Renewable Energy - Onshore Wind

Client: Cumberhead Wind Energy Ltd Location: South Lanarkshire

Project Overview
The proposed 49.9 MW Cumberhead Wind Farm development comprises 16 wind turbines of up to 126.5 metres to blade tip and associated infrastructure, located within Cumberhead Forest. Atmos was commissioned as design, planning and environmental consultants to the project and provided full EIA as part of the process.

Key Challenges
- Complex inter-relationship with the commercial forest operation.
- Proximity to Special Protection Area.
- Cumulative landscape and visual complexities.
- Radar visibility and military low flying considerations.
- Peatslide and habitat concerns.
- Tight timescale in order to meet the client investment programme.

Our Solutions
Working Our approach was to use the design to integrate the existing and consented wind farm schemes, in the area providing visual continuity across the cluster whilst not extending the cluster significantly.

We developed a new modelling technique that could predict bird populations and potential impacts for the SPA, which is of declining status.

Working collaboratively with our forestry consultant, the client, Forestry Commission Scotland and the planning authority we facilitated the resolution of complex forestry management issues.

By liaising closely with the local authority and SNH during the iterative design process we were able to minimise landscape impacts and the potential for delays later in the planning process.

The Successful Outcome
The development of a new modelling technique was accepted by SNH and incorporated into their new best practice guidance, enabling our client to submit the planning application in-line with their project timescales.

The project was successfully consented in February 2016.

What our client said
“Atmos delivered a complex project brief, within tight-scales whilst effectively managing the inputs of other consultants. I would like to thank them for their standard of their work, their commitment to finding commercially viable solutions together with their flexible and adaptable approach.”

Simon Green, Project Manager
Further Project details

Our The Cumberhead Windfarm was particularly sensitive given its close proximity to a large European designated site for five bird species and was surrounded by multiple operational and permitted wind farm projects. This presents a complex cumulative situation with regards to landscape and visual, and noise impacts.

Our approach was to use the design to integrate the existing and consented schemes, providing visual continuity across the cluster whilst not extending the cluster significantly. We focused the process upon the key issues and took a proportionate approach to the assessment to minimise project risk and maximise opportunities for success.

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

- EIA Planning
- Site Design
- Ecological Survey and Assessment
- Ornithological Surveys and Assessment
- Noise Assessment

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. Our services include:

- 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

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