
HOPE MOOR
Wind Farm
Our vision for
Hope Moor
Fred. Olsen Renewables

Contents

Our vision for Hope Moor

Foreword

"I'm pleased to share our early plans for Hope Moor Wind Farm – a nationally important renewable energy development that has the potential to generate more than 150MW of clean, home-grown power, enough to supply electricity to approximately 135,000 homes.

"We want Hope Moor to be shaped by the people who know it best. That's why we are committed to working closely with local communities and businesses, listening to your views and using your local knowledge to help us design a project that delivers lasting environmental and economic benefits for the area.

"At this first stage of consultation, we're sharing our initial thinking to give you a clear understanding of our emerging plans. We encourage you to tell us what you think – your feedback is essential and will play a central role in refining the project as it develops."

Euan Hutchinson,
UK Development Director

Our vision for Hope Moor

We believe Hope Moor can deliver renewable energy generation in balance with the enhancement of the environment. This plan sets out an aspirational vision for how the site could evolve, demonstrating our ambition to generate clean energy while strengthening ecological value, landscape character and long-term environmental resilience.

The proposals here are illustrative rather than fixed and are intended to communicate our vision, opportunities and future potential for both the site and the community surrounding it.

The plan is indicative, not to scale and subject to change as technical assessment, environmental studies and feedback continue to inform the project's development.

Wildlife enhancement
A varied moorland landscape will be managed to support birds and other wildlife. Careful turbine siting, combined with long-term habitat management and monitoring, would help safeguard existing habitats, including watercourses, and strengthen biodiversity across the site.

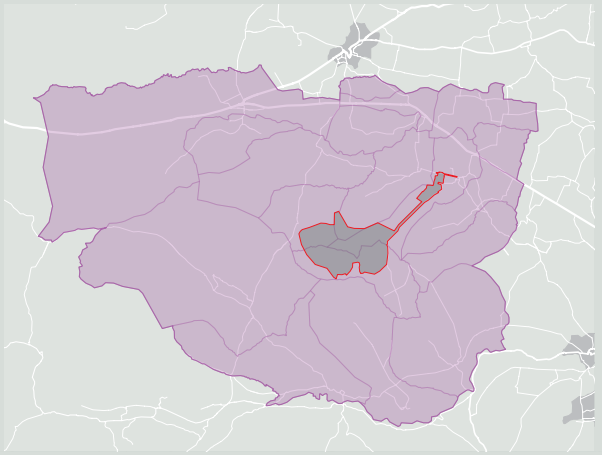
Peatland restoration
On-site peatland restoration has the potential to improve peat condition and associated ecological functions. Healthier peatlands support specialist habitats, regulate water flows, and contribute to the long-term resilience of the upland landscape.

Renewable energy
Clean, home-grown electricity generated at Hope Moor would help power homes and businesses while supporting the UK's net zero ambitions. Harnessing the area's natural wind resource reduces reliance on fossil fuels, helping to keep energy costs stable and less exposed to global price volatility, while contributing to a secure, long-term low carbon energy supply.

Recreational access
New access tracks could provide enhanced opportunities for walking and cycling. Any recreational use would need to be balanced with environmental considerations, land management requirements, and operational safety.

Cultural heritage
The landscape reflects centuries of human activity, from prehistoric features to more recent land use. The project will be designed to safeguard these assets through careful layout, mitigation measures, and archaeological oversight. Investment from the project could also help support the retention of traditional local skills, such as dry-stone walling.

Jobs, skills and the local supply chain
Construction and operation of the wind farm could create opportunities for local employment and business involvement. The project will seek to strengthen links with the local supply chain and support skills connected to land management and rural stewardship.



Community benefit fund
The project would provide annual community benefit funding if consented. This long-term investment would support locally chosen priorities, delivering lasting social and economic value to nearby communities.

Our current approach is that community benefit funding would be directed towards the parishes shown in this map. This does not preclude wider indirect benefits, and it would be for the eligible communities themselves to determine how any funding is allocated in line with local priorities.

The need for clean energy

Why onshore wind?

The UK's need for secure, clean, affordable energy has never been clearer than in recent times. We still rely heavily on fossil fuels and imported energy, which leaves households and businesses vulnerable to global price and supply fluctuations. Onshore wind is one of the most cost-effective, low-carbon ways to produce home-grown power, helping to reduce this reliance and support stable energy costs.

Projects like Hope Moor can make an important contribution to the UK's target of cutting emissions to net zero by 2050, as well as its wider energy security goals, by strengthening our ability to meet more of our energy needs here at home.

Fred. Olsen Renewables has four decades of experience in developing, owning and operating award winning green energy generation in the UK. Since the mid-1990s, we have delivered onshore wind, offshore wind and solar schemes, and our 850MW portfolio across the UK, Norway and Sweden now generates enough clean electricity to power more than 701,000 homes. Working constructively with local communities is a core part of how we operate.

Recent changes to law and policy mean it is now possible to bring forward onshore wind projects in England, bringing the country in line with Wales and Scotland. Our experience and community-focused approach means we are well placed to help deliver the clean, reliable and affordable energy the country needs, working side by side with local communities to ensure they share fully in the benefits.

Why here?

Hope Moor presents a national opportunity to support the UK's renewable energy targets and the transition to a low-carbon energy system, due to the strength of its geographic location.

The site benefits from favourable wind conditions, enabling efficient generation of clean electricity. By harnessing a strong natural resource, Hope Moor can help deliver low-carbon, home-grown power, supporting both national climate ambitions and long-term energy security.

Community benefits

Community benefits and investment

We design our wind farms to be positive assets to the local area, supporting the economy and helping meet community ambitions. We have a long-standing history of delivering meaningful community benefits around our projects. We were among the first developers to introduce dedicated community benefit funding, well before it became standard practice. We believe it is the right thing to do.

