



Cross Roads Parish Council

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9.d Calderdale Energy Park – Statutory Consultation

Dear Council

Please see below the draft response to the Calderdale Energy Park statutory consultation as discussed at the 8 January 2026 Parish Council meeting.

Whilst Cross Roads Parish Council supports, in principle, the development of renewable energy initiatives and recognises the importance of the transition towards sustainable and low-carbon energy generation, the Parish Council considers that such developments must be appropriately sited and carefully balanced against environmental, ecological, and landscape considerations.

On this basis, Cross Roads Parish Council objects to the proposed Calderdale Energy Park. The Council's objection reflects concerns regarding the suitability of the proposed rural location and the potential adverse impact upon the surrounding natural environment, particularly the sensitive habitats of Walshaw Moor and its internationally important peatland landscape, much of which has remained largely undisturbed for thousands of years.

Cross Roads Parish Council considers that insufficient weight has been given to the significant ecological value of the site and its wider environmental function, including its role in carbon sequestration, water retention, flood mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. Peatlands are recognised as nationally important carbon stores, and damage or disturbance to these habitats can result in the long-term release of stored carbon, undermining the wider environmental benefits associated with renewable energy development.

In reaching this position, Cross Roads Parish Council has had regard to relevant national planning and environmental policy and legislation, including:

- The environmental objectives contained within the Environment Act 2021, including commitments relating to biodiversity recovery and environmental protection;
- The duties arising under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in relation to the protection of habitats and species;
- The requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, where protected habitats and species may be affected;

- The principles set out within the National Planning Policy Framework, particularly those relating to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, minimising impacts on biodiversity, and protecting and restoring peat soils;
- The Government's policy commitment to protect deep peat and improve the condition of upland peatlands as part of the UK's wider climate and biodiversity objectives.

Cross Roads Parish Council further considers that the cumulative environmental impacts of large-scale infrastructure development within sensitive upland landscapes must be fully and transparently assessed. In the Council's view, the proposal risks causing irreversible harm to a landscape of substantial ecological importance and fails to demonstrate that the environmental impacts can be satisfactorily avoided, mitigated, or compensated.

Accordingly, Cross Roads Parish Council submits the above comments for consideration as part of the statutory consultation process as resolved at the Parish Council meeting held on the 20 May 2026.

Kind regards

Jill Davis

Proper Officer to Cross Roads Parish Council