



Renewable Energy: Hydro

Client: Confidential site

Location: Highlands and Islands

Project Overview

The project was to construct a 2MW hydro scheme in the Highland region.

The site was located near a golden eagle eyrie and Atmos were brought in initially to provide a solution to allow the developer to continue working whilst preventing disturbance to the eagles, and to further provide Ecological Clerk of Works services during construction.

Key Challenges

- Proximity to golden eagle eyrie severely limited the site working hours due to the potential for disturbance.
- Otter populations on site with works requiring the destruction of resting places.
- Water vole colony close to access track.
- Pollution control during construction.
- Site restoration.

Our Solutions

Atmos worked closely with the developers and construction staff to understand their issues and develop a solution that that would minimise the impact on protected species. Alongside this allowing a realistic construction schedule to be maintained. We reached agreement in principle with SNH and the planning authority, before drawing up detailed species protection plans and implementing a programme of on-site monitoring and working

Protocols, to ensure adherence to the agreed programme. We obtained the necessary species licences from SNH and ensured their conditions were fully complied with.

We provided ECoW services throughout the construction programme, providing advice on pollution prevention, ensuring site staff we fully aware of their environmental obligations and the site sensitivities through production and delivery of bespoke toolbox talks. We further provided advice on site restoration liaising with SNH, SEPA and the planning authority throughout the construction period whilst providing a proactive service that was responsive to the projects needs.

The Successful Outcome

The project was completed as per the schedule without any significant environmental incidents and is now generating electricity. Our work on golden eagle disturbance broke new ground in terms of what may be deemed acceptable during construction and is being used by SNH to inform other schemes with similar issues.

What our client said

“We have found Atmos to be very professional and hard working and provide firm but considered constructive advice and guidance and have been a very positive additional to our project team.”

James MacLellar, Finance Director, DHG Hydro

Renewable Energy Capabilities

When it comes to the renewable energy sector, Atmos has been at the heart of the sector since 2007, eyes and ears on the ground providing technical and professional services throughout the UK. Why do companies choose to work with us? Simple: our value for money approach, experience, expertise and service delivery across all aspects of renewable energy – optimising project value, whilst consistently achieving an above an above average planning success rate.

Our highly experienced and talented consultants include Planners, EIA Consultants, Noise Consultants, Ecologists, Ornithologists, Hydrologists and GIS specialists.

Together, they bring an in-depth understanding of the policy landscape, sector trends and the environmental best practice to deliver robust, defensible and commercially pragmatic solutions that protect your interests and maximise the value of your investment. Always several steps ahead, anticipating barriers and constraints, they act quickly to optimise results so you're not missing any opportunities or losing valuable time and money.

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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