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Calliachar North Wind Farm : Appeal : Supplementary Comment

The John Muir Trust wishes to comment on the Appeal by I&H Brown NC Ltd. against the Refusal of Planning Permission to construct the proposed Calliachar North Wind Farm comprising 7 wind turbines with a blade tip height between 110 and 124 metres on and near an area of woodland to the south of Aberfeldy

The John Muir Trust is the leading wild land conservation charity in the United Kingdom. Working with people and communities to conserve, campaign and inspire, the Trust is a membership organisation that seeks to ensure that wild land is protected and enhanced and that wild places are valued by and for everyone.

Scotland's wild land is an asset of national and international significance but it is a finite resource. Wild land plays a vital role for carbon storage in trees and peat land, gives us clean air, water and food and is home to valuable wildlife. Wild land also plays a vital role in supporting tourism and a wide range of other economic and leisure activities. The Scottish Governments **National Planning Framework 3** June 2014 states :

"We will respect, enhance and make responsible use of our natural and cultural assets.

"4.4 Scotland's landscapes are spectacular, contributing to our quality of life, our national identity and the visitor economy. Landscape quality is found across Scotland and all landscapes support place-making. National Scenic Areas and National Parks attract many visitors and reinforce our international image. We also want to continue our strong protection

for our wildest landscapes – wild land is a nationally important asset (our emphasis). Closer to settlements landscapes have an important role to play in sustaining local distinctiveness and cultural identity, and in supporting health and well-being". The application to construct Talladh-a-Bheithe places all of the turbines within Wild Land Area 14 as defined by Scottish Natural Heritage".

Scottish Planning Policy page 47 section 200 states that

"Wild land character is displayed in some of Scotland's remoter upland, mountain and coastal areas, which are very sensitive to any form of intrusive human activity and have little or no capacity to accept new development. Plans should identify and safeguard the character of areas of wild land as identified on the 2014 SNH map of wild land areas".

The Trust is committed to policy principles that support the current targets of the UK Government and devolved governments for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, as these are the primary public policy tools directed at climate change mitigation. However, the Trust does not support the construction of industrial-scale wind energy developments on wild land or developments that would impact adversely on wild land.

The Trust has reconsidered its original submission with regard to this Appeal against its :

- Wild Land Policy 2010
- Built Development Policy 2013
- Energy and Wild Land Policy 2013

and with reference to Local and National Policy and Guidance in

- National Planning Framework 3 2014
- Scottish Planning Policy 2 2014
- Perth and Kinross Council, Development Plan – in particular we would refer to Policy ER1: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation and Policy ER1B: Extensions of Existing Facilities

We would confirm that the Trust stands by our original Objection (18/03/2014) which supported by the Council Policies stated above shows there are no grounds for this Appeal.

We would appreciate the opportunity to give evidence at any pre cognition, Public Inquiry or other future gathering of evidence and views.

Yours sincerely

John Low

Policy Officer

John Muir Trust