



Technical Appendix 9-5

Grid Connection-Ecology Walkover

Scout Moor II Wind Farm

Cubico Wind Development (Wind1) Ltd



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1. Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

This report has been prepared by Atmos Consulting on behalf of Cubico UK Development (Wind 1) Limited ('the Applicant' or 'Cubico'). It is submitted as part of Further Environmental Information in respect of the cross-boundary applications for full planning permission ('the Applications') relating to the construction and operation of a new onshore wind farm (to be known as 'Scout Moor II'), alongside a comprehensive moorland restoration scheme (the 'Proposed Development'), on land at Rooley Moor ('the Site').

The Site crosses the administrative boundaries of Rossendale Borough Council ('RBC') and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council ('RMBC') (collectively referred to as 'the Councils'). The Councils are the Local Planning Authorities ('LPA's') responsible for the determination of the Applications, which were originally submitted on 23 July 2025 and were validated by the Councils on 07 August 2025 (RBC ref. 2025/0267 and RMBC ref. 25/00680/FUL).

Following the completion of an extended period of statutory consultation on the Applications, the Applicant has evolved the Proposed Development to respond to comments received from statutory and non-statutory consultees, the public and other interested stakeholders and is hereby formally amending the Applications through the submission of Further Environmental Information ('FEI'). The FEI supersedes the information submitted in July 2025 ('the 2025 Submission') and will be subject to further statutory consultation by the Councils. A summary of the amendments to the Applications is set out in detail the Planning, Design and Access Statement (prepared by Turley), but in summary includes the reduction in turbine numbers from 'up to 17 turbines' to 'up to 12 turbines', alongside the relocation/repositioning of turbine positioning, access track layout and the layout and design of other associated infrastructure.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The Site extends to 1,023.34ha of land, spanning the administrative boundaries of Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) (623.7ha) and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) (399.64ha). The Site has an approximate central national grid reference of SD 85570 18022.

The Site comprises upland habitat, predominately open unenclosed moorland with fields to the south of the Site bounded by dry stone walls that are under agricultural management. A series of existing wind turbines lie adjacent west of the Site with some present in the northwest extent of the Site itself, comprising Scout Moor Wind Farm.

1.3 Proposed Development

The proposals comprise up to 12 wind turbines, each 180 m in height above ground level. Ancillary infrastructure, including on-site substation, access tracks, hard standings, construction compound, laydown area and a grid connection to the Rossendale Bulk Supply Point are also proposed.

This report has been produced to support the FEI submission and specifically relates to the proposed alternative grid connection route (Route C) and construction laydown area. This report presents findings of the updated surveys completed to cover these amendments to the Site boundary.

1.4 Objectives

The objective of the survey and subsequent technical appendix is to undertake a UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) survey to document habitats within the proposed grid connection,

construction laydown area and appropriate buffer in order to evaluate their potential nature conservation interest.

2. Methodology

2.1 UKHab Survey

The field survey consisted of a UKHab survey, which involved mapping of habitats within the grid connection area and within a 50m buffer zone by suitably qualified and experienced ecologists. This survey was completed on 28th & 29th April 2026.

The habitat types were identified and mapped in compliance with the UKHab guidance documents and a small minimum mapping unit.

Table 1: UKHab Minimum Mapping Units

MM Unit	MM Area Minimum Mappable area feature (m ²)	MM Length Minimum Mappable length of linear feature (m)	MM Width Minimum Mappable width of area feature and maximum width of linear feature (m)
Small	25 (5x5)	5	1
Standard	400 (20x20)	20	5
Large	2500 (50x50)	20	5

Primary Habitats and urban features on-site were classified using Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 of the UKHab hierarchy and are shown on Figure 9-2 UKHab Baseline. Dominant plant species were noted, as were any protected, uncommon, invasive species or species indicative of particular habitat types, but there was no attempt to compile exhaustive species lists for this element of the site assessment. Botanical nomenclature in this report follows Stace (2020) for both scientific and English names.

2.2 Limitations

No identifiable limitations were encountered during the surveys. The habitat survey was undertaken during the optimal survey periods by experienced ecologists, and all areas of the Site was accessed.

