

Wind farms and changing mountaineering behaviour in Scotland

March 2014

The Mountaineering
Council of Scotland



KEY POINTS

This survey provides clear evidence that mountain-goers do not want to pursue their activity, and spend their money, in areas they regard as spoiled by industrial-scale wind farms. They are changing their behaviour to avoid such areas, and sometimes Scotland altogether. This is consistent with a trend in other surveys showing a rising proportion of discouraged visitors.

- The Mountaineering Council of Scotland undertook a survey to identify if the growing number of wind farms and their increasing reach into mountainous areas was having any impact upon mountaineering activity and whether the MCofS position on the areas of Scotland that should be protected from development properly reflected the collective view of its members.
- There were 970 respondents. Two thirds (66%) were MCofS members and 159 were members of the British Mountaineering Council (including 53 who were members of both). Nearly one quarter (23%) did not state an affiliation. Three quarters (77%) lived in Scotland.
- A substantial majority of MCofS respondents believe that wind farms are having an adverse effect on Scotland's mountains, outnumbering those who believe there is no effect by three to one. The same is true of BMC respondents and those not stating affiliation, though the majorities are smaller, reducing to two to one for the last group.
- A large majority supports the action that MCofS believes is necessary to preserve Scotland's mountain assets: no wind farms in National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Core Areas of Wild Land and a 'buffer zone' around them. MCofS respondents support this position by a majority of ten to one over the option of having no blanket constraints (71% vs 7%) and BMC members and respondents not stating affiliation by majorities of over five to one.
- This survey suggests that a majority of mountaineers are discouraged by wind farms and their main behavioural response is to avoid areas with wind farms. Responses to all of the questions and across all affiliations and places of residence were consistent. Mountaineers living outside Scotland are less likely to visit Scottish mountains. A maximum of one quarter of respondents were unconcerned about wind farms in mountain landscapes.
- This survey provides empirical evidence from a niche market important for tourism in remote areas of Scotland. We contend that these results also sound a warning of reputational damage that could reach much wider than mountaineering and afflict Scottish landscape-based tourism more generally as the distinctive local landscape characteristics of large areas become homogenised into "landscape with turbines".
- The survey was criticised for not enabling people to express the view that wind farms could be a positive attraction for mountain-goers. However only 5% of respondents expressed a preference for accommodation with a wind farm in view. When compared with the 73% who did not want such a view and the 56% whose hill-going behaviour is changing to the detriment of areas with wind farms, the net balance is clear. Wind farms appear likely to attract few mountaineers but repel many.
- Surveys of the general public also suggest a trend of rising visitor discouragement due to wind farms, from under 10% before 2008 to 17% in 2011 and 26% in 2013.
- Scotland's mountains are intrinsic to Scotland's reputation at home and abroad. Amongst mountaineers and others that reputation is degrading, putting at risk local economies that rely upon it.



THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND



The Mountaineering Council of Scotland acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering and is a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee, with 12,000 members. The MCoFS also acts for 75,000 members of the British Mountaineering Council on matters related to landscape and access in Scotland.

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INTRODUCTION

The common link between all members of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoFS) is their interest in mountaineering activities. The MCoFS exists to represent, promote and support that interest. One way in which it does so is to advocate that Scotland maintains and improves its high quality mountain landscapes. For most mountaineers (hill-walkers, climbers and ski-tourers), the landscape in which they pursue their activities is an important part of the experience. Scotland's mountains are an important component of its attraction to participants in other outdoor activities and to tourists from home and abroad who are attracted to its world-class landscapes.

MCoFS members regard its work on landscape as important. In a members' survey in 2012, 66% rated its work 'responding to national developments that affect the mountaineering landscape' as of high importance. Members regularly contact the MCoFS office about landscape issues that concern them.

The development of wind farms across Scotland's mountains and moors is a recent phenomenon with the potential to have a substantial landscape impact. By far the largest number of landscape issues that members raise with the MCoFS concern wind farms, and members raising them are overwhelmingly hostile to the effect that wind farms are having upon their experience of the mountains in Scotland. Smaller numbers of communications suggest that there are other members who either regard wind farms as having a neutral or

beneficial impact upon Scotland's mountains or who regard any detrimental impact as being an acceptable trade-off to reduce Scotland's carbon dioxide emissions.

Wind farm developers repeatedly quote the same small number of primary research studies - mostly outdated given the pace of development and the increasing size of turbine towers and rotors - to assert that there is no evidence of any impact of wind farms upon tourism. Yet the MCoFS hears of people avoiding areas of Scotland with wind farms, visiting less frequently and even going abroad more often. However, it also hears of people saying that wind farms have no impact on their mountaineering activity and enjoyment, and a very small number suggesting that there is a beneficial impact, usually because of access being made easier by gravel roads serving wind farms.

The MCoFS decided to undertake a survey to identify (1) if the growing number of wind farms and their increasing reach into mountainous areas was having any impact upon members' mountaineering activity and (2) whether the MCoFS position on the areas of Scotland that should be protected from wind farm development properly reflected the collective view of its members. The survey was also opened to members of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), which part-funds MCoFS landscape work, to obtain the perspective of mountain 'tourists' from outside of Scotland. ¹



¹ The geographical jurisdiction of the British Mountaineering Council covers England and Wales.

THE SURVEY

The survey was undertaken between November 2013 and January 2014. It was publicised to MCofS members (the primary target group) through its e-newsletter, website and Scottish Mountaineer magazine sent to all members.