For onshore wind, we provide £5,000 per installed megawatt of capacity (adjusted for inflation throughout the life of the project) to the communities surrounding our sites. This funding is designed to support local priorities and help communities deliver the projects and initiatives that matter most to them. Based on Hope Moor's anticipated generating capacity of over 150MW, this could create a community benefit fund of more than £750,000 each year – totalling over £22 million across the project's anticipated 30-year lifespan. This figure is subject to change, as it is linked to the final generating capacity. How the fund is used is entirely up to the community.

Communities around different projcts choose to focus on different needs: some have introduced energy discount schemes to support residents with their bills and address fuel poverty; others have funded swimming lessons for local children or invested in environmental projects that improve local habitats.

We will work with the communities surrounding Hope Moor to understand how they would like the fund to be used and what their priorities are. We will also support them in administering and managing the fund to ensure it works effectively for local people.

Investing in skills and the local supply chain

Investing in local skills and the supply chain is also an important part of how we deliver our projects. We will look for opportunities to work with local businesses and suppliers so the project can bring wider economic benefits to the area. We will also explore ways to support the development of local skills and trades, such as dry stone walling, helping to retain and strengthen practices that are important to the character, heritage and long-term stewardship of the local area.

An independent economic impact report published in 2024 highlighted the economic benefit our Scottish projects have delivered, including a £465m contribution to the economy, £920m in contracts with businesses, and 866 full-time equivalent jobs supported across construction, operation and maintenance.

We aim to bring this same approach to Hope Moor; working with local companies, supporting local employment, and helping strengthen local skills that will benefit the area for years to come.

NSIP consenting process

The consenting route

In summer last year, we submitted a request to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero asking whether Hope Moor Wind Farm should be considered a project of national significance.

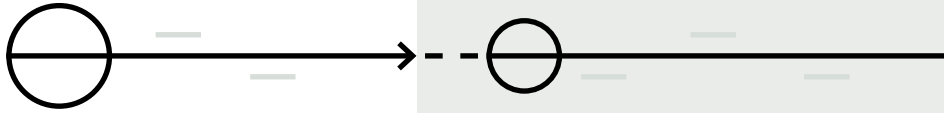
The Secretary of State confirmed in what is called a Section 35 direction, that it will be considered a project of national significance which requires development consent. Clarity at this early stage helps provide transparency for local authorities, landowners and communities regarding how the project will be developed and the steps involved. Since then, the Government has changed the thresholds so that the Proposed Development would be considered an NSIP in its own right.

As a project of national significance, Hope Moor Wind Farm will be brought forward through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. This process provides a clear, structured framework for how major infrastructure projects are examined and consented. Following your feedback, and once we have submitted our application, the Planning Inspectorate will independently examine our proposals. The decision on whether to grant consent for Hope Moor will rest with the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The DCO regime sets out specific stages in the process for local communities, landowners, elected representatives and statutory bodies to comment on the proposals. These are the pre-application and examination stages. We are committed to working closely with the local community and therefore we will offer more opportunities for engagement throughout.

The DCO process has six stages. Hope Moor is currently in the pre-application stage, where we are carrying out early environmental and technical studies and developing our proposals ahead of the expected submission of our application to the Planning Inspectorate in mid 2027.

The DCO process



Pre-Application

This is the early design stage of the project, during which environmental studies and surveys are being undertaken, initial design proposals are being developed, and engagement is ongoing with local authorities, specialist bodies and local communities. Two rounds of public engagement are currently proposed to help shape the plans before any formal submission is made, and this consultation forms part of that process. Further studies, surveys and design development will continue as the project progresses.

We are here

Acceptance

Submission of the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

We submit an application for consent to the Planning Inspectorate. They check whether the application contains everything required before it is accepted.

All documents and assessments produced in support of the application will be made publicly available as part of the NSIP process, with the exception of information relating to protected species.

Pre-Examination

An independent Examining Authority is appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. People can register to be kept informed and take part in the examination process. The timetable for how the project will be examined is then set out.

Examination

The Examining Authority reviews all the information, asks questions, and holds public hearings where appropriate. Anyone can register to be involved. This stage helps assess and scrutinise the proposals, and is primarily a written process.

Recommendation

After examining the project, the Examining Authority writes a report summarising findings and makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether the project should be approved.

Decision

The Secretary of State reviews the recommendation and makes the final decision on whether to grant consent. If approved, the project can move forward to construction once any conditions are met.

The Hope Moor Wind Farm site

Site context

The site for Hope Moor Wind Farm covers approximately 1111 hectares of moorland situated to the south of the A66.

Straddling the North Yorkshire and County Durham authority boundaries, the site is around 11km north west of Richmond and approximately 9km south of Barnard Castle. The nearest villages are Barningham, Newsham and Reeth.

The site lies to the east of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and south-east of the North Pennines National Landscape. Due to the proposed turbine tip height of up to 200m, the turbines may be visible at distance. A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been prepared to identify areas from which the turbines may theoretically be visible; however, this represents a worst-case scenario and does not take into account screening by hills and valleys, trees and hedgerows, existing buildings, or changes in weather and visibility conditions. As a result, actual visibility is likely to be more limited. The ZTV is available on our website or by speaking to a member of the project team.

Our scoping boundary also includes the areas which may be needed for access. More information on this can be found on page 19.

