# **Environmental considerations**

As part of the planning process, RES will undertake 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

surveys, as well as specific black grouse and raptor surveys. Consultees - including NatureScot, RSPB, Dumfries & Galloway Raptor Study Group, the South-West Scotland Wildlife Information Centre, and Restoring Upland Nature - will be engaged with through the process.

#### Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Farm will include the following assessments:

### Ecology

The non-avian Ecological Impact Assessment involves desktop study, consultation and field surveys. Surveys include:

- Phase 1 habitats a broad habitat mapping method used to classify habitats present on site
- National Vegetation Classification (NVC) provides a detailed classification of plant communities
- bat activity and bat roosts
- badgers

The Kinnelhead Wind Farm proposal has the potential to cause changes to the baseline hydrological and hydrogeological conditions on the site and to the receiving water environment. Therefore the EIA process will seek to identify sensitive water environment features, assess potential impacts, and propose mitigation where required.

A number of initial studies and assessments will be carried out to inform any presence of groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE), groundwater, water supplies and surface water features, and other potential water environment receptors.

- otters
- water voles
- pine marten.

Further habitat and species assessment work will be undertaken over the coming months as the design develops and infrastructure siting is refined.

### 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. 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.



Surveys have included flight path activity, breeding behaviour and winter walkover

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