Cibuk Wind Farm

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

Continental Wind Partners

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Executive Summary

Atkins Limited (Atkins) has been commissioned by Continental Wind Partners (CWP) to carry out Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to support the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment[1] produced in relation to the application for the construction and operation of a 57 turbine wind farm near Dolovo, Vojvodina, Serbia. This information has been gathered to allow the Competent Authority[2] (Municipality of Kovin, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina) to make a decision on whether there will be likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites as a result of the construction and operation of the wind turbine farm.

Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires that all plans and projects which may have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): SPAs are protected sites of European importance for rare or vulnerable birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC codifies amendments to Directive 79/409/EEC); SACs are strictly protected sites of European importance for habitats listed on Annex I or species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

This HRA screening follows the model used for HRA in the UK where HRA screening is used to determine if there are likely significant effects and, if so determined, would be followed by a full Appropriate Assessment. The HRA methodology used in the UK includes potential SPAs (prior to formal classification under the Birds Directive) and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites). The information gathered to inform the HRA screening process assesses whether the proposed wind turbine farm is likely to lead to significant effects on the Deliblato Sands potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) or Labudovo Okno Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site) through assessment of the likely significant effects of the wind farm project on the conservation objectives and qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA and the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

Deliblato Sands pSPA is located 1km to the east of the proposed wind farm boundary and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site is located approximately 30 km to the south of the proposed wind farm boundary. Neither site will be impacted directly as a result of loss of land. However, it was considered that the proposed wind farm could potentially have negative impacts on the qualifying bird populations of Deliblato Sands pSPA and/or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site through collision, disturbance or displacement.

The screening HRA concludes that the project will have no likely significant effects on the conservation objectives set for the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

There are no other projects considered to have potential for in-combination effects with the proposed wind farm on the conservation objectives set for the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

In conclusion, it is considered that the project will have no likely significant effects individually or in combination on the conservation objectives set for the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

[1] Atkins (2012) Cibuk wind farm environmental and social impact assessment.

[2] The responsibility for the checking and assessment process under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) rests entirely with the Competent Authority. However, the promoter (in this case CWP) is best placed to obtain much of the information required for the checking and assessment of this project. As such CWP have commissioned Atkins to produce this document in order to fully assist with the information gathering process.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to this Assessment

Atkins Limited (Atkins) has been commissioned by Continental Wind Partners (CWP) to carry out Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to support the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment[3] produced in relation to the application for the construction and operation of a 57 turbine wind farm near Dolovo, Vojvodina, Serbia. This information has been gathered to allow the Competent Authority[4] (Municipality of Kovin, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina) to make a decision on whether there will be likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites as a result of the construction and operation of the wind turbine farm.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for this project has been completed separately to this HRA screening report. This HRA screening report supports the Ornithology chapter of the ESIA.

1.2 The Project

The proposed site of the wind farm is 30 km to the north east of the city of Belgrade in the municipality of Kovin, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and covers an area of approximately 37 km^2. The location of the proposed site is illustrated in Figure 1 and the layout of the wind farm is presented in Figure 2. The proposed wind turbines will have a maximum height of 210 m including the tower height and the blade radius. The permanent works area for the proposed development comprises 11.12 ha; this includes access tracks, turbine bases and substations.

[3] Atkins (2012) Cibuk wind farm environmental and social impact assessment.

[4] The responsibility for the checking and assessment process under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) rests entirely with the Competent Authority. However, the promoter (in this case CWP) is best placed to obtain much of the information required for the checking and assessment of this project. As such CWP have commissioned Atkins to produce this document in order to fully assist with the information gathering process.

