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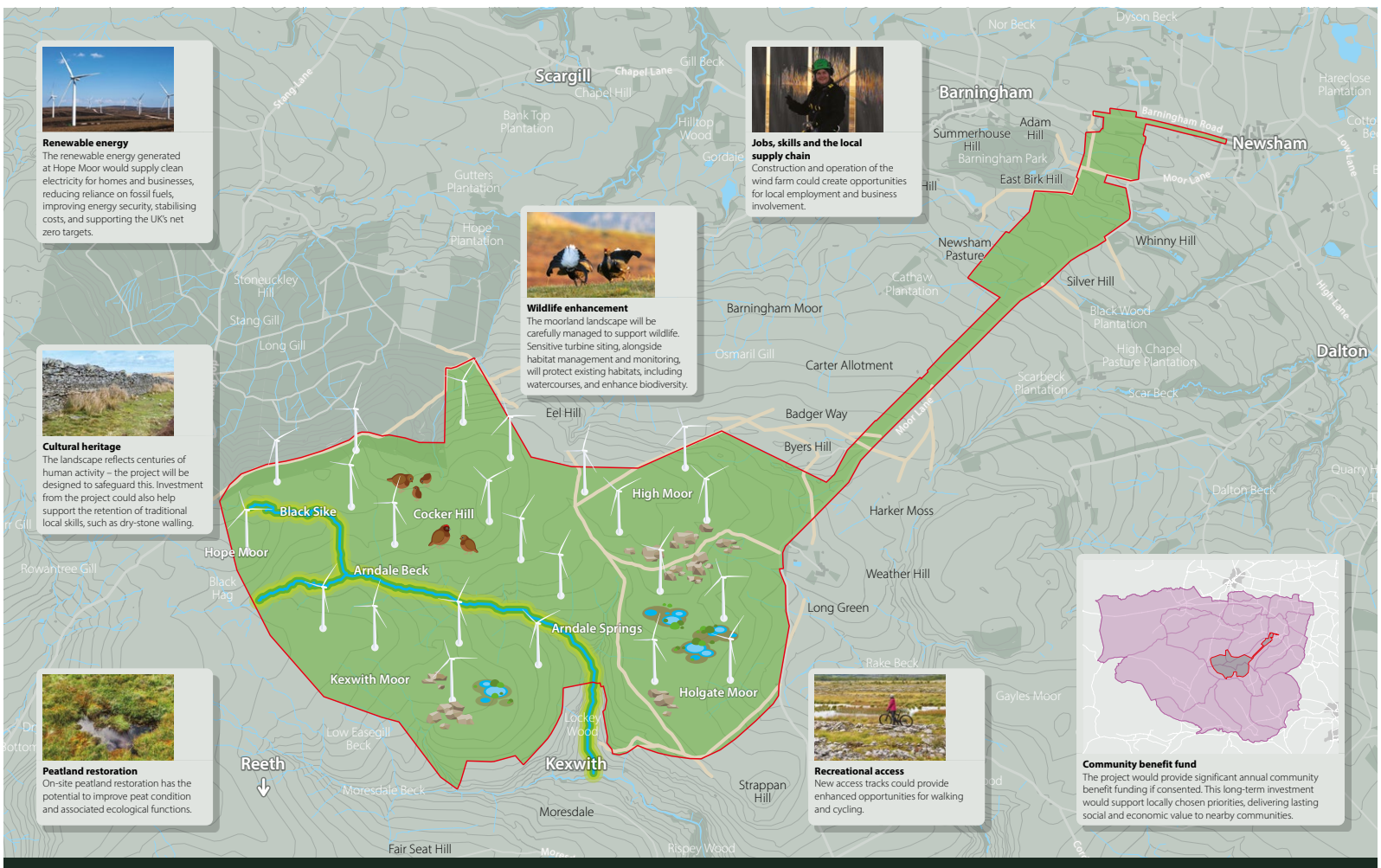
Our vision for Hope Moor

Our vision for Hope Moor is to deliver renewable energy in a way that supports and enhances the surrounding environment. This plan sets out our initial ideas 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 local communities. The plan is indicative, not to scale and subject to change as technical assessments, environmental studies and feedback continue to inform the project's development.

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The Hope Moor Wind Farm site

Site context

The Hope Moor site covers around 1111 hectares of moorland south of the A66, spanning North Yorkshire and County Durham.

It lies approximately 11km north west of Richmond and 9km south of Barnard Castle, close to the villages of Barningham, Newsham and Reeth. The site benefits from favourable wind conditions, enabling the efficient generation of clean electricity.

