

Mike Webb

Conservation Officer, Planning
RSPB Cymru



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The RSPB's approach to Renewable Energy and Climate Change

- Climate Change is one of the greatest threats to wildlife globally.
- The UK and Wales should play a full part in both combating climate change and adapting to its consequences .
- Renewable energy generation should go hand in hand with an ambitious programme of energy conservation, but neither on its own is sufficient.



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Impacts on Wildlife

- However, this doesn't mean that all renewable energy projects are acceptable in all locations!



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Solar

Possible projects on Ynys Môn could damage Wet Grassland SSSIs and the birds which depend upon them



Impacts on Wildlife

Research shows that some bird species such as curlews are vulnerable to disturbance from onshore wind.



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Tidal Barrage

A traditional “shore to shore” barrage such as the Severn Barrage would destroy thousands of acres of internationally important intertidal habitat and the birds which rely on them!



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Offshore Wind

Collision risk and displacement of bird species such as gannet and Manx shearwater could arise as a result of poorly-located offshore windfarms.



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Tidal Current Turbines

Poorly located tidal current turbines could displace feeding terns, for which Wales is internationally important.



Becoming involved in planning matters

The Development Plan:

- The first port of call for applications.
- Applications must be in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- Familiarise yourself with your development plan (LDP or UDP).
- Get involved in development plan formulation and review!
- Local Planning Authority Renewable Energy Capacity Studies.

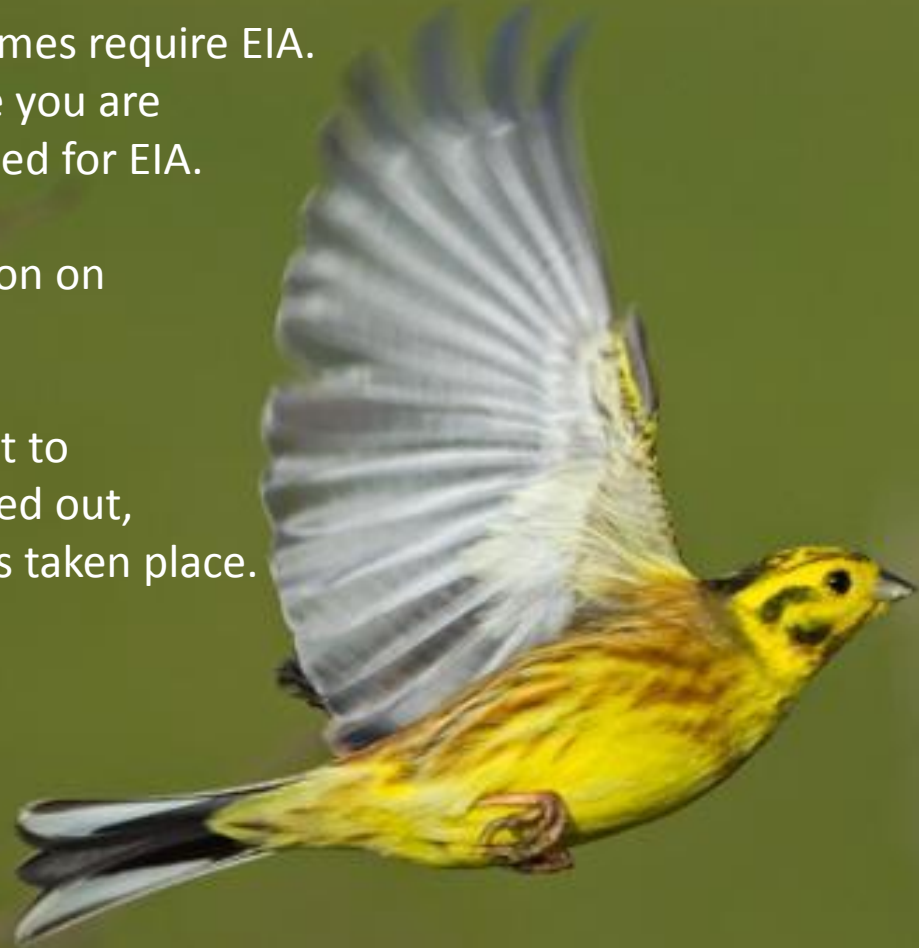


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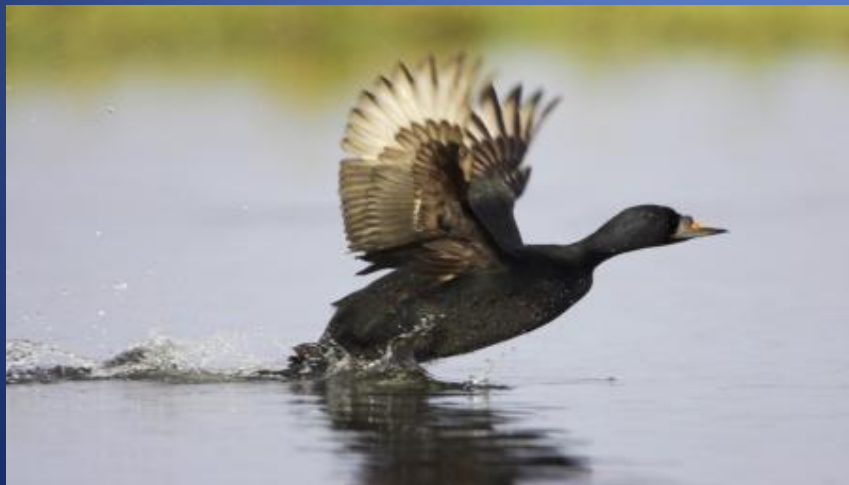
Planning Applications: Environmental Impact Assessments

- Many renewable energy schemes require EIA.
Find out whether the scheme you are interested in has been screened for EIA.
- You can object to an application on deficient EIA grounds.
- You may also be able to object to
 - instances where EIA is screened out,
 - or where no EIA screening has taken place.



The Eight Commandments

1. Dealing with the Local Planning Authority
 - Be courteous, objective and rational!
2. Negotiation should be the first port of call, not the last resort.
3. Find out what the wildlife value of the development site (and vicinity!) is.



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The Eight Commandments (continued)

4. If you want to object, use the term “object” in your letter! Say why are you objecting.
5. Don't rest on your laurels.
6. Make use of any assistance available, Local Planning Authority Staff
 - Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
 - NGOs – e.g. North Wales Wildlife Trust etc



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The Eight Commandments (continued)

7. Join forces with like-minded people.
8. Consider proposing alternative uses for the development site, or alternative sites for the development.



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Diolch / Thank you

Any Questions?