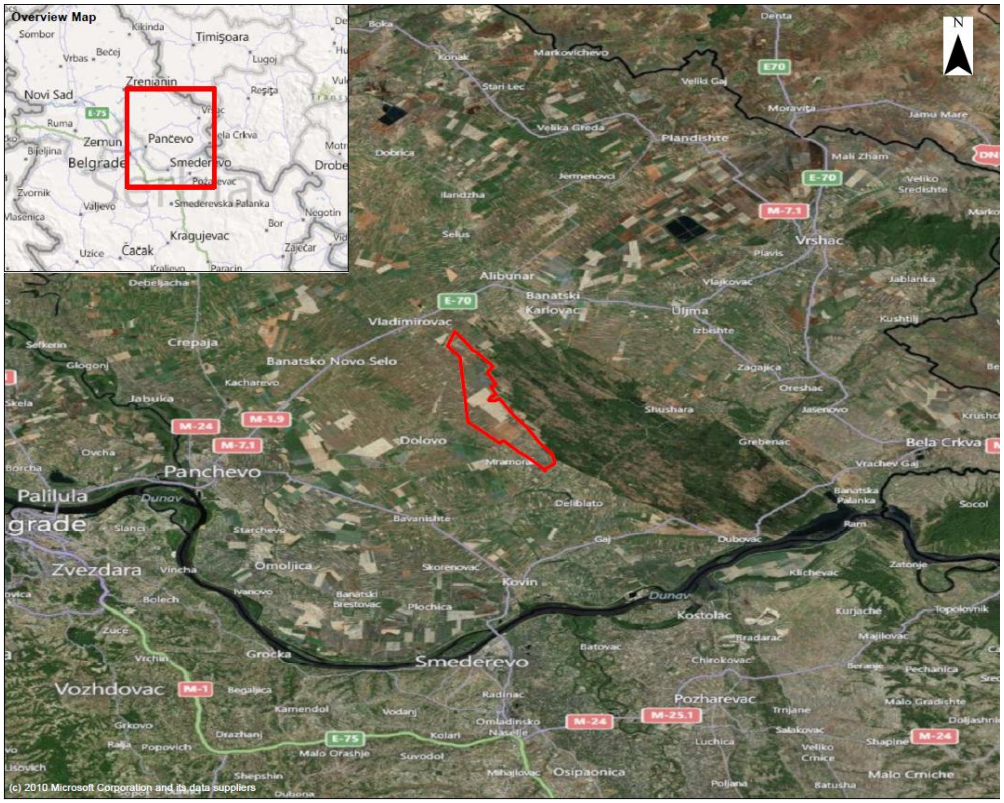


Figure 1: Location of the Proposed Wind Farm: National Scale

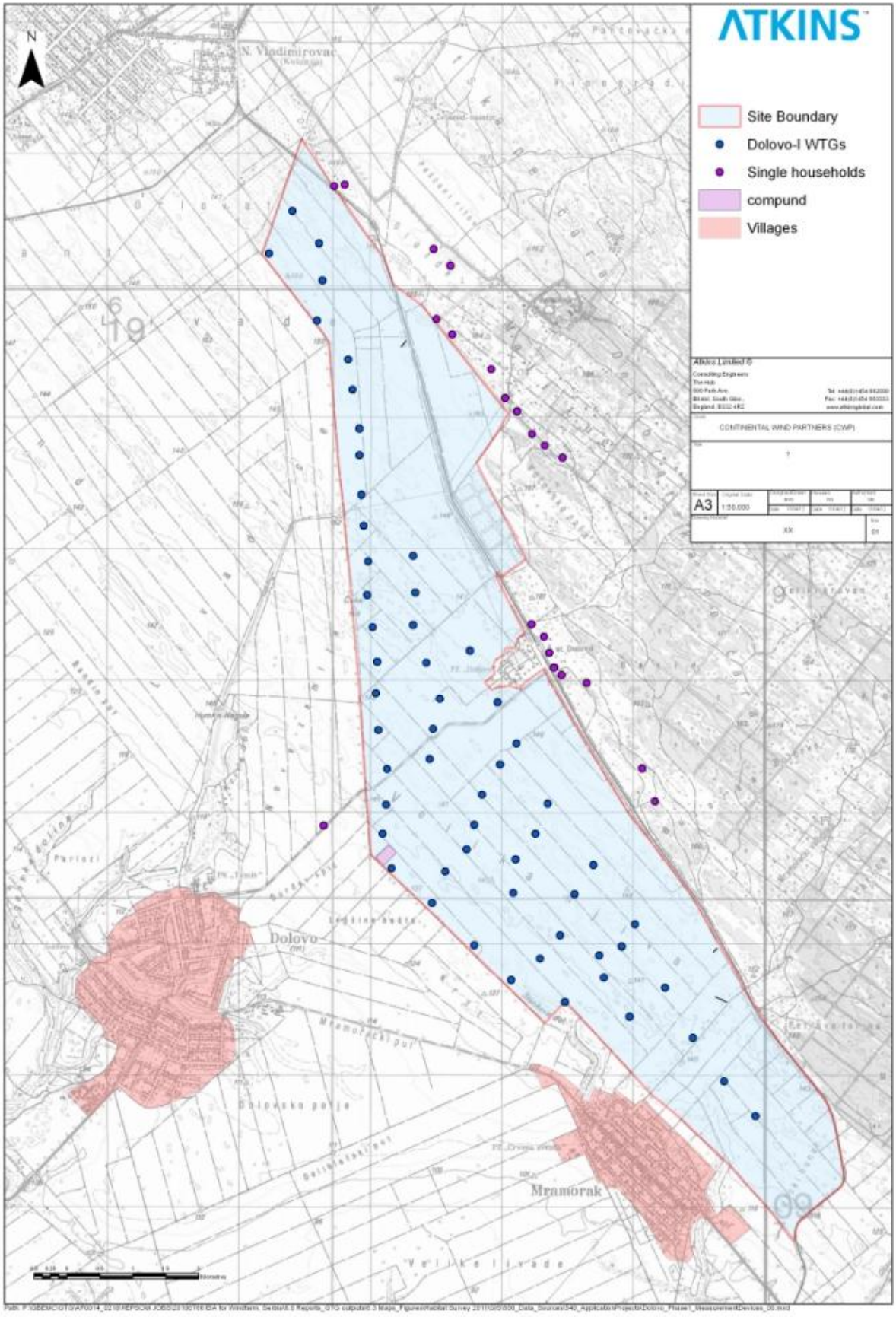


Figure 2: Layout of the Proposed Wind Farm

The turbines will only operate when the prevailing wind speed is within a certain range. The turbine blades will only turn if the wind speed is above a certain threshold and the turbines will be programmed to shut down if wind speeds are too high as this could cause excessive shearing forces.

1.3 Background to Habitats Regulations Assessment

Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires that all plans and projects which may have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): SPAs are protected sites of European importance for rare or vulnerable birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC codifies amendments to Directive 79/409/EEC); SACs are strictly protected sites of European importance for habitats listed on Annex I or species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

Serbia does not currently have any Natura 2000 sites. However, a partnership between the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia and the Environment Agency from Austria together with the Austria European Public Law Organization from Greece (the Twinning Project[5]) has the objective of the implementation and enforcement of the Natura 2000 network in the Republic of Serbia. The Twinning Project is in the process of determining the SPAs for Serbia and has produced a list of proposaed SPAs (pSPAs). A preliminary list of candidate SACs (cSACs) has not yet been established (pers. comm. Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia).

The stages of HRA process are:

- **Stage 1 – Screening**: To test whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on an Natura 2000 site;
- **Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment**: To determine whether, in view of a Natura 2000 site's conservation objectives, the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site with respect to the site structure, function and conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;
- **Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions**: Where a plan is assessed as having an adverse impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, there should be an examination of alternatives (e.g. alternative locations and designs of development); and,
- **Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain**: In exceptional circumstance (e.g. where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest), compensatory measures to be put in place to offset adverse impacts.

As per UK policy, this HRA Screening document will also include proposed Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites.

This report comprises the information required to support a Stage 1 – Screening assessment of the wind farm project.

The gathering of information to inform Stage 1 – Screening has been undertaken to predict the likely significant effects of the project on Natura 2000 sites, including proposed SPAs and Ramsar sites. This includes Deliblato Sands pSPA and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

[5] See http://www.ekoplan.gov.rs/n2ktwinning/eng/index.html for further details

All aspects of the project have been assessed to see if they could result in likely significant effects on Deliblato Sands pSPA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This HRA takes into account the both the construction and operation phases of the project. The potential for likely significant effects of the project on Deliblato Sands pSPA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site 'in combination' with other projects and plans has also been considered in this HRA.

