

By email to: Eleanor.McKechnie@Gov.Scot

Ms Eleanor McKechnie
Senior Case Officer
Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow G2 8LU

13 August 2024

Dear Ms McKechnie

Ceislein Wind Farm, Aness, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00005174

Background and Context


1. RWE has submitted a Scoping Report for a wind farm of 20 turbines of 250m BTH c.10km east of Ben Wyvis.
2. 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.
3. The hills flanking the east of Ben Wyvis have a long planning history of attempts to place wind farms there. Mountaineering Scotland has opposed previous proposals east of Ben Wyvis on the basis of (1) the landmark significance of the view of Ben Wyvis from the low ground to the east and southeast, (2) the value of the area as a separation zone between wind farm developments, and (3) the importance of the view eastward from Ben Wyvis.

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 walker' viewpoints: 1, 7 and 16. We note that the notional scoping layout shows the highest turbine base at c.490m, giving a blade-tip altitude of 740m OD. The highest Novar turbine blade-tip altitudes are lower in altitude at around 700m.
6. Other than Ben Wyvis's slopes, the visual penetration along the glens to the northwest, into the Rhiddoroch-Beinn Dearg-Ben Wyvis WLA, is the main potential impact upon the wilder uplands, and

hillwalking interests. We therefore propose the inclusion of a viewpoint at the summit of the Corbett, Carn Chuinneag (grid ref NH483833) to cover the lack of hillwalkers' viewpoint in this quadrant.

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 stylized 'Black'.

Davie Black
Access & Conservation Officer
Mountaineering Scotland

T: 07555 769325

E: access@mountaineering.scot

