output of the cables, or what the impact is of heat on peat. It needs to.

Scoping Report 2.3.23 refers to "transmission systems (the long-distance transfer of electricity through 400kV and 275kV lines), and distribution systems (lower voltage lines from 132kV to 230V from transmission substations to the end-user) which can…be carried …undergrounded".

So the Scoping Report needs to say if the cable to Rochdale through the off-site Special Area of Conservation would be a lower voltage line not an HVDC cable, as the connection point there is to the District Network. If so it needs to say if there is a heating issue with the cabling for that route.

It needs to say if any of the cables would be HVDC cables, running at temperatures of up to 70•C. If so, it needs to say that the heat may exacerbate the peat desiccation process, increasing the thermal resistivity and changing the flora in the vicinity of the cable route.

This could increase the flashiness of runoff during rainstorms or snowmelt. It is also recognised that the installation style, depth and backfill materials could also impact on the hydrology of the peat, again increasing the tendency to dry out.

11.3 We disagree with scoping out Erosion and sedimentation during operation

We disagree that erosion and Sedimentation (during operation) should be scoped out on the assumption that Operation of the development will have negligible impact on sediment loads and therefore any effects are considered unlikely to be significant.

As our response has already pointed out, Chapter 8 needs to point out that increased peat erosion is caused by runoff from impermeable surfaces like turbine foundations and crane pads, infrastructure drainage, peat pipe formation and the loss of peat-forming vegetation due to the

lowered water table. So runoff carries a load of peat. It can cause blockages in streams and rivers - as well as harming aquatic life and affecting the physical structure of watercourses.

Runoff from impermeable surfaces is not the only cause of increased peat erosion and the knock on increase in dissolved organic carbon in waterways and reservoirs.

Increased peat erosion and water pollution are also the result of increased runoff caused by long-lasting disruption to hydrological units and drainage, which has the potential to degrade large areas of the Turbine Area's blanket bog and interrelated mosaic of peat habitats.

The loss of peat-forming vegetation is due to the lowered water table. Blanket bog's typically rough vegetation is replaced by successor plants which don't slow the flow of runoff during rainstorms or big snow melt. This concatenation of events damages the integrity of the Special Area of Conservation and both reduces or stop new carbon sequestration and increases loss of stored carbon.

This process doesn't stop once construction is completed.

The Scoping Report needs to needs to explain the likely significant effects of increased peat erosion in increasing local watercourse erosion and sedimentation? And also increased dissolved peat in watercourses and reservoirs

11.4 Table 19-1 Technical Aspects Scoped Out (page 543) scopes out risk of major accidents/disasters

In other words they are seeking agreement that they won't carry out an environmental impact assessment for Risk of major accidents and/or disasters, including the risk of:

- Fire and emissions to air of the battery energy storage system (not to mention any fire water runoff and the potential of chemical pollution entering the reservoirs, which they ignore.)

- Peat slides

Although Table 19-1 says, "During construction, there is a potential for existing peat deposits to be disturbed and generate a landslide" it says that Chapter 8 takes care of this by including a peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (in para 8.4.5, Table 8.3).

Ban the Burn does not agree that Risk of major accidents and/or disasters should be scoped out from Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Scoping Report says there will be a BESS cooling system that will reduce or eliminate the fire risk. BESS Cooling systems are pretty standard, but in an emergency situation the fire brigade will leave a container to burn out and use fire hoses on the others to keep cool. The runoff will be

hydrofluoric acid and it would most likely go straight into the reservoirs. That seems like something that should be scoped into an environmental impact assessment.

We also wonder why they don't include possible increased flood risk in Hebden Bridge as a potential disaster.

Chapter 9 – Carbon and Climate Change

The methods for measuring the carbon footprint of manufactured items, construction and transport are well known and we trust that these will be followed. Again though, the lack of detail in the actual plans themselves means that a worst-case scenario must be taken for all of these.
Measuring the carbon emissions from the destroyed and drained peat is however far more difficult. Numerous mentions are made in Table 9.1: CMBC Scoping Opinion of using the Scottish Carbon Calculator for these, but this was withdrawn from use last year as recent research into the construction of windfarms on peatlands had shown that it was no longer fit for purpose. As of late September 2025 there has been no alternative tool provided.

