

The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit 4<sup>th</sup> Floor 5 Atlantic Quay 150 Broomielaw Glasgow G2 8LU

FAO: Mark Ashton

Application Payment Reference: ECU36CRAIGWATCHW

Dear Mark

Date 14/06/2022

## **CRAIG WATCH WIND FARM**

APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 AND DIRECTION FOR DEEMED PLANNING PERMISSION UNDER SECTION 57(2) OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE WITH A GENERATING CAPACITY >50 MW and ≤100 MW IN THE ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL AND MORAY COUNCIL PLANNING AUTHORITY AREA (ECU APPLICATION REFERENCE: ECU00002177)

On behalf of Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited ("the Applicant"), please find enclosed an application for consent and deemed planning permission under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 as amended (the 1989 Act), together with a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (the 1997 Act), as amended, to construct and operate a wind farm and associated infrastructure with an expected operational life of 33 years. The project is to be referred to as Craig Watch Wind Farm ('the Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development will include up to 11 turbines with a total maximum capacity of 100 MW consisting of approximately 72.6 MW turbine capacity and approximately 27.4 MW of Battery Energy Storage System capacity. The Proposed Development will be located on a site approximately 8 km south east of Dufftown, in the Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council planning authority areas. The location of the Proposed Development is identified in the enclosed Figure 1: Site Location. The layout of the Proposed Development is shown in the enclosed Figure 2: Site Layout. Ramboll 80 George St Edinburgh EH2 3BU United Kingdom

T +44 131 297 2650 https://uk.ramboll.com

Ramboll UK Limited Registered in England & Wales Company No: 03659970 Registered office: 240 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8NW



This application is accompanied by the following documents:

## <u>EIA Report</u>

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, as amended and includes the following:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary;
- Volume 2: Main Report;
- Volume 3a: Figures;
- Volume 3b: Visualisations;
- Volume 4: Technical Appendices; and
- Volume 5: Confidential Documents.

## Other accompanying application documents

- Planning Statement;
- Design and Access Statement; and
- Pre-Application Consultation Report.

## Application Drawings

- Figure 1: Site Location; and
- Figure 2: Site Layout.

The application documents have been uploaded to the ECU portal with the exception of confidential information.

A paper copy of the application documents have been made available to view at the publicly accessible Dufftown Library. The application documents are available to view on the project website (<u>www.craigwatch.co.uk</u>) and via the Scottish Government energy consents portal (<u>https://www.energyconsents.scot/Default.aspx</u>).

For anyone who has difficulty accessing the documentation online, a USB copy can be made available on request for £20 by calling 0800 772 0668 or emailing <u>ukprojects@statkraft.com</u> or mailing Freepost Statkraft. Hard copies of the Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge. A hard copy of all other application documents may be obtained at cost of printing and postage.

In accordance with regulation 5(5) of the 2017 EIA regulations, by appointing Ramboll to coordinate the EIAR for the Proposed Development the Applicant has ensured that the EIAR has been prepared by **'competent experts'. The 2017 EIAR has been compiled and approved by professional EIA practitioners** at Ramboll, holding relevant undergraduate and post-graduate degrees, full membership of IEMA (MIEMA) and Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) status with the Society for the Environment. The EIA Report meets the requirements of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) EIA Quality Mark scheme. This is a voluntary scheme operated by IEMA that allows organisations to make a commitment to excellence in EIA and to have this commitment independently reviewed on an annual basis. In addition, the Applicant confirms that each of the impact assessment chapters have been prepared by a competent expert, with the chapter providing details of the relevant professional memberships of the authors and any applicable code of practice followed.

The application fee of £125,000 has been transferred by BACS to the nominated Scottish Government bank account by Statkraft UK Limited (the parent company of Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited).



Ramboll UK Limited on behalf of the Applicant will arrange for the advertisement of the notice of the application and accompanying EIAR in accordance with the requirements of the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990 as amended and the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Copies of these notices will be provided to ECU once advertised. The application will be advertised in accordance with legislation as follows:

- Edinburgh Gazette for one week;
- The Herald for one week;
- Huntly Express, Northern Scot, Banffshire Journal, Herald and Advertiser for two weeks;
- Aberdeen Press & Journal for two weeks; and
- On the Developer's application website at <u>www.craigwatch.co.uk</u>

The advertisement will provide details of the date by when representations should be made which we will confirm with yourself.

