

By email to: Nicola.Ferguson@gov.scot

Ms Nicola Ferguson
Case Officer
Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
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5 January 2024

Dear Ms Ferguson

Allt an Tuir Wind Farm, nr Lairg: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00005008

Background and Context

1. Allt an Tuir Renewable Energy Park Limited has submitted a Scoping Report for a wind farm of 9 turbines of 200m to blade tip height, solar panels and a battery installation on the west side of lower Glen Cassley, near Lairg.
2. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with more than 16,000 members and is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains. We represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering, and provide training and information to mountain users for safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.

Assessment

3. Mountaineering Scotland's concern at this stage is ensuring that the proposed viewpoints will allow a comprehensive assessment of the proposed development from a mountaineering/hillwalking perspective should an application be made.
4. The location of Allt an Tuir proposes development in the southernmost edge of the 'claw' west of Glen Cassley of the extensive Rael-Cassley Wild Land Area, which includes Ben More Assynt. The proposed site itself is not an important location for hillwalking, the primary issue is therefore the wider visual impact.
6. We endorse the hill viewpoints 7-9, 12 & 14 and also VP10 Glen Cassley - Duchally Lodge which gives a glen view, and although outside the WLA reflects the view from a lower part of the WLA.

Yours sincerely...

D. Black

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