Again though, the lack of detail in the actual plans themselves means that a worst-case scenario must be taken for all emissions deriving from the destroyed and drained peat. But how do the developers intend to calculate these carbon emissions? There is no mention of this at all in this section or any other. This is a critical factor given that the UK and it's devolved assemblies all recognise the importance of peatland as a carbon store. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA, whose guidance the developers quote widely in the Scoping Report), advises that any project on peatland must demonstrate that the carbon savings from renewable energy significantly outweigh the carbon costs of peatland disturbance. The term 'carbon savings from renewable energy' is discussed later, as possibly a redundant idea for judging how 'green' renewable energy is.

Guidance

We believe the following document would be a useful inclusion:

Carbon Calculator for wind farms on Scottish peatlands: an evidence assessment (https://www.climatexchange.org.uk/publications/carbon-calculator-for-wind-farms-on-scottish-peatlands-an-evidence-assessment/)

Existing Baseline Conditions

9.3.1 states that:

> 'further information gathering and assessment is proposed to inform the technical assessment for the Environmental Statement (ES) (see details and scope of the further baseline data below). This will be finalised once the study area has been fully defined (see next section).'

9.3.3 states that:

> 'The emissions associated with construction activities, including soil disturbance, will be considered for all options relevant to Site Access Search Areas and Cable Corridor Search Areas.'

Given that these search areas also cover areas of peatland what is their methodology for assessing the emissions from the disturbance of peat?

Relevant Baseline Conditions

9.3.5 states that:

> 'carbon emissions and removals will occur as a result of the natural habitats (e.g. peatland), moorland management and lowland agricultural activities.'

9.3.6 states that:

> 'Notwithstanding this, the baseline GHG emissions are likely to be small in the context of the lifecycle emissions for the Proposed Development.'

We agree with the first statement, but the second is an entirely unjustified assumption. A thorough analysis of the current baseline emissions needs to be made, along with an assessment of emissions if the blanket bog was fully restored, as per the Walshaw Moor Catchment Restoration Plan, as recommended by the review into the Scottish Carbon Calculator.

Environmental Measures

9.4.1 states:

> 'Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur. In accordance with Schedule 4(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the ES will be based on an EIA mitigation hierarchy which seeks to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset (where appropriate) likely significant effects. Specific environmental measures relevant to Carbon and Climate Change will be identified and will be considered as part of the assessments (i.e. the assessments of likely significant effects have been undertaken with the inclusion of the environmental measures, as these measures will form part of the Proposed Development). At this stage of the Proposed Development, the following environmental measures will be implemented and included within the Proposed Development.'

How will the magnitude of these 'likely significant effects' be measured? Again this needs to be specified or the EIA will be meaningless. It also says 'the following environmental measures will be implemented', but in 9.4.2, 9.4.3 and 9.4.4 no measures are specified, just that 'It is anticipated that measures to minimise GHG emissions…' will be included in the various plans.

Scope of the Assessment – Consultation Undertaken to Date

Table 9-1 lists various response from the Scoping Report sent to CMBC in September 2023, where the now redundant Scottish Carbon Calculator is mentioned several times.

The overall tone of the responses seem to prejudge the outcome of the assessments – for example the reply to Blackshaw Head Parish Council:

> 'The assessment will also quantify the carbon benefits of the Proposed Development and demonstrate all the measures implemented throughout the lifetime to avoid and reduce GHG emissions and contribute to mitigating climate change. The benefits will weigh the carbon emissions from the Proposed Development (including embedded carbon, transport and peat disturbance) against the GHG emissions saved during its lifetime (Paragraph 9.5.13).'

The use of the words 'carbon benefit(s)' is misleading because until all the carbon emissions are being measured correctly, and compared to relevant baselines and future scenarios, there is no guarantee that on peatland sites there will be any benefit, and there may well be a loss.