On the basis of the information provided in the supporting documents that are lodged in support of this application, the Applicant requests that the Scottish Ministers grant section 36 consent under the 1989 Act and make a direction under section 57(2) of the 1997 Act granting deemed planning permission for the Proposed Development subject to planning conditions.

Yours sincerely

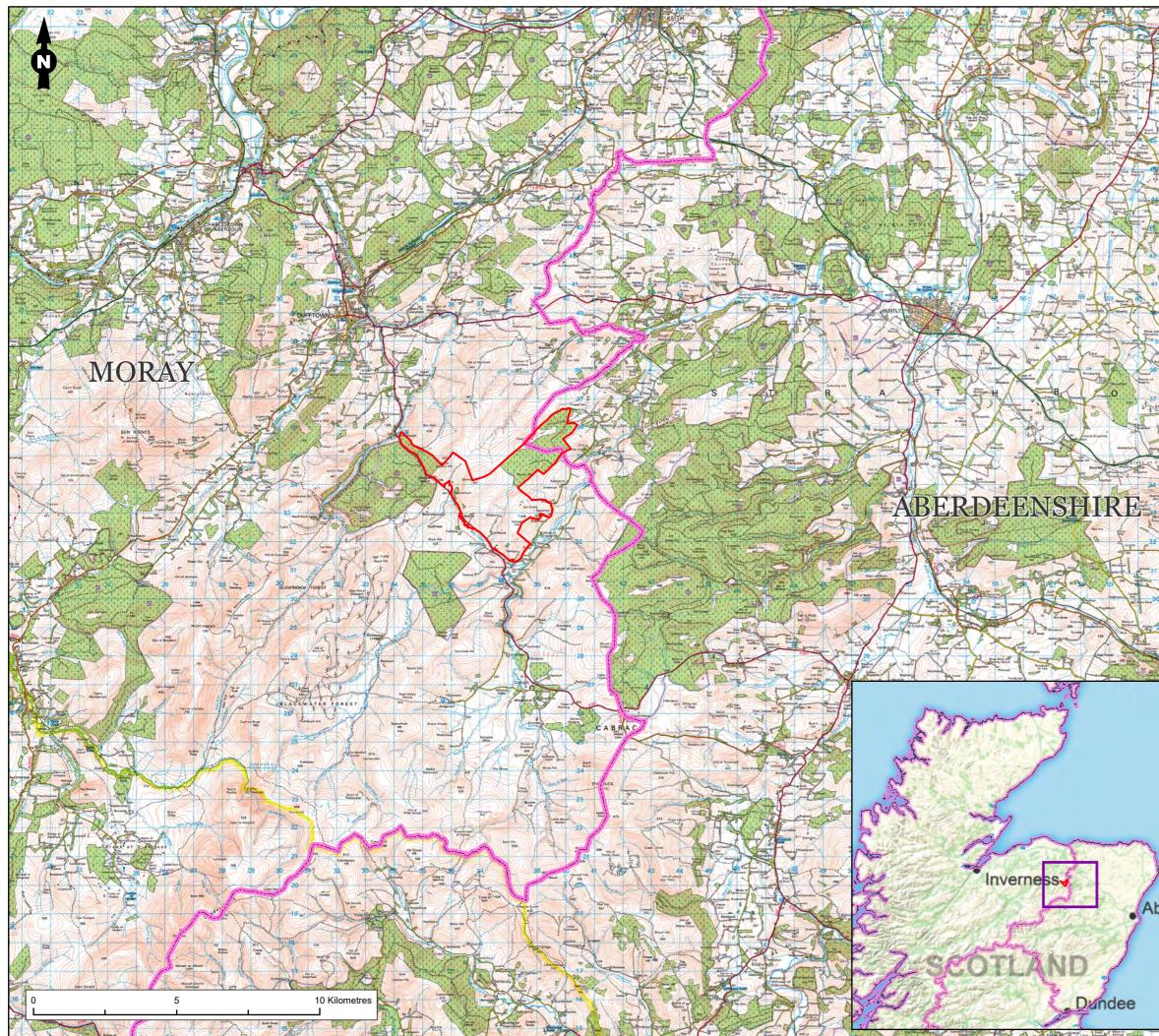
Nathan Swankie Country Market Director Environment and Health

