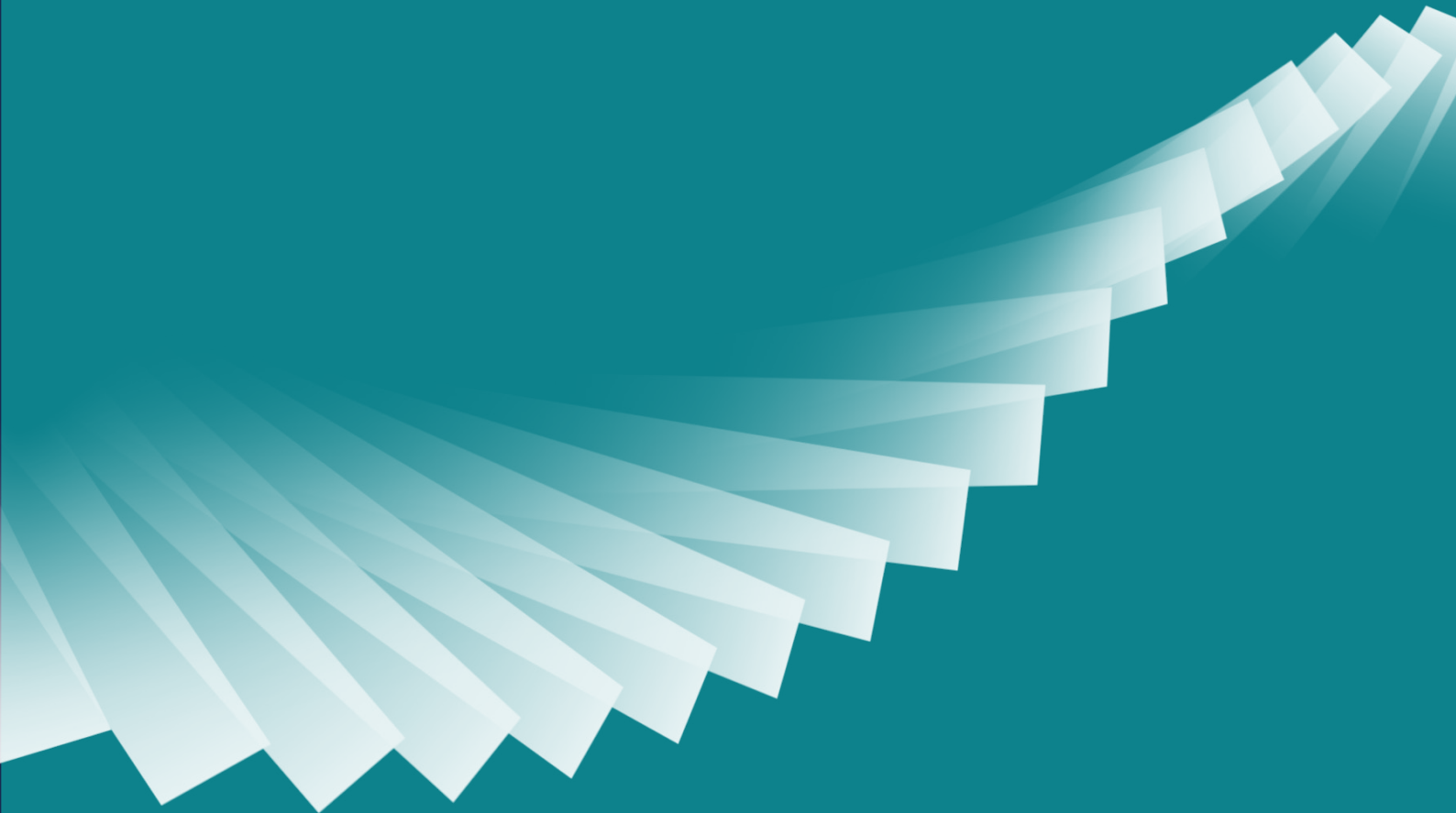




Bute Energy
Aberedw Energy Park

Appendix 8.1b:

Ornithology Technical Report 2024



Aberedw Energy Park Limited

Aberedw Energy Park Environmental Statement
Appendix 8.1b - Ornithology Technical Report 2024

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 This report details the results of ornithology surveys undertaken by LUC at the Site of the proposed Aberedw Energy Park, hereafter termed 'the Proposed Development', located approximately 3km east of Builth Wells in the Powys Community Council area.

