**Project Overview**

In order to connect with an underground power line at Edintore in Moray, Cairnborrow Wind Farm, required over 6km of 33kV overhead power lines on wooden poles.

Atmos was contracted to undertake an Environmental Appraisal (EA) to support the fast tracking submission of the Section 37 consent application that would create the opportunity for an early connection date.

**Key Challenges**

- Minimise the need for route deviation.
- Minimal survey windows given project timescales.
- Number of sensitive habitats.
- Minimise effect on small fen and blanket bog areas at construction stage.
- Proximity to archaeological assets and potential of discovery of new artefacts.
- Visual impact on surrounding area and impact of noise during the construction phase.

**Our Solutions**

Working collaboratively with the engineering team we advised as to the most commercially viable design route, ensuring the environmental effects were minimised in line with the latest legislative requirements.

We ensured the overhead line followed natural lines created by topographic change, geology, and vegetation and was positioned to avoid breaking the skyline wherever possible to minimise the visual impact.

Recommendation of specific methods during construction to ensure habitats remain hydrologically and ecologically stable in line with regulatory schemes.

Our close working relationships with the relevant statutory bodies, enabled good communication throughout, ensuring the key environmental concerns were discussed and addressed effectively within the client’s expectations.

**The Successful Outcome**

The completion of our work was delivered on time and in budget ensuring the Section 37 consent application could be submitted earlier than planned.

**What our client said**

“Atmos undertook an excellent piece of work within a short timescale which enabled us to fast track the Section 37 grid application process. We are now able to commit to planning our construction phase in 2016 in conjunction with the wind farm site and are aiming to achieve energisation by the end of 2016.”

Paul Mewse, Project Manager
Further Project details

Our approach was to focus the EA process upon the key issues and take a proportionate approach to the assessment to minimise project risk and maximise opportunities for success. This meant providing information on the key environmental constraints, potential environmental effects of the proposed overhead line and identifying any potential mitigation to permit construction of the overhead line without resulting in any unacceptable effects.

Using our multi-disciplinary in-house team the EA appraisal included stakeholder and regulatory consultation together with the relevant survey and assessment covering:

- Ecology and ornithology;
- Landscape and visualisation;
- Water environment;
- Cultural heritage;
- Traffic, transport and access;
- Construction Noise.

Our Solutions

Atmos offers a comprehensive range of environmental and planning 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

- Acoustics and Noise
- Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)
- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Environmental Due Diligence
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Geo-Environmental
- GIS and Data Solutions
- Habitat Management and Restoration
- Habitat Regulations Assessment
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Ornithology
- Planning and Consents
- Post Consent Implementation
- Site Feasibility and Scoping
- Soils and Peatland Management
- Stakeholder and Public consultation
- Visualisation and Mapping
- Waterbody Design, Rehabilitation and Management