The survey was publicised to BMC members through their e-newsletter. The preamble to the survey made it clear that the MCofS received both favourable and unfavourable comments about wind farms and their impact on mountaineering behaviour in Scotland. What we wanted was to get a true picture of the impact of wind farms on "your use of the hills". The spread of opinions shown by respondents - with a balance consistent with the balance of communications received by the MCofS from members - suggests that the survey was successful in tapping into a good cross-section of mountaineers' views and how their behaviour is changing as wind farms increase across Scotland.

There were 972 responses in total: 915 through Survey Monkey, 56 on paper and one by e-mail. Two respondents answered only one question each (Q3 response e; Q8 response d) and were discarded. This left 970 cases for analysis.

Item non-response was very low for all questions (a maximum of 11 non-responses) except for one. A high proportion of respondents (23%) did not answer the question on MCofS/BMC membership. When item non-response for other questions was so low, non-response to this question was clearly deliberate. The survey was publicised specifically to members of the MCofS and BMC. However, we were aware that it could be accessed by non-members on SurveyMonkey and were very conscious of the risk of the survey being hijacked in a deliberate attempt to manipulate the results. Careful comparison of the results for the group stating no affiliation with those stating MCofS or BMC affiliation showed that while there was a tendency for responses to be more favourable towards wind farms, they were not as skewed as might have been expected if they were the consequence of a systematic campaign to bias the results. Accordingly they have been retained in this analysis.

We made this decision conscious that whatever decision was made, we would be accused of bias by those who felt aggrieved. Indeed, we were accused of bias by two respondents within days of the survey going live. "I am disappointed with the format of your questionnaire on hill going and wind farms. It is restricted to simplistic box ticking and offers little scope for gathering meaningful opinion. It assumes that, at best, the effect of wind farms is neutral and in particular question 5 offers no option to express the view that wind farms may have a beneficial effect on hill going."

"I am very disappointed that your wind-farm survey does not really allow one to express the view that wind farms and their associated tracks are actually an attraction for some for walks based upon them in full or in part. By excluding the positive, the biased nature of the survey makes any result biased in itself..."

The MCofS survey was no different in question format to the many general surveys on opinions regarding wind farms that are commissioned and quoted by government and wind farm developers. This format is simple, transparent and easy to analyse. All the questions except question 5 allowed for clear expression of favourable and unfavourable opinions regarding wind farms. Question 5 was the most complex question. It was designed to capture the kinds of actions that people had told us they were taking. There were very few voices saying that wind farms were improving the mountains and would increase hill-going. Therefore we gave 'no impact' as the most favourable option. In the Discussion section we use the responses from another question to suggest that had we included an option that wind farms would increase hill-going, it would have attracted very few responses. We do accept that question 5 does not entirely capture the full range of reactions, but argue that it nevertheless provides much stronger information on how mountaineers are reacting to wind farms than has been available to date.

The results are presented for all respondents combined and separately for MCofS members, BMC members and those not stating an affiliation. Those respondents who were members of both the MCofS and the BMC are included in both categories but only once in the total. Results are also presented by country of residence - Scotland or outside Scotland. This information was provided by 959 respondents. A full data table with the full wording of the questions is given in Appendix 1.

All sample survey results have a level of statistical uncertainty. Calculation of confidence intervals allows an assessment to be made of whether a difference between two sample statistics is likely to be 'real' or simply an artefact of the uncertainty inherent in all sample statistics.

In this survey, typical 95% confidence intervals for the analysis subgroups are: total respondents +/-3%; MCofS +/-4%; BMC +/- 8%; no affiliation +/-6%; Scotland residence +/-4%; Other residence +/- 6%.



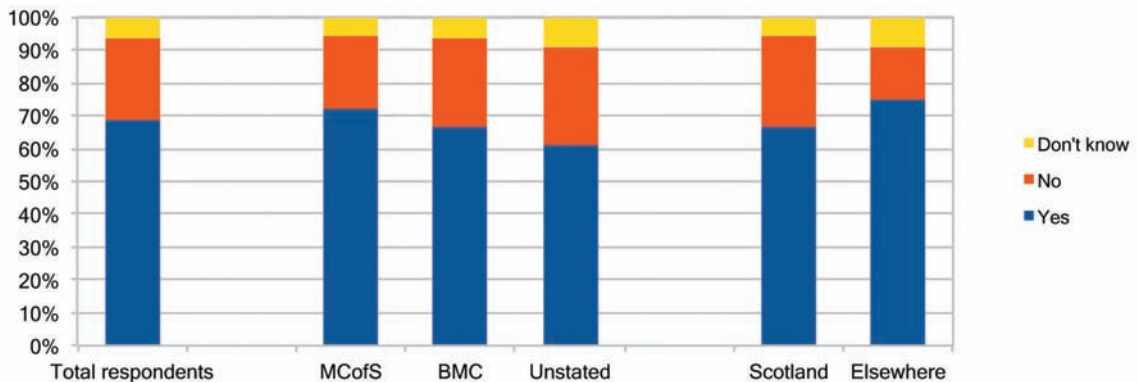
RESULTS

All percentages given below are of the total 970 respondents (959 for country of residence) entered into the analysis. Of the 970 respondents, 640 (66%) were MCofS members (including 53 who were also BMC members) and 106 were members of the BMC only (159 BMC members in total). As already noted, 224 (23%) gave no affiliation. Three quarters (77%) of respondents lived in Scotland.

