

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

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

15 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Loch Liath Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00002182

Background and Context

Statkraft has submitted a scoping report for a wind farm of up to 26 turbines of up to 200m BTH (132m hub), southwest of Drumnadrochit, immediately north of and adjoining the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm.

Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with almost 14,500 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.

Assessment

Mountaineering Scotland is in general content with the proposed methodology in the Scoping Report and has only one specific response and one general comment.

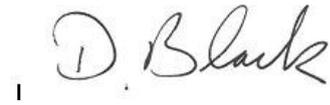
In response to question 5.3, we note that half of the proposed viewpoints are on hills. Given the location of the site this is reasonable and we concur with the viewpoints proposed with two caveats. First, Viewpoint 18 Carn Dearg is at 30km distance and visualisations are fairly useless at that distance so a wireline alone would be adequate.

Second, none of the proposed viewpoints represent the high ground northwest of the site and we strongly urge that the Strathfarrar Corbett, Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard, should be added to remedy this.

Our general comment is on the relationship between the proposed development, Bhlaraidh wind farm and Bhlaraidh extension (recently scoped). This will be key to assessing any planning

application for Loch Liath. Bhlaraidh + Bhlaraidh Extension would have a strong east-west orientation while the Loch Liath scoping layout has a north-south axis. It is not clear from the Scoping Report why it is considered preferable to site turbines north of Carn Loch a'Mhuillin rather than in the southeast of the 'developable area', which in our judgement would provide a better fit and alignment with Bhlaraidh + Bhlaraidh Extension.

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'.

Davie Black
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Mountaineering Scotland

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