

Hebden Royd Town Council

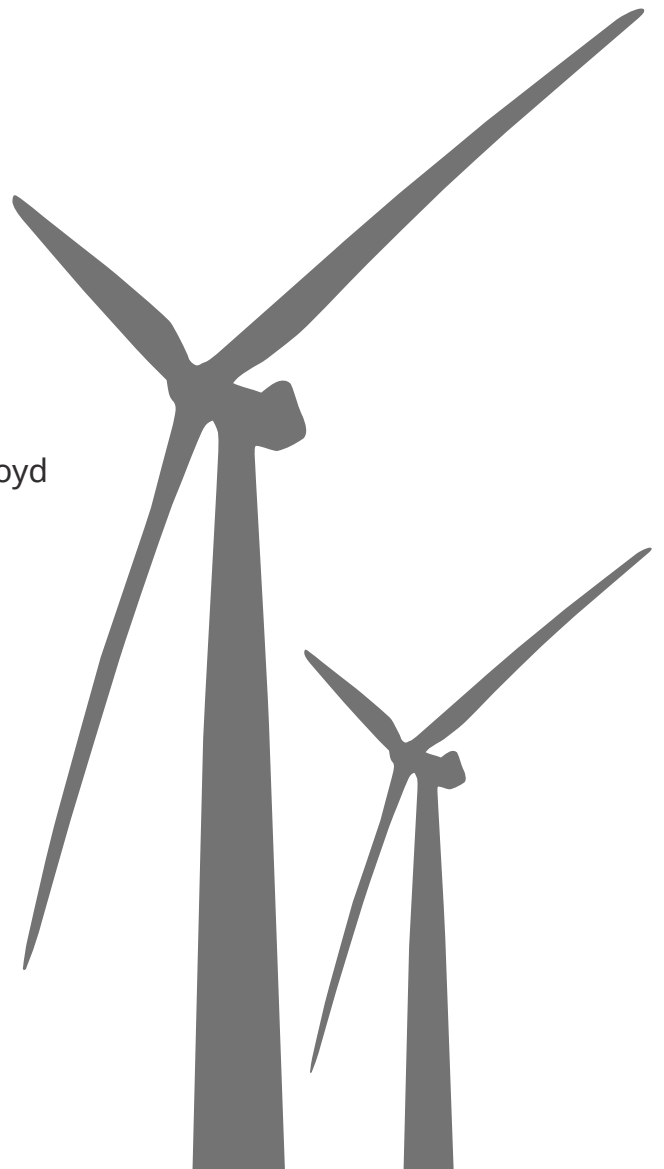
Calderdale Energy Park

Survey Results

December 2025

Contents

- 2 - Purpose & Methodology
- 3 - Who Responded to the Survey
- 4 - Summary of Responses from Hebden Royd
- 6 - Conclusion
- 7 - Appendix 1: All responses
- 9 - Appendix 2: Hilltop Parishes
- 11 - Appendix 3: Hebden Royd
- 13 - Appendix 4: Other areas



Hebden Royd Town Council

Calderdale Energy Park **Survey Results**

Purpose of the Survey

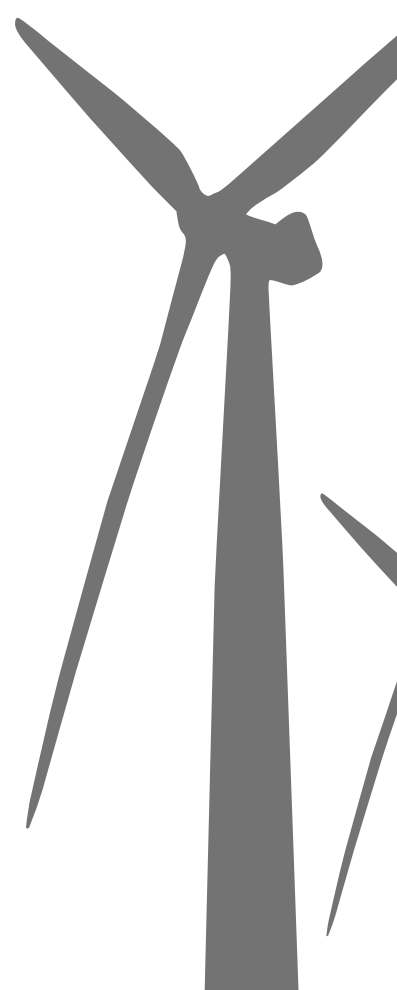
With the Calderdale Energy Park (CEP) proposal on the horizon, Hebden Royd Town Council (HRTC) carried out a survey to gather the opinions of the residents and business owners in Hebden Royd and surrounding areas.

