



The John Muir Trust
Tower House
Station Road
Pitlochry
Perthshire
PH16 5AN

Development Management
Council Offices
School Place
Kirkwall
KW15 1NY

26 October 2020

To the Development Manager,

Re: Orkney's Community Wind Farm – Hoy, planning application, reference 20/313/TPPMAJ

As a charity that is dedicated to protecting wild places for the health and wellbeing of current and future generations the John Muir Trust has carefully considered the implications of the proposed development on the wild land of Hoy.

We welcomed early engagement and appreciate that a fundamental driver for the project is to generate funding for local services with benefits to local people expected to follow.

We also understand that the project has been scaled down to reduce impacts on wildlife, ecology and landscape. The way that this development has been handled is to be commended and we would like to see the community project succeed.

However, we are unable to support the siting of one of the turbines in Hoy's Wild Land Area. As a unique and nationally important asset, this is an area of significant protection, and we would urge further consideration of this turbine's siting. Our specific concerns are:

- While wind energy is renewable, wild land is a finite national resource. Hoy's Wild Land Area is already one of the smallest in Scotland and as such it is particularly vulnerable to attrition at its boundary. Existing development around the south-eastern edge of the Wild Land Area is not a justification for further development across the boundary.
- If this development proceeds with a turbine in the Wild Land Area, the qualified protection given to wild land in Scottish Planning Policy may be weakened and as such this case could signal a precedent that leads to further attrition of Scotland's valuable national and unique assets.

We urge the Planning Authority to look carefully at this single turbine and the long term consequences on the wild qualities of Hoy's Wild Land Area. Planning consent for windfarms is often granted with the condition of the removal of specific turbine(s) and we suggest that this could be applicable in this case.

Many thanks for considering our concerns and objection to this turbine.

Yours sincerely,
Rosie Simpson
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