



Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm Life Extension

Section 17 - Summary of Predicted Effects

Contents

17.4	Introduction	1
17.5	Summary of Assessment	1
17.6	Ecological and Ornithological Assessment	2

Glossary

Term	Definition
Applicant	Ffynnon Oer Windfarm Limited
Baseline	The existing conditions that prevail against which the effects of the wind farm life extension are assessed against.
EIA Regulations	The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	EIA is a means of carrying out, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects from a development.
Environmental Statement (ES)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
ES Addendum	A supplementary document to the original ES that provides additional and updated environmental information.
Proposed Life Extension	The proposed life extension for Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm to continue operating for an additional 10 years.
Section 73	Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). An application under section 73 is an application to remove or vary planning conditions attached to a previous planning permission.
Site boundary	The land occupied by Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ES	Environmental Statement
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
IEF	Important Ecological Features
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
m	metre
NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

17.4 Introduction

17.4.1. This section summarises the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) presented in this Environmental Statement (ES) Addendum, for the Proposed Life Extension of Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm. A description of the operational wind farm and the Proposed Life Extension is included in Section 1 of this ES Addendum .

17.4.2. As part of the scoping process discussed in Section 1 the following disciplines were scoped out:

- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)*;
- Arboriculture;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Air Quality;
- Noise and Vibration*;
- Major Accidents and Incidents and Risk to Human Health*;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Geo-environmental;
- Agricultural Land and Soil Quality;
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology;
- Socio-Economics; and
- Climate Change*.

* Denotes topics for which additional information was requested by NPTCBC, but not a full EIA assessment.

17.4.3. Ecology and Ornithology were scoped into the EIA. An assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Life Extension on ecological and ornithological features is presented in Section 15 of this ES Addendum.

17.5 Summary of Assessment

17.5.1 Formal scoping and discussions were held with planners and an independent ecologist from NPTCBC, during which the scope and programme of ecological and ornithological surveys were agreed. NPTCBC also recommended that surveys to assess the effectiveness of the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) were carried out. Details of the surveys to assess the effectiveness of the HMP objectives are provided in Appendix A15.1.

17.5.2 NRW were approached regarding the Proposed Life Extension in June 2025 but responded that they were unable to accept any new pre-planning requests. Details of scoping responses and an explanation of how scoping

responses have been addressed are provided in Table 15.3 of Section 15 of the ES Addendum.

- 17.5.3 Based upon the assessment work undertaken, and given no physical changes would be made to the operational scheme, the Proposed Life Extension is sought via a Section 73 application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to amend Planning Condition 6.

17.6 Ecological and Ornithological Assessment

- 17.6.1. Section 15 of the ES Addendum presents an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Life Extension on ecological and ornithological features. The assessment was designed to identify valued ecological receptors (i.e., species and habitats) that might be affected by the Proposed Life Extension.
- 17.6.2. The Proposed Life Extension application would not result in any physical changes to the site – turbines, tracks and associated infrastructure would remain in situ with no change in size or layout. Therefore, only effects that the ongoing operation of the turbines could potentially have on birds and bats were considered within the EIA. A programme of targeted surveys was proposed between April and October 2025, providing a proportionate assessment.
- 17.6.3. Due to the presence of bats on site and/or the classification of certain species as high risk within guidelines, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle and Leisler's bats were retained as Important Ecological Features (IEF) and assessed in the ES Addendum. The magnitude of residual effects of the Proposed Life Extension on these IEFs were assessed as being low negative and therefore not significant with no mitigation or compensation measures required. The Habitat Management Plan is proposed to be updated to continue providing biodiversity enhancements measures in line with a planning condition attached to the Section 73 consent. Suitable locations within the site boundary for enhancements will be identified following completion of an updated Phase I habitat survey in summer 2026.
- 17.6.4. Cumulative effects were also reported in Section 15, and concluded that the Proposed Life Extension along with other in planning, consented or operational schemes within 10 km of Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm would not result in a detectable increase in cumulative effects, and are therefore not significant.
- 17.6.5. Overall, it is considered in relation to ecological interests that the Proposed Life Extension will not create any unacceptable significant effects.