

By email to: stephen.mcfadden@gov.scot

Mr Stephen McFadden
Consents Manager
Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow G2 8LU

19 April 2024

Dear Mr McFadden

Highland Wind Farm, nr Strath Dearn, Monadhliath, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00005082

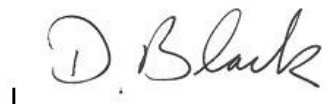
Background and Context

1. Highland Wind Farm Ltd has submitted a Scoping Report for a wind farm of 24 turbines of 200-230m BTH. The proposed development is located in the heart of the northeast Monadhliath, approximately centred on Carn na Guaille, between Strath Dearn and the Dulnain Valley, with the access road from Strathspey, west of Kincaig.
2. The site (and around half the length of the approach road) lies entirely within the Monadhliath Wild Land Area.
3. 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

4. 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.
5. We endorse the proposed hill viewpoints 1, 3-8, 10-13, & 15. However, we think Ben Macdui (VP6) is duplication, being almost in line with and slightly more distant than Braeriach (VP7) from the proposed development. We suggest inclusion of a viewpoint from the Feshie-Tromie area, such as Carn Dearg Mor (NN 823912) or Meallach Mor (NN 776908), both Corbetts, since this would cover a different angle from the hillwalkers' perspective.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and a clear 'Black'.

Davie Black
Access & Conservation Officer
Mountaineering Scotland

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