1.2 Surveys were carried out between 3rd April and 2nd July 2024. Surveys are additional to those carried out between September 2019 and August 2021, which are detailed in **Appendix 8.1a**.

1.3 Surveys were undertaken to collect data on breeding raptor populations at the Site and within buffers surrounding the Site (**Figure 8.1**) in the breeding season, and aimed to establish:

- The composition of breeding raptor community; and
- The location and status of breeding raptor populations.

1.4 Surveys focussed on collecting information on specially protected raptors, namely species on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (WCA).

Survey periods

1.5 Surveys commenced on 3rd April 2024 and ceased on 2nd July 2024.

Survey areas

1.6 Raptors can range over wide areas, so surveys extended to suitable habitats that were up to 2km from the Site (**Figure 8.1**).

1.7 The final ornithology Study Area for raptors is smaller than the original survey area and reflects the 2km buffer around the infrastructure of the Proposed Development (**Figure 8.2**).

Survey personnel

1.8 Surveys were undertaken by Amity Allen (AA), Edward Hunter (EH) and Kate Sanderson (KS). All were experienced surveyors and had received appropriate training in the field survey methods being used.

Chapter 2

Methods

Field Methods

2.1 Watches and searches were undertaken to look for any evidence of breeding by rare or specially protected raptors within up to 2km of the Site. Survey effort was targeted by focussing on suitable breeding habitat for the species most likely to occur and informed by the results of previous raptor surveys undertaken as part of baseline survey effort for the Proposed Development in 2020 and 2021.

2.2 In total, 55 hours of targeted raptor surveys were undertaken (**Table 2.1**).

Table 2.1 Raptor survey effort

Date	Start time	Finish time	Duration (hrs)	Surveyor
03/04/24	09:00	16:45	7.75	EH
03/04/24	10:30	15:45	5.25	KS
04/04/24	09:30	15:30	6.00	EH
04/04/24	09:30	15:30	6.00	KS
25/04/24	08:30	14:30	6.00	EH
04/06/24	08:00	18:00	10.00	EH
07/06/24	16:00	18:00	2.00	AA
02/07/24	08:00	15:00	6.50	EH
02/07/24	11:00	16:30	6.50	AA

2.3 Surveys were undertaken with reference to the species-specific methods detailed by Hardy *et al.* (2013)¹ and included surveys for red kite, goshawk, hen harrier, peregrine, hobby and merlin.

Chapter 3

Results

Osprey

3.1 Osprey (Annex 1 and Schedule 1) was recorded on several occasions during the breeding season. One active osprey nest was located, approximately 1km from the Site and 3.3km from the nearest proposed turbine. No activity by osprey was recorded within the Site (**Figure 8.10**).

Red kite

3.2 Red kites (Annex 1 and Schedule 1) were recorded frequently. In total, 16 red kite breeding attempts were confirmed in 2024. The closest confirmed red kite nest to a proposed turbine was over 1km distant (**Figure 8.10**).

3.3 A further six red kite breeding attempts were classified as probable, with the closest of these located approximately 620m from the nearest proposed turbine.

Goshawk

3.4 One goshawk breeding attempt was located and classified as probable. This was located approximately 630m from the nearest proposed turbine (**Figure 8.10**).

Peregrine

3.5 Peregrine (Annex 1 and Schedule 1) were confirmed to breed at a site approximately 4km from the nearest proposed turbine (**Figure 8.10**).