

Kenny Taylor
Policy and Advice Officer
Renewables Team
Scottish Natural Heritage



Scottish Natural Heritage is a Government agency, charged with conserving and enhancing the natural heritage of Scotland, facilitating its enjoyment and understanding, and promoting its sustainable management.



What does SNH's Renewable Policies mean for SNH?



SNH will: -

- support the development of renewable energy as an integral part of the Government's climate change programme;
- encourage scrutiny of all renewable energy schemes for natural heritage impacts; and
- expect renewable energy to be developed in a way which benefits the rural economy.
- SNH are statutory advisers on how energy policy, development plan policies, and individual renewable energy development proposals will affect natural heritage interests.

How will SNH achieve those aims?

To achieve these aims SNH's programme includes:

- advising the Scottish Government and planning authorities;
- evaluating the capacity of different landscape types to accommodate renewable energy developments;
- maintaining effective liaison with the renewables industry.



SNH Remit – Balancing Duty

SNH has a duty to balance the need to protect the natural heritage with wider social, economic and environmental needs.



Micro-renewables policy position

- Micro-renewables can make an important contribution to renewable energy and carbon reduction, especially in reducing carbon emissions from both domestic and commercial buildings.
- SNH support the installation of renewables in locations where they would not significantly affect the quality and enjoyment of Scotland's nature and landscapes.



What is micro wind technology?

Micro renewables refers to installations of less than 50kW (electrical) or less than 45kW (thermal).

- Micro wind turbines (building mounted and free standing)
- Within this definition of micro-wind, multiple installations and the installation of some larger devices may also apply. A 50kW wind turbine, e.g., could be up to 25m in height.



Micro-wind turbines – potential impacts

- Well located micro-wind turbines are likely to have little or no impact on the natural heritage. However, in some locations potential impacts on birds and bats could be significant.
- SNH recommends a precautionary approach to the siting of micro wind turbines in certain locations.
- Receptors
 - Birds
 - Bats
 - Landscape and Visual



Micro-wind turbines – potential impacts on Bats

Recommended that they are not installed:

- On buildings known to or suspected to contain bat roosts
- Within 50m of a known bat roost
- On buildings where bats are frequently observed
- On known bat flyways (commonly along watercourses, hedges, woodland edges). If a micro wind turbine is installed and bat mortality is detected, the turbine should be removed / relocated as soon as is practical.



Micro-wind turbines – potential impacts on landscape



For minimising potential landscape impacts:

- MWT's which are attached to a building should be assessed by the Local Planning Authority (LPA);
- Free standing turbines (FST's) up to 15m in height (to blade tip) are assessed by the LPA;
- SNH should be consulted on all proposals within National Scenic Areas where the height of the turbine(s) exceeds 12m (to blade tip);



Small scale wind technology?

Wind energy development which (SNH guidance):

- does not require a formal Environmental Impact Assessment;
- requires planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act (1997);
- consists of a maximum of 3 wind turbines.



Small Scale Wind – potential impacts

Wind energy projects, at any scale, have the potential to have some impact on the natural heritage. The three key natural heritage impacts to consider are:

- (1) Landscape
- (2) Birds
- (3) Habitats, species and ecosystems



Small scale wind – Cumulative Impacts

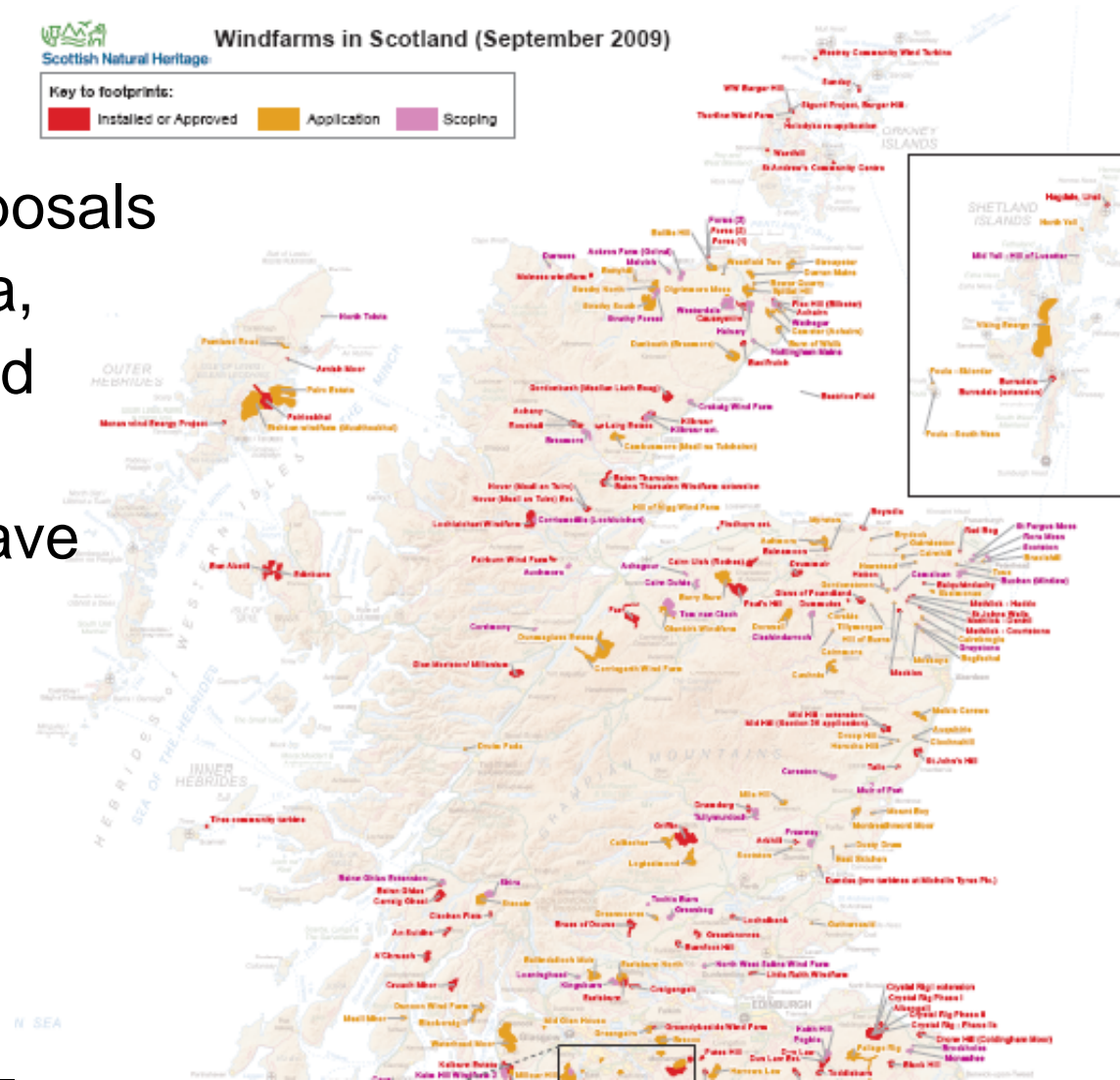
Wherever multiple proposals occur in a regional area, single wind turbines and small scale wind farms have the potential to have a cumulative impact on landscape, visual, bird and wider species and habitat interests.



Windfarms in Scotland (September 2009)

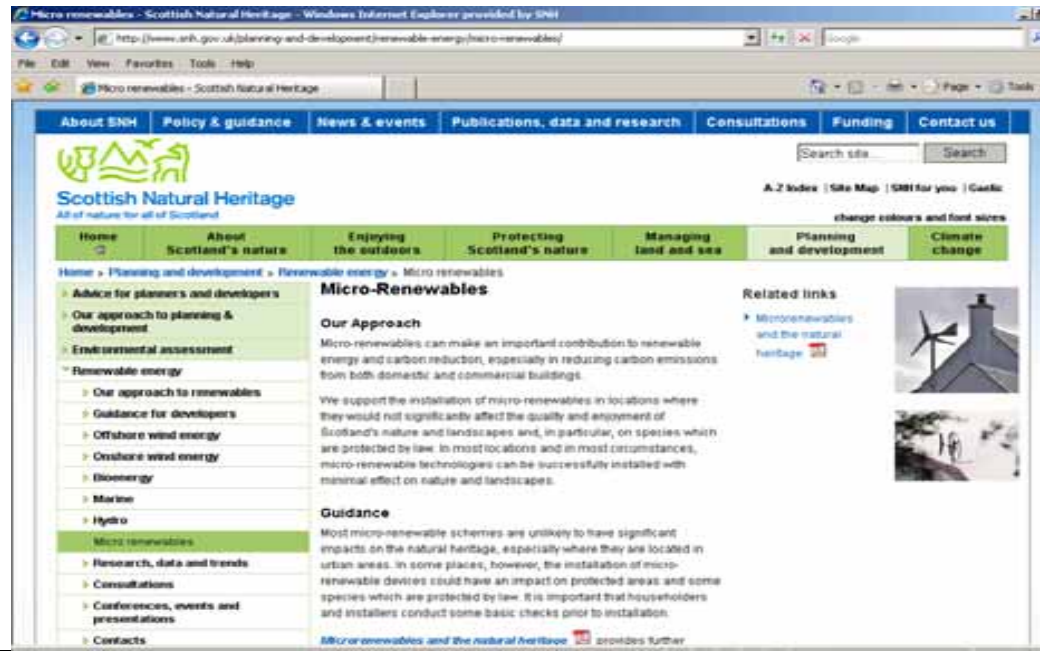
Key to footprints:

Red square	Installed or Approved	Yellow square	Application	Purple square	Scoping
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Our Current Guidance

- Micro-renewables and the natural heritage
- Natural heritage assessment of small scale wind energy projects which do not require formal Environmental Impact Assessment
- WWW.SNH.GOV.UK



Thank you

Contact:

Kenny.taylor@snh.gov.uk

www.snh.gov.uk