1.4 Outline of this HRA Report

Following this introduction:

- Section 2 of this report sets out the methodology used for the Stage 1 - Screening;
- Section 3 provides details relating to the Deliblato Sands pSPA and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site assessed in the Stage 1 - Screening (including the Conservation Objectives and site sensitivities);
- Section 4 details the results of the Stage 1 – Screening for the Deliblato Sands pSPA and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site;
- Section 5 details the other plans and projects identified which may lead to in combination effects on the Deliblato Sands pSPA and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site; and,
- Section 6 provides the conclusions of the information gathered to inform the Stage 1 – Screening assessment.

2. Methodology

This assessment has taken into account the guidance from the European Commission[6] and the statutory nature conservation body in England[7].

2.1. The Project

The first step of the HRA process is to gather available information regarding the project. This information is pivotal for the analysis of the project and its impact on Natura 2000 sites. A summary of the project is given in Section 1 above. Greater detail is provided in the accompanying Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.

2.2. Determination of the European Sites included in the HRA

The Twinning Project has identified a preliminary list of 43 sites in Serbia that have been selected to become SPAs based on several selection criteria and the best available data (such as Important Bird Area[8] data).

Due to the recent uptake of Natura 2000 by Serbia, these potential SPAs are considered to be of the same importance as existing SPAs within the rest of Europe. This is in keeping with the UK, which requires an HRA as a matter of UK Government policy for potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and listed Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) for the purposes of considering plans and projects which may affect them[9].

An initial review of the project in light of the EC Habitats and Species Directive has been undertaken as part of the HRA process. This initial review looked at the geographic extent or zone of influence of any impacts which could arise as a result of the wind farm project and considered which pSPAs should be included within the assessment. Based on UK guidance, a suitable zone of influence was considered to be 10 km[10]. Deliblato Sands pSPA is the only pSPA is situated within 10km of the proposed wind farm site and its boundary lies 1km to the east of the proposed wind farm site.

Due to the significance and sensitivity of Deliblato Sands pSPA, CWP agreed with the Serbian Institute for Nature Protection Aware that the wind farm will be at least 1 km away from the border of the Deliblato Sands pSPA. The location and extent of the pSPA is presented in Appendix A of this document.

Deliblato Sands is currently designated as an Important Bird Area, a significant, but non-statutory, designation of the NGO Birdlife International. Deliblato Sands is also a Special Nature Reserve (SNR)[11] for the special habitats it supports and is on Serbia's tentative list for

[6] EC (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission.
[7] Smith, G. (1997) Habitats regulations guidance note 3: The determination of significant likely effect under the Conservation Regulations 1994. English Nature.
[8] http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/index.html
[9] *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*, ODPM, August 2005.
[10] 10 km search area for SACs designated for their bat interest is in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines (2nd Edition): Surveying for Onshore Wind Farms* (June 2011). For birds the only published guidance identified in relation to desk study search distances for developments which may have the potential to affect SPAs is a search area of 5 km required for landfill operations (Environment Agency *Landfill Directive Regulatory Guidance Note 5: Habitats Regulations & the Landfill Regulations*). This was increased to 10 km as a precaution for the HRA.
[11] Special Nature Reserves are areas of particular importance for the flora and/or fauna which can be found there. They are protected under Serbian law by the Law on Nature Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 36/2009, 88/2010 and 91/2010 – corr.)

consideration as a UNESCO World Heritage Site[12]. A preliminary list of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) has not yet been developed for Serbia, but it is considered likely that Deliblato sands will be included due to the important habitats it supports (pers. comm. Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia).

The southern margin of Deliblato Sands meets the Danube and forms an important wetland area known as Labudovo Okno. This area has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site) for its breeding and wintering birds. This Ramsar site is approximately 30km to the south of the wind farm site and will not be directly impacted by the wind farm, but there is the potential for negative impacts if its qualifying bird populations pass through or forage within the wind farm site.

Potential impacts

The wind farm will be located at least 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA and the project will not lead to any land take within the Deliblato Sands pSPA nor to any effects that would be likely to impact habitats outside of the application site (e.g. deterioration in air quality and water quality or increased levels of water abstraction and recreational pressure).

It is considered that the proposed project could potentially have an impact on the Deliblato Sands pSPA and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site through collision, disturbance or displacement of birds that form the qualifying populations for these two sites and that are passing through or foraging within the wind farm.

Therefore this Stage 1 – Screening focuses on possible likely significant effects of the project on the Deliblato Sands pSPA qualifying bird populations and the Labudovo Okno Ramsar qualifying bird populations.

2.3. Obtaining Information on the European Sites with the Potential to be Affected

Information was obtained from Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia on the Deliblato Sands pSPA (pers. comm.) and the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site (information sheet on Ramsar wetlands[13]).

2.4. Assessing the Effects of the Project 'individually'

Following the gathering of information on the project and the European sites, an assessment was undertaken to predict the likely significant effects of the project on the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site 'individually'. In order to inform this process, all aspects of the project were assessed to see if they could result in likely significant effects on the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This HRA takes into account both the construction and operation phases of the project.

Given the nature of the proposal (a 57 turbine wind farm scheme), it is recognised that there is the potential for likely significant effects on the qualifying bird species of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site through collision, disturbance or displacement.

[12] A UNESCO world heritage site is a place that is listed by UNESO as being of special cultural or physical significance. Under certain conditions, listed sites can obtain funds from the World Heritage Fund. The programme was founded with the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Deliblato Sands are on Serbia's tentative World Heritage Site list and was submitted as such on 18/03/2002. http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/1695/. A Tentative List is an inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination during the following years. States Parties are encouraged to submit in their Tentative Lists, properties which they consider to be cultural and/or natural heritage of outstanding universal value and therefore suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List.

[13] Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia (2006) Information sheet on Ramsar wetlands: Labudovo Okno. Downloaded from http://www.wetlands.org/reports/ris/3RS005_RIS2006.pdf on 28/03/2012

In order to accurately assess the effects of the proposed wind farm on birds, a suite of bird surveys was completed at the proposed wind farm site (and 1km buffer zone between the proposed wind farm site and the Deliblato Sands pSPA) over a survey period of 18 months between September 2009 and February 2011. Survey work included vantage point surveys to assess collision risk of target species and walkover surveys to assess the breeding and wintering use of the wind farm site by birds. The precise methodology for these surveys is provided in Section C3.3.2 of the supporting Environmental and Social Impact Assessment[14].

