Pennant Walters Ltd

# Mynydd Glyn Wind Farm

## Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 9C Scoping Table

This report was prepared by WSP Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited (formerly known as Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited), company registration number 02190074, which is carrying out these services as a subcontractor and/or agent to Wood Group UK Limited

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# Appendix 9C
# Scoping Table

## Table 9C.1 Scoping table detailing ornithological features and likely significant effects scoped out of detailed assessment

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Goshawk (breeding resident)** | **Construction - Turbines** | | | |
| | Permanent or temporary land take / changes to habitat resulting in reduction of available nesting, foraging, or resting habitats of breeding Goshawk | Within the footprint of construction working areas | Out | The Proposed Development would result in the loss of 6-10ha of habitat, limited to those areas where construction of turbines and associated infrastructure are taking place. This incorporates areas of grassland, moorland and scrub habitats found in areas on the plateau on the top of the hillside with no anticipated woodland habitat loss.<br><br>Goshawk are typically found in areas of woodland habitat located to the east of the Proposed Development and away from the main areas of construction.<br><br>The Proposed Development will not impact woodland habitats such as those used for nesting and foraging by goshawk. |
| **Goshawk (breeding resident)** | **Construction – Grid Connection** | | | |
| | Permanent or temporary land take / changes to habitat resulting in reduction of available nesting, foraging, or resting habitats of breeding Goshawk | Within the footprint of construction working areas | Out | The proposed grid connection corridor is more than 1km from an identified Goshawk nest and passes through areas of habitat which are not suitable for breeding Goshawk. Therefore no pathway for potential effects occurs. |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during operation resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding Goshawk | 400m from grid connection corridor (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | The proposed grid connection corridor is more than 1km from an identified Goshawk nest and passes through areas of habitat which are not suitable for breeding Goshawk. Therefore no pathway for potential effects occurs. |
| **Goshawk (breeding resident)** | **Operation – Grid Connection** | | | |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during operation resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding Goshawk | 400m from grid connection corridor (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | The proposed grid connection corridor is more than 1km from an identified Goshawk nest and passes through areas of habitat which are not suitable for breeding Goshawk. Therefore no pathway for potential effects occurs. |
| **Red Kite (non-breeding resident)** | **Construction - Turbines** | | | |
| | Permanent or temporary land take / changes to habitat resulting in reduction of available nesting, foraging or resting habitats for red kite | Within the footprint of construction working areas | Out | The Proposed Development would result in the loss of between 6 and 10 ha of habitat. limited to those areas where construction of turbines and associated infrastructure are taking place. This incorporates areas of grassland, moorland and scrub habitats found in areas on the plateau on the top of the hillside and also includes construction of access routes following existing farm tracks<br><br>Whilst red kite were recorded regularly foraging within the boundary of Proposed Development, no confirmed nesting sites were recorded within 2km of the Proposed Development. |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
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| | | | | Suitable foraging habitats would be retained on site with permanent loss of habitat small when compared to the availability of other suitable foraging habitat on site and in the wider area. |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during construction resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding red kite. | 400m from proposed activities (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | No nesting red kite were identified as occurring within 2km of the Proposed Development.<br><br>Whilst suitable habitat is present and red kite are an expanding species, which could occur in future, it is highly unlikely that red kite would nest in areas <400m from proposed construction areas. |
| **Red Kite (non-breeding resident)** | **Construction – Grid Connection** | | | |
| | Permanent or temporary land take / changes to habitat resulting in reduction of available nesting, foraging, or resting habitats for breeding red kite | Within the footprint of construction working areas | Out | No nesting red kite were identified as occurring within 2km of the Proposed Development Site.<br><br>Whilst potential suitable habitat is present and red kite are an expanding species, which could occur in future, it is consider unlikely that red kite would nest in areas <400m from proposed operation areas due to the nature of any woodland within the grid connection corridor. |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during construction resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding red kite | 400m from proposed activities (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | No nesting red kite were identified as occurring within 2km of the Proposed Development Site.<br><br>Whilst potential suitable habitat is present and red kite are an expanding species, which could occur in future, it is consider unlikely that red kite would nest in areas <400m from proposed operation areas due to the nature of any woodland within the grid connection corridor. |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Red Kite (non-breeding resident)** | **Operation – Grid Connection** | | | |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during operation resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding red kite | 400m from grid connection corridor (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | No nesting red kite were identified as occurring within 2km of the Proposed Development Site.<br><br>Whilst potential suitable habitat is present and red kite are an expanding species, which could occur in future, it is consider unlikely that red kite would nest in areas <400m from proposed operation areas due to the nature of any woodland within the grid connection corridor. |
| **Peregrine (breeding resident)** | **Construction - Turbines** | | | |
