Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Calderdale Energy Park Proposal – Objection from Foulridge Parish Council

Foulridge Parish Council wishes to formally object to the proposed Calderdale Energy Park development.

The Parish Council recognises the importance of renewable energy generation and the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels as part of the transition to a lower-carbon future. However, this transition must be undertaken responsibly, with full consideration given to environmental impacts, biodiversity, landscape character, and the long-term sustainability of proposed developments. Renewable energy infrastructure should be in appropriate locations and should not come at the expense of irreplaceable natural assets.

Walshaw Moor contains extensive peatland, which has acted as an important carbon store over many years. The disturbance required to facilitate this development—including turbine foundations, hard standings, access infrastructure, extensive cabling, drainage works, and energy storage facilities—raises significant concerns regarding the release of stored carbon and the degradation of a highly sensitive habitat. Such impacts appear contrary to the wider environmental objectives that the project seeks to support.

The moor benefits from multiple environmental designations, including Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status. These protections exist to safeguard important habitats, species, biodiversity, and ecological processes. The scale and nature of the proposed development would inevitably result in substantial intrusion into this protected landscape. While mitigation and restoration measures are proposed, the Parish Council remains unconvinced that the resulting environmental damage could be fully reversed after the 30-year life span of the project.

We also note that Friends of the Earth has produced mapping identifying areas considered suitable for wind energy development in England. Walshaw Moor does not appear among those preferred locations. It is therefore unclear whether alternative sites with fewer environmental constraints have been adequately considered. The Parish Council would welcome clarification as to why other potentially suitable locations have not been pursued.

Furthermore, annual aggregate assessments undertaken by West Yorkshire authorities indicate that sufficient local aggregate resources may not be available to support a development of this scale. If substantial quantities of aggregate must be transported from outside the region, this raises questions regarding the overall carbon footprint and sustainability credentials of the project. Greater transparency is needed regarding the sourcing and transportation of construction materials.

Although the village of Foulridge is not immediately adjacent to the proposed site, our community would nevertheless experience impacts arising from the development. These include potential changes to traffic patterns associated with construction activity, the movement of heavy goods vehicles and abnormal indivisible loads, and the visual effects of the turbines on the surrounding landscape, as indicated by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) data presented within the application documents.

For these reasons, Foulridge Parish Council considers Walshaw Moor to be an unsuitable location for a development of this scale and nature. There are alternative opportunities for renewable energy generation elsewhere in the UK, including less environmentally sensitive onshore locations and offshore developments, where clean energy objectives can be achieved without causing significant harm to protected landscapes, wildlife habitats, and local communities.

Accordingly, Foulridge Parish Council does not support the Calderdale Energy Park proposal.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Wendy Halliday

Foulridge Parish Council