Other Consultation Undertaken to Date

9.5.2 No other consultation has been undertaken to date.
What about the non-statutory consultation events? Meetings with Natural England? No other consultation since September 2023?

Effects Scoped Out from Detailed Assessment

9.5.3 states:

> 'There are no effects for Carbon and Climate Change that are proposed to be scoped out of the ES. Any emissions sources not considered in this Scoping Report that are identified during Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), consultation or production of the final ES will either be scoped into or scoped out of the final ES. Where sources are scoped out, the rationale will be clearly justified and evidenced. These will either be not relevant or causally linked to the Proposed Development, or will not contribute more than 1% of the lifecycle carbon emissions in isolation and 5% in total, in line with IEMA guidance.'

We do not believe any emission sources should be scoped out. If the work has been done to identify and quantify these emissions then they should be included, and if the work hasn't been done to quantify them then how do they know if they meet the 1% and 5% criteria?

9.5.5 We agree with this, but with the proviso that the emissions arising from the disturbance of peatland include the drainage effects of all construction on site, especially the tracks and cable trenches which have the potential for interfering with the hydrology of the blanket bog.

9.5.6 We don't understand this 'The significance of effects for individual emissions sources will not be considered.', could it please be clarified?

9.5.7 Again we object to the term 'carbon benefits' as prejudging the outcome of the assessment.

9.5.11 As for 9.3.5 and 9.3.6 we believe an additional assessment should be made based on a fully restored blanket bog habitat.

9.5.12 The last sentence mentions that 25% of electricity was generated by fossil fuels in 2024, however by 2030, if the government meets it's targets for onshore and offshore wind, that will have dropped to <10%, and in all likelihood that generation will be mainly when there is very little wind. The 2024 position is irrelevant as this development will not be operational until after 2030.

9.5.13 details two alternative baseline scenarios:

> Alternative Baseline 1 - energy from the Proposed Development will allow the phase out of existing fossil fuel power generation in the UK and the energy generated by the Proposed Development will therefore displace energy generated by use of fossil fuels. It will be assumed that any such fossil fuel power generation retained in operation in the absence of renewable alternatives will be retrofitted with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology as part of the UK's industrial decarbonisation strategy and unabated operation will cease in the future; and
>
> Alternative Baseline 2 - alternative technology to the Proposed Development will be built and operated. The focus will be on a new natural gas fired power station operating with CCS technology, as well as comparison to the carbon intensity of other renewable energy schemes including solar and offshore wind to provide context.

We believe both these scenarios are fundamentally flawed. The government has a target to double onshore and quadruple offshore wind energy to 28GW and 50GW respectively by 2030. Even if the ambitious targets for 2030 are not met there is still nearly 31GW of onshore and offshore wind currently either under construction or consented.

If additional wind developments are added you cannot say they are displacing gas generation as it will already have been displaced, you cannot count that generation twice or more.

The only time that gas generation, with or without CCS, is needed is when there is little or no wind.
Alternative Baseline 2 is not a realistic alternative, no-one is suggesting building new gas fired power stations with CCS instead of renewables on any scale, again these would only be used as a backup for when there was little or no wind.

The only sensible indication to use is the emissions intensity of the electricity produced by a development, and comparing this to other practical large scale energy sources, nuclear, solar, onshore and offshore wind. This would then enable sensible choices to be made between different sites as to how green the electricity produced is.
Rather than leaving the choice of sites to developers whose main incentive is profit it would make more sense for the government, through Great British Energy for example, to build on the work done by the University of Exeter and the RSPB to identify viable sites in England for onshore wind, prioritising those areas that will have the least impact on communities and the natural world. This would streamline the planning applications as unsuitable sites would already have been screened out. GBE could either develop these sites themselves or alternatively put them out to tender.

9.5.18 states:

> 'Emissions from soil and peatland disturbance from construction activities will be included in the GHG assessment and will be consistent with the methodology outlined in the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat assessment.'

