

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS



Ecology and Ornithology

A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys has been carried out on the site. The results will be used to ensure that any impacts on wildlife are altogether avoided or mitigated if necessary. In addition, we will be including proposals for biodiversity enhancements that the development could deliver.

Ornithology surveys

In consultation with NatureScot, a comprehensive bird survey programme has been completed to ensure the latest data is collected. This includes breeding bird surveys and flight activity surveys. Overall, the aim is to ensure all present bird species are accurately accounted for and any impacts on them is correctly assessed.

Ecology surveys

The ecology surveys include:

- A Phase 1 habitat survey;
- A National Vegetation Classification survey;
- Protected species surveys (badger, otter, water vole, great crested newts); and
- Bat surveys (remote monitoring).

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

The effects of the proposed development on the historic environment, including cultural heritage and archaeology, is currently being assessed.

Surveys concluded that there are several undesignated assets within the Site but no Scheduled Monuments within 1 km. There is a single Category A Listed Building within 1 km of the Site. These findings have been considered during the design process. The EIA will assess the magnitude and significance of effects on heritage assets in the surrounding area.



noise monitoring equipment

Peat

A Phase 1 Peat Survey has been undertaken to establish the peat depth across the Site. There are a few isolated areas with peat depths between 0 – 0.5 m on the Site and very limited areas with peat greater than 0.5 m in depth.

Following the results of this survey, the proposed layout has been designed to avoid areas of deep peat. If required, a 'Peat Management Plan' will also be prepared to accompany the planning application.

Noise

There are two potential sources of noise:

1. The turbine blades passing through the air as they rotate
2. The rotation of the gearbox and generator in the hub of the turbine

Standing next to a turbine, it is possible to hear a swishing sound as the blades rotate.

Wind turbine technology, year-on-year has continued to improve around the world. As a result the industry has seen improvements not only in electrical output but also importantly reducing noise levels even further.

Generally wind turbine noise levels increase as wind speeds increase, however, so does the background noise level as the wind blows around the local area.

How is noise assessed and measured?

Noise is measured in decibels - dB(A).

Wind farm noise is assessed based on guidance provided by ETSU-R-97 "The Assessment & Rating of Noise from Wind Farms".

Appropriate noise assessments will ensure that the proposed development would comply with the regulations. As part of the application process, North Lanarkshire Council's Environmental Health Officer will continue to be consulted.