



Hope Moor Windfarm¹

We wholeheartedly object to this proposal

Whilst we support the government's aim to increase the use of renewable energy and we recognise that the proposed location of the windfarm is outside the boundary of the protected national parks, much of the land is designated by Natural England as blanket bog, a priority habitat for conservation. The England Peat Map² shows extensive peat deposits in the area, an irreplaceable habitat. This is confirmed in your own information but your suggestion that peat depths of less than 0.3m are not classified as peat is incorrect. Restoration of shallow peatland has long been considered both possible and valuable³.

The Mitigation Hierarchy applies. Sites that contain irreplaceable habitats should be avoided because the harm to be caused cannot be mitigated. Compensation should be an absolute last resort only if there are no alternative sites available and this is not the case for renewable energy given that, earlier this year, the government announced⁴ contracts for 157 new solar farms, 28 new onshore windfarms, eight offshore windfarms and three tidal projects.

We are also aware that, in relation to renewable energy sources, the National Energy Systems Operator (NESO)⁵ considers that the "*current connections queue stands at over 738 GW, far exceeding the 200–225 GW of clean generation capacity required by 2030*". This means that you have rather understated the situation on your website (which suggests that recent changes to grid connection processes across the UK mean that "*the grid connection point will not be confirmed until later in the development timeline*"). You advise that "*the grid connection route and method do not form part of this application and will instead be progressed through a separate application*".

It is totally inappropriate to plan for the environmental and ecological destruction to be caused by this proposal when there is no certainty that approval to connect will be given for a number of years, if at all.

We also understand that wind turbines are currently regularly switched off (curtailed) because the grid cannot cope with the amount of energy they produce. This report⁶ suggests that, in 2025, Scottish windfarms were paid £350m to switch off, whilst, at the same time, over £1 billion was spent on gas to replace the wind, with the cumulative costs passed directly on to consumers in their energy bills. No windfarm proposals should be coming forward until issues such as this have been resolved.

This site, adjacent to the Yorkshire Dales and North Pennines landscape, is a wholly unsuitable location for industrialisation, which will lead to the wholesale destruction of this moorland landscape, its unique habitats and its endangered wildlife.

¹ <https://hopemoor.co.uk/>

² <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2de81f5bd54f48e99771549e0b4746d0/>

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479715301146>

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2026/feb/10/uk-onshore-windfarm-new-green-energy-projects-contracts>

⁵ <https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/about-connections-reform>

⁶ <https://modoenergy.com/research/en/scotland-wind-generation-curtailment-gas-plants-grid-constraints-battery-energy-storage-explainer-documentary-8cf9b5be-ad66-4297-8f5b-2d55dcc9df83>



National Landscapes are protected under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (as amended and strengthened by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2024), which provides a statutory duty to enhance as well as protect. That duty must logically extend to the visual experience of the landscape, both from within it and from places from which it is visible.

There are other, more appropriate, sites, where the development of 20 (200m high) wind turbines would not result in the environmental, ecological and visual harms that will be caused in this location.

The proposal will also cause the wilful destruction of both designated and undesignated heritage assets, which will be impacted by the traffic, the construction and the operation of this windfarm.

In relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which is currently being scoped, we would encourage the developer, the Council and the government to ensure the scoping exercise explicitly includes the impact on local communities of the anticipated construction traffic, which will need to traverse very minor village roads and the impact of any permanent or temporary new roads on the peatland irreplaceable habitat. Your assertion that highway works may be required to accommodate construction traffic is another understatement, given this isolated rural location.

We assume the following will also be scoped into the EIA:

- Alternative Sites: A detailed assessment of the alternative sites considered
- Landscape and Visual Impact: particularly given the special character of this landscape, the scenic beauty and cultural heritage of the site, the proposed size of the turbines will make them visible for many miles due to the flat moorland landscape (we understand that an application for much shorter, 54m-high, turbines on the same moorland was rejected in the high court in 1999, when the judge supported the planning inspector, who concluded that the “*special character*” of this area of “high landscape value” would “*be seriously harmed*”)
- All aspects of Construction: including, for example, the pylon and cable routes to connect into the grid, and, as mentioned above the new access roads required
- Ecological and Wildlife Harm: irreversible harms to irreplaceable habitat, there are numerous red listed birds and other endangered wildlife that could be injured or killed by the turbines, or construction may lead to a displacement of their habitats, an ecologically sensitive wildlife corridor will be permanently fractured
- Noise Pollution, Shadow Flicker and Health Concerns: both during construction and operation, aerodynamic noise from rotating blades, mechanical noise from turbines, and low-frequency noise (infrasound), which may impact both human and wildlife populations
- Impact on the Dark Skies in the area: during both construction and operation
- Impact on Residents, Businesses and Users of the area: the potential reduction in the local tourism economy will impact local businesses, any diversion of public rights of way may not be sufficient to minimise the health and safety issues
- Environmental Harm: including any risk of increased flooding, the impact on clean, un sullied water supplies through contamination
- Carbon Emissions: a detailed carbon calculation should be a requirement given that the carbon currently sequestered in the peat will be released through the disturbance of development, the harms to be caused to the overall peat mass and the consequential carbon emissions event could significantly outweigh the benefits of this renewable energy scheme

Friends of Carrington Moss Response to Hope Moor Windfarm



- Other Environmental Issues: such as the long-term, non-recyclable nature of turbine blades
- Cumulative Impacts in the area: including land loss and other impacts from solar farms, Battery Energy Storage Systems and potentially other windfarms.

Kind regards

Marj Powner

Vice Chair, Community Planning Alliance

Chair, Friends of Carrington Moss