

Executive Summary

The Calderdale Energy Park is a major renewable energy proposal in Calderdale, West Yorkshire, comprising a large-scale onshore wind farm with supporting infrastructure such as access routes and underground cabling. The site is mainly upland moorland currently used for grouse shooting and low-grade agriculture.

The scoping report outlines how the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken to inform a future Development Consent Order (DCO) application. It identifies potential significant effects, sets the scope of technical assessments, and records consultation feedback.

Key Points

- **Project Purpose:** To deliver renewable energy generation, supporting UK climate and energy security goals.
- **Location:** Upland area north of Hebden Bridge, extending into Calderdale with cable corridors potentially affecting neighbouring local authorities.
- **Main Topics Scoped In:**
 - **Ornithology & Biodiversity:** Potential impacts on protected birds, upland habitats, blanket bog, and priority species.
 - **Hydrology, Geology & Peat:** Peat stability, water quality, flood risk, and carbon storage.
 - **Landscape & Visual:** Potential effects on sensitive landscapes including the South Pennine Moors, Yorkshire Dales NP, Peak District NP, Nidderdale and Forest of Bowland National Landscapes, and cultural settings such as the Brontë heritage sites.
 - **Cultural Heritage:** Impacts on listed buildings, historic landscapes, and nationally significant cultural associations (e.g., Brontë landscapes, Stoodley Pike).
 - **Socio-Economics & Tourism:** Effects on local tourism, recreation, and employment.
 - **Human Health:** Noise, air quality, and access to greenspace.
 - **Transport & Access:** Construction traffic, abnormal loads, and road upgrades.
 - **Other Technical Issues:** Noise and vibration, air quality, shadow flicker, aviation safety, and climate change benefits.
- **Consultation Feedback:**
 - **Natural England, RSPB, local councils, and heritage groups** highlighted risks to habitats, biodiversity, and iconic landscapes.
 - Concerns raised over loss of moorland, effects on Brontë-related tourism, and cumulative visual impacts of tall turbines.
- **Mitigation Proposals:**
 - Habitat restoration, biodiversity net gain measures, peat management, sensitive lighting, shadow flicker control, and traffic management plans.
 - Visual and cultural impacts to be reduced through viewpoint assessments, photomontages, and heritage consultations.

Next Steps:

The EIA will refine technical assessments, agree methodologies with consultees, and present a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), followed by the Environmental Statement (ES) supporting the formal DCO submission.

Disclaimer:

This executive summary was generated with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) to condense and present key information from the Calderdale Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report (September 2025). Whilst care has been taken to ensure accuracy and clarity, the summary is not a substitute for the full report. Readers should refer to the original document for comprehensive details, technical assessments, and formal conclusions.