

EARTHBALANCE & FERGUSONS

CLIENT: BLUE ENERGY WIND LTD LOCATION: BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND PROJECT VALUE: £25,000

This project involved two sites situated in Blyth, Northumberland. Both sites lie to the north of the town of Blyth; the Earthbalance site lies adjacent to the village of Bomarsund and the Fergusons site lies immediately west of this towards the village of Cambois.

Both sites consist of improved grassland fields in which Blue Energy Wind Ltd were seeking planning permission to install single wind turbines. Total Ecology was commissioned in 2011 to carry out an extended phase I survey of the proposed turbine locations and the surrounding habitat, including risk assessing any suitable trees or buildings for bats within a 200 metre radius.

The extended phase I surveys established the need for further survey work due to the presence of suitable habitat for bats at both sites, particularly foraging habitat, and the numerous ponds within close proximity of the Earthbalance site required surveys for great crested newts. Transect and static anabat bats surveys were carried out at Earthbalance, as well as nocturnal surveys of a tree that provided potential roosting opportunities within close proximity of the turbine location. Static anabat surveys were also carried out on the Fergusons site.

Following the surveys, no protected species issues were discovered at either site, with no great crested newts found at Earthbalance, nor bats roosting in the adjacent tree. Bat activity levels across both turbine locations, as recorded by the static anabats, was low. The applications to install both turbines are currently progressing through planning, with the client hoping to commence construction in 2014.







OUR CONTRIBUTION

- Bat Surveys
- Extended Phase I
- Great Crested Newt Surveys

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