

Recommended approach for bats and single small wind turbines in Cornwall (Approximately 10-30m hub height or 5-100kW)

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Cornwall Council
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Can the turbine be located so that no part of it comes within 50m of habitat features including woodland, hedges or other boundary features, water features or buildings? This option must be explored fully before progressing to survey stage.

YES

Planning application can progress without further bat issues. However, bird collision risk may still be an issue in certain locations / habitats.

NO

Bat survey required to inform siting of turbine. Minimum of 2 remote bat detectors to be placed in appropriate locations on-site for either;

- 2 weeks in April, May, June, September, October or
- 1 week in July or August.

Nb. Weather conditions must be suitable throughout the survey period. If weather becomes unsuitable or equipment fails, the survey period will need to be increased accordingly.

Analysis of results

Experienced bat ecologist to recommend least damaging position for the turbine using survey results and taking cumulative impacts into consideration. Results and justification for chosen location to be included with planning application, full mitigation and compensation to be shown on plans.

An appropriate monitoring strategy to be designed, detailed in report and implemented. Information used to revise guidelines.

Notes

- Risks to birds may need to be considered separately.
- If the site is near a designated site of conservation importance (SAC/SSSI) notified for bat interest, the impact upon the SAC/SSSI will need to be assessed by the bat ecologist.
- Sites that may be of importance for bats commuting between maternity sites and hibernacula may need monitoring later in the year.
- If survey work highlights that a site is of particular importance for bats and/or rare species utilise the site, the bat ecologist may recommend against installing a turbine.
- Multiple small turbines may require more detailed survey information due to an increased risk of harm to bats.
- Sites on high ground that are very exposed may not be suitable for bats - the bat ecologist will advise. However, such sites may be important for some bird species.

Key References

Natural England (NE) TIN51 *Bats and onshore wind turbines*
 NE TIN59 *Bats and single large wind turbines - interim*
 NE TIN69 *Birds and onshore wind farms*
 Eurobats Agreement No 3 (2008) *Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects*
 Scottish Natural Heritage (2010) *Micro-renewables and Nature Conservation*
 Bat Conservation Trust (2011) *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines - Surveying for onshore wind farms*

