



The Mountaineering Council of Scotland

The Old Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP
Tel: 01738 493 942

Please reply by email to david@mcofs.org.uk

By email to ldp@stirling.gov.uk

Planning and Policy
Corporate Operations, Stirling Council
Teith House
Kerse Road
Stirling
FK7 7QA.

Dear Sir

**Stirling Council Draft Supplementary Guidance SG33:
Wind Energy Developments Spatial Framework and Supplementary Advice and Guidance,
April 2015**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the supplementary guidance. The MCofS is an independent organisation with over 12,500 members who are hill walkers, climbers and ski tourers. It was established in 1970 as the national representative body for the sport of mountaineering in Scotland and we are recognised by the Scottish Government as representing the interests of mountaineers living in Scotland. We also act on behalf of the 75,000 members of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) which contributes both financial and policy support to our work on landscape matters in Scotland.

Our specific comments are as follows:

- 1) To avoid any uncertainty, para 4.10 should state that heights are to blade-tip.
- 2) The MCofS agrees with the assessments derived from the robust and careful updated landscape capacity study. However, we consider that the assessment paid insufficient attention to the impact on landscapes outside the study area (i.e. Stirling Council area) when assessing the capacity of the Creag Gharbh area (Mountain). Turbines in this area are very likely to impact visually upon valued surrounding landscapes, not least the extremely popular Munros north of Loch Tay, and appear all the more prominent because of their isolation, with the nearest other large turbine wind farms being located >20km away to the east and south, with none at all to north and west. MCofS has seen several instances of wind farms being located on landscapes that are not themselves of high quality but that are surrounded by high quality landscapes. The result has always been a substantial degrading of the quality of the surrounding valued landscapes.

We hope that you will find these comments helpful.

Yours sincerely

David Gibson
Chief Officer