Just over 5% of MCofS members responded to the survey, a low proportion but not untypical of such membership surveys. Given the good match between the survey responses and other, mostly qualitative and informal, evidence of how mountaineers are reacting to the spread of wind farms, we can be confident that this survey does provide a representative picture of how the behaviour of members, and of Scottish mountaineers more generally, is changing. The proportion of BMC members responding to the survey was, however, very low (c. 0.2%), which probably reflects its low-key marketing in England and Wales and perhaps a lower salience of the issue to those resident mainly in England where the installed capacity of on-shore turbines is low and increasing only slowly.²

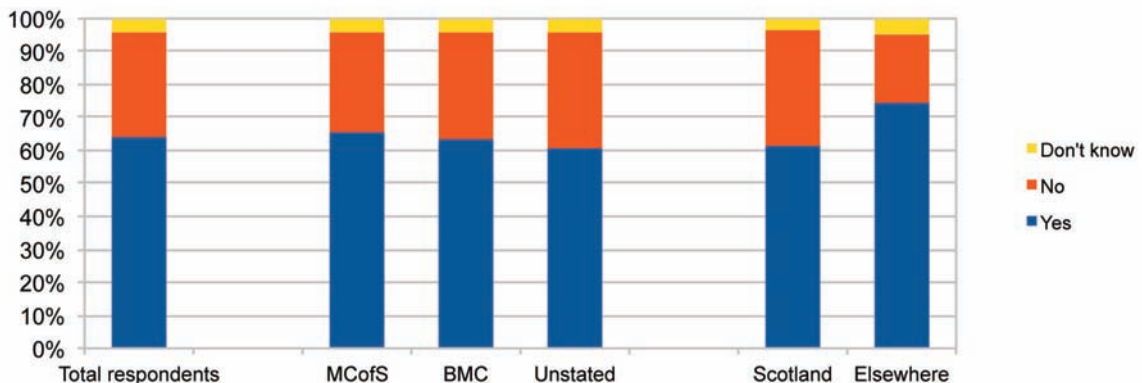
Two thirds of respondents (68%) agreed that due to the presence of wind farms there were places in Scotland that were already less appealing for walking and climbing (Q1). One quarter (25%) disagreed.

Q1) Are there places in Scotland's mountains less appealing?



A similar proportion (64%) said that there were places in Scotland they were less likely to visit or revisit because of the presence of wind farms (Q2). However the proportion disagreeing (32%) was a little higher than for question 1. This suggests that there may be some respondents who find some places less appealing but will nevertheless (re-)visit them.

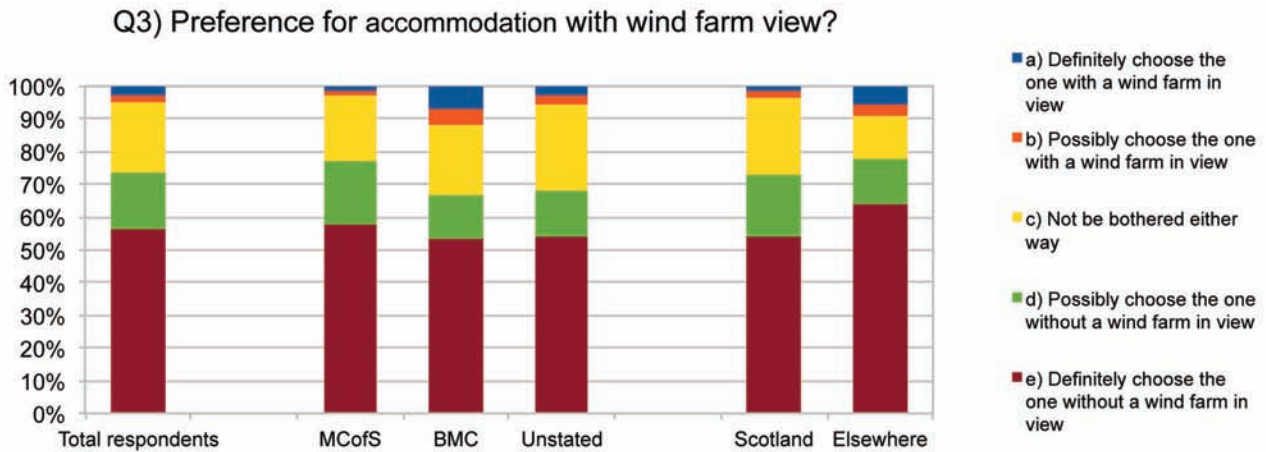
Q2) Are there places less likely to (re-)visit?



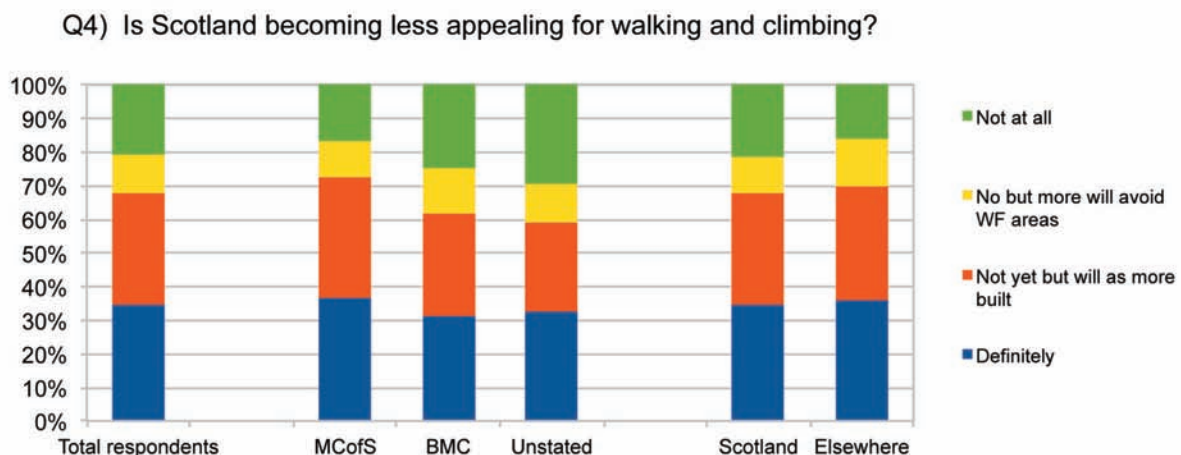
² At the end of 2012 England had 1MW of onshore wind per 100km², Wales 2.2 and Scotland 4.8 (DECC Energy Trends September 2013). Scotland will have over 10MW/100km² when currently consented wind farms are completed, a higher level than Spain, Germany or Denmark (EWEA Wind Power Annual Statistics 2012).

