

# What we can offer

## Specialist Surveys

### Protected Species Surveys

- Baseline terrestrial mammal surveys for species such as otter, badger, deer, hare etc.
- Specialist bat surveys using both heterodyne and AnaBat frequency division systems to assess a site for potential bat roosts; availability of foraging habitat, commuting routes etc;
- Specialist aquatic species surveys, including Freshwater pearl mussel, White-clawed crayfish, lamprey, salmonids etc.;
- Design of mammal mitigation measures in line with best practice;
- Innovative use of technology, such as ground penetrating radar to map the extent of badger setts;
- Habitat creation and translocation for Common frogs and newts;

### Habitats & Flora

- Extensive experience of mapping habitats to Level III of Fossitt (2000) classification scheme;
- Experience of broad scale habitat mapping and preparation of GIS databases; e.g. Mayo and Blarney E.D. Habitat Survey and Mapping Projects;
- Survey, map and provide supplementary information relating to habitats listed on Annex I of the European Union Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC);
- Atkins are currently preparing the Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping for the Heritage Council;
- Experience of rare plant species, including baseline surveys, genetic studies and translocation;
- Experience of working with invasive species, such as ragwort, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed etc.

### Ornithology

- Baseline surveys to assess diversity of breeding or wintering bird communities using techniques such as transects, point counts, confirmation of breeding etc.
- Wind farm studies designed that transects adequately cover different habitat types and proposed turbine locations.
- Specialist bird surveys and collision risk assessments
- Assessment of the potential impact of a project on Hen Harrier and Barn Owl and
- Design of appropriate landscape ecology measures;
- Wintering bird surveys examining numbers, spatial distribution and conservation status of estuarine wader and wildfowl populations;
- Nest surveys prior to vegetation clearance

# Key contacts

To access our environmental specialists, please contact key Atkins staff from our offices listed below:

### Paul O'Donoghue - Bird Studies

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### George Smith - Ecological Assessment

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ATKINS

Ecology &  
Ecological Assessments for  
Renewables

# Office locations

UK & Ireland

Aberdeen	Cumbria	London	Scunthorpe
Altrincham	Derby	Maidstone	Sheffield
Barking	Dublin	Manchester	Southampton
Belfast	Edinburgh	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St. Asaph
Birmingham	Epsom	Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	Stockton-On-Tees
Bristol	Exeter	Newport	Swansea
Cambridge	Gillingham	Northampton	Swindon
Cardiff	Glasgow	Nottingham	Taunton
Chelmsford	Gloucester	Oxford	Telford
Chippenham	Havant	Peterborough	Warrington
Colwyn Bay	Haverfordwest	Plymouth	Warwick
Cork	Ipswich	Pontypridd	Winchester
Crewe	Knutsford	Reading	York
Croydon	Leeds	Sale	



Plan Design Enable

# Introduction

Atkins is a leading provider of Engineering and Environmental Consultancy services worldwide. We provide services to a wide range of sectors including power, transportation, property and water resources in the planning, design, implementation and management of major infrastructure projects. Our customer base is equally diverse and includes private developers, government agencies and central / local government.

Together with our Planning team and Renewable specialists, Atkins Environment can work as part of an integrated project team, which ensures a technically robust and environmentally sustainable design solution throughout the full life cycle of a project; i.e. through planning, construction, operation, monitoring and decommissioning of a project.

In Ireland, Atkins Ecology, part of a dedicated environmental section, has developed a proven ecological track record in undertaking high quality ecological work for a range of clients. We can also provide stand-alone ecological support for any given project or ecological survey.

# Why Atkins?

The Atkins ecology team has been established in the Ireland for over 5 years with 8 specialist ecologists / GIS experts. In that time we have become a major provider of ecological services in Ireland. Our team has a wide range of experience of providing ecological solutions for developments in both rural and urban areas and in balancing ecological impacts against likely biodiversity gains. Furthermore we can draw on the support of a team of 70 ecologists in the UK.

Services relevant to the renewable sector include:

- Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) – including establishing existing site conditions, assessing impacts of a proposed scheme, recommending & design of mitigation measures, monitoring and preparation of chapter for final EIS;
- Appropriate Assessments under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive;
- Desk based studies, site walkovers and consultation to identify potential ecological constraints to assist in site selection, feasibility studies and iterative project design;
- Preparation of management plans / construction method statements;
- Supervision of specialist ecological studies and site monitoring / management.
- Design of site specific mitigation measures, including habitat protection, habitat creation & restoration and species translocation;
- Design and implementation of survey and monitoring programmes (for both terrestrial and freshwater ecology);
- Negotiation with Interest Groups/Statutory Bodies (e.g. NPWS, Fisheries Boards etc.);
- Advice on conservation and wildlife legislation (including addressing licensing issues, planning conditions etc);
- Expert witness and Public Hearing.

# Project experience

## KILL HILL, KEMAR LTD.

Atkins Environment was retained to prepare an EIS for a proposed 19 turbine wind farm at Kill Hill, Tipperary, Republic of Ireland. This site was dominated by lowland agricultural grassland; it did not contain any upland habitats of conservation concern, nor nesting species of concern, such as Hen harrier or Red grouse.

Atkins ecology staff undertook desk based studies, site walkovers and consultation to identify potential ecological constraints and to assist in the micro-siting of turbines within the site.

Key studies included a Phase I habitat survey, assessment of rare plants; terrestrial mammal survey; bat survey and a freshwater ecological assessment of watercourses within or adjoining the study area. Bird studies were undertaken following standard survey protocols.

The location of line transects or vantage point surveys were recorded by GPS in order that surveys could be repeated pre-, during and post construction.

## BINNION HILL, WEOM

Atkins Ecology was retained to undertake an ecological impact assessment of a proposed wind farm at a site in east Donegal. Habitats of ecological value noted on site include wet heath, mixed broadleaved / conifer woodland, upland blanket bog, a mosaic of wet heath/scrub & wet grassland and oak-birch holly woodland.

Targeted bird surveys recorded 2 pairs of a scarce breeding bird, Lapwing; an apparent staging area for Golden Plover (listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive); and Yellowhammer which is included on the Red list of species of conservation concern.

Further consideration was given to the possible occurrence of Hen harrier and the recently re-introduced Golden eagle. Mammals surveys undertaken did not highlight any species of conservation concern. Planning permission was granted for this development in 2006.

