

### Developing renewable energy in harmony with nature

Renewable Energy & Local Opportunities, York, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2013

### Introduction

- The RSPB's response to climate change and the need to reduce emissions
- The risks posed to wildlife by renewable energy deployment
- Ways these risks can be either avoided or mitigated for
- Plus the potential opportunities for delivering a net biodiversity gain





### Climate change: the greatest long term threat to wildlife



Spotted Flycatcher



Kittiwake



### What are we doing about it?



Installing solar panels at RSPB Sandwell Valley, Birmingham





A third of the UK's economic growth is from green business\*

It's time David Cameron took the

green economy seriously

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# Risks to wildlife from renewable energy

- Direct habitat loss and damage
- Disturbance and displacement
- Collision mortality
- Cumulative impacts of multiple developments



Blanket bog: Eleanor Bentall (rspb-images.com) Curlew: Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com) Noctule: Steve Knell (rspb-images.com

# Renewable energy in harmony with nature

- Strategic planning
- Project level considerations
- Potential to deliver positive biodiversity gain

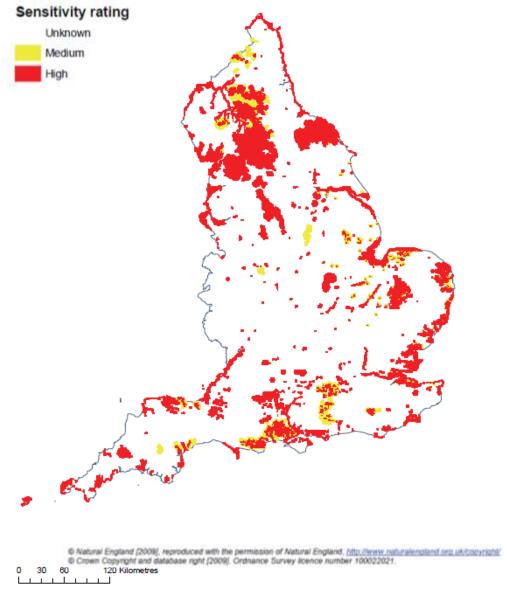




## Strategic planning for renewables

Key elements from a nature conservation point of view:

- Robust evidence base
- Spatially-explicit approach
- Sensitivity mapping
- Community and stakeholder engagement



From RSPB Research report no.35 "Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England"



### The Clocaenog Statement of Environmental Masterplanning Principles (SEMP)

January 2010





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Summer of Inviscomental Managlanting Principles: Cleaning Name Science: Board: Anna

"Habitat creation or restoration conforms to the principles contained in the Clocaenog Statement of Environmental Planning Principles (SEMP)..."

# Strategic planning for renewables: delivering positives



Conwy Deposit Local Development Plan 2007-2022 (Revised edition 2011)

4.6.9 Onshore Wind Turbine Development

### NTE/8 - ONSHORE WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT

- Large scale (over SMW) wind furbine development will be concentrated within the Clocaenog SSA providing.
  - a) It is considered acceptable in terms of other Local Development Plan policies:
- All details of associated anciliary development are submitted with the planning application as an integral part of the exhause.
- c) Consideration is given to the cumulative impact on surrounding communities and the wider landscape. Where the development of a wind farm is considered to have an unacceptable consideration impact it will be referred.
- d) The development will not lead to noise levels detrimental to the residential amenity of the surrounding area.
- an element of community benefit is agreed at the time of application or before;
  Habitat creation or restoration conforms to the principles creatined in the Clockanog Statement of Environmental Macter Planning Principles (SEMP) and LDP5 - Biodiversity
- g). An environmental impact assessment is submitted as part of the application





### Project Level Considerations

- Good siting and design
- Mitigation of predicted impacts
- Early and close collaboration
- Post construction monitoring

Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



### Take-home messages

- Climate change is here, now. We need renewable energy projects to happen.
- Strategic planning saves time (and tempers!)
- Project level planning plan, do, review
- Create harmony: deliver renewables and look for opportunities to benefit wildlife directly







The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.