Differences between subgroups for both these questions were not significant except that those living outside Scotland were significantly more likely to agree that there were places in Scotland they were less likely to (re-)visit due to the presence of wind farms - 74% compared with 61% for those resident in Scotland.

Going to Scotland's mountains often involves staying away from home overnight. Nearly three quarters of respondents (73%) would choose accommodation without a wind farm view (Q3). Only 5% would choose a wind farm view, with 22% not bothered either way. Differences between subgroups were not statistically significant.



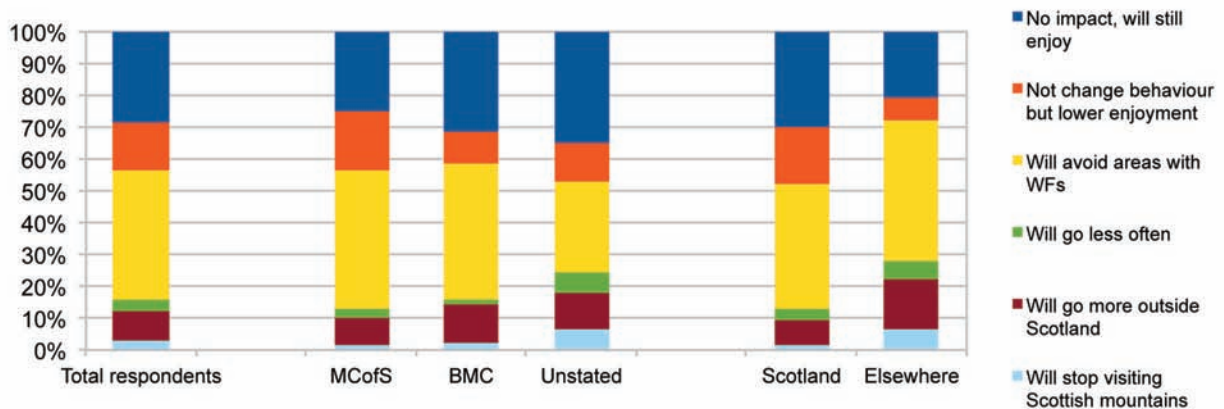
Two thirds of respondents (67%) thought that Scotland was becoming less appealing to walking and climbing tourists, with similar proportions thinking it already was (35%) or would become so as more wind farms were built (32%) (Q4). A further 11% thought that it was not becoming less appealing overall but that people would avoid areas with wind farms. Only one fifth (21%) thought there was no impact. Differences between subgroups were not statistically significant except that respondents not stating an affiliation were more likely than MCoFS members to think that it was becoming 'not at all' less appealing. This was only marginally significant and, given the general absence of significant differences between subgroups, can be regarded as of little consequence.



More than half of respondents (56%) will adapt their future walking and climbing plans in response to the increasing number of wind farms in Scotland (Q5). The most common reaction will be to avoid areas with wind farms (40%) and to take more trips away from Scotland (9%). However, 43% of respondents do not expect their mountain-going activity to change, though 15% expect their enjoyment to be diminished.

Those stating no affiliation were significantly less likely to say that they would go to the mountains just as often but avoid areas with wind farms (29%). This was partly because they would not change their behaviour (46% vs 43% for the total sample) and partly because they would go less often or not go to the (Scottish) mountains (24% vs 16%).³

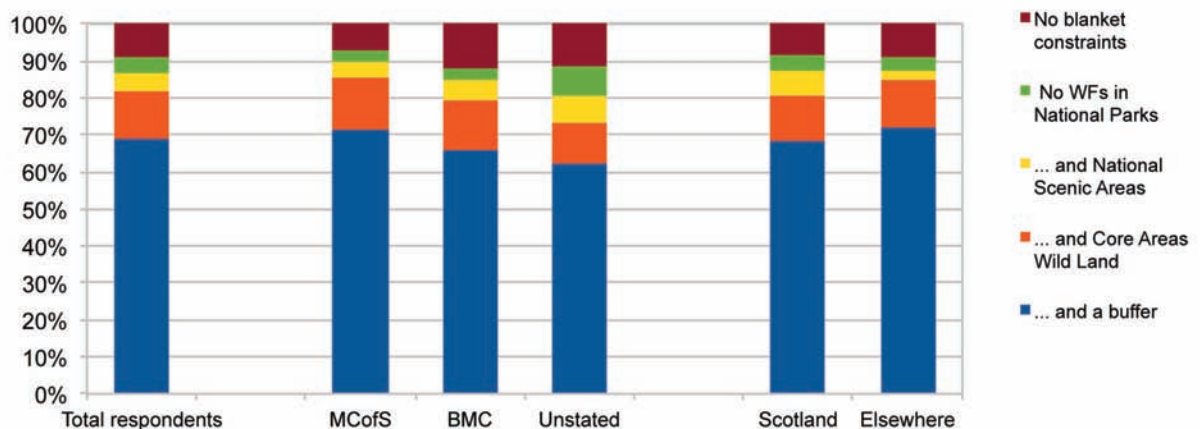
Q5) How are wind farms affecting future plans for walking and climbing?