2.5. Assessing the Effects of the Project 'In Combination'

2.6. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The assessment of likely significant effects is largely based on the conservation objectives and qualifying features (interest features) of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. Any plan or project that causes the interest features of a site to fall into unfavourable condition can be considered to have a likely significant effect on the site.

Plans or projects can lead to significant effects on the Deliblato Sands pSPA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site by:

- Causing delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Interrupting progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Disrupting those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site; and,
- Interfering with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.

HRA is an iterative process. Where necessary, suggestions can be made of how to amend the project to avoid likely significant effects on the Deliblato Sands pSPA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This iterative approach has been adopted as part of this assessment.

Due to the Deliblato Sands not yet qualifying as an SPA, there are no defined conservation objectives. However it is assumed for the Deliblato Sands pSPA and the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site that a significant effect on their qualifying bird populations as a result of the proposed wind farm would result in a failure of the conservation objectives.

3. The European Sites

3.1.1. Deliblato Sands Potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)

Twelve bird species are considered to fulfil the criteria for nomination of Deliblato Sands as an SPA. All twelve species qualify as Annex 1 species (of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC) or migratory species (Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive) with Deliblato Sands forming one of the top 5 most suitable sites in Serbia for that species. Deliblato Sands also qualifies for supporting 5% of the national population of the saker falcon, a globally threatened species.

Deliblato Sands pSPA has qualifying populations of the following twelve species:

- European honey buzzard *Pernis apivorus*
- Long-legged buzzard *Buteo rufinus*
- Eastern Imperial eagle *Aquila heliaca*
- Booted eagle *Aquila pennata*

[14] Atkins (2012) Cibuk wind farm environmental and social impact assessment.

- Saker falcon *Falco cherrug*
- European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
- Woodlark *Lullula arborea*
- Tawny pipit *Anthus campestris*
- Barred warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
- Red-backed shrike *Lanius collurio*
- European bee-eater *Merops apiaster*
- Northern wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Seven of these qualifying species were recorded during the surveys of the proposed wind farm site: saker falcon, woodlark, tawny pipit, barred warbler, red-backed shrike, European bee-eater and northern wheatear.

The data used to determine Deliblato sands pSPA status has been based on the most up-to-date data available.

Labudovo Okno Ramsar Site

The description of the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site and its notable features below has been obtained from the Ramsar Convention website[15]

> *Marking the southern margin of the Pannonian Plain, the site encompasses an important stretch of the Danube and adjacent areas as well as the Nera River to the border with Romania. Following the construction of the Iron Gate reservoir, the Danube water level rose and the river flow slowed down, causing the flooding of many river islets, lower coastal parts, and lagoons along the southern areas in the Deliblatska pešcara Sands and created new aquatic and wetlands habitats. Permanent rivers and freshwater marshes are the main wetlands types, comprising diverse aquatic and wetland communities as well as wet meadows and steppe pastures along the riverbanks. Shallow waters of the Danube provide an ideal spawning area for many of the 50 supported fish species, such as Silurus glanis, Stizostedion lucioperca and Acipenser ruthenus. The site is an important waterbird habitat, especially as a nesting and wintering site for a range of species such as pygmy cormorants Phalacrocorax pygmeus, little egret Egretta garzetta, white-fronted goose Anser albifrons and common goldeneye Bucephala clangula. Besides the strict protection zone and small-scale forestry mainly on river islets, the site is mainly used for agricultural activities based on cattle and sheep grazing. Ramsar site no. 1655. Most recent RIS information: 2006.*

Labudovo Okno qualifies as a Ramsar site for the following criteria that are taken from the Ramsar Information Sheet (Ramsar, 2006[16]):

- Provides survival for a number of vulnerable, endangered and extremely endangered bird species, including: pygmy cormorant, lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*, ferruginous duck *Aythya nyroca*, greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga*, eastern imperial eagle, white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus alba*, saker falcon and corncrake *Crex crex*.
- Provides survival for valuable populations of plants and animals significant for conservation of biodiversity in the corresponding biogeographic region, including pygmy cormorant, glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, squacco heron *Ardeola ralloides*, purple heron *Ardea purpurea*, black stork *Ciconia nigra* and white stork *Ciconia ciconia*.
- Provides survival during unfavourable periods in the life cycles for several species of geese, particularly greylag goose *Anser anser* and white-fronted goose, and it also has a special significance for overwintering of several species of ducks, particularly common goldeneye and smew *Mergellus albellus*.

[15] Ramsar (2007) Wetlands of International Importance: Serbia, Labudova okno (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-annolist-wetlands-of-19524/main/ramsar/1-30-168%5E19524_4000_0; accessed 02/02/2012)
[16] Ramsar (2006) Information sheet on Ramsar wetlands: Labudovo Okno. Ramsar: Gland, Switzerland

- The area represents an important habitat for overwintering birds of prey, including white-tailed eagle and greater spotted eagle. It is also significant for overwintering and reproduction of pygmy cormorant and it is also the only place of regular nesting for glossy ibis in Serbia.
- Annually supports more than 20,000 waterbirds, both during the period of migration and period of reproduction.
- Provides occurrence of 1% of the relevant biogeographic population for many species of waterbirds during periods of migration and overwintering. The species are pygmy cormorant, little egret, white-fronted goose, greylag goose, common pochard *Aythya ferina*, common goldeneye and smew.

Although the Ramsar site is approximately 30 km from the proposed wind farm, the birds that visit the Ramsar site could potentially pass through the wind farm on passage or whilst foraging.

4. Stage 1 - Screening Results

Sixteen species considered to be qualifying features for the Deliblato Sands pSPA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site were recorded during the bird surveys of the survey area (wind farm site and 1km buffer zone between wind farm and Deliblato Sands pSPA) carried out between September 2009 and February 2011 (see Table 1 for details).

