



Hepburn Wind Farm

Bird and Bat Mortality Survey Interim Report

11th July 2011 – 9th January 2012

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Written Summary

Bird and bat carcasses have been monitored weekly at the Hepburn Wind Farm since July 2011 following operational commencement of the turbines. Both turbines have been surveyed 26 times each to a radius of 100m, giving a total of 52 turbine searches for the 6 month period. Turbines were not surveyed on the 19th September due to difficulty in accessing the site. On average turbine 1 has had 97% of the area surrounding the turbine searched; whilst due to excessive grass length over summer, turbine 2 has had on average 86% of the site searched.

In total 2 finds have been recorded over the 6 month period. On the 11th of July, the first search for the study, a feather spot, consisting of more than 20 feathers, was found 69m east of turbine 1. This was identified as *most likely* belonging to a brown falcon and without a carcass can only be assumed to be a result of a turbine collision. On the 26th of December, a white striped freetail bat was found 28m south-west of turbine 1. This is likely to have been a turbine collision as white striped freetail bats are particularly susceptible to collision mortality at wind farms.

From the 9th of January 2012, intensity of surveys has increased to thrice weekly with the additional 2 surveys per week completed to 50m in order to focus on bat carcass detection. In addition, a scavenger trial and observer efficiency trial will be conducted in late summer to autumn to enable full analysis of the results pending the 12 month completion of the study.

In line with other small wind farms with less than 3 turbines around the globe, the Hepburn Wind Farm is experiencing very low rates of bird and bat collisions. Pending the results of the next 6 months of surveys it seems likely that the reported collision rate of the Hepburn Wind Farm will be very low.

A full report, including analysis of the data and presentation of the sites impact based on strikes per turbine per year will be presented after the completion of surveys scheduled to finish in August 2012.

TABLE SUMMARY OF FINDS 11th July 2011 – 9th January 2012

Find ID	Date	Turbine	Bat Carcass	Bird Carcass	Feather Spot	Species	Conservation Status	Proximity to Turbine	Condition	Impact with turbine
1	11/7/11	1	0	0	1	Brown Falcon	secure	69m East	Feathers only. Carcass consumed by scavengers (foxes).	possible
1	26/12/11	1	1	0	0	White Striped Freetail	secure	28m SW	Complete, fresh adult male	likely

Find ID 1: Brown Falcon



Find ID 2: White Striped Freetail