Site layout

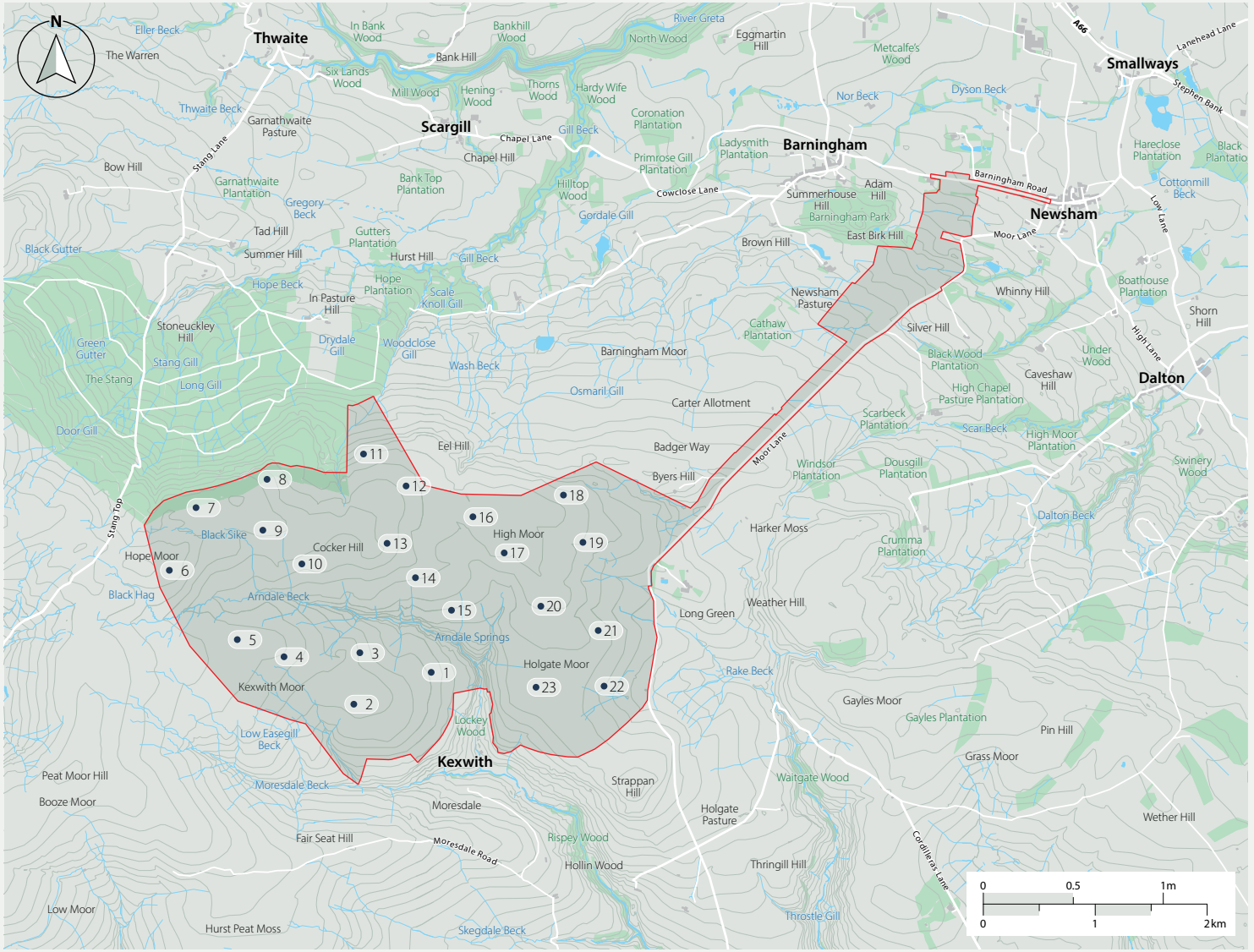
Our current design proposes 23 turbines across the site. At this stage, the layout reflects what we currently understand about the site from our initial surveys, including in respect of peat condition, cultural heritage features and other environmental features.

As the project continues to develop, we will refine the design using both your feedback and the results of our ongoing technical and environmental assessments. This may include adjusting turbine locations or reducing the number of turbines if necessary.

At our second stage of consultation, we will share our proposals for other elements of the project such as access tracks and construction areas.

We also plan to bring forward a package of environmental and ecological mitigation measures, alongside opportunities for wider landscape and habitat enhancement.

Additional temporary works needed during construction will also be outlined at the next stage of consultation.



Key

- Scoping Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Locations

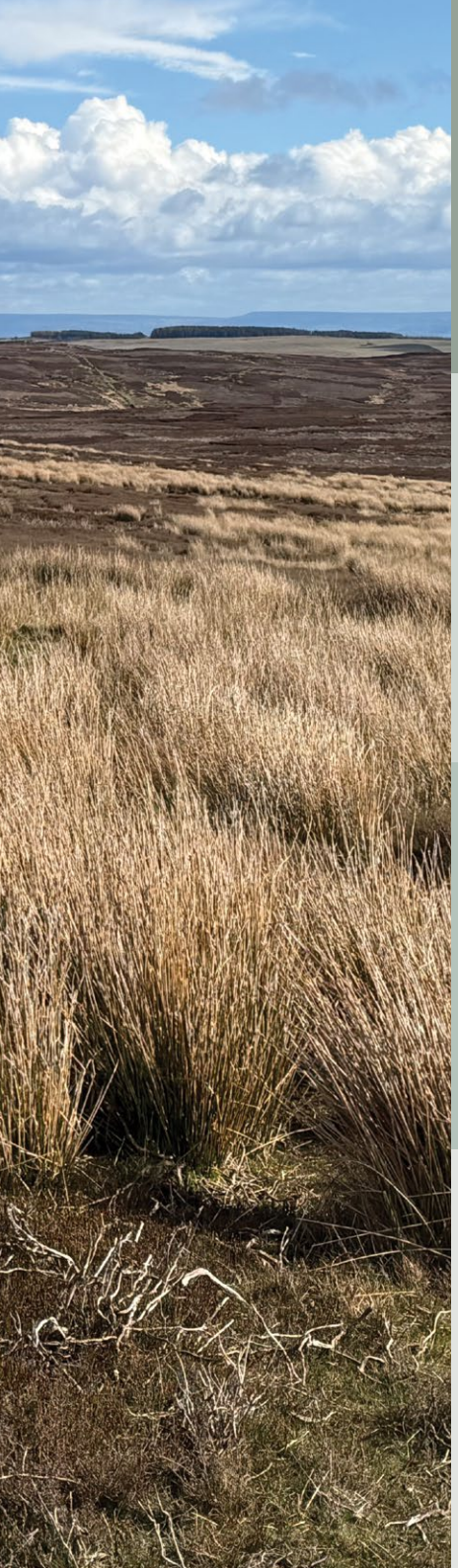
Environmental approach

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process

The project is currently at an early stage. One of the first formal steps in the EIA process is the scoping stage, which is a technical process used to identify the environmental topics that need to be assessed and the approach that should be taken to carry out those assessments.

