

By email to [Econsents\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Econsents_Admin@gov.scot)

Energy Consents Unit  
Scottish Government  
5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

19 November 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**Fasnakyle Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report: November 2019**  
**Reference ECU00001969**

Vento Ludens has submitted an EIA Scoping Report for a potential wind farm at Fasnakyle, by Cannich, Inverness-shire. The indicative layout shows 46 turbines of 149.9m blade-tip height. The highest turbine base would be at c.540 O.D. The southern end of the site would be <3km west of Bhlaraidh wind farm. The northern end abuts an RSPB reserve and on the northeast is within 500m of Corrimony wind farm.

The Scoping Report states (section 2.2) that Bhlaraidh lies 13km from the Fasnakyle site. This (centroid-to-centroid distance?) is misleading. The nearest turbines will be under 3km apart. Section 5.3.1 states 4km, which is closer but still not fully accurate, though it erroneously locates the Bhlaraidh extension as north of the operational turbines whereas it is more accurately regarded as east, as shown on the Scoping Report Figure 4. Some of the viewpoint locations (Table 5.2; Figure 8) are not spelt as mapped by the Ordnance Survey.

Mountaineering Scotland has reviewed the Scoping Report from the perspective of its members' interests and has the following observations.


1. Given the revisiting of a location to which Mountaineering Scotland previously objected, and with a much larger proposed scheme, our members' interests are most certainly engaged. The Scoping Report notes the planning history of the site and the applicant believes that previous reasons for refusal can be addressed through design. The applicant is likely to find this challenging since the visual impact reasons for refusal arose from location not design. We anticipate this will be fully addressed in the EIA Report should a planning application be made.
2. Table 5.1 identifies those scenic designations and Wild Land Areas proposed to be scoped in/out. These proposals are reasonable.
3. Table 5.2 identifies proposed viewpoints. Insofar as hillwalking interests are concerned, these provide a reasonable range of viewpoints. However, it is not clear why Carn Ghlusaid should be preferred over the neighbouring and higher Carn nan Conbhairean. Nor is it clear why the dead-end track to Loch Liath is preferred over the Hilton-Dundreggan through-track. The former is stated as a

core path in Table 5.2 but not shown as such on Figure 8, whereas the latter is unambiguously a used core path, passes nearer to the proposed development and has more extensive visibility of it on the Affric side.

4. There is an absence of viewpoints at close range south of the proposed development. Adopting Meall Dubh as a viewpoint would remedy this and also be a useful position from which to judge cumulative impact in relation to Bhlaraidh and Corrimony.

5. The key sensitivities for the LVIA to consider, identified in para 5.4.1, are appropriate.

Yours sincerely



D. Black

**Davie Black**  
**Access & Conservation Officer**  
**Mountaineering Scotland**

**T: 07555 769325**

**E: [access@mountaineering.scot](mailto:access@mountaineering.scot)**