Table 1. Qualifying species of Deliblato Sands pSPA, Deliblato Sands IBA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site recorded within the survey area during the bird surveys (September 2009 – February 2011)

Species recorded within survey area	Qualifying pSPA feature	Qualifying Labudovo Okno Ramsar feature	Observation details
Saker falcon	YES	YES	Nine records of individuals observed flying around the survey area during the survey period
White stork		YES	Three records of individuals were recorded flying through or near the survey area during the survey period
Pygmy cormorant		YES	Three birds were recorded flying through the survey area during the survey period
Greylag goose		YES	Large flocks regularly recorded flying through the survey area and foraging within the survey area during migration and the winter period
White-fronted goose		YES	Large flocks regularly recorded flying through the survey area during migration and the winter period
Eurasian nightjar			Occasionally recorded at the edge of the Deliblato Sands
Eurasian wryneck			Occasionally recorded
Woodlark	YES		Rarely recorded at the eastern edge of the survey area
Eurasian skylark			Up to 200-250 pairs thought to breed within the survey area
Tawny pipit	YES		Up to 5 pairs possibly breeding at eastern edge of survey area

Barred warbler	YES		Rarely observed
Red-backed shrike	YES		Up to 15 pairs thought to breed within survey area
European bee-eater	YES		Survey area occasionally used for foraging by nearby nesting birds
Northern wheatear	YES		Up to five pairs thought to breed along eastern edge of survey area
Common nightingale			Several records within survey area during breeding season
Whinchat			Rare breeder at edge of survey area

Due to the distance of the wind farm site from Deliblato Sands pSPA (1km) and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site (30km), there will be no direct impact on any of these birds whilst they are nesting or resting within these sites. However, some of these species are considered to be prone to collision with wind turbines and therefore could potentially be at risk when migrating to or from the Deliblato Sands pSPA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site or whilst foraging from these areas.

Of the qualifying species listed above, six species have been identified in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment as potentially being at risk from collision with wind turbines: white stork, pygmy cormorant, saker falcon, greylag goose, white-fronted goose and European bee-eater.

Saker falcon and European bee-eater are qualifying species for Deliblato sands pSPA. White stork, pygmy cormorant, saker falcon, greylag goose and white-fronted goose are qualifying species of Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

Tables 2 and 3 describe the potential impacts of the proposed wind farm on Deliblato Sands pSPA and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

Table 2. Stage 1 Screening Results for Deliblato Sands pSPA

Site Designation Status	Deliblato Sands pSPA
Describe the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the European Site	Construction, operation and decommissioning of proposed turbine all have the potential to give rise to disturbance and displacement impacts on qualifying bird species on passage to and from the Deliblato Sands pSPA or whilst foraging from the Deliblato Sands pSPA. Impacts through increased collision risk of birds with the turbine rotor could occur during the operational phase of the project.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the European Site by virtue of: • Size and scale; • Land take; • Resource requirements (i.e. water extraction etc); • Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); • Excavation requirements; • Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.;	There will be no works or habitat loss within the Deliblato Sands pSPA boundary as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from the Deliblato Sands pSPA, and no emissions to it. Disturbance and displacement of pSPA species through visual stimuli and noise will be minimal during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages due to the wind farm being located at least 1km from Deliblato Sands. The proposed wind farm will lead to a reduction in arable land surrounding Deliblato Sands pSPA suitable for foraging. However, it is considered that abundant alternative arable habitat is available in the surrounding landscape. Effects through disturbance and displacement have been assessed as not leading to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA (see Appendix B). Collision risk to qualifying bird species is possible while the turbine is operational. All collisions are assumed to be fatal, and so effects are permanent. Qualifying species of the Deliblato Sands pSPA that could

and • Other.	potentially be affected are saker falcon and European bee-eater.
Describe any likely changes to the European site arising as a result of: • Reduction of habitat area; • Disturbance to key species; • Habitat or species fragmentation; • Reduction in species density; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and • Climate change	There would be no reduction in habitat area within the Deliblato Sands pSPA, or habitat on which the qualifying bird populations are dependant. No fragmentation of habitats or qualifying populations of bird species would occur. Birds will still be able to move freely around the Deliblato Sands pSPA following construction and operation of the wind farm scheme, with the scheme located 1 km from the western margin of the pSPA. Saker falcon and European bee-eater are qualifying pSPA species of Deliblato Sands and are considered to potentially be at risk from collision with the proposed wind turbines. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Ecoda Expert Opinion[17] have determined that the proposed wind farm is unlikely to have a negative impact on either species, and therefore there will be no likely significant effect on the conservation status of the qualifying features of Deliblato sands pSPA as a result of the proposed wind farm. Due to the nature of the project, a renewable energy scheme, it will not contribute to climate change effects and is likely to be beneficial to the environment.
Describe whether the Project will lead to likely significant effects on the European site alone	The project will have no likely significant effects on the conservation status of the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA.

[17] Ecoda (2011) Expert opinion on the expected impact on birds. Ecoda: Dortmund.

Table 3. Stage 1 Screening Results for Labudovo Okno Ramsar Site

Site Designation Status	Labudovo Okno Ramsar Site
Describe the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the European Site	There will be no direct impacts on Labudovo Okno Ramsar site as a result of the proposed wind farm. There is potential for the wind farm to have collision impacts on the qualifying bird species of Labudovo Okno Ramsar site on passage through the wind farm during the operational phase of the project.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the European Site by virtue of: • Size and scale; • Land take; • Resource requirements (i.e. water extraction etc); • Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); • Excavation requirements; • Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.; and • Other.	There will be no works or habitat loss within the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site boundary as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site, and no emissions to it. There will be no disturbance and displacement of birds within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages due to the wind farm being located approximately 30 km from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. Collision risk to qualifying bird species on passage to/from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site or whilst foraging over long distances is possible when the wind farm is operational. All collisions are assumed to be fatal, and so effects are permanent. Qualifying species that could potentially be affected are saker falcon, white stork, pygmy cormorant, greylag goose and white-fronted goose.
Describe any likely changes to the European site arising as a result of: • Reduction of habitat area; • Disturbance to key species; • Habitat or species fragmentation; • Reduction in species density; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and • Climate change	There would be no reduction in habitat area within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site, or habitat on which the qualifying bird populations are dependant. No fragmentation of habitats or qualifying populations of bird species would occur. Birds will still be able to move freely around Labudovo Okno Rasmar site following construction and operation of the scheme. Saker falcon, white stork, pygmy cormorant, greylag goose and white-fronted goose are qualifying species of Labudovo Okno Ramsar site and are considered to potentially be at risk from collision with the proposed wind turbines due to having been recorded during the bird surveys. Saker falcon, white stork and pygmy cormorant were recorded in low numbers during bird surveys undertaken between September 2009 and February 2011. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Ecoda Expert Opinion[18] have determined that the proposed wind farm is unlikely to have a negative impact on any of these species, and therefore there will be no likely significant effect on the conservation status of the qualifying features of Labudovo Okno Ramsar site as a result of the proposed wind farm. Regular large flocks of greylag and white-fronted geese were recorded flying through and foraging within the survey area over winter. It is possible that these flocks overwinter at Labudovo Okno Ramsar site and were recorded commuting to foraging sites. The Environmental Statement and Ecoda Expert Opinion have determined that the proposed wind farm is likely to have a displacement effect on these geese, deterring them from foraging within the wind farm, rather than being at risk of collision. Due to the widely available arable land in the surrounding countryside, these displacement effects are expected to not have a significant adverse impact on either species, and therefore the qualifying features of Labudovo Okno Ramsar site will not be

