Ecology



Renewable Energy - Onshore Wind

Client: Bute Energy

Location: Wales

Project Overview

Atmos were commissioned to conduct two years of comprehensive ornithology, peat depth, and ecology surveys across seven potential wind energy sites in Wales.

Key Challenges

Conservation Areas: Several sites were close to internationally protected bird habitats, necessitating meticulous ornithology surveys.

Sensitive Habitats: Welsh uplands contain valuable peatlands, which needed safeguarding from development.

Remote Access: Surveyors faced challenges due to extreme weather and difficult-to-access, remote locations.

Our Solutions

- Expanded ornithology surveys, including additional daytime watches and walkovers during the breeding season, to monitor bird activity in sensitive areas.
- Layout options and turbine models were included in modelling to evaluate the differing collision risk and inform iterative design.
- Undertook peat depth surveys to identify areas of deeper peat to inform a sensitive design.

The presence of upland farmland habitats on these project sites presents the opportunity for large-scale habitat restoration, as part of a package of measures informed by the survey findings.

The Successful Outcome

Whilst in the data gathering stage, there is a greater understanding of the ecological processes and interactions on these project sites.

Atmos' survey data will directly contribute into site design and assist Bute's decision making to balance energy needs with biodiversity and ornithology constraints and opportunities.

What our client said:

"The Atmos Ecology Team are easy to work with. They deliver high quality work on time and within budget, along with timely, proactive and effective communication on project progress "

Duncan Murray
Environment Manager
Bute energy