This is a specialist stage focused on environmental assessment methods and the professional and regulatory considerations that inform them. At this stage, we prepare and submit a scoping report setting out the proposed scope of our assessments. The Planning Inspectorate then reviews this report and, having consulted with relevant authorities (such as local councils) and specialist bodies (such as the Environment Agency), provides its own opinion on the appropriate scope of the environmental assessments as part of the formal scoping process.

Alongside this process we will also engage with key environmental stakeholders, including Natural England and the Environment Agency, to help ensure that the proposed assessments meet relevant environmental standards and regulatory requirements. Further environmental studies, alongside public feedback, then inform the final Environmental Statement (ES), which is submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.



Nature and the landscape

Traditional land practices

Creating jobs

Investing in local communities

Our approach to the environment

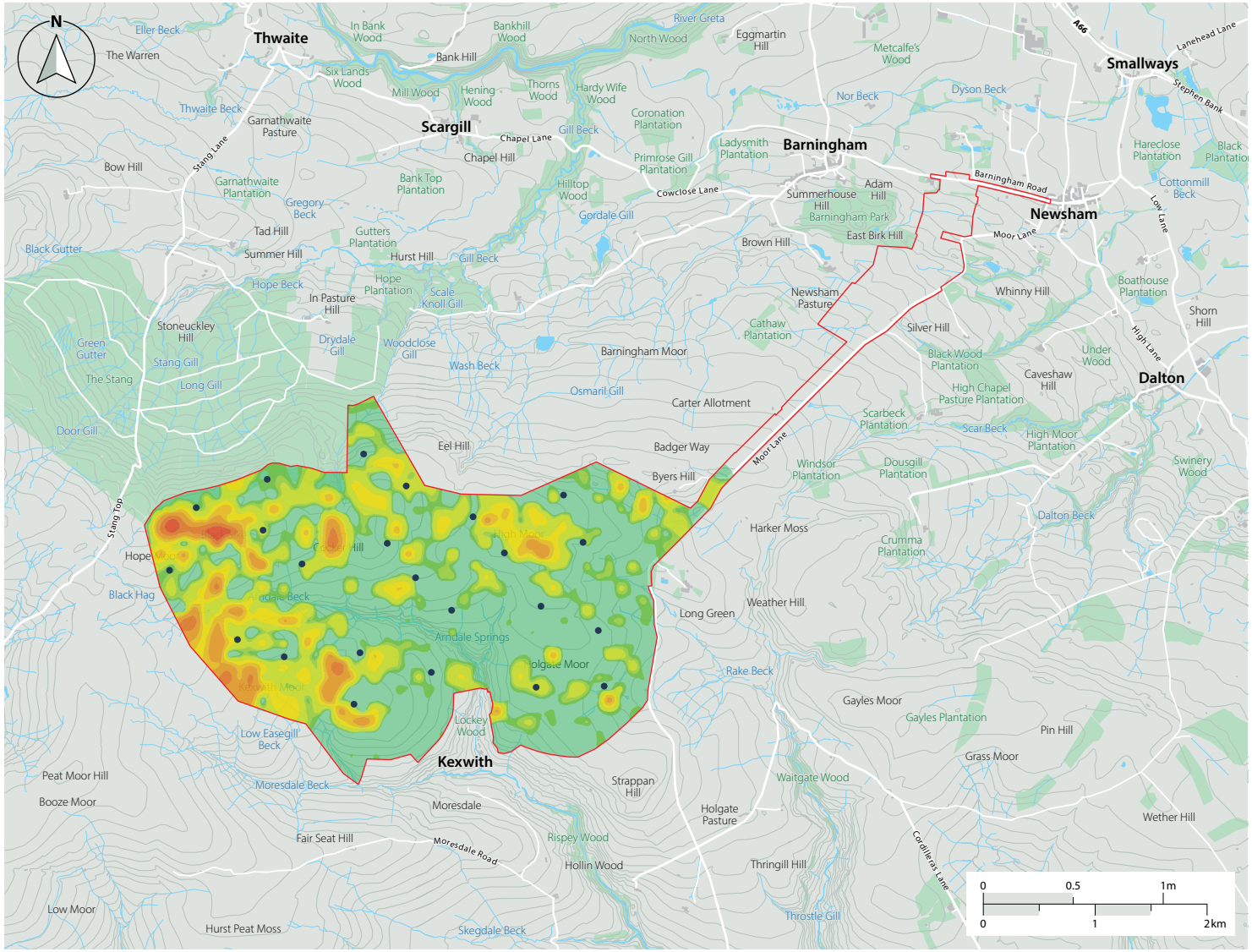
Hope Moor will be sensitively designed to respect nature and the landscape, as well as the traditional land practices of the upland moors, while also creating jobs and investing in local communities.

The design of the wind farm will be informed by an iterative EIA process, which runs alongside consultation and technical studies. As new information becomes available, the proposals can be refined to avoid environmental effects wherever possible. Avoidance is the first step in the mitigation hierarchy and is central to addressing potential impacts, before considering measures to reduce or manage any remaining effects.

Fred. Olsen Renewables has successfully implemented Moorland Management Plans on our other projects where wind farm developments have been located on moorland. These plans have been implemented following construction of the wind farms and include enhancing habitats, restoring degraded blanket bog, ongoing monitoring of bird species and restoring heather structure.

A similar management plan would be developed for Hope Moor, designed to complement current land management practices and further support and enhance the site's biodiversity.

Environmental features maps



Peat depth and quality

The site contains a mix of deep and shallow peat, with the deepest areas found to the west of the site and more scattered, shallow areas elsewhere, including along the eastern access track. About 51 per cent of depths recorded across the site were less than 0.3m, and therefore not classified as peat.

Peat naturally stores large amounts of carbon, supports important habitats and is home to sensitive species. Using the survey data collected to date, we have positioned the proposed turbine locations to avoid areas of deep or near natural peat. The project also offers significant potential for enhancing the degraded peatland found on site.