The aim was to use the responses from this survey to inform HRTC's actions when representing Hebden Royd and its residents on matters relating to the Calderdale Energy Park proposal.

Methodology

The survey was designed to be as accessible as possible, therefore, it:

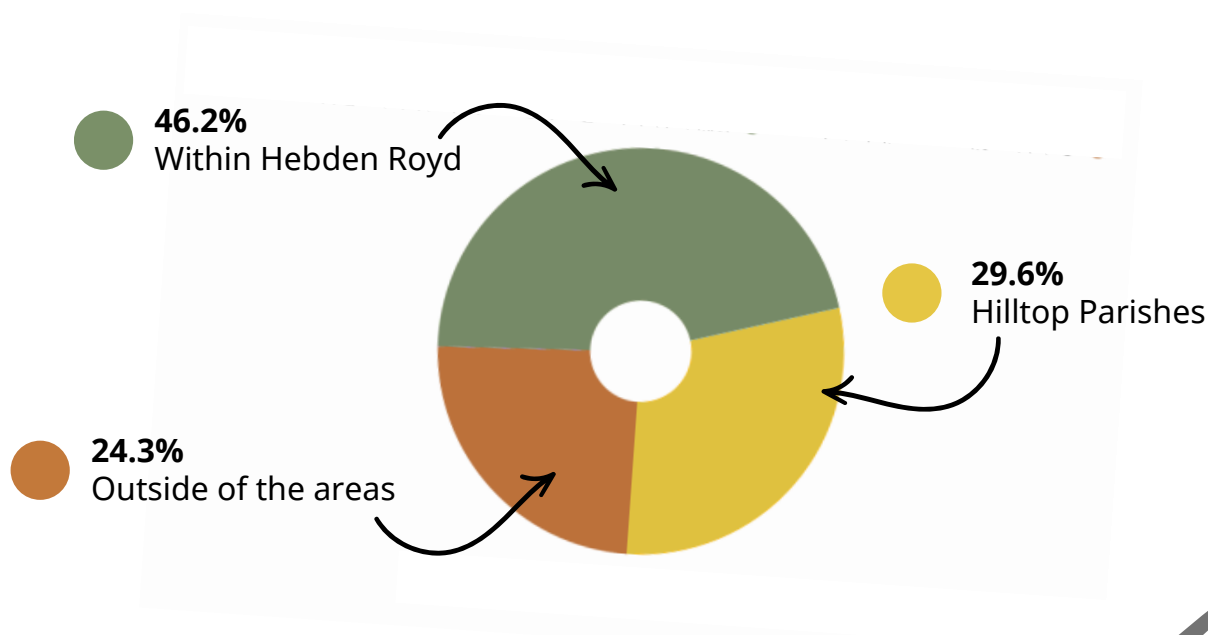
- contained minimal, concise questions to lower barriers to participation.
- did not limit responses to Hebden Royd residents - recognising that the CEP Scheme is, itself, based outside of Hebden Royd, and would affect those in and around the area. This enables us to capture a wider sense of our region's opinions on the proposal.
- was distributed in a variety of ways including; social media, printed media, noticeboards and local groups via direct mail.
- was made available via paper copies including large-format print, with 23 respondents choosing this option.



Who responded to the survey?

