

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

Mr Stephen McFadden
Energy Consents Unit
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
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19 February 2021

Dear Sir

West Torrisdale Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00002224

Background and Context

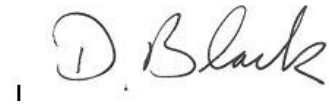
1. ESB Asset Development (UK) Ltd has submitted a scoping report for a wind farm of up to 12 turbines of up to 149.9m blade-tip-height, 4 km southwest of Carradale, Argyll and Bute.
2. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with more than 14,000 members and is the only recognised representative 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 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

3. Mountaineering Scotland is in general content with the proposed methodology in the Scoping Report. We have a couple of comments on specific points:
4. The key receptors (pp12-13) do not include hillwalkers. Hillwalkers on the popular North Arran Hills (within the National Scenic Area and Wild Land Area) should be included as key receptors.
5. Only one upland viewpoint on Arran is proposed, and the Scoping Report actually admits that Goatfell has been chosen to demonstrate the absence of an effect on the NSA/WLA. We see no benefit in using Goatfell as a viewpoint. It has a sliver of (probably only blade-tip) visibility and a hub and blade-tip ZTV is quite adequate to demonstrate areas without visibility. It is particularly unsatisfactory to waste a viewpoint on demonstrating a negative when the ZTV shows extensive visibility from other hills within the NSA/WLA.

6. We would suggest that as a minimum Beinn Tarsuinn (or another point on that ridge) should be a viewpoint. Ideally Beinn Bharrain would also be a viewpoint since, although the angle of view is similar to Beinn Tarsuinn, it is several kilometres closer to the proposed development site. Both of these suggestions are within the NSA and WLA , and the former ridge is particularly popular with walkers.

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.

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