



Transmission & Distribution

Client: SSE Transmission

Location: Confidential

Project Overview

In order to undertake essential upgrade work to power lines, our client required to undertake a machine crossing of a watercourse. The watercourse was located in a designated Special Area of Conservation for freshwater pearl mussels

Key Challenges

- Site located in remote part of the region, limiting available access.
- Short window to complete prior to the onset of winter and ensure continuity of energy supply.
- Materials brought in by helicopter, however machine crossing was still required to complete work.
- The Installation of a temporary bridge would have added significant project costs and delays.

Our Solutions

Using approved SNH methodology, our licensed ecologist carried out an initial survey of the river.

The locations of the mussel population were mapped out and suitable crossing locations identified that minimised the impact on the mussel population, allowing the machine crossing to be undertaken as close as possible to the site access point.

A report was produced that detailed the measures required to safeguard the population which was then submitted to SNH.

Atmos obtained a development licence to allow the works to be undertaken legally and provided ECoW services to ensure all mitigation measures were complied with

The Successful Outcome

Based on our advice and approach we were able to find a pragmatic solution to allow the watercourse crossing without the need to build a temporary bridge.

Saving our client considerable time and money, whilst also ensuring they complied fully with the relevant legislative requirements.

What our client said

“At short notice, Atmos provided a comprehensive, adaptable and professional service delivered by knowledgeable and approachable staff. Ensuring all works on site were compliant with the relevant legislation and licence.”

Lucas Chapman, Wayleave Officer,
Scottish Hydro Electric

Our Ecology and Biodiversity Expertise

From multi-million pound mixed use developments requiring ecological surveys and assessments, biodiversity guidance and public consultations, through to individual property owners needing support with a bat survey, our highly experienced team of in-house ecological experts are here to support you in realising the vision of your project.

Our technical specialists include: ornithologists, protected species experts, aquatic ecologists as well as habitat and botanical experts. Together, they bring a proven track record in overcoming potential barriers or constraints to development proposals by producing innovative, robust and defensible solutions that successfully balance the commercial interests with the relevant statutory requirements for ecological assessment and the needs of wildlife.

Our Ecology and Biodiversity Solutions

Atmos offers a comprehensive range of ecological solutions across the entire project life-cycle. From feasibility, scoping and planning submissions through to construction and on to post construction and operational monitoring.

Choose from an integrated service approach or one of our specialist services that can seamlessly feed into your project, whatever its current lifecycle stage, including:

- Aquatic & Terrestrial Invertebrate Surveys
- BREEAM Assessments
- Consultation and Liaison with Regulatory Bodies
- Discharge of Planning Conditions
- Ecological Appraisal
- Ecologic Clerk of Works
- Ecological Impact Assessments
- Ecological Mitigation Plans
- Electro-fishing and Freshwater Pearl Mussel
- Fish Surveys, Habitat and Health Assessment
- Habitat and Vegetation Surveys & Management Plans
- Habitat Survey Phase1, NVC Phase 2 Survey
- Ornithology
- Post Construction Monitoring
- Protected Species Surveys and Licence Applications
- River Corridor & Habitat Survey
- Site Appraisal & Feasibility Studies



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