

Offshore Wind Farms – Bird Surveying

RPS, a leader in the provision of environmental consulting services to the renewable industry, and ECON, one of the most respected specialist ecological firms in the country, have formed a partnership to deliver a high quality offshore bird surveying service. This unique approach enables ECON and RPS to combine practical skills, experience and understanding with scientific and academic expertise. Through this partnership, we have been, or are currently engaged, to undertake boat based ornithology surveys for Gunfleet Sands 1 and 2, Lynn, Inner Dowsing, Lincs, Race Bank, Docking Shoal & Triton Knoll.

Expert field skills & rigorous staff training

- All staff and surveyors are highly trained, approved and experienced surveyors due to the specialised nature of many of our projects.
- All staff and surveyors have undergone training with the JNCC in relation to seabirds and cetacean surveying techniques. Seabird surveyors are also assessed in relation to their ability to maintain full concentration in relation to long working hours and the frequently demanding conditions encountered at sea.
- All staff and surveyors have also undergone safety training, including the Royal Yachting Association Basic Sea Survival Certificate and have current UKOOA medical certification, the standard for working at sea. A full HSE plan and risk assessment procedure is undertaken prior to each and every

survey and submitted to the client before the survey is undertaken. ECON and RPS are fully insured in relation to work at sea and enjoys an excellent safety record with no incidents of any kind.

Technical support

- Through staff training we have an excellent technical support base allowing efficient data input, interpolation of bird and boat tracks, data analysis through a variety of statistical packages, presentation of data with a variety of graphics tools, all coupled with a complete GIS capability to map and present bird and marine mammal data in relation to other environmental features.
- We provide specialists in collision risk modelling which has proved to be an invaluable tool in assessment, as well as more specific research tools such as the development of individual-based models in order to answer specific research/management questions.

Extensive contacts within the relevant organisations

All staff are personally acquainted with key personnel at a local, regional, and national level at the relevant statutory organisations and key stakeholders (e.g. Natural England and RSPB). In previous assessments, this has enabled full and frank discussion and negotiation in relation to the nature of the surveys conducted and data requirements and interpretation. A key advantage of this to the client is clarity, which ultimately means available resources are used in the most time and cost-effective way possible.



David Whitaker; Highland Wildlife Photography





Supporting the Renewables Industry

RPS knows that the production of renewable energy represents a significant challenge to developers. We have responded to this challenge by developing new and innovative ways of working. We assist clients with cost effective and flexible support based on a high level of renewables experience. Our dedicated Renewables team provide a fully project managed multi-disciplinary package from start to finish, including due diligence and initial project feasibility, right through to planning determination, construction support and monitoring. Our Renewables team is currently engaged in over 100 wind farm projects, making RPS one of the leading consultancies in the renewable sector.

The RPS team is available to work on many disciplines of the renewable sector, outlined below.

Environmental

- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Landscape and Visual Assessment (ZVI and Photomontage)
- Shadow Flicker and Health & Safety
- Baseline Studies
- Coastal Process Modelling
- Commercial Fisheries Studies
- Archaeology
- Noise Assessment and Modelling
- Ecology - Habitat and species surveys
- Telecoms and Radar Interference
- Traffic, Transport and Access

- Socio-economics and Tourism
- Ornithology and Collision Risk
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Engineering

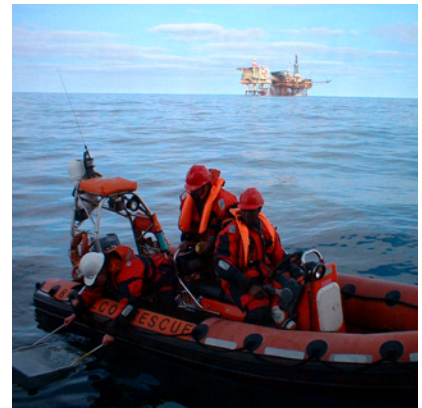
- Geotechnical, Geophysical, Oceanographic and Benthic Surveys
- Beach Landing Surveys
- Foundation Design, Cable Routing and Burial Assessment
- Hazard Analyses and Assessments
- Installation Management
- Health & Safety
- Tender Contract Management

Planning and Consents

- Central Government Applications
- Local Government Applications
- Development Plan Representation
- Planning Applications and Appeals
- Public Inquiries and Expert Witness

Grid Connection Appraisal

- Best Practicable Environmental Option Studies
- Site Selections Studies
- GIS Constraints Mapping
- Site Feasibility Studies
- Due Diligence



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