Which methodology is this? We cannot see any reference to measuring emissions in Chapter 8.

9.5.21 states:

> 'Carbon emissions savings from the electricity generated by the Proposed Development will be calculated through comparison to the current carbon intensity of fossil fuel power generation with CCS. This comparison is relevant as the electricity generated by the Proposed Development will replace energy from fossil fuel combustion as part of the transition to net zero. Carbon emissions factors for fossil fuel generation with CCS will be obtained from the latest UK Government energy fuel mix disclosure tables177 and adjusted to account for CCS using the latest published data on carbon capture rates for such systems. The predicted annual and lifetime energy generation of the Proposed Development will be used to calculate the potential avoided carbon emissions.'

For the reasons given above re 9.5.12 and 9.5.13 we believe this is totally inaccurate and should be removed from the final statement.

9.5.23 again, where is this methodology in Chapter 8?

9.5.26 needs to be compared with baseline and alternative baseline of full blanket bog restoration.

Assumptions, Limitations and Uncertainties

9.5.38 states:

> 'The GHG assessment will consider and help develop mitigation and carbon management measures delivered as part of the Proposed Development. These will

> be set out in relevant management plans and documents (see Section 9.4). This will include measures to minimise embodied carbon emissions and promote cradle-to-cradle circular economy, as these emissions are likely to represent the largest component of the Proposed Developments lifecycle footprint.'

We reject the last sentence as being speculative, as there is no way they should prejudge which emissions are 'likely to represent the largest component of the Proposed Developments lifecycle footprint.' Especially as there appears to be no methodology to measure emissions from destruction and disturbance of peat.

9.5.40 states:

> 'UKCP18 projections for the future period 2060-2079 will be utilised, as this takes account of the anticipated lifetime of the Proposed Development (approximately 35 years).'

Which warming scenarios from UKCP18 will the developers use?
We believe that the anticipated lifetime of the Proposed Development is very optimistic at 35 years, and given all other unknowns at the present moment, and bearing in mind the spirit of the 'Rochdale Envelope', we believe a more industry standard 25 years would be appropriate.

Chapter 10 - Landscape and Visual

Generally

This response has been prepared by Penny Bennett who is a Chartered Landscape Architect with 44 years of experience.

Literature cited

The following reports need to be documented / referred to:
· Visual Representation of Development Proposals TGN 06/19 Landscape Institute although under review it is the most comprehensive guidance for technical visualisations used in LVIA
· Planning for on shore wind, Research Briefing for House of Commons Felicia Rankl Oct 2023

Study area

Para 10.3.2 states that the assessment of cable connection would concentrate on a 1km buffer either side of the proposed route. Where the cable corridor would have an impact on mature trees, groups of trees or woodland, the potential loss of trees and woodland could have an impact beyond 1km, and where this is likely the visual impacts may extend beyond 1 km. Where this is the case, professional judgement should be used to extend the visual envelope appropriately.

Relevant Baseline Conditions: landscape character

Para 10.3.4 states that the relevant landscape character areas will be verified on site and refined where appropriate, it is also good practice to review the landscape character information being used.

In para 10.3.6 the author refers to weathered 'tors', these are features of granite landscapes such as Dartmoor, gritstone features are termed outcrops.

The inaccurate description continues further down this paragraph when it states that “Landcover is predominantly open moorland, largely rough grassland…” This is wrong, the moorland is not largely rough grassland and the National Character Area (NCA) 36 goes to some lengths to reinforce the importance and extent of the blanket bog areas which is usefully summarised in the table below: To say that the mosaic of upland landscapes is of ecological value is an underestimate, given much of the upland plateau in the South Pennines has international and national wildlife designations. This is reinforced in the summary of the first page of NCA 36 which states that “The area contains internationally important mosaics of moorland habitats”

Para 10.3.8 cites wind farms in the vicinity, those on Todmorden Moor should be included

in the list.

Relevant Baseline Conditions: Landscape Designations

Table 10.1 does not include the Nidderdale National Landscape, and this should be added.