Strengthening the condition and long-term resilience of this peatland is one of our core commitments for the project.

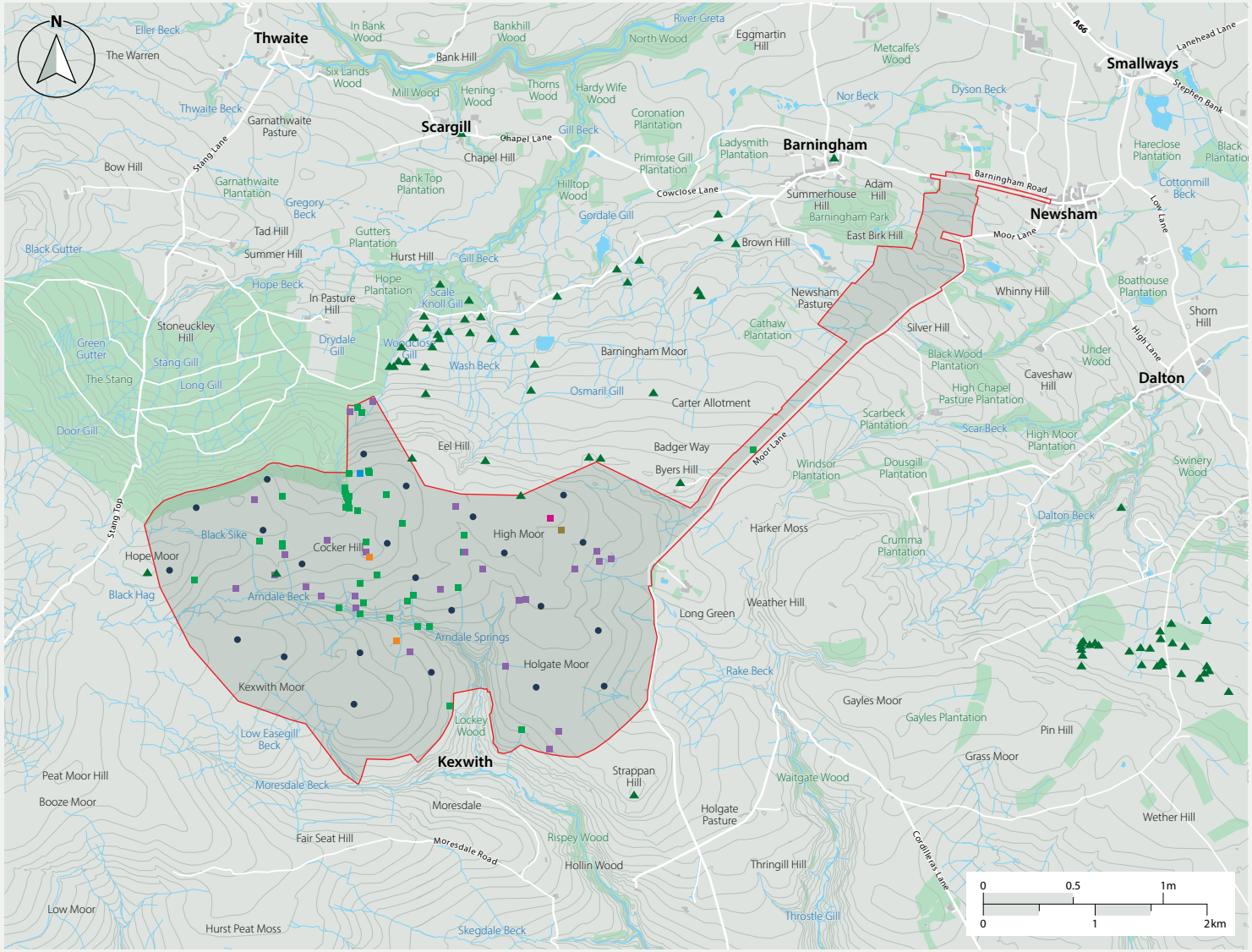
As the design progresses, a Peat Management Plan (PMP) will be developed setting out how excavated peat will be managed and re-used on site during construction and operation. In parallel, habitat and biodiversity enhancement proposals, including post-construction restoration and monitoring to support long-term peatland recovery, will also be progressed alongside this.

Key

- Scoping Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Locations

Probe Depth (m)

0 - 0.3	0.5 - 1	2 - 3
0.3 - 0.4	1 - 1.5	3 - 4
0.4 - 0.5	1.5 - 2	4 - 5



Cultural heritage

There is one designated asset at the site, a prehistoric cairn near the summit of Low Ridge, protected as a Scheduled Monument. It forms part of a wider landscape of similar ancient features extending beyond the site to the north.

Across the site, there are also 61 non-designated heritage features. Most of these relate to post-medieval mining and quarrying from the 18th and 19th centuries, including former mines, lead workings and quarries. There is also evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of cairns, cists and cup-marked stones, particularly in the northern part of the site and along Arndale Beck. Evidence of flint working has also been recorded throughout the site.

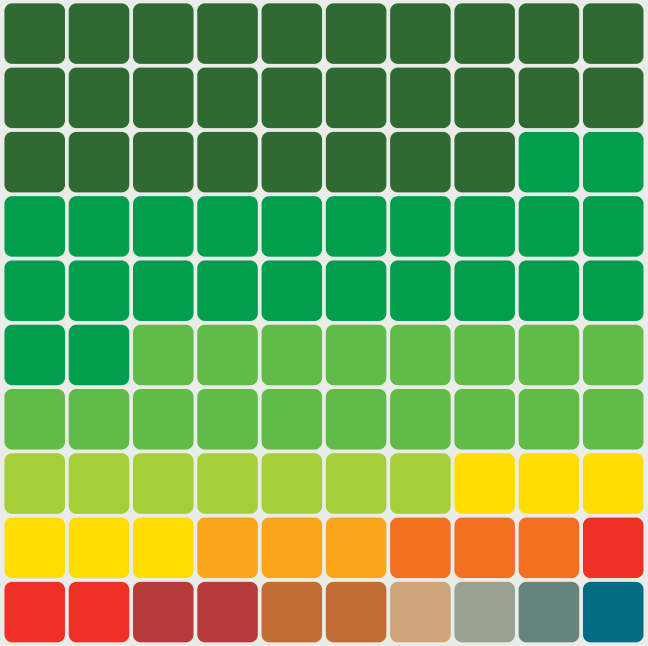
Mitigation measures, such as adjusting the layout of the turbines and protective measures during construction will be used to avoid, or reduce impacts on archaeological and heritage assets.