[18] Ecoda (2011) Expert opinion on the expected impact on birds. Ecoda: Dortmund.

	negatively impacted as a result of the proposed wind farm.
Describe whether the Project will lead to likely significant effects on the European site alone	The project will have no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site (see Appendix B).

5. Other Projects and Plans

There are no other existing or proposed projects in Serbia that require an HRA or are considered to have the potential to have an impact on the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

6. Conclusions

Atkins Limited (Atkins) has been commissioned by Continental Wind Partners (CWP) to carry out Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to support the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment[19] produced in relation to the application for the construction and operation of a 57 turbine wind farm near Dolovo, Vojvodina, Serbia. This information has been gathered to allow the Competent Authority[20] (Municipality of Kovin, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina) to make a decision on whether there will be likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites as a result of the construction and operation of the wind turbine farm.

Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires that all plans and projects which may have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): SPAs are protected sites of European importance for rare or vulnerable birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC codifies amendments to Directive 79/409/EEC); SACs are strictly protected sites of European importance for habitats listed on Annex I or species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

This HRA screening follows the model used for HRA in the UK where HRA screening is used to determine if there are likely significant effects and, if so determined, would be followed by a full Appropriate Assessment. The HRA methodology used in the UK includes potential SPAs (prior to formal classification under the Birds Directive) and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites). The information gathered to inform the HRA screening process assesses whether the proposed wind turbine farm is likely to lead to significant effects on the Deliblato Sands potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) or Labudovo Okno Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site) through assessment of the likely significant effects of the wind farm project on the conservation objectives and qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA and the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

Deliblato Sands pSPA is located 1km to the east of the proposed wind farm boundary and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site is located approximately 30 km to the south of the proposed wind farm boundary. Neither site will be impacted directly as a result of loss of land. However, it was

[19] Atkins (2012) Cibuk wind farm environmental and social impact assessment.

[20] The responsibility for the checking and assessment process under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) rests entirely with the Competent Authority. However, the promoter (in this case CWP) is best placed to obtain much of the information required for the checking and assessment of this project. As such CWP have commissioned Atkins to produce this document in order to fully assist with the information gathering process.

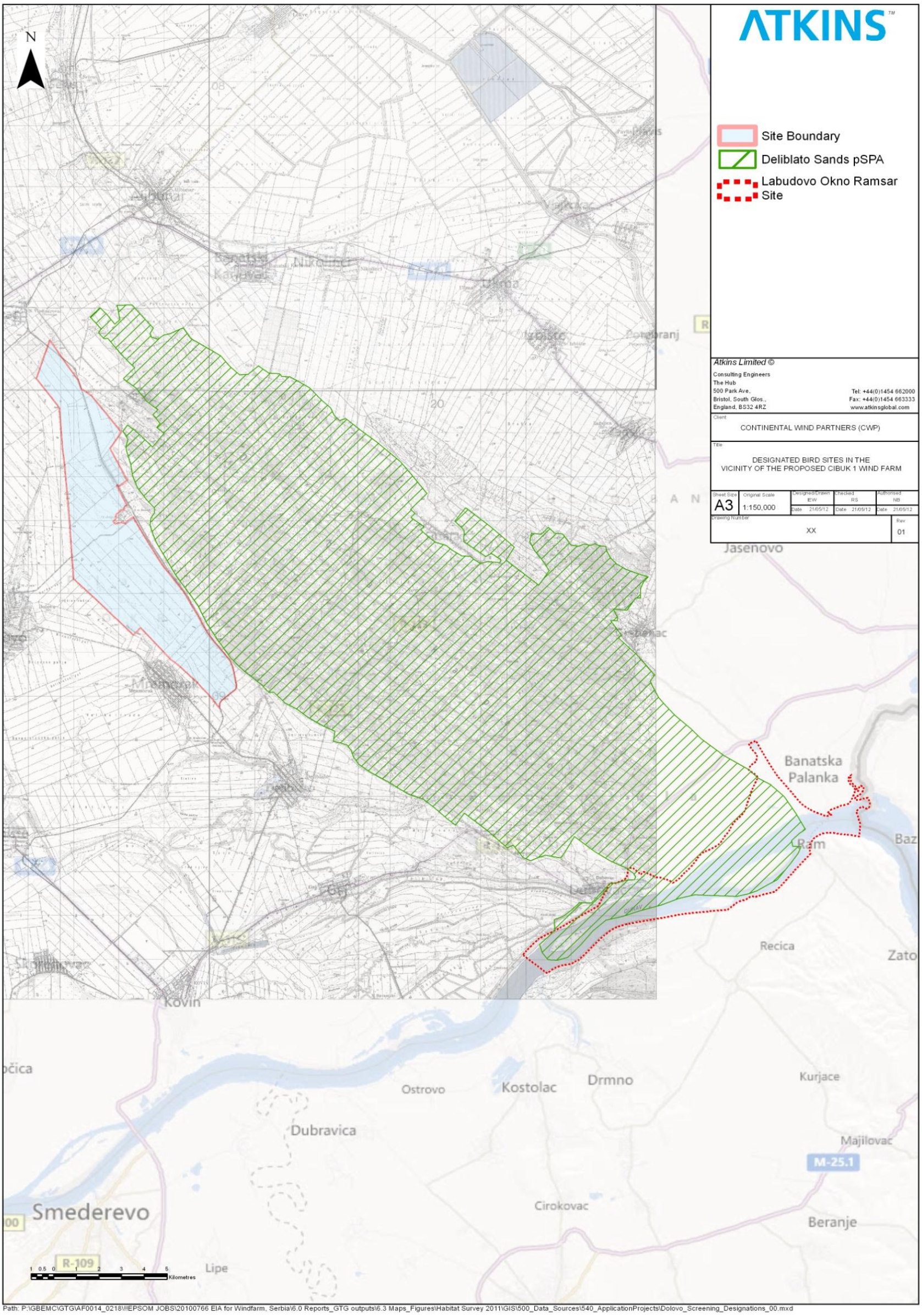
considered that the proposed wind farm could potentially have negative impacts on the qualifying bird populations of Deliblato Sands pSPA and/or Labudovo Okno Ramsar site through collision, disturbance or displacement.