Viewpoint Assessment

Para 10 3.25 notes that no viewpoints have been selected in relation to the site access search areas or cable corridor search areas. While it is understood that the identification of specific visual receptors is not appropriate at this stage, the SR should confirm that the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) has been used to help to inform route selection, particularly where there is a chance that areas of mature trees and woodland may be affected by cable and access routes, and loss of such trees and woodland due to cable works would have a visual impact.

Table 10.2 Proposed viewpoint locations

It is unclear at what stage viewpoints will be finalised. Table 10.2 includes a number of new viewpoints which were omitted from the original scoping report, and in paragraphs 10.3.23 and 10.3.24 the parameters for viewpoint selection are set out.

It is stated that stakeholder feedback will be taken account of, but it is uncertain how this will happen. Table 10.4 summarises comments from stakeholders from the original scoping report and a number of important viewpoints are highlighted as missing in 2023, which are still omitted two years later for example:

· Sheepstones Edge
· The Yorkshire Three Peaks
· Haworth, the Parsonage
· Blackstone Edge
· Leeds Liverpool Canal between Blackburn and Barrowford

The comments in table 10.4 say that the viewpoint selection has been refined and altered in response to the previous scoping report, although we note the landscape and visual scoping report was written considering turbine heights of between 149 m and 200 m high. Now the turbine heights are confirmed at 200 m high the selection of viewpoints will cover a comparatively larger area. It is stated that viewpoints will be reviewed as the design process evolves, but at what point can stakeholders discuss this with the applicant?

Given the vast area over which this development will be visible, we would like to see viewpoints also from:

· Lund Tower, above Cowling
· Simon's Seat on the Bolton Estate in the Dales

· Pinhaw Beacon above Lothersdale
· Within the Peak District.

Environmental Measures

Para 10.4.1 states "Consideration will be paid to the opportunity to introduce environmental measures (and mitigation) that will help to avoid or reduce the potential for an adverse significant effect to occur.

" The NCA gives very clear guidance in the statements of environmental opportunity on the opportunities to restore and improve ecological links between moorland habitats, restoring degraded areas of blanket bog to active sphagnum dominated bog to promote peat formation, and heath communities where matt grass has become dominant.

This needs to be so much more than a 'consideration' but rather a complete ethos which thoroughly understands the critical importance of the landscape which is to be altered and embraces every opportunity to restore and enhance the moorland environment.

Paras 10.4.2 - 10.4.4 describe the scope for landscape design to mitigate the potential landscape and visual effects.

Given the importance of the ecological features on the potential turbine area, will there be a hierarchy of mitigation between issues of landscape and visual importance and ecological importance, and will this be clearly set out and made transparent in the ES?

Construction

Para 10.4.6 refers to the routing and siting of elements of the proposed development to avoid notable landscape features... How are these notable landscape features defined, do these correspond with important ecological features such as blanket bog for instance?

The 'key potential mitigation measures' miss the point completely with regard to the restoration of the blanket bog. The objectives state that native grass/ moorland species to be planted to assist in blending the track into the surrounding moorland context. Given that grasslands make up a small percentage of the areas on Walshaw Moor the emphasis here is misguided. Meanwhile mention of woodland creation (when blanket bog is not event mentioned) is bordering on the irrelevant. The mitigation process needs to consider what the objectives are in the restoration of the vegetation. It seems that the aim is to recreate the vegetation patterns that were here prior to development which in places is degraded habitat brought about by years of mismanagement, not to take the opportunity to restore an internationally important area of blanket bog, for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood control and protection of water quality.

These are the clear objectives set out in the NCA which provides clear and concise guidance that should be followed. The oLEMP would also need to fully understand the objectives of the Catchment Management Plan, and the requirements of any BNG.

The statement that careful consideration of any planting proposals to complement the landscape character is worrying and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the ecological value of the landscape of the proposed turbine area. Restoration must take full account of the restoration of the peatland vegetation and hydrology and understand the challenges of restoring irreplaceable and irreparable peatland habitats.

