

From: [REDACTED]
To: [WILDLAND](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SNH Wild Land Areas Consultation
Date: 09 March 2017 17:30:26

Dear SNH,

I am responding to the above-mentioned consultation as, during the years since my first highland walking trip in 1977, there has been an attritional impact on the highland landscape e.g. from coniferous plantations, wind turbines and from lines of pylons. This wild landscape is far too precious to be allowed to be further developed. In fact greater efforts should be made to follow the example set by the John Muir Trust, which works for the re-establishment of traditional forest and wildlife habitats.

I have the following comments on the consultation:

1. The guidance will only be “fit for purpose” if it results in assessment and decisions that protect Wild Land Areas from gradual attrition. I support the analysis of the Wildlife Research Institute.
2. Baselines - the proposed guidance says that “*Step 2 of the proposed guidance/methodology requires the assessor to “establish the baseline ...”* There should be no moveable baseline and the correct baseline for a study area with a WLA must be the SNH descriptor of that WLA as originally published (January 2017). Giving the assessor the remit to establish the baseline is a recipe for the gradual attrition that we seek to avoid.
3. SNH should have the lead role in assessing whether a wild land assessment is required in situations where there is a possibility that the proposed development will impact on a Wild Land Area.

Regards [REDACTED]