



**Of Bats and Birds:
Bats and Wind Farms (and what can we
learn from our experience with birds?)**

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The Issues

- **Bat collisions – Australia, USA, Europe**
- **Link to migration**
- **Link to well-wooded habitats**
- **No records of collisions in UK**
- **Potentially displacement from foraging areas or roosts**
- **Potentially blocking of migration and commuting routes**
- **Gaps in knowledge about bat behaviour - especially at collision risk height**

Bats in Policy and Law

- All bats protected under EU Habitats and Species Directive and UK Wildlife and Countryside Act
- An offence to kill or to disturb at roost sites
- Therefore they are a material consideration in planning matters (e.g. Cornwall Case)
- Potential for prosecution if bats are killed

The European Response

- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (the Bonn Convention)
- The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)
- *Resolution on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations*
- adopted September 2006

The EUROBATS Resolution

Agreement to:

- Raise awareness of the impacts that wind turbines might have on bat populations
- Raise awareness of the existence of some unsuitable habitats or sites for the construction of wind turbines
- Make developers aware of the necessity of supporting research and monitoring
- Recognise the necessity to find suitable methods for assessing bat migration corridors
- Adopt and implement *'Wind turbines and bat populations: guidelines for the planning process and impact assessment'*

The EUROBATS Guidelines

- Pre-survey assessment
- Nursery roost survey up to 5km from wind farm
- Activity surveys for each habitat type up to 1km from wind farm and for each turbine location: ~ 24 survey visits during the year
- Assess seasonal use of roosts up to 10km from wind farm
- Require surveys of activity at collision risk height
- Offshore: surveys for migrating bats

Going Forward

- Who will do the research required to understand the level of risk to bats and devise appropriate solutions, and how will it be funded?
- Do we have the technology to answer the questions?
- How will the EUROBATS guidelines be implemented in the UK?
- Are there enough suitably qualified bat surveyors?
- What are the resource implications for developers?

Lessons from Our Experience with Birds

- **Siting and layout: seek to agree guidance on general principles**
- **Research: be pro-active and co-operative**
- **Seek active involvement in the adaptation and ongoing evolution of the EUROBATs guidelines for use in the UK**
- **Encourage the issuing of interim guidance to SNH, NE and CCW area officers**
- **Recognise the need for robust monitoring studies – with the results made publicly available**