

Case Study

Name	Earlsburn Wind Farm Extension – Ornithology
Capacity	60MW (2.5MW extension)
Client	Falck Renewables
Project Type	Wind

Overview

Atmos Consulting provided specialist ornithological input into the Ecological Impact Assessment for Earlsburn Wind Farm.

Atmos' specialist ornithologists started surveys in October 2006 to September 2007 with additional surveys completed from March 2008 to September 2008. The initial Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) was submitted in early 2008 with additional information following in early 2009. During the initial period of ornithological study two species in particular (red kite and osprey) were considered at potential risk of significant impact from collision. Further studies were initiated to pre-empt the response from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and RSPB over concerns in respect to breeding hen harrier and short-eared owl and the potential impact on red kite and osprey from collision. The information collected during the second period of survey recorded a reduction in activity of red kite and osprey.

Further collision risk analysis and assessment of red kite and osprey against the Central Scotland population concluded that there was not a significant impact from this development both singularly and cumulatively to these species. Information from the now operational Earlsburn Wind Farm was also available for analysis, which was used as supporting information. Both SNH and RSPB accepted the conclusion that the viability of these species would not be compromised by this development.