There were significant differences in the expected behaviour changes between those living in Scotland and living outside of Scotland. Those living in Scotland were more accepting of wind farms, with 48% saying that it wouldn't affect their plans. Only 28% of those living outside Scotland felt similarly. Those living outside Scotland were significantly more likely to reduce the frequency of their visits to the (Scottish) mountains: 27% vs 13% of Scottish residents.

Two thirds of respondents (68%) want to see National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Core Areas of Wild Land and a buffer around them protected (Q6). A further 13% want these areas protected without a buffer. Only 9% want to see no blanket constraints. Differences between subgroups were not significant.

Q6) Level of protection wanted



³ The results in this sentence are not statistically significant.

DISCUSSION

The MCoFS undertook this survey for two reasons. First, to assess if its position was soundly based on its members' views.

The MCoFS endeavours to reflect the views of its members, while recognising that it has a membership united only by its interest in mountaineering and which will have diverse views on most other topics. The members' survey in 2012 indicated strong support for its work on landscape, but we did not ask specifically about wind farms. The present survey emphatically confirms that a substantial majority of MCoFS members believe that wind farms are having an adverse effect on Scotland's mountains, outnumbering those who believe there is no effect by three to one. The same is true of BMC respondents and those not stating affiliation, though the majorities are smaller, reducing to two to one for the last group.

Similarly large majorities across the subgroups support the action that MCoFS believes is necessary to preserve Scotland's mountain assets: no wind farms in National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Core Areas of Wild Land and a 'buffer zone' around them.⁴ MCoFS members support this position by a majority of ten to one over the option of having no blanket constraints (71% vs 7%) and BMC members and respondents not stating affiliation by majorities of over five to one.

It is clear that MCoFS members do support the MCoFS position that an important recreational and tourism resource is under threat and that better planning protection is needed. The BMC provides funding towards MCoFS work on landscape and access in Scotland, reflecting the interests of its members in Scotland's mountains. Support for the MCoFS position from BMC members is weaker than from MCoFS members but still very substantial.

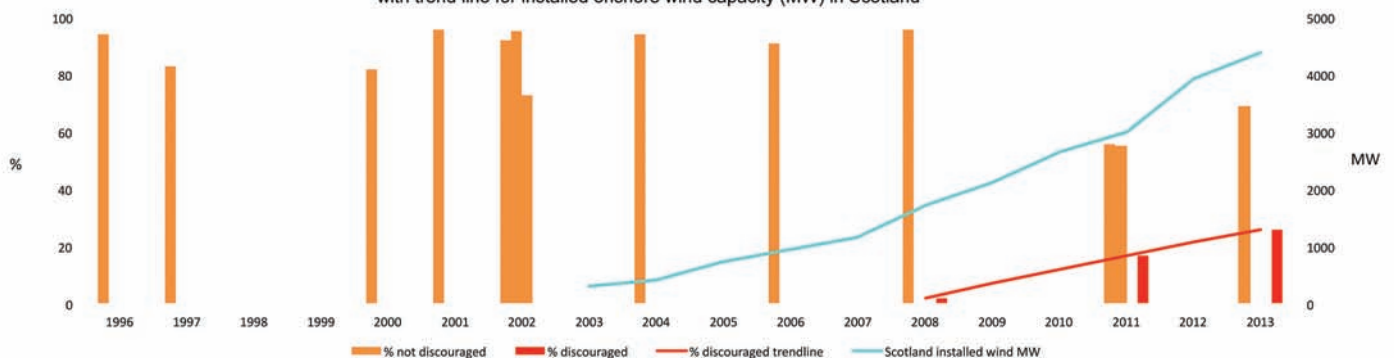
The second reason for undertaking the survey was to assess what effect the development of wind farms was having on mountaineers' behaviour. Development applications typically cite the same few studies, many of which are quite dated, to support the contention that wind farms have no effect on tourism and recreation. The Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee of the Scottish Parliament inquiry into Scotland's

emission reduction targets accepted this position⁵, perhaps particularly persuaded by the evidence of Prof. Aitchison which included a table of surveys undertaken between 1996 and 2008 at a variety of locations across Britain, showing an average of 91% of visitors 'not discouraged' by the presence of a wind farm⁶. This may be true for general tourists or visitors with particular interests that do not relate to mountain landscapes. However, from anecdotal evidence it did not seem to apply to mountaineers - a niche market but one with a wide geographical reach into economically fragile rural areas and, perhaps uniquely for Scotland, an all year-round season.⁷

The commonly quoted surveys also cover a period when wind farms were still a novelty. In 2007, when the fieldwork was probably⁸ undertaken for the latest survey cited by Aitchison, the installed capacity of onshore wind farms in Scotland was 1,150 MW. At the end of 2012 it was 3,934 MW⁹. At the time of writing this report it was 4,436 MW¹⁰ - nearly four times the level of 2007. Public responses appear to be changing as a consequence. Visit Scotland research undertaken in 2011 found that the 17% of Scottish and 18% of UK respondents would be discouraged by the presence of a wind farm¹¹. A YouGov survey commissioned by Scottish Renewables in 2013 found that 26% would be discouraged¹². This suggests an increase and possibly a rising trend in those who would be discouraged from under 10% in the older studies cited by Aitchison to 18% in 2011 to 26% in 2013, reflecting a lagged adverse response to the increase in turbines constructed and visible in the landscape (Figure 7). These figures provide no support for the proposition advanced by some developers that as more tourists see wind farms this will lead to "conditioning visitors to expect their presence while visiting Scotland"¹³.

