

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

Energy Consents Unit
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
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Glasgow
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11 August 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Bunloinn Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00003304

Background and Context

1. EnergieKontor has submitted a scoping report for a wind farm between Loch Loyne and Beinn Loinne, west of the A87. It is scoping 18 turbines at 200-230m BTH, at base altitudes of 340-550m OD.
2. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with more than 14,000 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 has comments only on the proposed viewpoints, with reference to Scoping Report Question 6.3, which we have reviewed for their appropriateness to making, in due course, an assessment of the mountaineering impact of the proposed development.
4. Our opinion is that for assessing the potential impact on hillwalkers there is value in all the proposed viewpoints. However, viewpoints 14-16 are >30km distance and there are closer locations that would be much more informative. We suggest replacing them with the following:
5. A viewpoint at Beinn Loinne summit (789m, NH130076) (or alternatively Creag a'Mhaim (947m, NH087077)). It is surprising that the actual summit, which is a destination for walkers, should be omitted.
6. A viewpoint to represent the Kintail hills, which are popular with hillwalkers, would be helpful, such as Aonach Mheadhoin (1001m, NH048137).

7. A viewpoint on the A87 east of the Cluanie Inn would also be worthwhile to assess the level and impact of blade visibility appearing over the Beinn Loinne ridge.

8. Viewpoint 13, Meall Mor, is an obscure shoulder of Doire Tana. The viewpoint may be better represented at the summit of Doire Tana (NH218281) or the upper slopes of the ridgeline.

Other matters

9. We note that Paragraph 3.2 incorrectly refers to the summit of the Corbett, Beinn Loinne (775m, sic), as lying within the site. The summit of the Corbett (789m) is actually nearly 1600m west of the site boundary and c.2km west of the subsidiary eastern 775m summit, which is within the site.

10. Para 13.11 refers to the Kintyre Way. Clearly this is a mistake. If it is a typo for the Affric-Kintail Way, it is still inappropriate since this valley route would have no visibility of the proposed development. The recreational destinations likely to be affected by the proposed development are hill summits or roadside stopping places.

Yours sincerely



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