

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

Energy Consents Unit
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

4 May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Chrathaich Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00003248

Background and Context

1. Crathaich Renewables LLP has submitted a scoping report for a wind farm of up to 17 turbines of up to 180m BTH, southwest of Drumnadrochit, immediately north of and adjacent to the operational Bhlaraich wind farm. This lies in an area where multiple wind farm developments are being proposed and the fit between the different proposals will be an important consideration.
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, and acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering. Mountaineering Scotland also acts on behalf of the 80,000 members of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) on matters related to landscape and access in Scotland, and provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.

Assessment

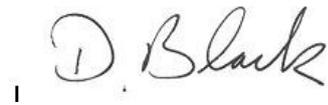
3. Mountaineering Scotland has comments only on the proposed viewpoints, which we have reviewed for their appropriateness to making, in due course, an assessment of the mountaineering impact of the proposed development.
4. We endorse viewpoints 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15 & 16. Viewpoint 18 is distant and of questionable value.
5. We are concerned that there is a lack of viewpoints that would enable an assessment of the impact on the major groups of hills west and northwest of the proposed development, which lie within the Wild Land Area and Special Landscape Area. We recommend that viewpoints be added at:

- Tom a' Choinnich (west)
- Sgorr na Diollaid (northwest)
- Beinn a Bha'ach Ard (north)

These are all within 20km of the proposed development and lie within a WLA and an NSA or SLA.

6. Without elevated viewpoints in the northwest quadrant a proper assessment of the visual impact of the proposed scheme will be impossible.

Yours sincerely



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