D +44 (131) 2972674 M +44 (7920) 114029 nswankie@ramboll.com

cc: Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council

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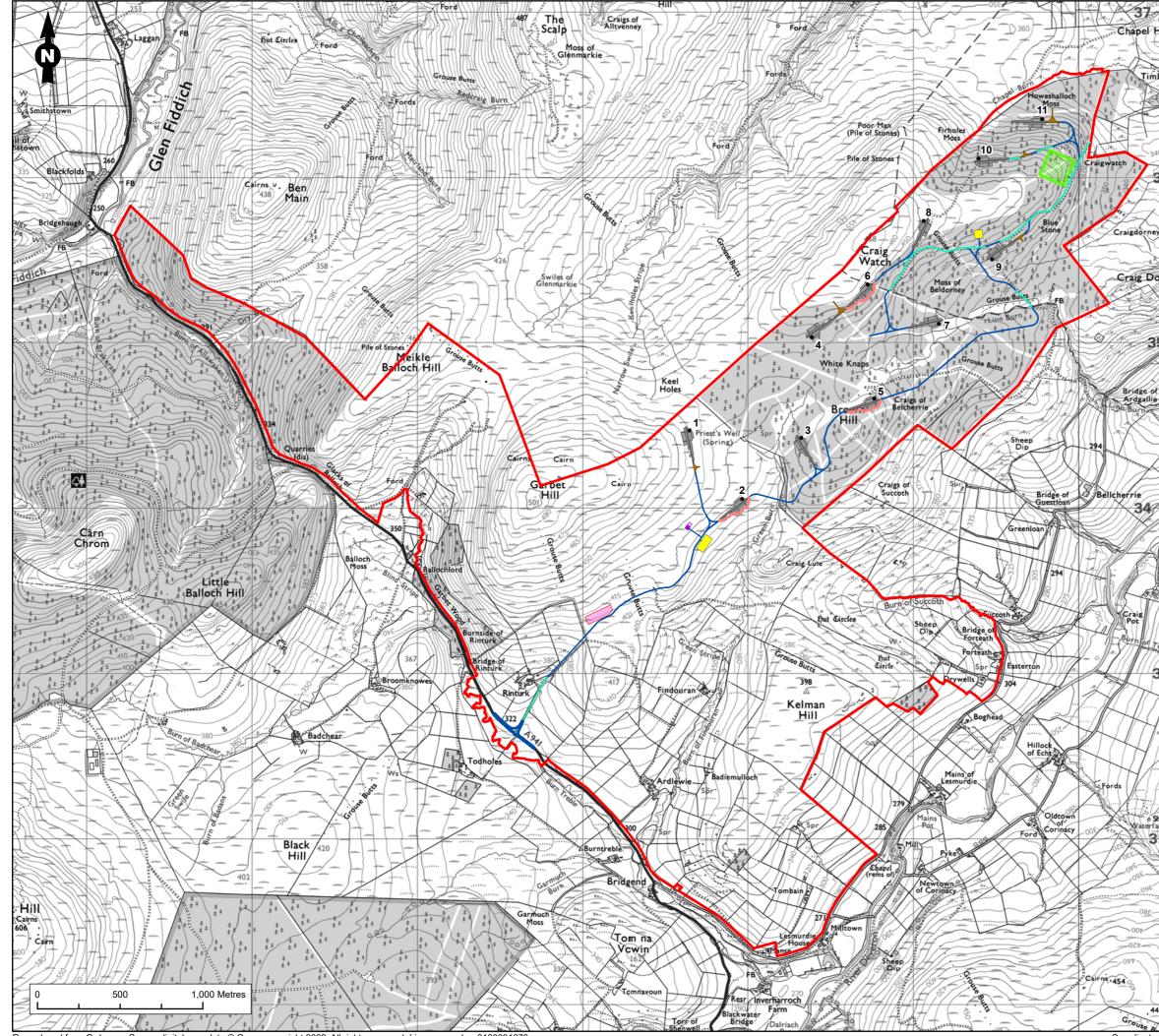
Appendix 1: Maps to be Referenced in the Section 36 Consent



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Coordinate System: British National Grid. Projection: Transverse Mercator. Datum: OSGB 1936.



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Coordinate System: British National Grid. Projection: Transverse Mercator. Datum: OSGB 1936.