



## THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

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22nd February 2010

Dear Sir / Madam

### **Creag Dhubh Windfarm Scoping Consultation - Mountaineering Council of Scotland comments**

Thank you for consulting the MCoS with respect to this windfarm scoping. The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoS) is the representative body for hill walkers, climbers and ski tourers. As the only national representative body of the sport of mountaineering in Scotland, we have 10,500 members, and are recognised by the Scottish Government as representing the interests of all mountaineers. Our concerns are focussed on access to and conservation of ecology and landscape in mountaineering areas.

The MCoS largely supports the approach outlined in the Scoping Report. Our main outstanding areas of concern are the following issues.

4.24 We object to the publishing of any non-planning statement at the same time as the ES, even if separately, regarding inducements that may sway local community opinion from an objective view of the planning application. As the scoping report states, "it is important that the objectivity of the ES is preserved." For genuinely objective views to be obtained on the ES such a statement should not be published until after the decision on the proposal.

5.6 In addition to track routing and surfacing options, the possibility of using temporary tracks should be considered.

5.116 Scottish access rights extend to most land and inland water. There are no less rights to access off paths, rights of way or tracks. It is recognised that the actual construction site will not be accessible during the construction phase for safety reasons. Tracks used by construction traffic are not part of the construction site for the purposes of access, hence beyond the boundary of the area of active construction, access should continue unhindered.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely

Hebe Carus  
Access & Conservation Officer