EIA & Consenting

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Renewable Energy - Onshore Wind

Client: RDC Developments

Location: South Lanarkshire

Project Overview

Following the successful delivery of the initial EIA and planning consent in 2015 for Cumberhead Wind Farm, Atmos was appointed to work with RDC to re-design the proposal to create a commercially viable project in a subsidy free market.

Advances in technology, such as bigger more efficient turbines, and development in policy, enabled a number of design changes to be accommodated to improve the commercial viability of the proposal without increasing the environmental impact. The proposal was revised to 14 turbines, 12 up to 149.9m, and 2 up to 180m tip height.

Key Challenges

The site is located in a commercial forest and maintaining the continued operation of the forest was key.

Increasing turbine tip-height to over 150m was at the time relatively untested and triggered a requirement for aviation lighting.

Our Solutions

Considerable engagement with the forest agent to enable a refined design and practical solution.

We demonstrated that working with the topography, increasing the tip height of two turbines helped to minimise impact on forestry while not significantly impacting/altering the potential landscape impact.

Our solution balanced forestry, planning, environmental and commercial constraints.

Engagement with stakeholders was undertaken to ensure the night-time assessment was prepared to new requirements and met stakeholder expectations.

Our night-time assessment demonstrated that lighting the >150m turbines would not create a significant impact on the landscape .

The Successful Outcome

A commercially viable proposal was developed and submitted to South Lanarkshire Council.

An established relationship with the estate the Consenting Authority and key consultees helped facilitate a smooth development process.

Full planning permission was granted in August 2020.

What our client said:

"The team at Atmos have always been helpful and professional. They have remained diligent and provided sound advice right through what has been a lengthy and complex project."

Ewan Eley, Project Manager
RDC Developments