| | Permanent or temporary land take / changes to habitat resulting in reduction of available nesting, foraging, or resting habitats of breeding peregrine | Within the footprint of construction working areas and an additional buffer of 500m | Out | No peregrine nest sites were identified within 2km of the Proposed Development and habits on site do not provide suitable nesting opportunities for peregrine. |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during construction resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding peregrine | 500 – 750m from proposed activities (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | No peregrine nest sites were identified within 2km of the Proposed Development and habits on site do not provide suitable nesting opportunities for peregrine. |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Peregrine (breeding resident)** | **Operation – Turbines** | | | |
| | Physical changes to the spatial environment that could result in collision, injury, or fatality of individual peregrines | Within the footprint of the operational windfarm | Out | Peregrine have been infrequently recorded flying within the footprint of the proposed windfarm and with flights typically short in nature and below Potential Collision Height. |
| | Physical changes to the spatial environment that could result in disturbance or displacement of peregrine from existing breeding sites | Within 500 - 750m of the operational wind farm (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | Turbines would be within suitable habitat for peregrine to utilise for foraging. There is no observable pathway to effect via disturbance or displacement within existing breeding locations.<br><br>Whilst the turbines may occur within foraging habitat for this species, the infrequency of flights coupled with the absence of suitable nesting habitats within 2km mean that impacts of displacements are unlikely to be observable |
| **Peregrine (breeding resident)** | **Construction – Grid Connection** | | | |
| | Permanent or temporary land take / changes to habitat resulting in reduction of available foraging or resting habitats of breeding peregrine | Within 500 – 750m of forestry works (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | No peregrine nest sites were identified within 2km of the Proposed Development and habits within the Grid Connection corridor do not provide suitable nesting opportunities for peregrine. |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during construction resulting in | Within 500 - 750m of forestry works (based on | Out | No peregrine nest sites were identified within 2km of the Proposed Development and habits within the Grid Connection corridor do not provide suitable nesting opportunities for peregrine. |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
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| | disturbance and displacement of breeding peregrine | disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | | |
| **Peregrine (breeding resident)** | **Operation – Grid Connection** | | | |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during operation resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding peregrine | 500 -750m from grid connection corridor (based on disturbance distances described in Ruddock & Whitfield 2007) | Out | No peregrine nest sites were identified within 2km of the Proposed Development and habits within the Grid Connection corridor do not provide suitable nesting opportunities for peregrine. |
| **Notable Breeding Bird Assemblage (Woodland)** | **Construction – Turbines** | | | |
| | Permanent or temporary land take / changes to habitat resulting in reduction of available nesting, foraging, or resting habitats of breeding woodland assemblages | Within footprint of turbines and associated development working areas | Out | The Proposed Development would result in the loss of 6-10ha of habitat, limited to those areas where construction of turbines and associated infrastructure are taking place. This incorporates areas of grassland, moorland and scrub habitats found in areas on the plateau on the top of the hillside but avoids any loss of woodland habitats that support the notable species included within the assemblage. |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during construction resulting in disturbance and displacement | Within 200m of construction works. | Out | Whilst zones of deviation associated with the construction areas of Turbine 5 are immediately adjacent to woodland habitats on the western side of the site, preferred construction areas are all >50m from the edge of any woodland habitats. Measures to avoid potential for disturbance in woodland have been incorporated into the Draft CEMP produced to |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
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| | of breeding woodland assemblages | | | support construction such that effects of disturbance will be minimised. Similarly the proposed programme provides flexibility such that works can be planned to avoid disruption to key receptors.<br><br>The assemblage also experiences a current baseline of disturbance level from recreational activities. Vehicle movements and levels of activity will increase above this baseline but are unlikely to result in a significant increase in disturbance. |
| **Notable Breeding Bird Assemblage (Woodland)** | **Operation – turbines** | | | |
| | Physical changes to the spatial environment that could result in collision, injury, or fatality of assemblage species | Within the footprint of the operational windfarm | Out | The woodland habitat assemblage generally features small passerine species with are considered to be of low sensitivity to collision due to the low risk of collision and their high reproductive rates which ensure that individuals lost to collision are replaced.<br><br>The species included within the assemblage are unlikely to transit the site at PCH (>30m) on a regular basis, it is predicted that collision of passerines would be rare events and would not adversely affect any species at any population level, including local. |
| | Physical changes to the spatial environment that could result in disturbance or displacement of assemblage species from existing breeding sites | Within 200m of the footprint of the operational windfarm | Out | Studies have shown that breeding birds are not affected at distances greater than 300m from a turbine (Gill et al 1996; Percival, 1998 & 2005) and a recent synthesis of European work (Hötker et al., 2006) discovered no statistically significant negative effect on the population of any bird species (including passerine species similar to those found at the Proposed Development such as skylark and meadow pipit) during the breeding season.<br><br>Only two of the eight proposed turbines are <150m from woodland habitats with the remain six turbines all 250m or more. Given the terrain |

