

Skerries, Jan 30th, 2005

The Scottish Executive,
Consents and Emergency Planning Unit, 2nd Floor, Meridian Court,
5 Cadogan Street,
Glasgow, G2 6AT, UK.

Dear mister Paul Smith,

Through this letter I would like to provide constructive feedback with regard to the Muaitheabhal Wind farm proposal from Beinn Mhór Power Limited. I have read the proposal and the main worry for me is the spoiled view (VP13) of the Sleeping Beauty Range as seen from the Neolithic monuments in the Calanais region.

Before going into the details of my feedback, I will provide some important background on the region:

As you may know the Sleeping Beauty Range or Cailleach na Mòinteach (hills between the Beinn Mhór and Feirhisval on South-East Lewis) is seen from the many Neolithic monuments in the Calanais region as a recumbent figure of a woman. [The hills that make up this figure](#) are: Sidhean an Airgid (face), Guainemol (body) and Mór Mhonadh (knees) (Ponting, [1981], page 79).

Every [18.61-years](#) (known as the *southern lunar major standstill limit* event) an especially spectacular event takes place at the latitude of Calanais region.

As seen in 1987 from Calanais I avenue; a spectacular Moon rise out of the Sleeping Beauty Range followed by a Moon set into the Calanais I stone circle to the south. A photograph of this event formed the front cover illustration of *Current Archaeology*, April 1996.

It is essential to mention that from other Neolithic monuments in the Calanais region, the Moon rises from the Sleeping Beauty Range, sets, re-appears (!) and sets again in the Clisham Range. **So this is a spectacular finding for a large region!**

It is likely that such observations were part of a possible intentional design of the monuments in this region; made by the skilled Neolithic people who lived in the Calanais region.

For the next opportunity of this event a broadcast through [my web cameras](#) is planned between mid 2005 and 2007 and it is expected that several tens of thousand of people (based on my experience with a [web camera at Maeshowe, Orkney](#)) will look through these cameras towards the Calanais monuments and the Sleeping Beauty Range. So lets keep the view towards the Sleeping Beauty Range nice and tidy.

In the next section you will find my constructive feedback with regard to the Muaitheabhal Wind farm proposal from Beinn Mhór Power Limited.

On my web site (<http://www.iol.ie/~geniet/eng/windmillssleepingbeauty.htm>) you can find more technical details on my feedback, so in this letter I will keep it short:

1. **[Suitability evaluation of areas](#)**
The Scottish Executive needs to understand why different proposals give different suitability evaluations for the region around the Sleeping Beauty Range. It looks e.g. that [Lewis Windpower Limited](#) has a more negative view on the suitability of the Sleeping Beauty Range than Beinn Mhor Power Limited.
2. **[Disturbance of the National Scenic Area](#)**
Relocated the windmills from inside the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area to outside this NSA.

3. **The paint color of the wind mills**

The windmills should have a proper camouflage color, instead of the proposed off-white.

4. **Visibility of wind mills on Sleeping Beauty Range**

The below picture gives a frightening future view of the Sleeping Beauty Range:



So 12 windmills (red dots in above inset, which are (very close) on the Sleeping Beauty Range ridge) should be relocated or removed from the Muaitheabhal Wind farm proposal. A healthy usage of the offered *Community ownership and involvement* opportunity could be utilized here.

5. **Proposed continuation of a tradition**

The windmill layout of the farm should honour the possible intentional Neolithic relation between; the Sleeping Beauty Range, the Moon and the Neolithic monuments in the Calanais region and specifically Calanais I.

This needs a delicate design and support can be provided.

I hope that you will consider the above feedback on the Muaitheabhal Wind farm proposal from Beinn Mhór Power Limited. The Sleeping Beauty Range is too valuable part of our heritage to have it ruined by a bad design.

If you have additional questions with regard to my feedback, don't hesitate to ask me.

Yours sincerely,

Victor Reijs
15 Shenick Grove
Skerries
Ireland
Tel.: + 353 1 8492557 (home), + 353 1 6609040 (work)
E-mail: geniet2003@iol.ie
Web-presence: <http://www.iol.ie/~geniet/eng/windmillssleepingbeauty.htm>

Cc: Mairi MacKinnon of CnES