It is hugely concerning that the restoration of this precious landscape is being entrusted to those that appear to have no grasp of its importance.

Scope of the assessment

Table 10.4 reviews comments made by consultees. A recurring comment refers to need for cumulative assessment but there is no detail given as to what cumulative effects should be considered. These should include cumulative sequential effects along key public rights of way, including the Pennine Way in both directions, considering the effects from the furthest point north and south from where the proposal would be seen.
This will reinforce the massive scale of the visual impact on this path. Other important routes where cumulative sequential effects should be considered include:

· The Pennine Bridleway
· Brontë Way
· Leeds Liverpool Canal
· Calderdale Way
· Burnley Way
· Pendle Way
· Calder Aire Link
· E2 European Long-Distance Path
· Scenic road routes: Widdop Road, A6033 from Hebden Bridge to Oxenhope

A further point made by UCWN commenting on the earlier scoping report was that the sense of openness should be considered. This is not quite the same as the sense of openness considered in a planning context which related to the green belt, but the sense of being able to experience wide open spaces unimpaired by built development.

Effects scoped out from the Detailed Assessment

Table 10.5 states that no townscape assessments will be carried out in the urban parts of the study area. We consider that there will be sufficient impact on the urban areas to merit townscape studies which should be considered for Wadsworth, Haworth, Heptonstall, Trawden and Oxenhope as skylines and backdrops to these developments will be affected by this proposal.

The effects arising from the decommissioning phase should be considered as there are likely to be long term changes resulting from the reinstatement of vegetation over hard standings as outlined in chapter 7. This is because the impervious concrete hard standings and foundations remaining in the ground will result in a permanent change to the hydrology and patterns of vegetation that will be impossible to change.

Likely significant effects scoped into the Detailed Assessment

In para 10.5.4 there is no consideration of the BESS. In contrast to the largely clean lines of the wind turbines, the BESS will be a smaller scale but piecemeal development with security fencing and associated small buildings and the landscape and visual effects of this need to be fully assessed.

Table 10.6 states that the design of the Proposed Development should be considered in relation to the landform of local context, but there is a regional context here: Walshaw Moor is the highest ground in the South Pennines and the impact of this development on this landform will be felt across the region. Similarly, the study area of 15km underestimates the extent of the potential impact of this development across the wider region.

Consultation

Para 10.6.5 doesn't include perceptual qualities as one of the categories that will be assessed in the LVIA. Para 5.3.7 of GLVIA states that the importance of perceptions of landscape is emphasised in the European Landscape Convention: for instance the perceptions of wildness, and tranquility and how this would be affected should be considered.

Physical effects on Landscape Elements

Para 10.6.6 states that physical effects of the development are restricted to within the footprint of the development. We consider that these effects would extend beyond the footprint of the Turbine Area, because the blanket bog is hydrologically linked it of likely that the effects will extend to other parts of the peatland mosaic even if they are outside the proposed site.

Effects on views

In para 10.6.8 we consider that there will also be perceptual effects caused by the introduction of lighting to turbines, such as the loss of dark skies.

Cumulative effects

Sequential cumulative effects which are described in Table 7.1 of GLVIA are not mentioned as part of the scoping. This has already been mentioned in respect of views from footpaths etc (10-4).

Significance of Effects – nature of effects

Para 10.6.28 suggests that the landscape and visual effects of windfarms are difficult to categorise as beneficial or adverse. We disagree: this is not necessarily the case and it is important that this is understood in the LVIA. For instance, if wildness is a feature of the landscape character of the South Pennines NCA and by introducing new development into that landscape the character of wildness will be LOST, this is clearly a negative effect, because it is a clear attribute and characteristic of the landscape character which no longer exists. We consider that it is hard to claim that there is an element of subjectivity here. We note that the LVIA will adopt a precautionary approach here which we believe to be essential.

Decommissioning

As noted earlier since it will not be possible to reverse the effects of much of the proposed installation there will be permanent changes to the hydrology of the moor which in turn will have an impact on the vegetation.