The screening HRA concludes that the project will have no likely significant effects on the conservation objectives set for the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

There are no other projects considered to have potential for in-combination effects with the proposed wind farm on the conservation objectives set for the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

In conclusion, it is considered that the project will have no likely significant effects individually or in combination on the conservation objectives set for the qualifying features of the Deliblato Sands pSPA or the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.

Appendix A. pSPA Location and Area



Appendix B. Screening assessment of potential impacts on qualifying features

Table 4. Screening Assessment for Deliblato Sands pSPA Site

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
European honey buzzard	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project. This species was not recorded during the surveys and is therefore considered unlikely to occur within the survey area. Therefore there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys and Deliblato Sands pSPA is located 1 km from the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant collision risk for this species

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Long-legged buzzard	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project. This species was not recorded during the surveys and is therefore considered unlikely to occur within the survey area. Therefore there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys and Deliblato Sands pSPA is located 1 km from the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant collision risk for this species

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Eastern Imperial eagle	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project. This species was not recorded during the surveys and is therefore considered unlikely to occur within the survey area. Therefore there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys and Deliblato Sands pSPA is located 1 km from the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant collision risk for this species

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Booted eagle	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project. This species was not recorded during the surveys and is therefore considered unlikely to occur within the survey area. Therefore there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys and Deliblato Sands pSPA is located 1 km from the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant collision risk for this species.

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Saker falcon	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project. This species was only recorded nine times throughout the surveys. Due to abundant surrounding farmland, it is considered that the loss in farmland as a result of the wind farm will cause no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	This species was rarely recorded during the surveys and is assumed to occasionally hunt within the survey area; saker falcons mainly hunt on small mammals, particularly ground squirrels which occur within steppe grassland and therefore the arable land within the survey area is not considered their main foraging habitat. Due to abundant surrounding farmland, it is considered that the loss in farmland as a result of the wind farm scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was rarely recorded during the surveys. Deliblato Sands pSPA is located 1 km from the wind farm site and there is abundant alternative farmland habitat present. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was rarely recorded during the surveys. There is considered to be no likely significant negative impact on the qualifying saker falcon population as a result of collision with the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
European nightjar	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	This species was occasionally recorded at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, (approximately 1km from the wind farm), but not within the wind farm site. There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project.
	Food availability	No	This species was occasionally recorded at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, but not within the wind farm site. The habitat within which nightjar were recorded will not be affected by the wind farm. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was occasionally recorded at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, but not within the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was not recorded during the vantage point surveys and is not considered to be at significant collision risk from the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Woodlark	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	This species was occasionally recorded at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, (approximately 1km from the wind farm) but not within the wind farm site. There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project.
	Food availability	No	This species was occasionally recorded at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, but not within the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was occasionally recorded at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, but not within the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This passerine species is not considered to be at significant collision risk from the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Tawny pipit	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	Up to 5 pairs were thought to have bred within the 1km buffer zone between the wind farm site and Deliblato Sands pSPA. However, these breeding birds are not thought to belong to the population breeding within Deliblato Sands pSPA. There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site or the 1km buffer zone as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project.
	Food availability	No	This species was thought to breed within the 1km buffer zone at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, but not within the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was thought to breed within the 1km buffer zone at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, but not within the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This passerine species is not considered to be at significant collision risk from the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Barred warbler	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	The sparse distribution of bushes within the survey area is considered to make it suboptimal for barred warblers for breeding or foraging. This species was occasionally observed, presumably on passage through the site. The Deliblato Sands pSPA breeding population are not thought to forage within the wind farm site which is 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site or the 1km buffer zone as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project.
	Food availability	No	This species was occasionally observed, presumably on passage through the site. The Deliblato Sands pSPA breeding population are not thought to forage within the wind farm site which is 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was occasionally recorded within the survey area. Due to the abundant alternative surrounding habitat, it is considered that the wind farm scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species is not considered to be at significant collision risk from the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Red-backed shrike	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	Up to 15 pairs were thought to have bred within the survey area. However, this is a widespread breeding species within the region and these breeding birds are not thought to belong to the population breeding within Deliblato Sands pSPA. There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site or the 1km buffer zone as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project.
	Food availability	No	Birds from the Deliblato Sands pSPA are not thought to forage within the wind farm site. Due to the abundant alternative farmland habitat, it is considered that the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on the available food resources for this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	Up to 15 pairs were thought to have bred within the survey area. However, these breeding birds are not thought to belong to the population breeding within Deliblato Sands pSPA. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This passerine species is not considered to be at significant collision risk from the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
European bee-eater	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	This species bred close to the survey area and was occasionally observed foraging within the wind farm site. These nesting sites will not be impacted by the proposed wind farm. However, this is a widespread breeding species within the region and these breeding birds are not thought to belong to the population breeding within Deliblato Sands pSPA. There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site or the 1km buffer zone as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project.
	Food availability	No	This species was occasionally observed foraging within the wind farm site. Due to the abundant alternative farmland habitat, it is considered that the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on the available food resources for this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was occasionally recorded foraging within the survey area. Due to the abundant alternative surrounding habitat, it is considered that the wind farm scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	There is considered to be no likely significant negative impact on the qualifying European bee-eater population as a result of collision with the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

pSPA Site Interest Feature	pSPA Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on pSPA Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Northern wheatear	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	Up to 5 pairs were thought to have bred within the 1km buffer zone between the wind farm site and Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is a widespread breeding species within the region and these breeding birds are not thought to belong to the population breeding within Deliblato Sands pSPA. There will be no habitat loss within Deliblato Sands pSPA site or the 1km buffer zone as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the pSPA as a result of the project.
	Food availability	No	This species was thought to breed within the 1km buffer zone at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, but not within the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 1km from Deliblato Sands pSPA. This is considered sufficiently far from Deliblato Sands pSPA to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Deliblato Sands pSPA.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was thought to breed within the 1km buffer zone at the edge of Deliblato Sands pSPA, but not within the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This passerine species is not considered to be at significant collision risk from the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