Key

- Scoping Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Scheduled Monument Centrepoint

Historic Environment Record Location

- Prehistoric
- Medieval
- Modern
- Romano-British
- Post-Medieval
- Undated



The number and location of different habitat types found across the site make for a very complex mosaic of features to present on a map of this size. For that reason we have presented the main habitat data as simplified graphic that shows the types found across the site based on UKHab classification data.

The full map showing all habitats and their locations on the site is available on our website or by speaking to a member of the team.

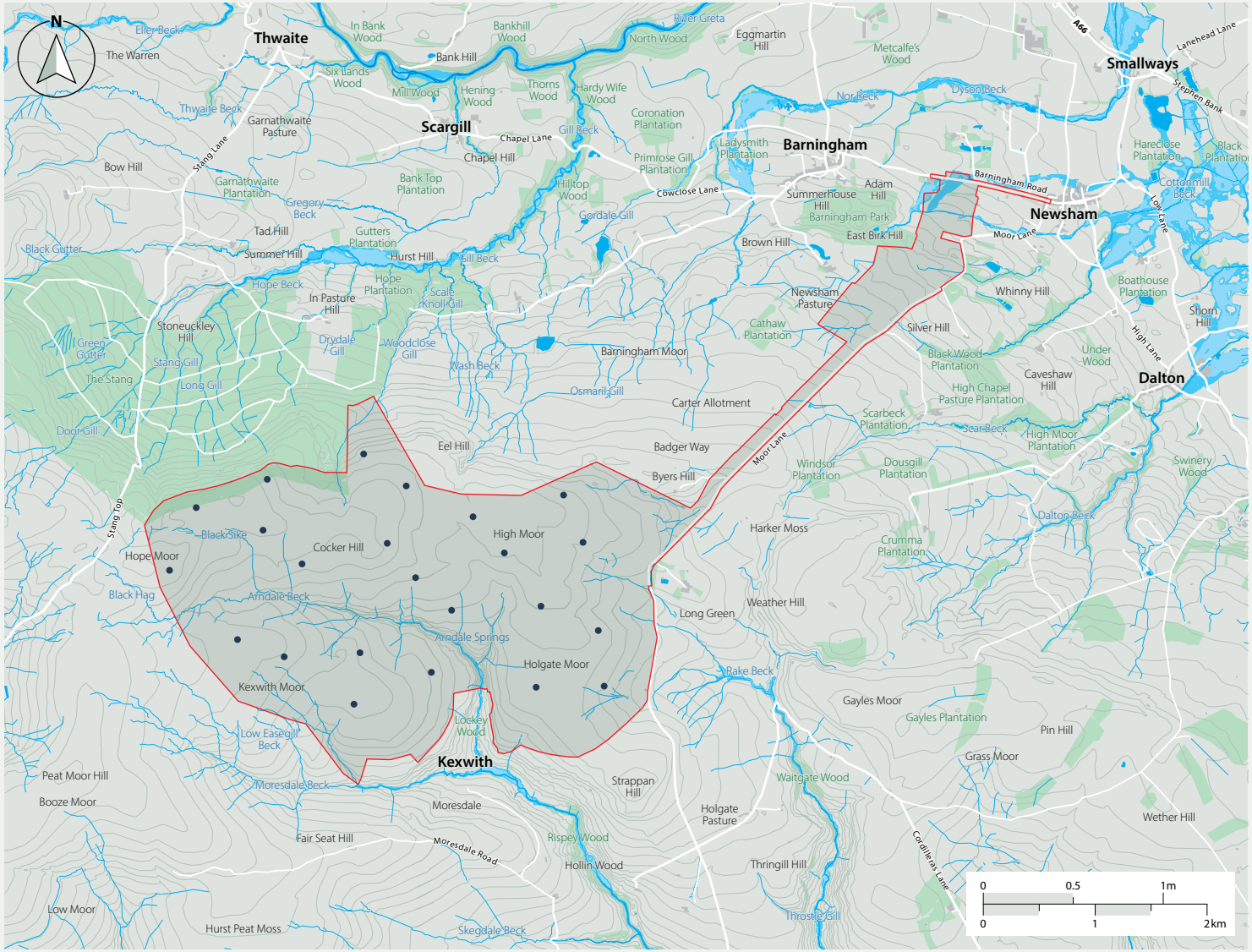
Ecology and habitats

The site contains a wide mix of habitats, including various grasslands, heathlands, wetlands, blanket bog, fens, swamps, scrub, woodland, rock outcrops, watercourses and small built-up areas.

Proposed infrastructure will be carefully sited to avoid key areas of ecological sensitivity wherever possible and a range of mitigation and enhancement measures will be implemented to safeguard ecological features. An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed for the duration of the construction and reinstatement phases to oversee the safeguarding of sensitive habitats and species, ensure compliance with ecological requirements, and supervise the delivery of all mitigation and enhancement measures.