The MCoFS survey reported here is the first to specifically ask mountain-goers about the impact of wind farms on their activity and it reflects the current visibility of wind farms. The introductory text reminded respondents that only around half of those consented were currently operational, so respondents could also have taken 'expected visibility' into account in their responses¹⁴.

Figure 7) Percentage of survey samples 'not discouraged' or 'discouraged' from an area by presence of wind farms with trend line for installed onshore wind capacity (MW) in Scotland



Responses to all of the questions and across all of the subgroups analysed are consistent in the story they tell. The majority of mountaineers are discouraged by wind farms and their main behavioural response is to avoid areas with wind farms. If resident outside Scotland they are less likely to visit Scottish mountains. Depending on the particular question, a maximum of one quarter of respondents were unconcerned about wind farms in mountain landscapes.

The Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee concluded that:¹⁵

288. While some strongly held localised and anecdotal opinion exists, the Committee has seen no empirical evidence which demonstrates that the tourism industry in Scotland will be adversely affected by the wider deployment of renewable energy projects, particularly onshore and offshore wind.

289. Whilst care always needs to be taken in terms of the planning process and decisions on the siting of individual projects in areas popular with tourists and in our rural and wild land areas, no one has provided the Committee with evidence, as opposed to opinion, that tourism is being negatively affected by the development of renewable projects. However, given the importance of this issue, the Committee recommends that Visit Scotland and the Scottish Government continue to gather evidence on this from visitors to Scotland.

This survey provides empirical evidence from a niche market important for tourism in remote areas of Scotland. We contend that these results also sound a warning of the reputational damage that could afflict Scottish landscape-based tourism more generally as the distinctive local landscape characteristics of large areas of Scotland become homogenised into "landscape with turbines".

The survey has, justifiably, been criticised for not including response options that would have enabled people to express the view that wind farms are a positive attraction for mountain-goers. One question (Q3) did, however, allow people to express a preference for accommodation with a wind farm in view: only 5% did so. When compared with the 73% who did not want such a view and the 56% (Q5) who will change their hill-going behaviour to the detriment of areas with wind farms - which for some respondents means Scotland as a whole - the net balance is clear. The attraction of a

small proportion of mountain-goers to an area by the presence of a wind farm and its infrastructure would be utterly outweighed by the repelling of a very much larger proportion.

The topic of wind farms excites strong emotions. People spontaneously making contact with the MCoFS are likely to hold strong views about wind farms, either in general or in relation to specific developments. The MCoFS repeatedly finds itself the recipient of robust criticism for being too anti-wind and for not being sufficiently anti-wind. Comments from the paper questionnaires returned in this survey show the variety of attitudes amongst mountaineers, with the majority clearly and strongly opposed to wind farms in mountain landscapes (Appendix 2).

This is not the place to rehearse the rationale for the MCoFS position on wind farms in the Scottish mountains except to restate that the MCoFS opposes only about one in twenty wind farm planning applications, that it opposes only those that it judges to have a greater adverse effect on finite mountain assets than potential benefits in terms of climate change and economic development, and that its position is as consistent and principled as human fallibility allows. In this it contrasts with the stampede to harvest excess profits from unsustainable market incentives for on-shore wind generation while other CO₂ - generating business is pursued as usual (e.g. N Sea oil extraction) and Scotland's return to increasing consumption-based CO₂ emissions after the dip of the 2008-09 recession is ignored¹⁶.

Seeing Scotland's mountain landscapes only as a development platform for short-term extraction of economic benefit mainly for export - the repeated fate of Scotland's rural areas and the Highlands in particular since the late 18th century - would not matter if they had no other value.

But there are many other reasons why they are valuable. They are internationally-recognised as a symbol of Scotland as a brand and are of great value not only to the tourism industry but also in the marketing of Scottish products and services, from water to whisky. They provide a real sense of wildness, tranquillity, adventure and solitude, yet access is relatively easy and they provide an achievable challenge that draws people to visit again and again. Scotland's mountains are intrinsic to Scotland's reputation at home and abroad. The results of this survey suggest that reputation is at risk.

⁴ We do not use the term 'buffer zone' to mean a simplistic fixed margin of so many kilometres. We use it as shorthand to indicate that wind farms should not be approved where their presence would harm the mountain and wild land resource contained within the defined areas. This requires judgement based, inter alia, on topography, scale and impact in relation to specific proposals for specific locations.

⁵ Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee. 7th Report, 2012 (Session 4), Report on the achievability of the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets: www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/57013.aspx

⁶ Aitchison C, Tourism Impact of Wind Farms, Submitted to Renewables Inquiry Scottish Government. April 2012. Listed as University of Edinburgh at: www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/46128.aspx

⁷ c.f. Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) Jobs and the Natural Heritage. SNH: Battleby. p.13

⁸ The report states that the fieldwork was undertaken in June/July/August but does not appear to state the year. The report was published in March 2008, so fieldwork the preceding summer seems likely.

⁹ Figures from DECC/Scottish Government. They include a negligible amount of wave capacity.

