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2.5 Survey reports should include the results of the survey and an assessment of the effect of the development on the species/habitats/sites, including cumulative assessments where necessary. It should also include recommendations for mitigation and enhancement as necessary or for further survey or monitoring. Reports should be accompanied by appropriately detailed plans.

2.6 In accordance with Local Development Plan Policy DM14: Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement D Q G W K H & R X Q F L O ¶ V G X W L H V X Q G H I P A T S H + D E upon the Usk Bat Sites Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is required to be considered for all turbine applications ±a screening form is included in Appendix A.

2.7 This guidance combines existing best practice guidance at the date of publication. If newer guidance has been published and adopted as best practice by the industry then this should be taken into consideration when formulating survey proposals.

3.0 Survey Requirements

3.1 For all small scale wind energy developments a Preliminary Ecology Appraisal (PEA) will be required to be submitted to include a desk study and field survey

- (iii) Records for high risk bat species within 2 - NP 1 DWKXVLXV¶ SLSLVWU
DQG /HLVOHU¶V EDW
- (iv) Records within 5km of high risk bird species listed in Appendix 1 of Natural
(Q J O D S & ¶ O L F T D W 0 2 : R A S S e s s i n g t h e e f f e c t s o f o n s h o r e w i n d f a r m s o n
ELUGV¶
- (v) Records of any species listed under BG

be required for at least 5 consecutive nights, with one of those being at the same time as the manual surveys. Surveys should be carried out on warmer (temperature above 8°C), drier evenings when the wind speed is low (between 0 and 6 m/s).

7.3 Each turbine application within 10km of the SAC is required to be screened for any likely significant effect upon the SAC, if a significant effect is identified as being possible then a full appropriate assessment is required. Information should be provided to allow the LPA to undertake a HRA screening exercise for all small scale wind energy developments. Additional information and the appropriate form to undertake the HRA screening is contained in Appendix A.

8.0 Specialist Surveys - Birds

8.1 For all turbine applications developers are required to undertake proportionate surveys to assess impacts upon bird species. Bird surveys should be carried out in accordance with the Scottish National Heritage guidance on birds and wind turbines (SNH, 2014 and SNH, 2006). A proportionate level of survey based on the size and scale of the wind energy development will be expected. Surveys should be undertaken by suitably qualified, knowledgeable and experienced ecologists (ornithologists). Relevant information V K R X O G E H S U R Y L G H G D W W K H E H J L Q Q L Q J R I U H S R U W V V Evidence of competency may be requested via CV, copies of previous reports and/or references.

8.2 Where methodologies including number of hours, number of seasons, timings etc. are not in accordance with these guidelines there must be a valid reason (the applicant has not provided enough time is not reasoned justification).

8.3 Impacts with regards to bird surveys should take into account the following:

- x Annex I birds of the EC Birds Directive;
- x Schedule I birds of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981);
- x Environment Act Section 7 (formerly NERC Act Section 42) species;
- x Birds listed on the current version of the '5 6 3 % & \ P U S X T E V O L F D W L R Q μ 7 K H 3 I Status of Birds in Wales' (red and amber lists of birds of conservation concern); and
- x Bird species which are included in the Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action g.06 360.89 1 56

suitable for bats does not automatically mean that surveys are not required, rather this should be a consideration once a proper assessment of the site has been undertaken.

10.5 Diggings should be avoided within 30m of an active badger sett. Where within 30m, appropriate mitigation shall be required and need to be agreed. A badger licence is likely to be required.

10.6 Any diggings should be covered over at night and a method of escape provided e.g. plank of wood placed in the digging to allow any animals to escape.

10.7 Construction should be avoided when brown hares are breeding (determined by pre construction survey).

10.8

13.0 Monitoring

13.1 Due to the lack of research into the impacts/effects of small-scale wind turbine developments, as opposed to wind farms, it is likely that a pre-construction baseline survey and post-construction monitoring of birds and/or bats will be required, all conducted by a suitably qualified ecological consultant. The precise details of the baseline survey and monitoring will vary from site to site. In respect of birds, the baseline survey will typically gather data on both wintering and breeding habits in the vicinity of the site for a period of one year. Surveys may be required before or after determination, and must be up-to-

Appendix A: Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Record For Projects

Usk Bat Sites - SAC (UK0014784)

This is a record of the HRA process as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), undertaken by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in respect of the below plan or project/application and in accordance with the Habitats Directive (Council e

