

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

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

26th January 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ruith Cnoc Wind Farm, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00006285

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 skitourers 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. Low Carbon Ltd. Has submitted has submitted a Scoping Report for a wind farm of 42 turbines of 220m blade-tip height, on the south side of Strath Oykel.

Assessment

3. The landscape of the site of the proposed development is blanket bog moorland with some plantation forestry in the east.

4. The proposed layout is grid-like, presumably to fit the maximum number of turbines within the site. The highest turbine base is 390m, giving a blade-tip altitude of 610m. This is higher than anything between the site and the hills of Assynt.

5. Approximately two thirds of the site is within the Rhiddoroch – Ben Dearn – Ben Wyvis Wild Land Area. The Assynt – Coigach National Scenic Area is to the north and west of the site, c.10km and c.13.5km distant respectively.

6. Of the 23 proposed viewpoints, four are hill tops and three are low ground hillwalking routes.

No.	Name	Approx. distance from closest turbine(km)
10	Cape Wrath Trail by Schoolhouse bothy	3
11	Cape Wrath Trail west of Schoolhouse bothy	3
12	Footpath by Rappach Water	2
19	Suilven	21
20	Ben More Assynt	18
21	Ben Klibreck	37
22	Seana Bhraigh	12

7. Mountaineering Scotland endorses the above viewpoints, however we consider them to be insufficient and propose the inclusion of the following additional viewpoints, to allow a full and accurate assessment of the impact of this proposal on mountain landscapes.

Canisp (NC203187)	More visibility than Suilven and at c. 18km distance is slightly closer.
Sgurr an Fhidhleir of Ben More Coigach (NC094054)	17km distance and covers a direction not represented by any of the proposed viewpoints.
Carn a'Choin Dearg (NH397923)	At 9km distance is the closest SMC-listed hill to the proposed development and covers a direction not represented by any of the proposed viewpoints.
Beinn an Eoin (NC389083)	At 9km distance, would be more useful than Ben Klibreck which, at 37km distance and within intervening consented and proposed turbines, has negligible value.

I trust these comments are useful.

Yours sincerely,



Catriona Davies

Access & Environment Officer

Mountaineering Scotland

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