3. Results

3.1 UKHab Survey

The habitats recorded within the Site and their corresponding UKHab codes are listed below in decreasing order of extent:

- Other developed land (u1b6)
- Other upland acid grassland (g1b6)
- Modified grassland (g4)
- Other rivers and streams (r2b)
- Other coniferous woodland (w2c)
- Mixed scrub (h3h)
- Buildings (u1b5)

All corresponding images can be found in Appendix B, whilst a summary of the above habitats is provided in Table 2-below.

Table 2: Habitats on Site and within a 50m buffer

Habitat code	Associated secondary codes	Habitat type	Description
u1b6	.839 – Track	Other developed land	Areas of hardstanding including tracks.
g1b6	.102 – Sheep grazed .58 - Grazed .15 – Rushes dominant	Other upland acid grassland	The upland areas of the Site are dominated by other upland acid grassland. This area was comprised of many acid indicative species including bent sp <i>Agrostis sp</i> , heath bedstraw <i>Galium saxatile</i> , wavy hair grass <i>Avenella flexuosa</i> , sweet vernal <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> , wood rush <i>Luzula sp</i> , soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> , sheep's fescue <i>Festuca ovina</i> , haircap moss <i>Polytrichum commune</i> , sphagnum <i>Sphagnum sp</i> , purple moor grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> and sedge spp <i>Carex spp</i> .
g4	N/A	Modified grassland	Lowland areas to the west of the Site are dominated by modified grassland, some sheep grazing at the time of the survey. Plant species here include creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> , Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> , ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> and clover <i>Trifolium sp</i> . Further up into the Site lies another area of modified grassland comprising of the same species with the addition of scattered soft rush. Cattle were also grazing in this area at the time of the survey alongside sheep.
r2b	N/A	Other rivers and streams	A narrow stream (Dearden Brook) runs through a culvert beneath the hardstanding track. Fast flow and around 40% of the stream within the Site was modified by human intervention.
w2c	.33 – Line of trees	Other coniferous woodland	Line of Scots pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> trees adjacent to farm buildings.
h3h	N/A	Mixed scrub	To the west of the Site lies an area of hardstanding road along Gincroft Lane. This area is surrounded approximately 2m on both sides by mixed scrub. Species within the scrub include bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus L</i> , conifer <i>Pinophyta sp</i> , willow <i>Salix sp</i> , hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , immature oak <i>Quercus robur</i> and gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> . Ground layer species include early dog violet <i>Viola reichenbachiana</i> , greater stitchwort <i>Stellaria holostea</i> , Yorkshire fog, nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> and willowherb <i>Epilobium sp</i> .
u1b5	N/A	Buildings	The Site lies adjacent to the village of Edenfield, comprising of residential housing. Across the Site, there are numerous farm houses and associated infrastructure.

4. Summary

Following the UKHab survey, it can be concluded that the lowland areas of Site are dominated by developed land comprising of hardstanding farmyards, building and access tracks as well as modified grassland grazed by sheep and cattle. The upland section of Site is comprised of extensive areas of other upland acid grassland, some of which is dominated by soft rush and grazed by livestock. There is a small watercourse that passes through the Site in this section.

The lowland habitats on Site are generally of low ecological value due to their artificial and managed nature. The small area of mixed scrub and the conifer line of trees provide moderate ecological value as they provide connectivity between habitats and offer nesting, shelter and commuting opportunities for birds and mammals such as bats.

The upland acid grassland is of higher ecological interest as it provides an assemblage of acid-tolerant vegetation.

The watercourse on Site (Dearden Brook) is of higher ecological interest as it provides good connectivity between various habitat types within the area, increasing the habitat opportunities for mammals, birds, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates. The brook also provides geomorphological value and features within natural streams provide opportunities for microhabitats within and adjacent to the watercourse.

The grid connection and laydown area will not result in the loss of any of the above habitats, as it will be undergrounded and infilled immediately following installation. There were no signs of protected species within the proposed grid connection area and the buffer zone.

5. References

Stace, C. (2019). New Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge University Press, 4th Edition.

UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)

6. Figures

Figure 1 : UKHab Results

Appendices



Appendix A. Photos from the Field Survey

Table 3: Photos from the Field Survey

Habitat Code	Habitat Type	Photo
u1b6	Other developed land	
g1b6	Other upland acid grassland – rushes dominant	
g1b6	Other upland acid grassland	

g4	Modified grassland	
r2b	Other rivers and streams	
h3h	Mixed scrub	