Assumptions Limitations and Uncertainties

LVIA should be iterative documents which respond to changes as they happen so it is expected that there will be changes to the LVIA as the design evolves.

Report END

From: [redacted]@wakefield.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 September 2025 10:29
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> [redacted]

Morning

I refer to your email and confirm that the LPA does not have any comments to make.

Kind regards,

Ruth

_____

[redacted]

Team Leader

Planning Services – Development Management

Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Wakefield One, Burton Street, Wakefield, WF1 2EB

[redacted]akefield.gov.uk

[redacted]

www.wakefield.gov.uk

The comments contained in this email are an officer opinion given without prejudice and are not binding on the Council

From: [redacted]@wigan.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 September 2025 13:20
To: Calderdale Energy Park <calderdaleep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: EN0110023 - Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> [redacted]

Good Afternoon

I can confirm that Wigan Council has no comments to make in respect of this matter.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Development Management Team Leader

Place Directorate

Wigan Council
Wigan Life Centre (South Site)

College Avenue

Wigan WN1 1NJ
[redacted]

www.wigan.gov.uk

www.twitter.com/wigancouncil

www.facebook.com/WiganCouncilOnline

Yorkshire Water Services
Land and Property
Western House
Western Way
Bradford
BD6 2SZ

Planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk
26th September 2025

Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Your Ref: EN0110023

Our Ref: A/02188

Dear Sir/Madam,

Walshaw Moor Estate Widdop Road Heptonstall Hebden Bridge - (CALD) Calderdale Energy Park - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Water Services Ltd (YWS) regarding the proposed Calderdale Energy Park development.

YWS previously provided comments on the 2023 scoping request and note that this is a revised proposal comprising 41 wind turbines, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), an on-site substation, and associated infrastructure, with an anticipated generating capacity of approximately 300MW.

The three Walshaw Dean reservoirs (Upper, Middle, and Lower) are located centrally within the proposed turbine area, with Widdop Reservoir situated to the southwest. These reservoirs are owned and operated by YWS and are of strategic importance to the supply of drinking water to large parts of West Yorkshire.

Having reviewed the EIA Scoping Report (September 2025), YWS acknowledges the inclusion of Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology, and Peat within the scope of the Environmental Statement. We welcome this and specifically the recognition of:

- Pollution risks to groundwater and surface water during construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Foul water generation and associated pollution risks across all phases of development.

However, given the strategic importance of the reservoirs and associated catchment land, YWS considers that Chapter 8 does not currently provide a sufficiently comprehensive scope. Any subsequent Environmental Statement must robustly assess:

- Potential changes in volumetric flow to the identified YWS reservoirs.
- Impacts on water quality during construction, operation, and decommissioning phases.

To support this, the Environmental Statement must include a detailed water quality monitoring programme, specifying: frequency of sampling and locations (including all key feeder streams and catchwaters, such as Greave Clough). The range of determinands to be monitored should include, but not limited to:

- PFAS
- Bisphenol A
- Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC), Total Organic Carbon (TOC), and Particulate Organic Carbon (POC)
- Suspended solids / turbidity
- Metals: manganese, iron, aluminium
- Hydrocarbons
- Reservoir trophic state indicators

Baseline monitoring must be undertaken prior to any development to enable meaningful comparison and impact assessment.

In addition, several YWS assets are located within the redline boundary and must be afforded appropriate protection. These include:

- 700mm ductile iron live raw water main
- 54-inch live stone raw water main
- 84-inch live stone water main
- 18-inch cast iron live raw water main

YWS expects to be consulted to confirm the extent and location of all relevant water supply infrastructure within the site boundary.

We request early and ongoing engagement with YWS to:

- Assess infrastructure capacity.
- Confirm asset locations.
- Agree appropriate mitigation and protection measures.

We look forward to working collaboratively to ensure the protection of public water supply and the integrity of our infrastructure throughout the development process.

Yours Faithfully

[redacted]

Town Planning Manager