Description UKHab classification system

Dry heaths – upland (H4030)	28.19%	Other neutral grassland	2.75%	Holcus-Juncus neutral grassland	0.17%	Wet heathland – upland (H4010)	0.03%
Blanket bog	24.35%	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	2.09%	Arrhenatherum neutral grassland	0.14%	Hawthorn scrub	0.03%
Other upland acid grassland	18.09%	Other coniferous woodland	1.92%	Other Broadleaved Woodland Types	0.11%	Artificial unvegetated – unsealed surface	0.02%
Modified grassland	7.24%	Upland flushes fens and swamps	1.32%	Mixed scrub	0.09%	Degraded blanket bog	0.01%
Blanket bog (H7130)	5.56%	Built-up areas and gardens	0.71%	Deschampsia neutral grassland	0.09%	Other woodland – mixed	0.01%
Upland heathland	2.91%	Fen marsh and swamp	0.57%	Cereal crops	0.08%	Other Broadleaved Woodland	0%
Bracken	2.84%	Other wetlands	0.56%	Gorse scrub	0.05%	Standing open water and canals	0%
				Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	0.04%	Buildings	0%
				Other inland rock and scree	0.03%	Other woodland – mainly conifer	0%



Hydrology and hydrogeology

The ground beneath the site is made up of different rock types, peat and glacial deposits, with areas of sand and gravel above. These all influence how water moves and collects. There are no protected drinking-water areas at the site. The area drains into several small watercourses, and overall flood risk is low and generally limited to narrow areas close to these channels.

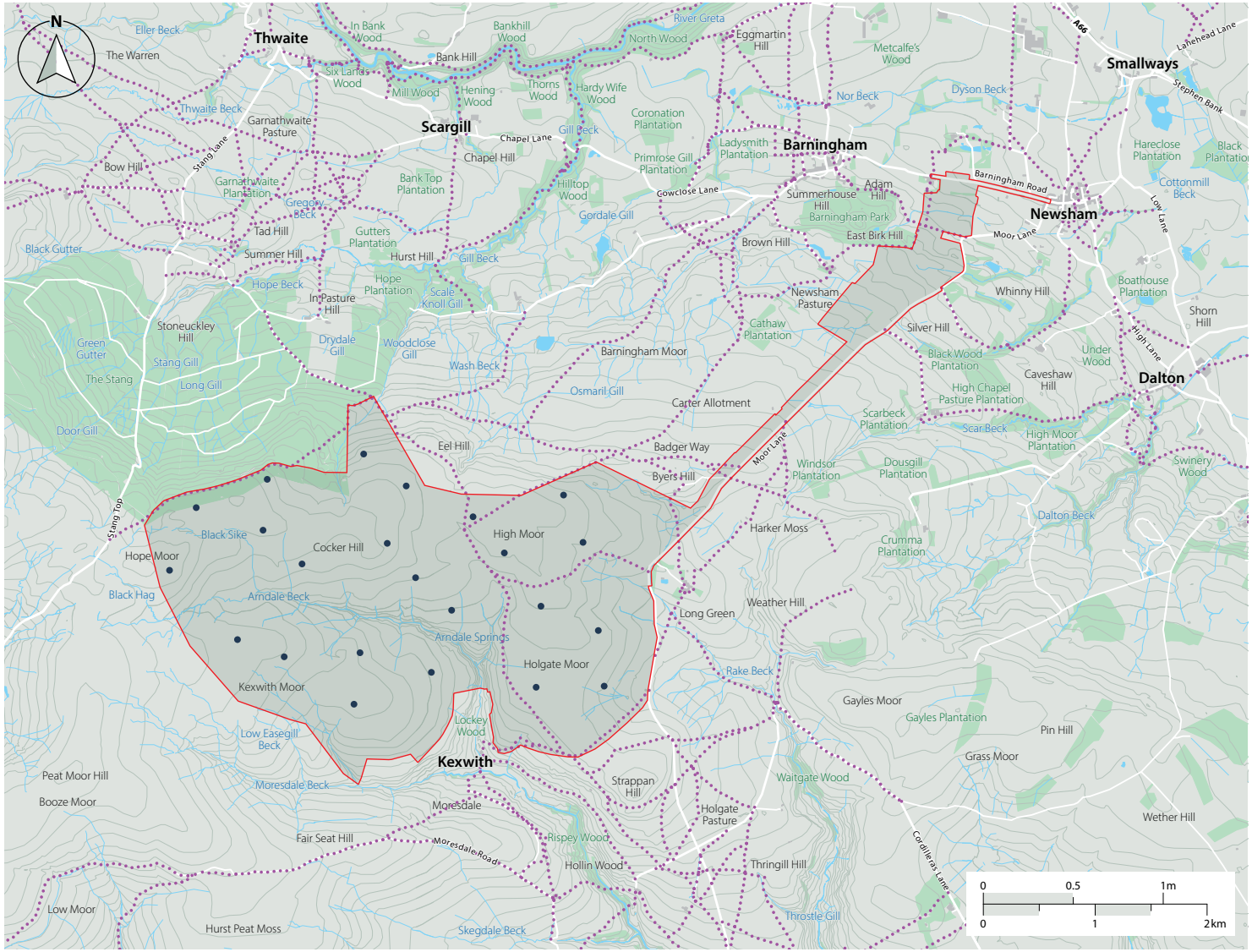
Any additional surface water generated by the project will be managed using Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) principles to mimic natural runoff. A Flood Risk Assessment will be included in the Environmental Statement, alongside other appropriate mitigation measures.

Key

- Scoping Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Locations

Watercourses and Flooding

- Statutory Main River
- Minor Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3



Public rights of way

The site contains a limited number of existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW), which have been taken into account in the proposed turbine layout.

