

Contracting Authority:
Community Energy Scotland

Invitation to Tender: Ornithological Impact Assessment for a Combined Community Wind Energy Scheme at Arnish, Isle of Lewis.

1- Background

Community Energy Scotland, on behalf of at least eleven community groups throughout the Western Isles, is seeking to take forward a 30MW wind energy project in order to further the economic and social development of each local community.

The proposal for the renewable project is for ten 3MW turbines situated within the development area indicated in blue on the map below:



A number of Birds Directive Annex 1 and Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 species are known to use the area around the turbine site for feeding, breeding, or on migration.

2- Short description of the contract:

In order to establish whether there is likely to be a significant impact on the interests of the nearby SPA and on Birds Directive Annex 1 and Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 species, an ornithological impact assessment is to be carried out based on the following information:

- a) Data collected from vantage point observations throughout the year.
- b) Ground surveys of breeding bird species of conservation interest.
- c) Collision risks and likely site avoidance impacts calculated for bird species of conservation interest.

3- Details of the requirements:

A breeding Red Throated Diver survey is required for the entire development area.

A Moorland breeding bird survey is required for the development area using an adapted Brown & Shepherd method with **four** survey visits at least seven days apart. These should cover the whole breeding season between mid April and early July, and be done between 8:30 hours and 18:00 hours. They should be carried out in a wind of Beaufort force 4 or less, and in dry weather. Vantage point survey to be carried out to cover the whole of the proposal area, with 72 hours observations from each chosen point over 12 months split between the breeding and non-breeding season.

Monitoring of diver and raptor nest sites in the proposal area.

All of the work should be in keeping with the SNH Guidance on Recommended Bird Survey Methods to Inform Impact Assessment of Onshore Wind Farms 2014.

4- Outputs should include:

Provide details of the requirements and scheduling of observations required for the whole study period for each vantage point.

Training and support for locally appointed observers to undertake observations to the required standard, if necessary.

Record, document and analyse data recorded from the site, providing reports following each migration period.

Provision of a full report of observations with analysis; estimated impacts and conclusions for the sites, sufficient for a planning application.

Early identification of issues regarding the vantage point study which may impact on the wind turbine project, as soon as they become apparent.

5- Methodology

Consultants are invited to propose how they intend to approach delivering the requirements set out above. We would expect the following activities to be included:

- Introductory meeting with Community Energy Scotland.
- Participation in one local consultation meeting with community representatives if required.
- Review of all relevant documentation, including SNH studies.
- Regular progress reports to Community Energy Scotland.

6- Time scale and key milestones

The key milestones are:

Tenders must be returned by 25th January 2018. Tenders should be submitted as PDF files and emailed to:

E mail: kathleen.macdonald@communityenergyscotland.org.uk

Questions on the tender should be emailed to the above address by Monday 22nd January 2018. Questions will be anonymised and published, along with answers, on the Community Energy Scotland website at: <http://www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/tenders.asp>

Feb 2018: Project initiation – Survey work to commence.
End of Jan 2019 Bird study completed
Feb 2019 Report finalised

7- Person/ Organisation Specification

Consultants should demonstrate the following in their tender submission.

Knowledge/experience/skills	Scoring
1. A track record of working with communities on developing community wind energy projects.	10
2. A track record of ornithological reporting.	30
3. Relevant ornithological qualifications.	20
4. Knowledge of the local area and planning issues.	10
5. Value for money	30

8- Guidance on tender submissions

Tender submissions should contain the following information:

- Demonstrate how all elements of the tender will be met.
- Details of relevant company experience
- Demonstrate how the individuals/organisation meets the tender requirements.

9- Budget

The successful tender will demonstrate the best value in meeting the specific requirements of the brief.

10- Variations to Contract

Given the nature of the project involved, it is possible that unforeseen additional work may arise during the course of this consultancy, or that the requirements are reduced. This may give rise to a requirement for a variation in agreed works or a contract extension.

The successful consultancy would be expected to quantify its charges for any additional work, which would then be subject to formal approval prior to any further work being undertaken. Any reduction in contract will be agreed prior to implementation.

11 – The Report

The resulting survey document will be the intellectual property of Community Energy Scotland.