

## **APPENDIX 11.20:**

### **SPECIES PROTECTION PLAN**

## Species Protection Plan

1. Specific protection measures will be established prior to construction and agreed with Natural Resources Wales (“NRW”). The Species Protection Plan will incorporate the following approaches and measures:

### Mammals

2. Measures to minimise disturbance and risk to species during construction and decommissioning activities include:
  - Following surveys, all relevant construction drawings and plans should have an indication of any shelters/breeding places/roosts within 100m of specific working locations.
  - Construction activities aim to be outside the following buffer distances to minimise disturbance and risk to species as detailed below:
    - 100m of known holts for Otters, 30m of known resting places;
    - 30m of known setts for Badgers;
    - 25-50m of known (i.e. occupied) Water Vole habitat (depending on the works involved, to be determined in consultation with the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW)).
  - Construction activities involving heavy machinery and blasting within 100m from a species shelter/breeding place will not commence until one hour after sunrise, ceasing one hour before sunset. Sunrise and sunset time can be obtained from the internet ([www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)) and will be adjusted for the site latitude and then displayed in contractor compounds;
  - All open excavations will be ramped to enable easy exit by mammal species;
  - Culvert pipes stored on site will be capped or if caps are not available, stored vertically, to prevent entrapment;
  - Work on culverts will only take place during the day and at the end of each working day the watercourse will be cleared of any construction material so the Otters can pass through unobstructed;
  - Design of any permanent or temporary lighting will be such that it will be directed away from watercourses or bat roost exits;
  - All fires will be prohibited on site. Upland habitats are particularly susceptible to fire and, as such, a no smoking policy should be implemented except in designated areas of the site;
  - All felling and construction personnel will be provided with an emergency telephone contact for the ECOW; and

- A site speed limit of 19 mph for all construction traffic will be imposed across the site.

### **Pre and during Construction Survey, Checks and Monitoring**

3. Prior to commencement of the development on site, a pre-construction survey for Otter holts/resting places, Badger and occupied Water Vole habitat within 200m of wind farm infrastructure and felling will be carried out.
4. The Water Vole survey will use rafts as these features are readily used by Water Vole as latrine sites and thus provide more accurate survey and detection potential. Any areas found to accommodate Water Vole close to construction will be marked and protected with an appropriate buffer zone prior to construction commencing.
5. For the duration of the construction period the above surveys will be repeated at 6 month intervals (or as near to, dependant upon appropriate survey timeframes for the species).
6. If new habitat places are found, this information will be added to existing information for the site and the ECOW will evaluate all information in relation to construction.
7. The ECOW will carry out further checks during the construction period, including checks ahead of the construction front.

### **Licensing**

8. Although no known shelters will be directly affected by construction activities an application has been made for a European Protected Species (EPS) Licence to Disturb for Otter at the request of the Planning Inspectorate.
9. The pre-construction survey could reveal shelters/ roosts within the specified buffers as detailed in the paragraphs above. If this occurs, no works will take place until a EPS Licence to Disturb has been obtained from NRW under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Welsh Government for Badger licence).

### **Personnel Induction**

10. All relevant site personnel will be given an induction by the (ECOW). The induction will be in a format of a toolbox talk with the aim of:
  - Making personnel aware of legal obligations placed on them in relation to protected species by national and international legislation and by the conditions of any licence which may be obtained;
  - Making personnel aware of their personal responsibility for ensuring that no infringement of legislation or breach of any licence condition occurs;
  - Ensuring personnel understand that no person or work is allowed within exclusion zones without prior agreement and/or supervision with an ecological consultant or ECOW and in consultation with NRW and/or under a disturbance licence; and
  - Ensuring personnel understand the procedure to be followed when encountering a dead or injured species within site works. The ECOW is to be called to the location immediately. The ECOW will collect the injured animal. The ECOW will be

responsible for ensuring that any injured or dead animals are handed over to the proper authorities for care, as well as reporting the circumstances to the appropriate authorities.