



## Onshore Wind

**Client:** *Coigach Community Development Company*

**Location:** Wester Ross

### Project Overview

Atmos were contracted to deliver a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as part of the planned 900 kw single-wind turbine located near Achiltibuie in Wester Ross.

Development and delivery of a public consultation and exhibition for the local community, which demonstrated the socio-economic benefits whilst mitigating the environmental impact.

### Key Challenges

- Located in designated National Scenic Area (NSA) by Scottish National Heritage (SNH).
- Topography and habitat constraints limiting options for turbine placement.
- Infrastructure constraints limiting access in delivery of turbine components.
- Engagement and buy-in from local community.

### The Successful Outcome

The project was the first commercial wind energy project in a National Scenic Area to receive a no-objection response from Scottish Natural Heritage at the first pass.

The project received overwhelming support by the local community with Highland Council unanimously approved the planning application.

The project was delivered in time and on budget.

### Our Solutions

Engagement and consultation with SNH throughout the process to demonstrate how visual impacts on sensitive landscape receptors could be mitigated, while maintaining economic benefit for the community.

Worked with Scottish Water to gain access to existing tracks to access the location and mitigate impact on watercourses within the site.

Working with the wider project team, we undertook ecological surveys to ensure the design of the site was done in such a way that it would minimise the impact on sensitive habitats.

### What our client said:

*“Atmos readily understood the sensitivities in citing a wind turbine in the dramatic and sensitive Coigach landscape, delivering pragmatic solutions and a robust assessment to deal with the key issues from feasibility through to a positive planning decision.”*

*Ian Muir*

*Director (Coigach Windpower)*

## Further Project Details

The turbine is expected to be operational in early 2017 and Coigach Community Development Company estimate that up to £100,000 of profit will be available annually for the community, with that figure rising after completing loan repayments (approximately after 10 years). This funding will be controlled and used by the community for the direct benefits of the community. Opportunities provided will also go towards enhancing employment opportunities within this rural area.

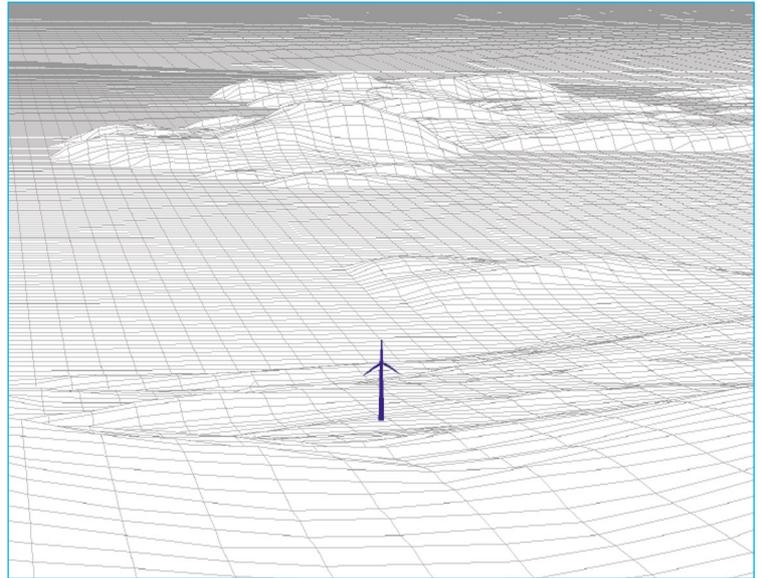
Atmos expertise used during this project included:

- EIA and Planning;
- Site Feasibility, including financial assessment;
- Ecological surveys and assessment;
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Ornithological surveys and assessment;
- Noise assessment;
- Stakeholder and Public consultations
- GIS and Data Management
- Landscape and Visual 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 & Biodiversity
- Environmental Due Diligence
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- 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 & Peatland Management
- Stakeholder and Public consultation
- Visualisation and Mapping



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