Table 5. Screening Assessment for Labudovo Okno Ramsar Site

Ramsar Site Interest Feature	Ramsar Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on Ramsar Site Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Lesser white-fronted goose Ferruginous duck Greater spotted eagle Eastern Imperial eagle White-tailed eagle Corncrake Glossy ibis Squacco heron Purple heron Black stork Little egret Common goldeneye Pochard Smew	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the Ramsar site as a result of the project. These species were not recorded during the surveys, therefore there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	These species were not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 30km from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This is considered sufficiently far from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	These species were not recorded during the surveys and Labudovo Okno Ramsar site is located 30 km from the wind farm site. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on these species.
	Collision Risk	No	These species were not recorded during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant collision risks for these species

Ramsar Site Interest Feature	Ramsar Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on Ramsar Site Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Pygmy cormorant	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the Ramsar site as a result of the project. This species was only recorded on passage through the survey area on three occasions during the surveys, therefore there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	This species was only recorded passing through the site during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 30km from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This is considered sufficiently far from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was only recorded on passage through the survey area on three occasions during the surveys and is therefore considered unlikely to be an important flyway for this species. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was only recorded on 3 occasions during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant collision risk for this species

Ramsar Site Interest Feature	Ramsar Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on Ramsar Site Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Saker falcon	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the Ramsar site as a result of the project. This species was rarely recorded during the surveys. Due to abundant surrounding farmland, it is considered that the loss in farmland as a result of the wind farm will cause no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	This species was rarely recorded during the surveys and is assumed to occasionally hunt within the survey area; saker falcons mainly hunt on small mammals, particularly ground squirrels which occur within steppe grassland and therefore the arable land within the survey area is not considered their main foraging habitat. Due to abundant surrounding farmland, it is considered that the loss in farmland as a result of the wind farm scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 30km from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This is considered sufficiently far from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was rarely recorded during the surveys. Labudovo Okno Ramsar site is located 30 km from the wind farm site and there is abundant alternative farmland habitat present. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was rarely recorded during the surveys. There is considered to be no likely significant negative impact on the qualifying saker falcon population as a result of collsion with the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

Ramsar Site Interest Feature	Ramsar Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on Ramsar Site Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
White stork	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the Ramsar site as a result of the project. This species was only recorded on passage through the survey area on 3 occasions during the surveys, therefore there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution).
	Food availability	No	This species was only recorded passing through the site during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 30km from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This is considered sufficiently far from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was only recorded on passage through the survey area on 3 occasions during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species was only recorded on 3 occasions during the surveys, therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant collision risk for this species

Ramsar Site Interest Feature	Ramsar Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on Ramsar Site Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
Greylag goose	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the Ramsar site as a result of the project. This species was regularly recorded on passage through the survey area and foraging within the survey area during the surveys. These birds could be populations passing to and from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site or foraging from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. Due to the large distance from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site (30km) and the abundant alternative farmland habitat in the region, there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution)..
	Food availability	No	This species was occasionally recorded foraging within the wind farm site during the surveys. Due to abundant surrounding farmland, it is considered that the loss in farmland as a result of the wind farm scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 30km from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This is considered sufficiently far from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. It is possible that some of the overwintering population at Labudovo Okno Ramsar site forage within the wind farm site. These birds could potentially be affected by the proposed wind turbines, however, due to the abundant alternative farmland habitat available, it is considered that this potential visual impact will not have a significant impact on the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site population of this species.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was occasionally recorded foraging within the wind farm site during the surveys. Due to abundant surrounding alternative farmland, it is considered that any disturbance or displacement as a result of the wind farm scheme will not lead to any significant effects on this species. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species is not considered to be at significant collision risk from the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

Ramsar Site Interest Feature	Ramsar Site Interest Feature Vulnerability	Will the Project have a Likely Significant Effect on Ramsar Site Interest Feature?	Justification of Conclusion
White-fronted goose	Changes to Habitat Extent and Vegetation Characteristics	No	There will be no habitat loss within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site as a result of the project. There will be no resource requirements from or emissions to the Ramsar site as a result of the project. This species was regularly recorded on passage through the survey area and foraging within the survey area during the surveys. These birds could be populations passing to and from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site or foraging from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. Due to the large distance from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site (30km) and the abundant alternative farmland habitat in the region, there will be no direct, indirect or secondary effects or changes to the key supporting habitats for this species (e.g. through land take or pollution)..
	Food availability	No	This species was occasionally recorded foraging within the wind farm site during the surveys. Due to abundant surrounding farmland, it is considered that the loss in farmland as a result of the wind farm scheme will not lead to any significant effects on food sources of this species.
	Sightlines (e.g. at feeding and roosting sites)	No	The proposed wind farm site is located 30km from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. This is considered sufficiently far from Labudovo Okno Ramsar site to avoid any visual disturbance to any birds within Labudovo Okno Ramsar site. It is possible that some of the overwintering population at Labudovo Okno Ramsar site forage within the wind farm site. These birds could potentially be affected by the proposed wind turbines, however, due to the abundant alternative farmland habitat, it is considered that this potential visual impact will not have a significant impact on the Labudovo Okno Ramsar site population of this species.
	Disturbance and Displacement	No	This species was occasionally recorded foraging within the wind farm site during the surveys. Due to abundant surrounding alternative farmland, it is considered that any disturbance or displacement as a result of the wind farm scheme will not lead to any significant effects on this species. Therefore the scheme will not lead to any significant disturbance or displacement effects on this species.
	Collision Risk	No	This species is not considered to be at significant collision risk from the proposed wind farm (see Atkins Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for details).

Paul Watts
Atkins
Woodcote Grove
Ashley Road
Epsom
Surrey
KT18 5WB

Email: **paul.watts@atkinsglobal.com**
Telephone: **07834 507806**