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1 INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND

Planning permission has been granted for two wind turbines 35.4m to blade tip with reference to application number AWDM/1702/14. A number of conditions were attached to the permission notice. Condition No. 15 requires that a scheme for monitoring bird strikes be submitted prior to operation of the turbines. The wording of the condition is as follows:

"15. The development shall not operate unless and until a scheme has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in respect of post development monitoring for 3 years from first electricity export to assess the number of bird strikes by the wind turbines and a scheme for any necessary mitigation measures. The approved scheme shall be operated as agreed.

***Reason**: In the interests of wildlife in accordance with 1995 Adur Local Plan policy AP6; Draft Adur Local Plan Policy 1: Sustainable Development Policy 2 Spatial Strategy; Policy 8 Shoreham Harbour Regeneration Area and Policy 32 Biodiversity; Draft Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan Policy JAAP2 South Quayside; and National Planning Policy Framework."*

An ecological assessment of the development was submitted with the application as Appendix 1J. The consultant's appraisal of the site was that the habitat found was unlikely to support protected bird species, but that a monitoring scheme could be implemented to help inform Adur District Council of the likely impact of the development. The most significant population of birds locally is likely to be that of the Adur estuary, of which the RSPB have an interest. The RSPB were consulted prior to submission of a planning application and confirmed that the siting of the turbines was not considered a threat to the protected species found within the estuary,

1.1 PURPOSE

This document is provided to Adur District Council as a proposed schedule of bird surveys and strike monitoring, as required by planning decision AWDM/1702/14. In it not considered to be appropriate to design a mitigation procedure at this stage. This is discussed further in section 2.

2 BIRD MONITORING

Independent ecological consultants will be engaged to undertake monitoring and reporting works. The Adur Estuary SSSI is quality habitat for a number of wading birds. Notable species listed in the SSSI Citation[1] are redshank, dunlin and ringed plover. The SSSI is listed as being of national importance for British Ringed Plover populations. The highest risk period for these species is likely to be during migration (autumn and spring). It should be noted that when consulted, the RSPB did not comment that the project would pose a significant risk to the populatins of the Adur Estuary. Survey methods should follow guidelines set out in Natural England guidance TIN069[2], however it should be acknowledged that this guidance was given on wind-farm scale developments. The monitoring programme outlined below has been designed around these high risk species and periods and has been scaled down from the recommendations to suit this smaller scale development.

2.1 MONITORING SCHEDULE

Formal monitoring and reporting will take place for three years from the first date that the turbines generate electricity. The monitoring programme will begin in either October or March, whichever is first following commissioning of the wind turbines. Two survey methods will be used; vantage point surveys and collision surveys.

Vantage point surveys will require observers to monitor the flight paths of species that are identified as being at risk of collision. Flight paths and flight frequency within close proximity to the development will be monitored. It is proposed that two surveys will take place in October (autumn migration period) with a further two surveys taking place in March (spring migration period).

[1] Adur Estuary SSSI Citation http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1003359.pdf

[2] Natural England (2010) *Technical Information Note TIN069* Assessing the effects of onshore wind farms on birds. www.naturalengland.org.uk

Collision surveys will require observers to search for and identify bird corpses. This will be carried out by independent ecological consultants concurrently with vantage point surveys. However it is acknowledged that two survey visits during migration periods may not be deemed sufficient, as the existence of a bird corpse is likely to be temporary. Reporting of collisions will also be conducted by Shoreham Port Authority, who have agreed to report any collisions that are noted by staff members and members of the public. Records will be passed to the appointed consultant for collation.

At the end of each full year's survey period an interim summary of the monitoring will be provided to Adur District Council. A report will be produced at end of the total monitoring period and provided to Adur District Council, three years from commissioning of the wind turbines. A summary of the survey schedule is given in table 1.

Table 1. Summary of proposed survey schedule

	Period		
Item	Spring (March)	Autumn (March)	Continuous
Vantage point	2 surveys	2 surveys	x
Collision survey	2 surveys	2 surveys	x
Additional collision recording	x	x	Recording continuously reported by Shoreham Port Authority

2.2 MITIGATION PROPOSALS

The development was considered to be of low risk to birds when consented and was not opposed by Natural England or the RSPB. Without developing an understanding of whether or not the wind turbines pose a risk to local bird populations, and if so the specifics of such risk, it is not possible to devise a suitable and proportional mitigation scheme. As part of the final report, mitigation measures will be outlined if considered necessary by the appointed consultant.