

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS



Ornithology surveys

As part of the work on the previous project iterations which included wind turbines, a comprehensive bird survey programme has been completed. This has included breeding bird surveys and flight activity surveys.

Ecology surveys

The ecology surveys include:

- A Phase 1 habitat survey;
- A National Vegetation Classification survey; and
- Protected species surveys (otter, water vole, red squirrel, pine marten and badger).

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

There are no known archaeological features within or close to the Battery Facility site. There are some cultural heritage features within the wider vicinity. The effects of the proposals on the settings of these features have been assessed.

Peat

A Phase I survey has been undertaken to establish the peat depth across the Battery Facility site. There are parts of the wider site where the peat is 4m in depth and other areas where it is less than 0.5m deep. Following the results of this survey, the proposed layout has been designed to minimise the amount of infrastructure in deeper peat areas and a phase II survey focussing on the infrastructure footprint has now been undertaken.

The majority of the Battery Facility site that is currently plantation will be felled and over a period of years carefully restored to peatland. This is effectively the same restoration proposal as within the neighbouring Halsary wind farm site. The peatland restoration proposals would provide important biodiversity enhancement.