¹⁰ Renewables UK wind energy database accessed 27 Feb 2014.

¹¹ Visit Scotland Wind Farm Consumer Research. August 2012.

¹² <http://yougov.co.uk/news/2013/03/20/scots-support-renewable-energy/>

¹³ Scottish Power Renewables (February 2013) Response to South Ayrshire Council Objection, Dersalloch Windfarm ES Addendum, Technical Appendix B, page 18.

¹⁴ At the time of writing, Renewables UK wind energy database lists 4,436 MW operational and 3,689 consented, including those under construction.

¹⁵ op cit Note 5

¹⁶ Consumption-based emissions are the best measure to reflect the true impact of Scotland's population on global CO₂ emissions. www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/09/5719/0

CONCLUSION

Generalising across the mountain-going market segment as a whole, people do not want to pursue their activity, and spend their money, in areas they regard as spoiled by industrial-scale wind farms.

It is clear from the survey responses that the Scottish mountain 'brand' has already experienced reputational damage amongst mountain-goers from Scotland and elsewhere in Britain. The most recent surveys amongst the general public suggest that a significant and rising proportion of people share this view even though their experience of mountain landscapes might be more passive.

The more wind farms that are built and the more they intrude into what is perceived to be unspoilt mountainous and wild land, the greater will be the damage and the more sustained will be the adverse economic impact upon those areas hosting wind farms.

A reputation lost on such a national scale is not easily or quickly recovered.

APPENDIX 1

Analysis of Mountaineering Council of Scotland Survey on wind farms and hill-going.
Analysis file prepared by Dr Dave Gordon, 26 Feb 2014

MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATION BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	MCOFS	BMC	UNSTATED
NUMBER				
Scotland	738	582	66	128
England	182	50	79	66
Wales	20	4	11	7
Ireland	1	0	0	1
Elsewhere	18	4	3	11
No response	11	0	0	11
Total	970	640	159	224
PERCENTAGE				
Scotland	76	91	42	57
England	19	8	50	29
Wales	2	1	7	3
Ireland	0	0	0	0
Elsewhere	2	1	2	5
No response	1	0	0	5
Total	100	100	100	100

All tables in this analysis include in both the MCofS and BMC columns the 53 respondents who are members of both the MCofS and the BMC. These respondents are counted only once in the total column.

CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

All sample survey results have a level of statistical uncertainty.

Calculating confidence intervals allows an assessment to be made of whether a difference between two sample statistics is likely to be 'real' or simply an artefact of the uncertainty inherent in all sample statistics.

In this survey, typical 95% confidence intervals on the sample groups are:

Total respondents +/-3%; MCofS +/-4%; BMC +/- 8%;
No affiliation +/-6%;
Scotland residence +/-4%;
Other residence +/- 6%.

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

	SCOTLAND	OTHER
N	738	221
%	77	23

Total = 959, omitting 11 with no response

SURVEY INTRODUCTION

We want to gauge members' reactions to wind farms and wild and mountainous areas of Scotland (By wind farms we mean arrays of more than three turbines of more than 70m /200ft in height to blade tip)

1) ARE THERE PLACES IN SCOTLAND'S MOUNTAINS THAT ARE ALREADY LESS APPEALING TO YOU FOR WALKING AND CLIMBING DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF WIND FARMS?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	MCOFS	BMC	UNSTATED	SCOTLAND	OTHER
NUMBER						
Yes	663	460	106	136	493	166
No	243	144	43	68	203	35
Don't know	63	35	10	20	41	20
No response	1	1	0	0	1	0
Total	970	640	159	224	738	221
PERCENTAGE						
Yes	68	72	67	61	67	75
No	25	23	27	30	28	16
Don't know	6	5	6	9	6	9
No response	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

2) ARE THERE PLACES IN SCOTLAND THAT YOU ARE LESS LIKELY TO VISIT OR REVISIT DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF WIND FARMS?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	MCOFS	BMC	UNSTATED	SCOTLAND	OTHER
NUMBER						
Yes	619	418	100	135	452	163
No	308	195	51	79	257	46
Don't know	40	26	7	9	28	10
No response	3	1	1	1	1	2
Total	970	640	159	224	738	221
PERCENTAGE						
Yes	64	65	63	60	61	74
No	32	30	32	35	35	21
Don't know	4	4	4	4	4	5
No response	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

3) IF YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ACCOMMODATION DURING A BREAK IN THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINS AND FOUND TWO EQUALLY APPEALING PLACES; ONE WITH A LARGE WIND FARM IN VIEW AND ONE WITHOUT, WOULD YOU?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	MCOFS	BMC	UNSTATED	SCOTLAND	OTHER
NUMBER						
a) Definitely choose the one without a wind farm in view.	25	10	11	7	12	13
b) Possibly choose the one with a wind farm in view.	22	8	8	6	15	7
c) Not be bothered either way	210	131	34	57	175	29
d) Possibly choose the one without a wind farm in view.	169	123	21	31	138	31
e) Definitely choose the one without a wind farm in view.	541	368	85	120	398	141
No response	3	0	0	3	0	0
Total	970	640	159	224	738	221
PERCENTAGE						
a) Definitely choose the one without a wind farm in view.	3	2	7	3	2	6
b) Possibly choose the one with a wind farm in view.	2	1	5	3	2	3
c) Not be bothered either way	22	20	21	25	24	13
d) Possibly choose the one without a wind farm in view.	17	19	13	14	19	14
e) Definitely choose the one without a wind farm in view.	56	58	53	54	54	64
No response	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100



