

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

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

2 March 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00002025

BayWa r.e. UK Limited has submitted an EIA Scoping Report for a potential wind farm at Corriegarth in the western Monadhliath. The indicative scoping layout shows 18 turbines of 149.9m blade-tip height. The indicative layout shows the proposed turbines ringing the existing 23 turbines of 120m BTH.

Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 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 85,000 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.

Mountaineering Scotland did not object to the applications that resulted in the current wind farm. Subsequent observation in the field suggests that the highest turbines – those added in the final application that consented the wind farm as built – have a disproportionately adverse visual impact because of their elevation and sightlines from the eastern Monadhliath Munros.

Assessment

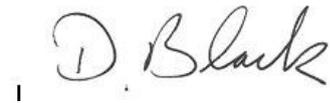
Mountaineering Scotland has reviewed the Scoping Report from the perspective of its members' interests and has the following observations.

1. We have no comment on the bulk of the Scoping Report.
2. We have concerns that additional high-altitude, and taller, turbines would increase the adverse impact of the existing highest elevation turbines. We would hope that this will influence the design process and expect any effect to be fully dealt with in the LVIA.

3. We concur with the proposed upland viewpoints, viz: 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 15. However, we find it odd that the second-highest summit in the western Monadhliath, which lies within 1km of the highest altitude turbine on the indicative layout, is not proposed as a viewpoint. Carn na Saobhaidhe, at 811m, is a Corbett and thus a point of attraction for hill-walkers. We suggest its inclusion as a viewpoint.

4. We agree that a full wild land assessment is required for the Monadhliath WLA, which the proposed development abuts.

Yours sincerely



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