



White Hill Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Annex 5.2: Biodiversity Evaluation Scheme

White Hill Wind Limited

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Biodiversity Evaluation Criteria

International Importance:-

- 'European Site' including Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Community Importance (SCI), Special Protection Area (SPA) or proposed Special Area of Conservation.
- Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA).
- Site that fulfils the criteria for designation as a 'European Site' (see Annex III of the Habitats Directive, as amended).
- Features essential to maintaining the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network.
- Site containing 'best examples' of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level*) of the following:
 - Species of bird listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive and/or;
 - Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive.
- Ramsar Site (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially Waterfowl Habitat 1971).
- World Heritage Site (Convention for the Protection of World Cultural & Natural Heritage, 1972).
- Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO Man & The Biosphere Programme).
- Site hosting significant species populations under the Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979).
- Site hosting significant populations under the Berne Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979).
- Biogenetic Reserve under the Council of Europe.
- European Diploma Site under the Council of Europe.
- Salmonid water designated pursuant to the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988, (S.I. No. 293 of 1988).
- Major salmon river fisheries.

National Importance:-

- Site designated or proposed as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA).
- Statutory Nature Reserve.
- Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Acts.
- National Park.
- Undesignated site fulfilling the criteria for designation as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA); Statutory Nature Reserve; Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Act; and/or a National Park.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level*) of the following:
 - Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
 - Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.
- Site containing 'viable areas'** of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.
- Major trout river fisheries.
- Commercially important coarse fisheries.
- Waterbodies with major amenity fishery value.

County Importance:-

- Area of Special Amenity^.
- Area subject to a Tree Preservation Order^.
- Area of High Amenity^, or equivalent, designated under the County Development Plan.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the County level*) of the following:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Species of bird listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive; ○ Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive; ○ Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or ○ Species listed on the relevant Red Data list. ● Site containing area or areas of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive that do not fulfil the criteria for valuation as of International or National importance. ● County important populations of species, or viable areas** of semi-natural habitats or natural heritage features identified in the National or Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) if this has been prepared. ● Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a county context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon within the county. ● Sites containing habitats and species that are rare or are undergoing a decline in quality or extent at a national level. ● Small waterbodies with known salmonid populations or with good potential salmonid habitat. ● Large waterbodies with some coarse fisheries value.
<p>Local Importance (higher value):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Locally important populations of priority species or habitats or natural heritage features identified in the Local BAP if this has been prepared. ● Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the Local level*) of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Species of bird listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive; ○ Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive; ○ Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or ○ Species listed on the relevant Red Data list. ● Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a local context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon in the locality. ● Sites or features containing common or lower value habitats, including naturalised species that are nevertheless essential in maintaining links and ecological corridors between features of higher ecological value. ● Small waterbodies with some coarse fisheries value or some potential salmonid habitat. ● Waterbodies with unpolluted 'High' water quality status (Q4-5, Q5).
<p>Local Importance (lower value):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sites containing small areas of semi-natural habitat that are of some local importance for wildlife. ● Sites or features containing non-native species that are of some importance in maintaining habitat links. ● Waterbodies with no current fisheries value, no significant potential fisheries value, poor fisheries habitat.

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* A general suggestion is that 1% of the national population of such species qualifies as an internationally or nationally or county or locally important population. However, a smaller population may qualify as internationally important where the population forms a critical part of a wider population or the species is at a critical phase of its life cycle.

** A 'viable area' is defined as an area of a habitat that, given the particular characteristics of that habitat, was of a sufficient size and shape, such that its integrity (in terms of species composition, and ecological processes and function) would be

¹ Amended after NRA 2009 and Nairn & Fossitt 2004

maintained in the face of stochastic change (for example, as a result of climatic variation).

^ It should be noted that whilst areas such as Areas of Special Amenity, areas subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Areas of High Amenity are often designated on the basis of their ecological value, they may also be designated for other reasons, such as their amenity or recreational value. Therefore, it should not be automatically assumed that such sites are of County importance from an ecological perspective.

