### Key Issues

The following key issues associated with the project influenced the final design proposals:

- achieve an appropriate scale in terms of number, height and distribution/layout of turbines in relation to the landform of the site, immediately surrounding area and skyline;
- achieve satisfactory visual relationship between turbines at the proposed development and the consented Stronelaig Wind Farm (to the north of the site);
- setting back turbines from the Monadhliath SAC to the east of the site;
- consideration of other environmental features/constraints and protected species, such as Cairngorms National Park, setting of Scheduled Monuments, River Spey Special Area of Conservation, golden eagles, deep peat etc; and
- produce a layout which would be viable from a potential wind energy yield and have the maximum capacity available from the wind resource.

### Purpose of the project

Ramboll was commissioned by RES Limited (RES) on behalf of SIMEC Wind One Ltd to input into the design, coordinate the EIA, and deliver the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed Glenshero Wind Farm, near Laggan in The Highlands, Scotland. Ramboll also provided landscape and visual expertise which helped to influence the layout of the wind farm.

### Description of the project

The application site covers an area of approximately 37.4km² and is located approximately 5 km north of the A86 and approximately 8km north west of Laggan, in an area identified by the Highland Council as having the potential for wind farm development.
Description of the project cont.

Currently the application site mainly features open moorland used for grazing livestock and rearing grouse, along with areas of coniferous plantation woodland and watercourses. The application site is adjacent to the consented Stronelairg Wind Farm.

The proposed development would comprise 39 turbines with a maximum ground to tip height of 135 m and could generate up to 168 megawatts of energy from a renewable source.

There is existing infrastructure in the area that could be utilised by the proposed development such as Melgarve substation; the Beauly Denny 400 kV overhead line to the south; and, use of the access track for Stronelairg Wind Farm to the north.

The expected operational life of the proposed development is 30 years from the date of final commissioning.

Lessons learnt

- Early engagement with key stakeholders ensured the evolving design addressed concerns. This allowed a number of potential effects to be 'mitigated by design' and thus certain topics to be scoped out of EIA;
- By tightly scoping the project, it was possible to produce a focussed and proportionate EIAR which was concise yet included all the information required by the consenting authority;
- Understanding of environmental constraints information which was fed into the design at an early stage enabled potentially significant effects to be avoided or minimised as far as possible;
- Regular check-ins with the wider EIA team ensured information and design changes were effectively communicated and deadlines met.

Contact details

Case Study Author: Kate Lyon, Senior Consultant
Project Contact Details: Nathan Swankie, Principal, Ramboll
nswankie@ramboll.com

For access to more EIA case studies and hundreds of non-technical summaries of Environmental Statements visit:
www.iema.net/qmark