

Environmental considerations

As part of the planning process, RES is undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The purpose of an EIA is to identify any potential significant effects of a development on the environment and, where applicable, identify mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential effects. It also identifies opportunities for restoration and enhancement. The EIA for Kinnelhead Wind Farm will include the following assessments:

Ecology

A wide range of ecological surveys have taken place to collect any evidence of the presence of protected mammal species, suitable fish habitat, the presence of bats – either roosting or foraging on site, and golden eagle activity.

The non-avian Ecology Impact Assessment will involve a range of studies including habitats, protected species, notable species (e.g. national and European Protected Species) and locally protected species. Full details and findings of the ecological surveys will be available within the EIA Report.

Ornithology

Avoiding impacts on bird species, wherever possible, is an important factor in the design of the site. We have commissioned baseline ornithological survey work over two years during breeding and non-breeding seasons to build our understanding of the species on site.

Surveys have included flight path activity, breeding behaviour and winter walkover surveys, as well as specific black grouse and raptor surveys.

Full details of all survey findings will be included in the EIA Report.

Hydrology and Hydrogeology

A series of hydrology surveys have been undertaken to allow the project hydrologists to obtain a thorough understanding of the site and areas which might be at flood risk or have a higher hydrological sensitivity. The surveys have included identifying potential watercourse crossing locations, confirming the location of private water supply sources and visiting habitats (in consultation with the project ecologists) which might be sustained by groundwater. The findings of these surveys are now being used to inform the emerging wind farm design and will be reported in full in the EIA Report.

Should any significant impacts be identified as part of the EIA process, appropriate mitigation will be proposed. Mitigation seeks, first, to avoid adverse impacts and, where impacts are unavoidable, to reduce the significance of residual effect to an acceptable level. It also seeks to enhance or compensate, where possible, to provide the best practicable outcome.



Kinnelhead Wind Farm Proposal

www.kinnelhead-windfarm.co.uk