

Document No: PfR 20	Issue No: V4	Issue Date: 01.12.21	Board or other meeting adopting this document or policy:
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Title: Operational Environmental Policy			

1 Introduction

In line with Partnerships for Renewables (PfR's) Environmental Policy, which sets out a commitment to responsibly manage wind, solar and other renewables assets and minimize any potentially harmful environmental effects; the following policies relating to key environmental issues detailed below in Section 2 will be adopted, where applicable, on operational projects.

The overarching aim of these policies is to contribute to the achievement of full compliance with environmental regulations and planning condition / planning agreement obligations relating to the environment, natural habitat and protected species.

NB full details of ongoing obligations and practices required by planning condition and planning agreement (e.g. s106 or s75 agreement) are contained in the relevant planning documents (e.g. Habitat Management Plan) which were discharged in line with the relevant planning conditions for projects (known hereafter as 'planning obligations').

Project specific planning documents are available on PfR's server or on request. The following policies are intended to outline the principles of action adopted by PfR.

2 Schedule of Environmental Policies

PfR and its contractors will adopt the following overall objectives in relation to Habitat Management in line with project specific planning obligations and in general:

Habitat Management

1. To provide for the management and where possible the enhancement of the ecological and wildlife habitats of the site.
2. To implement any Environmental Management Plan / Habitat Management Plan in full accordance with the requirements of that plan.
3. To achieve a satisfactory reinstatement to habitats, including peat habitats, and to minimise loss of peat during any maintenance or other works.
4. To provide for the maintenance and monitoring of the hydrology of habitats where required.
5. To provide for appropriate monitoring and reporting of protected species including habitats, plants, birds, mammals and amphibians in line with seasonal requirements.
6. To manage the land within the project site boundary and off-site areas linked with the project, including reinstated land with the aim of providing appropriate habitat

which balances the interests of biodiversity, conservation, public access, recreation, and grazing where applicable.

7. To provide a management framework for the implementation and review of any Habitat Management Plan, which includes, as required, the operator, landowner, other occupiers or right holders, the local authority, the local community and specialist interests where appropriate.
8. To monitor, manage, and report on Habitat Management matters with requisite support from suitably qualified Chartered Environmental Surveyors (RICS) and / or members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

Contamination / Pollution

1. To regularly monitor the condition of operational sites for signs of damage, erosion, pollution, contamination and fly tipping including, where required, operational surveys such as private water supply monitoring and surface water quality monitoring.
2. To consider the environmental risks for any and every hazardous substance to be stored or used within the site, as may be required. Ensure any potential risks are controlled and relevant legislation is complied with when storing goods and materials e.g. oil.
3. To ensure that all and any works which may affect the natural environment shall be conducted under agreed method statements using the best available practices to minimise the effects by all contractors involved in the project.
4. To store and have available for on-site personnel, appropriate spill kits and / or other equipment for immediate response (including in site vehicles where appropriate) and appropriate training in their use provided.
5. To ensure all waste or contaminated material and/or recovered spent spill kit absorbents must be removed from site. Safe handling and legal disposal of contaminated materials and wastes resulting from an incident, including arrangements for using specialist contractors and services where required, should be adhered to.
6. To follow all site-specific emergency response plans and pollution incident plans, which will be regularly checked and stored on site in control buildings and/or site offices.
7. To record and report any spill or pollution incident to a member of PfR Senior Management and/or any site-specific emergency contact.
8. To inform the relevant authority i.e. Environment Agency (England), SEPA (Scotland), or Natural Resources Wales in the event of pollution incident that may affect watercourses or damage / danger to the natural environment.
9. To inform and consult any residents who rely on private water supplies if an incident should occur that may cause pollution to a spring or ground water source.
10. To comply with all statutory regulations, permits, general binding rules, licences, authorisations and registrations pertaining to works which have the potential to impact water crossings.

Waste

1. To ensure that waste minimization, storage, segregation and safe disposal measures are adhered to.
2. To adopt measures to reduce site generated waste.
3. To ensure all waste or contaminated material and/or recovered spent spill kit absorbents must be removed from site. Safe handling and legal disposal of contaminated materials and wastes resulting from an incident, including arrangements for using specialist contractors and services where required, should be adhered to.
4. To ensure recycling facilities are available within site offices where appropriate, for cans, bottles and paper.
5. To ensure that, where practicable and appropriate, concrete and redundant road material shall be reused within the project.
6. Waste water from toilets and washing facilities, as required, will be discharged into a suitable designed and engineered system with nearby watercourses and ground subject to regular monitoring including at the very minimum visual checks.

Noise

1. To comply with planning conditions regarding noise emissions and working hours, if applicable.
2. To ensure, where appropriate, that measures shall be taken to ensure the minimization of noise travel.
3. To ensure that vehicle engines should be switched off when not in use. All vehicles required to access the site for works or maintenance should be properly maintained and fitted with appropriate silencers or mufflers. Plant and machinery should only be operated within the permitted hours of operation as specified in any planning permission, with exceptions made for emergency works carried out in consultation with the local planning authority.
4. To record and report any unusual noise emission from wind turbines or other on-site infrastructure to a member of Senior PfR Staff and any site-specific emergency contact where appropriate.
5. To ensure that, in line with PfR's Complaints Procedure, the following procedure will be followed in the event of receipt of a noise related complaint;
 - a. A record will be kept on site of all noise related complaints and remedial actions taken.
 - b. Complaints will be reported to a member of PfR Senior Management, and any site specific Environmental Manager where available.
 - c. Personnel will be briefed on changes required to working or operational practices to ensure no repeat incident occurs.

3 Implementation

To support and enforce this policy, PfR will:

- Publish and regularly update this Operational Environmental Policies document, which is consistent with PfR's Health and Safety policy
- Review this Operational Environmental Policies document and its implementation at Senior Management level at least annually and update it as required.

REVISION TABLE

Issue no.	Date issued Author	Revision / change
0.1	August 2017	Initial version for consideration by Team
0.2	August 2017	Amends by DC
0.3	September 2017	Approved at Senior Management Review.
0.4	December 2020	Approved at Senior Management Review.
0.5	December 2021	“ “ “