

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

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

8th October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Glen Markie Wind Farm, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report
ECU reference: ECU00006252

Background and Context

1. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with 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.
2. Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd has submitted a Scoping Report for a wind farm of 65 turbines of 250m blade-tip height, in the southwestern Monadhliath.
3. The proposed development is in two parts. The 23-turbine northern section is just over 1km south of Corriegarth wind farm, which is operational, and its extension, which has been granted consent. The 42-turbine southern section is less than 1km from Stronelairst wind farm, which is operational and Cloiche wind farm, which is effectively an extension of Stronelairst and has been granted consent.

Assessment

4. The proposed site is moorland with rounded summits clothed in low growing mountain heath interspersed with wetter areas and some areas of exposed peat.
5. The site has no statutory national landscape designation, but turbines at the southern edge of the southern section would be within 1km of the boundary of the Cairngorm National Park and about two thirds of the proposed turbines would be within the Monadhliath Wild Land Area.

6. The proposed development is likely to have a significant adverse visual impact on the southern Monadhliath. Although there are both operational and consented wind farms already within the landscape, the proposed development would be more visually intrusive due to the altitude of the site and height of the turbines in comparison to the neighbouring Stronelairg and Corriegarth wind farms.

7. We endorse the proposed viewpoints sited on hills and remote high ground: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

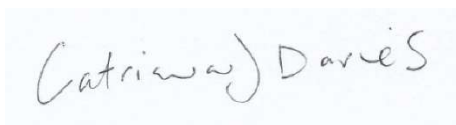
8. The applicant states that for some viewpoints they will only provide a wireline visualisation, as they are "*distant viewpoints from open/remote upland areas and summits, where visitor numbers are likely to be low.*" (5.4.23). This is not the case for VP12 Carn Liath which is Munroe and part of the popular Creag Meagaidh circuit, which takes in the summits of Carn Liath, Stob Poite Coire Ardair and Creag Meagaidh. We suggest a full visualisation is provided for this viewpoint.

9. We consider there to be insufficient viewpoints to allow an accurate assessment of the landscape and visual impact of the proposed development as viewed from the south-eastern Monadhliath, which is a popular hillwalking area and falls with the Cairngorms National Park. VP2 Geal Charn alone is insufficient and we propose Carn Dearg (NH 635 024) and Carn Sgulain (NH 683 058) as additional viewpoints.

10. There are no proposed viewpoints that would allow an accurate assessment of the landscape and visual impact of the proposed development from the Drumochter Hills. We propose the addition of The Fara (NN 598 844) and Carn na Caim (NN 677 822).

11. Please note VP7 and VP10 have been misspelled and should read Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and Meall na h-Eilrig respectively.

Yours sincerely



Catriona Davies

Access & Environment Officer

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