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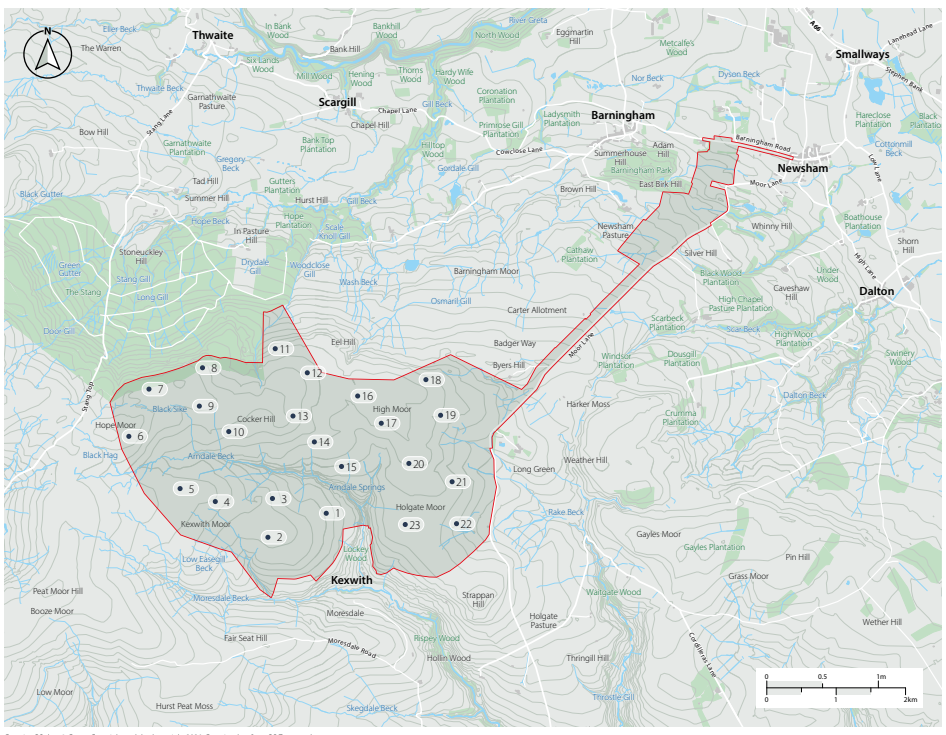
Site layout

Hope Moor wind farm has the potential to generate more than 150MW of clean, home-grown power, enough to supply electricity to approximately 135,000 homes.

Our current design proposes 23 turbines across the site. These will have a maximum tip height of 200m. 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 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.



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Why onshore wind?

The UK needs secure, clean, and affordable energy. Heavy reliance on fossil fuels and imported energy 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. They can also help meet 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.

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

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Our approach to the environment

Nature and the landscape

Traditional land practices

Creating jobs

Investing in local communities

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.

Our design will be shaped through an iterative Environmental Impact Assessment process, alongside consultation and technical studies, allowing proposals to be refined to minimise environmental impacts. Priority is given to avoidance, the first step in the mitigation hierarchy, before addressing any remaining effects.

Fred. Olsen Renewables has successfully applied Moorland Management Plans at similar sites, including for habitat enhancement, restoration of degraded blanket bog, bird monitoring, and heather management. A comparable plan is proposed for Hope Moor to complement existing land use and improve biodiversity.

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The NSIP consenting process

The consenting route

As a project of national significance, Hope Moor Wind Farm will be progressed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, with the decision on whether it will be awarded planning consent resting with the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The DCO process has six stages, with multiple opportunities for local communities, landowners, elected representatives and statutory bodies to comment on our proposals.

Hope Moor is currently in the pre-application stage, where we carry out early environmental and technical studies to inform the development of our proposals, as well as gathering local feedback, ahead of submitting our proposals to the Planning Inspectorate.

The DCO process

Pre-Application
Early design stage with environmental studies, initial proposals, and public consultation to shape the plans.

We are here

Acceptance
The application is submitted and checked by the Planning Inspectorate to ensure all required information is included.

Pre-Examination
An Examining Authority is appointed and the timetable for the examination is set.

Examination
The project is reviewed through written submissions, questions, and public hearings.

Recommendation
The Examining Authority reports its findings and recommends whether the project should be approved.

Decision
The Secretary of State makes the final decision on whether consent is granted.

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Community benefits and investment

We believe our wind farms are positive local assets, supporting the economy and delivering meaningful community benefits.