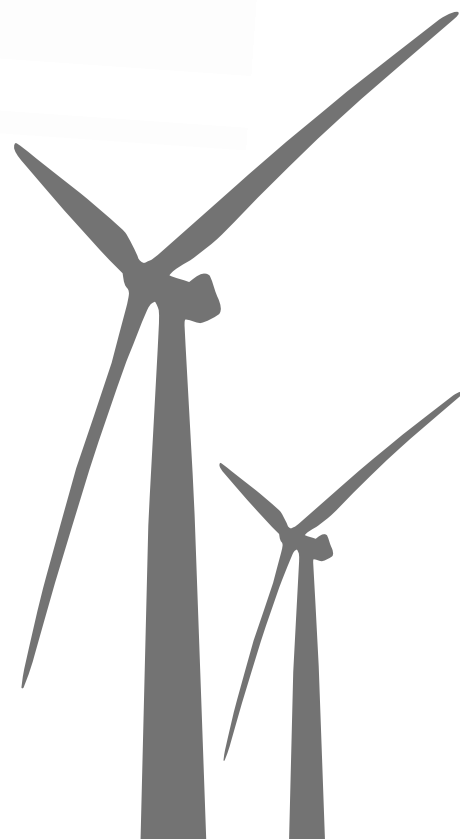
1,211 people responded to the survey, with 559 (46.2%) of those being based within Hebden Royd.

Q: Which area do you currently live in?



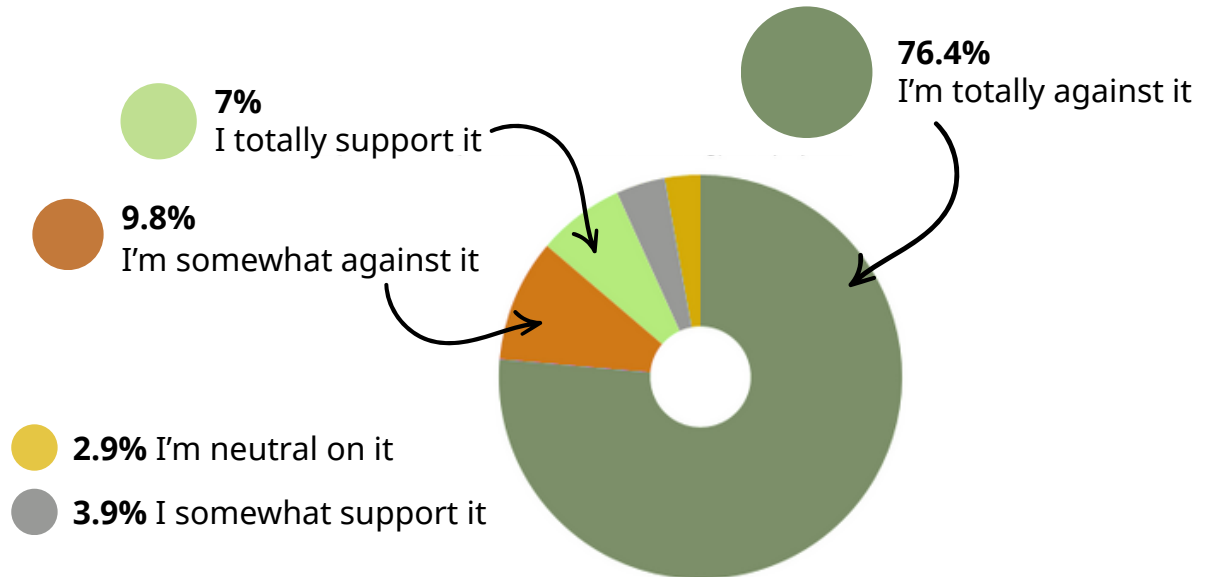
Hebden Royd Town Council has a duty to represent its constituents' views, therefore, this report includes a summary of results and comments from Hebden Royd respondents.

The full data set for all areas is available in the Appendix. We have not included individual comments, for the sake of brevity.



