

Objections to Calderdale Wind Farm from The Ted Hughes Network, University of Huddersfield – 5 February 2024

'The Ted Hughes Network at the University of Huddersfield is unequivocally opposed to the proposal by Calderdale Wind Farm Ltd to develop the largest onshore windfarm in England on the Walshaw Moor Estate above Hebden Bridge. The proposed development would destroy the landscape and defile the natural world that inspired the poetry of one of twentieth century's greatest English language poets.

Over a hundred of Hughes's poems and stories - including 'Wind', 'The Horses', 'Six Young Men', 'The Deadfall', 'Moors', 'Abel Cross, Crimsworth Dean' and 'Curlews in April' - were inspired by the landscape that will be impacted by the proposed development, in collections he published across his whole career - *The Hawk in the Rain*, *Lupercal*, *Remains of Elmet*, *Wolfwatching* and *Birthday Letters*. Hughes's poetic temperament was formed in this beautiful landscape, on walks and camping expeditions he shared with his mother and father William and Edith, his uncles Thomas and Walter and his older brother Gerald. Indeed Hughes and his family regarded Crimsworth Dean in particular as so important that they referred to it as 'the happy valley' and Hughes has referred to it, in a letter to his childhood friend Donald Crossley, of Mytholmroyd, as a 'sacred place to him', where 'all his writing began'.

In recognition of this, the Ted Hughes Network worked with a range of organisations, including the Elmet Trust, Calderdale Council and Hebden Royd Town Council, with the support of Ted's wife Carol Hughes, to produce a range of literary trail maps, entitled 'Discovering Ted Hughes's Yorkshire', three of which cover areas that will be grievously impinged upon by the wind farm. These walks will be irreparably damaged by the visual and sonic blight these turbines and their infrastructure will impose on the landscape and the more direct impact the conversion of the moor to an industrial zone will have on the wildlife that was so important to Hughes's encounter with the area - much of which is now endangered - lapwings, snipe, curlew, birds of prey and hares.

The imposition of this alien industrial development of the area would be affront to the human spirit Hughes's work embodied, and a triumph of faceless & destructive capital over nature, landscape community and art he so valued. The application must be unequivocally rejected.'

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[Discovering Ted Hughes's Yorkshire \(discoveringtedhughesyorkshire.co.uk\)](http://discoveringtedhughesyorkshire.co.uk)