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| | | | | of the Site, much of the woodland habitat will also be naturally screened from turbine locations. |
| **Notable Breeding Bird Assemblage (Woodland)** | **Grid Connection - Construction** | | | |
| | Permanent or temporary land take / changes to habitat resulting in reduction of available nesting, foraging, or resting habitats of breeding woodland assemblages | Within footprint of grid connection and associated development working areas | Out | The connection corridor largely features small areas of woodland and scrub which have potential to support some of the notable species identified as using woodland habitat within the Site.<br><br>However, given the eventual design of the grid connection route would likely occupy a narrow footprint it is assumed that any loss of suitable woodland bird habitat would be very small (to enable installation of supporting posts or cable routes) and would also include environmental measures to avoid potential impacts on the species identified.<br><br>Therefore it is assumed that no potential impacts would occur on the woodland bird assemblage. |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during construction resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding woodland assemblages | Within 200m of construction works associated with the Grid Connection | Out | The grid connection corridor largely features areas small areas of woodland and scrub woodland which have potential to support the notable species identified as using woodland habitat within the Site.<br><br>However, given the eventual design of the grid connection route would likely occupy a narrow footprint it is assumed that disturbance associated with any loss of suitable woodland bird habitat would be very small (to enable installation of supporting posts) and would also include environmental measures to avoid potential impacts on the species identified.<br><br>Therefore it is assumed that no potential impacts would occur on the woodland bird assemblage. |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
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| **Notable Breeding Bird Assemblage (Woodland)** | **Operation – Grid Connection** | | | |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during construction resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding woodland assemblages | Within 200m of construction works associated with the Grid Connection | Out | The proposed grid connection will require maintenance and monitoring throughout its operational lifetime. This has the potential to result in disturbance of nesting and foraging habitat suitable for the species included in this assemblage dependent on the chosen route and the nature of any maintenance or monitoring.<br><br>However, the proposed connection route would occupy a small, linear footprint such that the risk of disturbance to the species included is likely to be low and the nature of any maintenance or monitoring also likely to be significantly less disturbing than any activities during construction.<br><br>Further to this, it is assumed that environmental measures that consider the sensitive nature of these species and the timings of any works would be implemented to avoid risks of disturbance during operation. |
| **Notable Breeding Bird Assemblage (Grassland and Moorland habitats)** | **Construction - Turbines** | | | |
| | Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration during construction resulting in disturbance and displacement of breeding moorland assemblages | Within footprint of turbines and associated development working areas | Out | Temporary land take may impact the breeding bird assemblage by reducing available nesting habitat during the construction phase. It is considered that moorland breeding birds would adapt to these changes in habitat availability and relocate accordingly within the Proposed Development Site. Visual, aural and vibrational stimuli are not considered to negatively impact the moorland breeding bird assemblage in isolation. |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
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| **Notable Breeding Bird Assemblage (Grassland and Moorland habitats)** | **Operation - Turbines** | | | |
| | Physical changes to the spatial environment that could result in collision, injury, or fatality of assemblage species | Within the footprint of the operational windfarm | Out | Given that the habitats within the Proposed Development Site support a limited range of species at relatively low densities, and that most of the species present in the area are unlikely to transit the site at PCH (>30m) on a regular basis, it is predicted that collision of passerines would be rare events and would not adversely affect any species at any population level, including local. |
| | Physical changes to the spatial environment that could result in disturbance or displacement of assemblage species from existing breeding sites | Within 200m of the footprint of the operational windfarm | Out | Studies have shown that breeding birds are not affected at distances greater than 300m from a turbine (Gill et al 1996; Percival, 1998 & 2005) and a recent synthesis of European work (Hötker et al., 2006) discovered no statistically significant negative effect on the population of any bird species (including passerine species similar to those found at the Proposed Development such as skylark and meadow pipit) during the breeding season. Shepherd (2002, 2003) reported little or no change in numbers of skylark and stonechat between 2000 and 2003 at Hare Hill wind farm in Ayrshire following construction in 2000. This study also found no significant difference between years in distances of skylark territories to the nearest wind turbine (these were the only two species for which statistical analyses were conducted). Langston and Pullan (2003) report the findings of a German study (Ketzenberg et al., 2002) that showed no effects on number or spatial distribution of skylark within 1km of a wind farm. |
| **Notable Breeding Bird Assemblage (Grassland** | Construction – Grid Connection | Within footprint of grid connection and associated development | Out | The grid connection corridor largely features areas small areas of grassland and moorland which have potential to support the notable species identified as using these habitats within the Site. |

| Ornithological Feature | Environmental change and likely significant effects | Zone of Influence | Scoped in / out | Justification |
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| **and Moorland habitats)** | | | | However, given the eventual design of the grid connection route would likely occupy a narrow footprint it is assumed that disturbance associated with any loss of suitable habitat would be very small (to enable installation of supporting posts and installation of cable) and would also include environmental measures to avoid potential impacts on the species identified.<br><br>Therefore it is assumed that no potential impacts would occur on the grassland/moorland bird assemblage. |
| | Operation – Grid Connection | Within footprint of grid connection and associated development | Out | The grid connection corridor largely features areas small areas of grassland and moorland which have potential to support the notable species identified as using these habitats within the Site.<br><br>However, given the eventual design of the grid connection route would likely occupy a narrow footprint it is assumed that disturbance associated with any loss of suitable habitat would be very small (to enable installation of supporting posts and installation of cable) and would also include environmental measures to avoid potential impacts on the species identified.<br><br>Therefore, it is assumed that no potential impacts would occur on the grassland/moorland bird assemblage. |

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