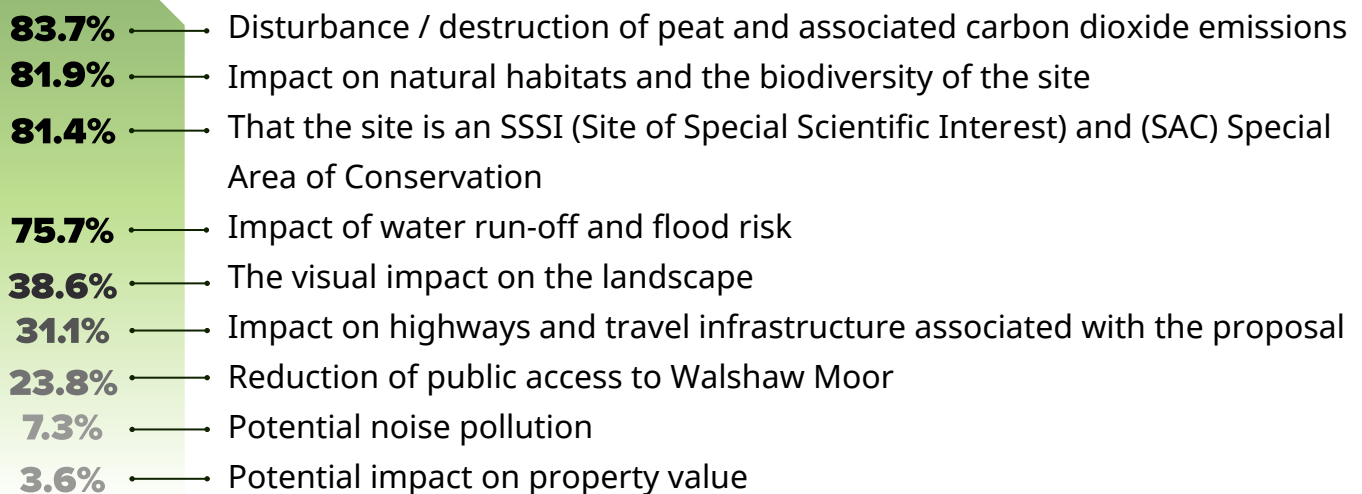
Summary of responses from Hebden Royd

Q: What is your current opinion on the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?



Q: What are your main concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Respondents were invited to choose **up to five issues** that were most of concern to them regarding the CEP proposal. Hebden Royd respondents' concerns were:



% of all respondents

Summary of comments from Hebden Royd respondents



Question 9 asked for discursive comments on the CEP proposal. A summary of these comments from Hebden Royd respondents is given below.

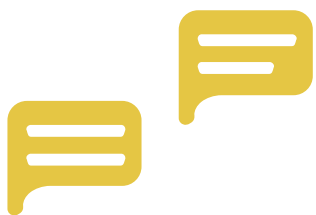
The overwhelming sentiment in the responses is opposition to the proposed Calderdale Energy Park, largely due to its location on peat moorland above Hebden Bridge. Many respondents argue that while renewable energy is vital, this specific site is wholly unsuitable.

They emphasise that **peat bogs are irreplaceable carbon sinks and natural flood defences**; disturbing them would release large amounts of **stored carbon, increase flooding** in the valley, and destroy **habitats for protected and endangered species**. Concerns also include the visual and logistical **impact of construction**, heavy vehicle traffic, and **disruption to local roads, tourism, and community life**.

Several comments highlight that the proposal seems **driven by profit - particularly for overseas investors** - rather than genuine environmental benefit, describing it as **“greenwashing”** or **“a money-making scheme.”**

Opponents stress that the **ecological damage** would be irreversible and far outweigh any gains from renewable energy generation, especially given the relatively short lifespan of turbines and the CO₂ cost of their production and installation. Many call for a comprehensive, peer-reviewed environmental **impact assessment** and suggest that **alternative, less sensitive sites**, such as degraded uplands or brownfield land, would be more appropriate.

A recurring theme is that this project **undermines wider efforts** to restore peatland, manage flooding naturally, and preserve the area’s cultural, aesthetic, and recreational value.



A small minority of respondents support the project, viewing it as a necessary step toward carbon neutrality, local energy security, and long-term sustainability. They argue that difficult decisions must be made to confront the climate emergency and that local opposition risks prolonging dependence on fossil fuels. However, even some supporters urge that environmental safeguards and effective water management must be in place before proceeding.



Overall, the majority opinion is clear: people value renewable energy but believe this proposal represents the right idea in the wrong place.