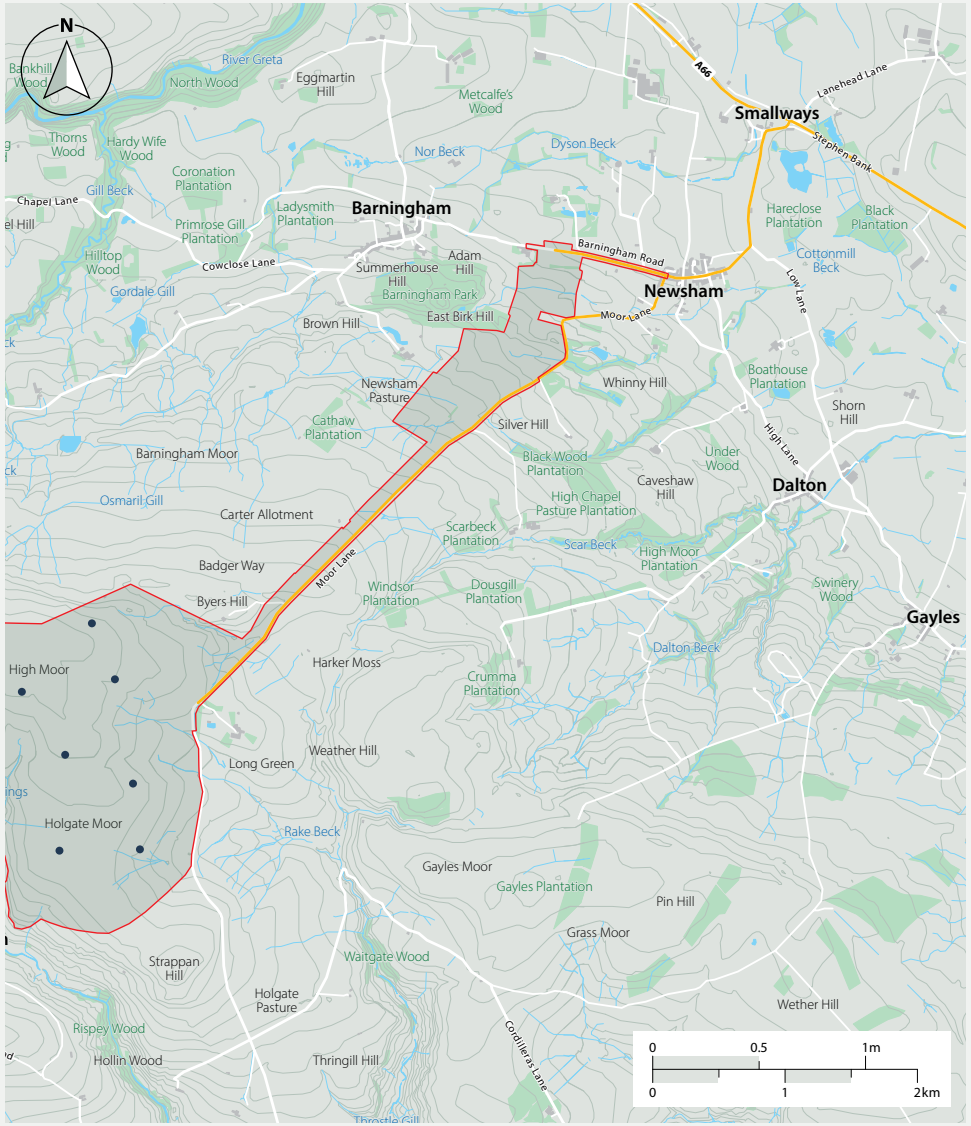
There may be a need to divert some of these PRoWs during the construction phase to allow for the turbines to be installed and they will be maintained through the operational phase of the project.

Opportunities to enhance access would be explored as part of the wind farm design. For example, new or upgraded access tracks could potentially be used to help make the area more open and accessible to the public, where appropriate.

Key

- Scoping Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Public Rights of Way

Transport and access



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Construction traffic and access

Site access will be required for the delivery of wind turbine components, construction materials, and general construction traffic. Highway works may also be required along Barningham Road to accommodate construction traffic and maintain safe and efficient network operation during the construction phase.

Access to the site would be taken from Barningham Road and/or Moor Lane, with the majority of construction traffic expected to travel from the A66 before routing south towards the site.

Creating these access points will involve localised modifications to the existing road network to form new, temporary site entrances and exits. These would be designed to enable safe vehicle movements while minimising disruption to other road users.

To further manage construction traffic and reduce reliance on local roads, a dedicated haul route from Barningham Road is proposed. Two potential options are currently being considered:

- **Option 1**: A haul route linking Barningham Road to Moor Lane, from where construction traffic would continue to the main wind farm site.
- **Option 2**: A direct haul route linking Barningham Road to the main wind farm site.

The final haul route alignment will be informed by ongoing environmental and engineering surveys, taking into account factors such as topography, land use, ecological designations and other sensitivities identified as the assessments progress.

The overall aim is to ensure construction access is delivered efficiently while minimising potential impacts on surrounding communities and the local environment.

Key

- Scoping Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Transport Study Area

Grid connection

Connecting to the grid

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. As a result, the grid connection route and method do not form part of this application and will instead be progressed through a separate application.

We will share further information as it becomes available.

Anticipated timeline

We are currently in the pre-application stage of the project, which is when we do early design work. This includes completing environmental studies, developing initial proposals, and engaging with local communities.

We are now undertaking a first stage of public consultation, and a further consultation on more detailed proposals is planned for late 2026, ahead of submitting the application in mid 2027.

Our current anticipated timeline is outlined below.

Summer 2025
Initial planning work on the project

Spring 2026
Stage One Consultation and Scoping Submission

We are here

Late 2026
Stage Two Consultation

Mid 2027
DCO Submission

Autumn 2028
Examination

Est. 2029
Recommendation and decision

Get involved

Get involved and give feedback

We would like to hear your feedback on our initial proposals for Hope Moor Wind Farm. Your feedback will be used to shape our plans ahead of a further round of consultation later on in the process.

You can provide feedback in the following ways:

On our website:

www.hopemoor.co.uk

Where you can find a version of our feedback form which can be filled in online, or downloaded and printed.

Post to our freepost address at:

FREEPOST HOPE M

Post any written feedback, including hardcopy feedback forms.

(A stamp is not required and the address must be given in full).

Email:

info@hopemoor.co.uk

Email your feedback or a copy of your feedback form to the Hope Moor Project email address.

Events

Hard copy forms

Hard copy forms are also available at our consultation events.

The deadline for submitting all feedback to this consultation is 23:59 on Tuesday 30 June 2026.

If you are posting your feedback to us using our FREEPOST service, please write the date on which the feedback was written on your form.
Feedback submitted after the deadline may not be considered.

Mid Hill Wind Farm is located mainly on forestry land in Fetteresso Forest southwest of Aberdeen.

HOPE MOOR
Wind Farm

hopemoor.co.uk

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(Open Monday to
Friday 9am – 5:30pm)

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