

Objection 001

I wish to object to this proposal for the following reasons.

This development, along with Lochluichart, plus Lochluichart extension, plus possible (probable) further Lochluichart extension, along with Corriemoillie turbines will have a significant cumulative and detrimental effect upon the area.

This site is on the main route to the west coast of Scotland, used by so many tourists, particularly on the much acclaimed North Coast 500 route. Tourists are an important part of the local and the Scottish economy, and they will not be impressed by the industrialisation of our landscapes by these massive and dominating money making structures.

The negative effect of these turbines upon those who walk the hills will also be impacted. It is difficult to reach the summit of any hill in Scotland these days without seeing turbines spoiling our landscapes. The size and dominance of these turbines will greatly exacerbate the problem.

This area is already blighted by the existing turbines, but I would suggest that as the area is already 'trashed by turbines, there is no reason to trash it further'.

The damage inflicted upon our wildlife, always greatly underestimated by wind turbine developers, will also harm the area, with probable killing of sea eagles, golden eagles and other species which are known to frequent this site.

For all these reasons, along with the fact that these turbines and this form of unreliable and intermittent energy production are not required by our country, and will not ensure we have the resources to 'keep our lights on'.

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Objection 002

I object to this application on the grounds of adverse visual impact. The applicant has failed to consider the cumulative impact arising from the proximity of this proposal to the proposed Lochluichart Extension 2, and for this reason alone the application should be withdrawn. Beyond that, the chosen location already hosts 42 operational wind turbines with a further 9 in planning. While these existing turbines are deemed to be contained within a topographical "bowl", they are eye-catching to the road user and, more especially, to the walker exploring the eastern Fannichs and the Beinn Dearg group of hills.

How much more intrusive will the Kirkan wind farm be, given the increased height and rotor diameter of the turbines compared to the existing turbines. Kirkan will dominate the surrounding landforms and, from many viewpoints of interest to hillwalkers, will significantly extend the horizontal sprawl of wind farm development. Without itself being situated within a landscape protection area, the Kirkan development is ringed by WLAs and SLAs and would have a highly detrimental effect on them. I agree with Mountaineering Scotland that the negative visual impacts would be significantly and unacceptably greater than implied by the developer. This is a prominent location and, when snow is not present, the visibility of the turbines would be markedly increased by dark backclothing. Turbine lighting is a further intrusion.

I also object on the grounds of negative impact on mountaineering tourism and recreation. I belong to that sector of the public likely to be discouraged from returning to this once beautiful area due to turbine saturation. At present I can accommodate the existing wind turbines, while nonetheless wishing them away; any more industrialisation of this cherished part of the Highlands and I will be dissuaded from returning.

Please reject this inappropriate development.

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Objection 003

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 SECTION 36 AND SCHEDULE 8: APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED KIRKAN WIND FARM IN THE PLANNING AUTHORITY AREA OF THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL.

I am member of Lochbroom Community Council but commenting as an individual local resident.

In my view this additional wind farm at this sensitive corridor location will fundamentally alter the character of the approach/gateway to the North West, where there are many communities dependent on tourism. (NC500 etc). It is also not clear that all those affected are aware of this development, (in Ullapool and places west and north) with public meetings confined to the Garve area, whilst the site lies beyond that community. Many more folk than Garve CC will be impacted and in this connection the whole process seems a bit strange. The public meetings on 12/ 13 June are after the closing date. And public advertising has been in the Ross-shire Journal which doesn't meet reach points north and west- but is Dingwall focused. Nor does the Press and Journal reach every household.

I don't think that the impact of the site has been adequately assessed in terms of perceptions of visitors on this strategic route in the planning statement (7.2.35 page 37). It's not just a question of the Garve community. Long term there could be economic damage.

The turbines are of a size more appropriate to off-shore sites. These turbines reach 175 m high- and therefore very dominant in the local landscape The application area is extensive and may generate further applications for additional turbines. They will be visible, inter alia, from as far away as the Beinn Dhearg mountains in the Rhidorroch estate within Lochbroom CC. I note the planning application covers a much wider area than the turbines indicated- that needs to be tightened up or they could be given de facto a much wider area for wind farm consent. And, is it 17 or 19 turbines- all being left vague. And would developers come back with plans to install the large 175m turbines at the existing wind farms sites later, having established a precedent?

Perhaps Highland CC and the Scottish Government can consider carefully if this is the place for a significant wind farm activity, and not approach the matter incrementally as it seems to being targeted by various developers for investment. We might all feel more enthusiastic if the technology was made in Scotland and not imported- a failure of vision of successive UK Governments some three decades ago, and not yet corrected.

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