4) IS SCOTLAND BECOMING LESS APPEALING FOR WALKING AND CLIMBING TOURISTS DUE TO WIND FARMS?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	MCOFS	BMC	UNSTATED	SCOTLAND	OTHER
NUMBER						
Definitely	336	236	49	71	257	79
Not yet but it will as more as built	315	225	48	58	240	75
No but more people will avoid areas with wind farms.	111	69	22	26	78	32
Not at all.	200	107	39	64	159	35
No response	8	3	1	5	4	0
Total	970	640	159	224	738	221
PERCENTAGE						
Definitely	35	37	31	32	35	36
Not yet but it will as more as built	32	35	30	26	33	34
No but more people will avoid areas with wind farms.	11	11	14	12	11	14
Not at all.	21	17	25	29	22	16
No response	1	0	1	2	1	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100



5) HOW IS THE INCREASING NUMBER OF WIND FARMS LIKELY TO AFFECT YOUR FUTURE PLANS FOR WALKING AND CLIMBING IN SCOTLAND? PLEASE CHOOSE THE ANSWER THAT COMES CLOSEST TO YOUR VIEW

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	MCOFS	BMC	UNSTATED	SCOTLAND	OTHER
NUMBER						
a) It won't have any impact on my plans and I will still enjoy the mountains.	273	161	50	77	221	46
b) It won't affect my plans, but I don't expect to gain the same level of enjoyment.	150	117	16	26	134	16
c) I will go to the mountains just as often, but will avoid areas with wind farms.	388	277	68	64	289	98
d) I will still go to the mountains, but not as often as I would have.	36	22	2	13	24	12
e) I will still go to the Scottish mountains, but will take more trips to mountains outwith Scotland.	90	52	19	26	56	34
f) I will stop visiting the Scottish mountains.	29	11	4	14	14	15
No response	4	0	0	4	0	0
Total	970	640	159	224	738	221
PERCENTAGE						
a) It won't have any impact on my plans and I will still enjoy the mountains.	28	25	31	34	30	21
b) It won't affect my plans, but I don't expect to gain the same level of enjoyment.	15	18	10	12	18	7
c) I will go to the mountains just as often, but will avoid areas with wind farms.	40	43	43	29	39	44
d) I will still go to the mountains, but not as often as I would have.	4	3	1	6	3	5
e) I will still go to the Scottish mountains, but will take more trips to mountains outwith Scotland.	9	8	12	12	8	15
f) I will stop visiting the Scottish mountains.	3	2	3	6	2	7
No response	0	0	0	2	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

6) WHAT LEVEL OF PROTECTION SHOULD THERE BE FOR SCOTLAND'S MOUNTAINS AND WILD LANDS?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	MCOFS	BMC	UNSTATED	SCOTLAND	OTHER
NUMBER						
a) No wind farms in National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Core Areas of Wild Land and a 'buffer zone' around them.	662	457	105	135	502	159
b) No wind farms in National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Core Areas of Wild Land	123	89	21	24	94	29
c) No wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas.	52	28	9	16	46	5
d) No wind farms in National Parks.	42	20	5	17	33	8
e) No blanket constraints.	84	46	19	25	62	20
No response	7	0	0	7	1	0
Total	970	640	159	224	738	221
PERCENTAGE						
a) No wind farms in National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Core Areas of Wild Land and a 'buffer zone' around them.	68	71	66	60	68	72
b) No wind farms in National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Core Areas of Wild Land	13	14	13	11	13	13
c) No wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas.	5	4	6	7	6	2
d) No wind farms in National Parks.	4	3	3	8	4	4
e) No blanket constraints.	9	7	12	11	8	9
No response	1	0	0	3	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100



APPENDIX 2

This appendix provides a cross-section of comments made on paper questionnaires returned, reflecting the majority opinion - five opposed, two in favour - while also showing the full spectrum of attitudes amongst mountaineers.

"No XXXXXX wind farms at all."

"But surely the point about where to place wind farms is, there are many places that have been affected by human activity, one of the few remaining [unaffected] areas is the Scottish mountains - put them up in trashed areas that are windy. That's what they do on the continent... personally my view is that wind energy is... an over-subsidised, costly and not particularly efficient form of energy due to being inconsistent."

"I wouldn't mind if they were needed but they are just a pawn in the eco-politic world, destined to be redundant and recognised eventually as another folly!"

"I am very strongly opposed to most wind farms... Their visibility for miles around has a very damaging effect. Scotland has a very precious highland landscape which should be treasured by all of us and preserved for future generations.... [Referring to a specific proposal in the Monadhliath] No hill walker would want to go anywhere near the place."

"It is difficult to imagine an English Govt. despoiling the Lake District."

"Wind farm access roads offer easy access to interesting upland areas... I hope that your report on the survey will reflect the range of opinions expressed and maybe even acknowledge that question 5 excludes the recording of positive opinions about the effect of wind farms."

"We simply MUST have wind farms. People are addicted to energy. Suggesting that we reduce demand is a non-starter. Nuclear is unpopular post-Fukushima (though I still support it). IT IS INTOLERABLE TO IMPOSE CLIMATE CHANGE ON FUTURE GENERATIONS SIMPLY BECAUSE WE DON'T LIKE THE VISUAL IMPACT OF WIND TURBINES. Note that I do not want my MCoFs and BMC membership money being spent opposing wind farms. YOU DO NOT REPRESENT MY VIEWS. I would give up my membership, except that it is an unavoidable element of my local club subscription. Please re-focus your campaigning on subjects that are core to your mission."





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