For onshore wind projects, we deliver £5,000 per installed megawatt of capacity to communities (adjusted for inflation throughout the project's lifetime), so they can invest in what matters most to them. Based on Hope Moor's anticipated generating capacity of over 150MW, the community benefit fund could be more than £750,000 each year, which would total more than £22 million over the expected lifespan of the project.

How the fund is used is entirely up to the community. 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.

Investing in skills and the local supply chain

Central to how we deliver our projects is investment in local skills and the supply chain. Throughout the development of Hope Moor we will look for opportunities to work with local businesses and suppliers to bring about wider economic benefits to the area. We will also explore ways to support local skills and trade development, helping to build and retain the capabilities needed to support the project locally.

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Environmental features

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.

There are large portions of the site where peat is low quality or not present. Strengthening the condition of the peat and other soils on site is one of our core commitments for the project.

Cultural Heritage

The site contains one designated heritage asset, as well as further non-designated heritage features.

We aim to protect these through mitigation measures such as adjusting turbine layouts, applying construction safeguards, conducting archaeological investigations, and following protocols for unexpected discoveries to minimise impacts.

Ecology and habitats

Hope Moor's site is home to a mix of habitats.

To ensure these habitats are effectively protected, we will consider the appropriate location of turbines on the site, along with a range of mitigation, protection and enhancement measures.

Hydrology and hydrogeology

The site's geology includes varied rock types, peat, and glacial deposits that influence water flow.

There are no protected drinking-water areas, and flood risk is generally low. Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS) and a Flood Risk Assessment will manage surface water and reduce impacts.

Public rights of way

The site includes a small number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), considered in the turbine layout.

Some may be temporarily diverted during construction but will remain accessible during operation. Opportunities to enhance access, such as new or improved tracks, will also be explored.

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Transport access and grid connection

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.

Construction traffic and access

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.

In order to create these access points, localised modifications to the existing road network will need to be made to produce new, temporary site entrances and exits. To manage construction traffic and reduce reliance on local roads, a dedicated haul route from Barningham Road is proposed, with two options 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 route will be informed by environmental and engineering surveys, considering factors such as land use, topography, and ecological sensitivities. Overall, the aim is to enable efficient construction access while minimising impacts on local communities and the surrounding environment.

Grid connection

Recent UK-wide changes to grid connection processes mean we will not have clarity on the grid connection point until later in the development timeline.

This means the grid connection route will not form part of this application, and instead will be progressed through a separate application by the relevant distributor.

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Get involved

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 hard copy 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
Pick up a hard copy form, fill it out and drop it in the feedback box.

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

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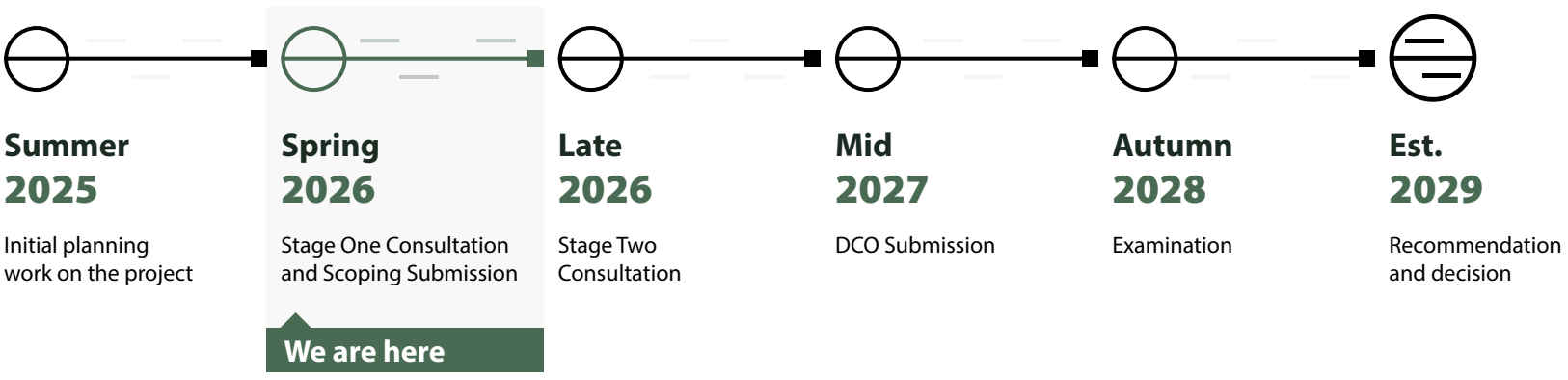
Anticipated timeline and next steps

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.

This is our 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.



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