



## Ports & Harbours

**Client:** MacLaughlin & Harvey

**Location:** Inverness

### Project Overview

As part of the construction of the £21m Inverness Flood Alleviation Scheme McLaughlin and Harvey was appointed by The Highland Council to raise the existing flood defences along both banks of the river.

In order to support the discharge of planning conditions and allow contractors to progress within the legislative requirements with minimal delays, Atmos was commissioned to provide protected species surveys, undertake Marine Mammal Observations (MMO) and ECoW services.

### Key Challenges

- Mitigate disturbance to marine mammals in the vicinity of piling operations.
- Concerns over possible European otter holt being in the vicinity of the construction site.
- Possibility of additional protected species constraints materialising as work progressed, due to constantly changing environment associated with a tidal river.

### Our Solutions

To mitigate against disturbance of marine mammals and prevent potential breaches of the Marine Scotland piling licence, we modified the approach to the soft start piling protocols to provide greater protection to wildlife and better flexibility for the contractor in terms of the programme of works.

Survey work revealed the presence of a European otter holt. In order to allow the construction work to continue without breaching current law we successfully applied for a SNH Development Licence on the grounds of overriding public interest.

In order to protect our clients interest we provided ECoW services to ensure that on site contractors complied with the Marine and Development Licences as well as wildlife legislation and good practice guidelines.

### The Successful Outcome

Our consultants understanding of the local landscape, knowledge of local and national legislation ensured our client was able to fully comply with all environmental planning, legal and statutory requirements. Whilst our MMO minimised delays to just over 1 hour across the entire construction programme, ensuring the project could be delivered within its timeline.

### What our client said

“Atmos approach, communications and swift response times were key in minimising the delays to a time critical construction programme. Their knowledge of the local environment and professional relationships with the relevant regulatory stakeholders were critical in overcoming the challenges presented by sensitive protected species within the construction corridor.”

## Our Ecology and Biodiversity Expertise

From multi-million pound mixed use developments requiring ecological surveys and assessments, biodiversity guidance and public consultations, through to individual property owners needing support with a bat survey, our highly experienced team of in-house ecological experts are here to support you in realising the vision of your project.

Our technical specialists include: ornithologists, protected species experts, aquatic ecologists as well as habitat and botanical experts. Together, they bring a proven track record in overcoming potential barriers or constraints to development proposals by producing innovative, robust and defensible solutions that successfully balance the commercial interests with the relevant statutory requirements for ecological assessment and the needs of wildlife.

## Our Ecology and Biodiversity Solutions

Atmos offers a comprehensive range of acoustic and noise 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:

- Aquatic & Terrestrial Invertebrate Surveys
- BREEAM Assessments
- Consultation and Liaison with Regulatory Bodies
- Discharge of Planning Conditions
- Ecological Appraisal
- Ecologic Clerk of Works
- Ecological Impact Assessments
- Ecological Mitigation Plans
- Electro-fishing and Freshwater Pearl Mussel
- Fish Surveys, Habitat and Health Assessment
- Habitat and Vegetation Surveys & Management Plans
- Habitat Survey Phase1, NVC Phase 2 Survey
- Ornithology
- Post Construction Monitoring
- Protected Species Surveys and Licence Applications
- River Corridor & Habitat Survey
- Site Appraisal & Feasibility Studies
- Water Framework Directive



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