

By email to: stephen.mcfadden@gov.scot

Mr Stephen McFadden
Consents Manager
Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow G2 8LU

8 July 2024

Dear Mr McFadden

Kyllachy Wind Farm, Strathdearn, nr Tomatin, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00005153

Background and Context

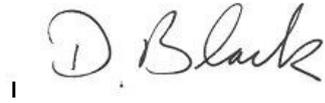
1. Wind Estate Ltd has submitted a Scoping Report for a wind farm of 11 turbines of 200m BTH. The proposed development is located on the west side of Strathdearn, south of Tomatin.
2. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with more than 16,000 members and is the only recognised representative 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 area is of local interest for walking, with gravel roads giving easy walking to the summit of Carn na Seanalaich. The northwestern tip of the Monadhliath Wild Land Area is just within 5km of the site.

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. The upland viewpoints suggested in the Scoping Report are insufficient for a proper assessment of visual impact on hillwalkers. VP 12, Geal Charn Mor (16km) is reasonable, but VP14 Cairn Gorm (32km) and VP15 Meall Fuar-Mhonaigh (29km) are at too far a distance to be useful viewpoints specific to this proposed development.
6. The ZTV shows extensive visibility toward the northeast and southwest of the location. This area includes a variety of moorland hills, of local popularity. Viewpoints to represent these would be useful. We suggest to the northeast: Carn Glas-choire (NH891291) or Carn nam Bain-tighearna

(NH847253). The former is a Graham and thus attractive to hill-baggers, but the latter is more often climbed since it is near to the A9 and also popular in winter with snowsports tourers. To the southwest Beinn Bhreac Mhor (NH678198) is a summit destination for hillwalkers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small vertical line to the left of the first letter.

Davie Black
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Mountaineering Scotland

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