

## PRESENTATION INFORMATION

**Presentation title:** Renewable energy and ecology in the UK: the survey, impact assessment and mitigation challenge.

**Summary of presentation:** Key ecological challenges associated with turbine developments are the undertaking of sufficient survey effort and the subsequent provision of appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures to ensure compliance with national and international legislation and policy.

Where one or both of these challenges are not met there is the potential for the ecological appraisal to be bought into question which may, as a consequence, lead to planning being delayed or at worst refused. In addition, with an increasing number of applications leading to public inquiry, both survey methodology and mitigation proposals must be seen to be robust, competently presented and relevant to the proposal in question. At the same time it is important for such works to be undertaken in as pragmatic and cost-effective manner as possible.

This presentation will review the main pitfalls associated with ecological survey and mitigation, as currently experienced within the UK wind farm market. A strategy will be presented to ensure that ecological issues are addressed in a manner that will reduce the likelihood of applications being challenged on ecological grounds by statutory organisations, planning authorities and increasingly well informed public pressure groups.