Cllr. Steve Woodhead, Chair of Hebden Royd Town Council Local Environment and Climate Committee

Conclusion

The response to this survey shows that a clear majority of respondents within Hebden Royd are opposed to the Calderdale Energy Park proposal. This provides Hebden Royd Town Council a clear mandate in representing the views of the community on the topic. However, we recognise that the results of this survey represent a snapshot in time. We will continue to review and seek opinions of the community in the future, should there be any changes to the CEP proposal.

We would like to thank everyone who submitted a response to the survey - your input helps ensure we can best represent the views of the Hebden Royd community.

Appendix 1: Survey Results - all respondents

Q1. Which area do you currently live in?

Within Hebden Royd - 559 / 46.2%
(Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge or Mytholmroyd)

Hilltop Parishes - 358 / 29.6%
(Blackshaw Head, Wadsworth, Heptonstall or Erringden)

Outside of the areas listed above - 294 / 24.3%

Q2. How important is renewable energy to you?

Very important - 670 / 55.3%
Somewhat important - 338 / 27.9%
Of neutral importance - 148 / 12.2%
Somewhat unimportant 26 / 2.1%
Totally unimportant 29 / 2.4%

Q3. Do you have concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Yes - 1143 / 94.4%
No - 68 / 5.6%

Q4. What are your main concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

(Choose up to 5 options)

Number of votes / % of respondents

Disturbance / destruction of peat and associated CO2 emissions	1,041	86.0%
Impact on natural habitats and the biodiversity of the site	1,022	84.4%
That the site is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and (SAC) Special Area of Conservation	927	76.6%
Impact of water run-off and flood risk	883	72.9%
The visual impact on the landscape	574	47.4%

Appendix 1: Survey Results - all respondents, continued

Impact on highways and travel infrastructure associated with the proposal	403	33.3%
Reduction of public access to Walshaw Moor	296	24.4%
Potential noise pollution	118	9.7%
Potential impact on property value - 51 / 0.96%	51	4.2%

Q5. Before taking part in this survey, were you aware of the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Yes - 1179 / 97.4%

No - 32 / 2.6%

Q6. Before taking part in this survey, did you know that public consultation sessions (in-person and online) were held in the late Spring of 2025, on behalf of Calderdale Energy Park?

Yes - 787 / 65%

No - 424 / 35%

Q7: Did you participate in any of the consultation sessions held on behalf of Calderdale Energy Park?

Yes - 375 / 31%

No - 836 / 69%

Q8: What is your current opinion on the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

I totally support it - 58 / 4.8%

I somewhat support it - 39 / 3.2%

I'm neutral on it - 20 / 1.7%

I'm somewhat against it - 105 / 8.7%

I'm totally against it - 989 / 81.7%

Appendix 2: Survey Results - Hilltop Parishes

358 Respondents from Blackshaw Head, Wadsworth, Heptonstall and Erringden

Q2: How important is renewable energy to you?

Very important - 180 / 50.3%
 Somewhat important - 113 / 31.6%
 Of neutral importance - 50 / 14%
 Somewhat unimportant 6 / 1.7%
 Totally unimportant 9 / 2.5%

Q3: Do you have concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Yes - 346 / 96.6%
 No - 12 / 3.4%

Q4: What are your main concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

(Choose up to 5 options)

Number of votes / % of respondents

Disturbance / destruction of peat and associated CO2 emissions	319	89.1%
Impact on natural habitats and the biodiversity of the site	301	84.1%
That the site is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and (SAC) Special Area of Conservation	286	79.9%
Impact of water run-off and flood risk	268	74.9%
The visual impact on the landscape	181	50.6%
Impact on highways and travel infrastructure associated with the proposal	147	41.1%
Reduction of public access to Walshaw Moor	61	17.0%
Potential noise pollution	47	13.1%
Potential impact on property value	24	6.7%

Appendix 2: Survey results - Hilltop Parishes, continued

Q5: Before taking part in this survey, were you aware of the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Yes - 355 / 99.2%

No - 3 / 0.8%

Q6: Before taking part in this survey, did you know that public consultation sessions (in-person and online) were held in the late Spring of 2025, on behalf of Calderdale Energy Park?

Yes - 263 / 73.5%

No - 95 / 26.5%

Q7: Did you participate in any of the consultation sessions held on behalf of Calderdale Energy Park?

Yes - 151 / 42.2%

No - 207 / 57.8%

Q8: What is your current opinion on the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

I totally support it - 11 / 3.1%

I somewhat support it - 11 / 3.1%

I'm neutral on it - 1 / 0.3%

I'm somewhat against it - 25 / 7%

I'm totally against it - 310 / 86.6%

Appendix 3: Survey Results - Hebden Royd

559 Respondents from Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd

Q2: How important is renewable energy to you?

Very important - 347 / 62.1%
Somewhat important - 140 / 25%
Of neutral importance - 56 / 10%
Somewhat unimportant 8 / 1.4%
Totally unimportant 8 / 1.4%

Q3: Do you have concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Yes - 510 / 91.2%
No - 49 / 8.8%

Q4: What are your main concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

(Choose up to 5 options)

Number of votes / % of respondents

Disturbance / destruction of peat and associated CO2 emissions	468	83.7%
Impact on natural habitats and the biodiversity of the site	458	81.9%
That the site is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and (SAC) Special Area of Conservation	455	81.4%
Impact of water run-off and flood risk	423	75.7%
The visual impact on the landscape	216	38.6%
Impact on highways and travel infrastructure associated with the proposal	174	13.1%
Reduction of public access to Walshaw Moor	133	23.8%
Potential noise pollution	41	7.3%
Potential impact on property value	20	3.6%

Appendix 3: Results - respondents from Hebden Royd, continued

Q5: Before taking part in this survey, were you aware of the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Yes - 544 / 97.3%

No - 15 / 2.7%

Q6: Before taking part in this survey, did you know that public consultation sessions (in-person and online) were held in the late Spring of 2025, on behalf of Calderdale Energy Park?

Yes - 351 / 62.8%

No - 208 / 37.2%

Q7: Did you participate in any of the consultation sessions held on behalf of Calderdale Energy Park?

Yes - 159 / 28.4%

No - 400 / 71.6%

Q8: What is your current opinion on the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

I totally support it - 39 / 7%

I somewhat support it - 22 / 3.9%

I'm neutral on it - 16 / 2.9%

I'm somewhat against it - 55 / 9.8%

I'm totally against it - 427 / 76.4%

Appendix 4: Survey Results - other areas

294 Respondents from other areas

Q2: How important is renewable energy to you?

Very important - 143 / 48.6%
 Somewhat important - 85 / 28.9%
 Of neutral importance - 42 / 14.3%
 Somewhat unimportant 12 / 4.1%
 Totally unimportant 12 / 4.1%

Q3: Do you have concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Yes - 287 / 97.6%
 No - 7 / 2.4%

Q4: What are your main concerns about the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

(Choose up to 5 options)

Number of votes / % of respondents

Impact on natural habitats and the biodiversity of the site	263	89.5%
Disturbance / destruction of peat and associated CO2 emissions	254	86.4%
That the site is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and (SAC) Special Area of Conservation	242	82.3%
Impact of water run-off and flood risk	192	65.3%
The visual impact on the landscape	177	60.2%
Reduction of public access to Walshaw Moor	102	34.7%
Impact on highways and travel infrastructure associated with the proposal	82	27.9%
Potential noise pollution	30	10.2%
Potential impact on property value	7	2.4%

Appendix 4: Results - other areas, continued

Q5: Before taking part in this survey, were you aware of the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

Yes - 280 / 95.2%

No - 14 / 4.8%

Q6: Before taking part in this survey, did you know that public consultation sessions (in-person and online) were held in the late Spring of 2025, on behalf of Calderdale Energy Park?

Yes - 173 / 58.8%

No - 121 / 41.2%

Q7: Did you participate in any of the consultation sessions held on behalf of Calderdale Energy Park?

Yes - 65 / 22.1%

No - 229 / 77.9%

Q8: What is your current opinion on the Calderdale Energy Park proposal?

I totally support it - 8 / 2.7%

I somewhat support it - 6 / 2%

I'm neutral on it - 3 / 1%

I'm somewhat against it - 25 / 8.5%

I'm totally against it - 252 / 85.7%