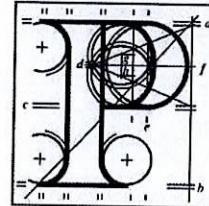


Our Case Number: ABP-309770-21

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Brendan Dermody and Others
Castletown Finea
Mullingar
Co. Westmeath

Date: 19 May 2021

Re: Proposed development of up to 15 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 175 metres and laying of approximately 26km of underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid, and all associated site development works
Townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monktown, Mullagh, Newcastle and other townlands, Co. Westmeath


Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your observation or submission in relation to the case mentioned above and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the Local Authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

For further information on this case please access our website at www.pleanala.ie and input the 6-digit case number into the search box. This number is shown on the top of this letter (for example: 303000).

Yours faithfully,


Eimear Reilly

Administrative Assistant
Direct Line: 01-8737184

BL50A

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An Bord Pleanála,
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Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>039903-21</u>
ADP-	<u>309770-21</u>
14 MAY 2021	
Fee: € <u>50.00</u>	Type: <u>cash</u>
Time: _____	By: <u>Hand</u>

Castletown Finea
Mullingar
Co. Westmeath

Case reference: PA25M.309770:

Townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monkstown, Mullagh, Newcastle and other townlands, Co. Westmeath

Proposed development of up to 15 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 175 metres and laying of approximately 26km of underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid, and all associated site development works.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am very concerned about the on-going process as regards to the wind turbine farm which is proposed for our area. We are very much against this wind farm they are going to be the highest turbines in the country at 175m tall.

By putting up these wind turbines it will completely de populate the area as no one will want to live beside these monstrosities of turbines. Our area of Castletown Finea which takes in the townlands of Carlanstown and Clonsura which are townlands withing the zone of the turbine farm, the area has seen a revival in recent years, with houses that were vacant for years now being bought up and new people and family's coming to the area. We are situated within the 2km from one turbine which is no. 15 on the map, there is houses within 650m of this turbine also. The law states that turbines must be at least 2km away from a dwelling house. Why are turbines situated within 2km of dwelling houses? This should not be.

If people stop coming to the area because of the turbines, our local school, local GAA pitch in Castletown will all be affected as they need new people moving to the area and existing young people to build and live in the area, this will not be possible if the turbines are put up.

There are no large-scale industrial buildings or structures of this size anywhere in this area. Homes are single or two storied dwellings. There are no large-scale factories. The one wind mast that was erected without planning permission and is since removed was 80m high, 95m lower than the proposed turbines. Proposed turbine no 15 is situated 638 m from one dwelling and 679 m from another dwelling. This does not conform to the Revised Draft Guidelines for Wind Energy 2019.

In the 2014-20 Westmeath County Development plan all areas of the county are designated low wind energy apart from Uisneach which is designated no wind energy. In the 2021-2027 Westmeath County Development Plan one area has been changed from low wind energy to medium wind energy.

The turbines are at a height of 175m. Ground level is between 75m above sea level on the site itself. The highest local landmark is the Hill of Mael at 240m above sea level. This means that the turbines at 175m high will be 10m higher than the highest local landmark. This will have a detrimental visual impact on the area.

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough St
Dublin 1

Meal Hill gets hundreds of hikers each year with people that climb the hill being rewarded with the natural beauty of the vales, you can also see 9 counties from the top of the hill, Westmeath, Meath, Cavan, Longford, Fermanagh, Offaly, Dublin, Monaghan, and Roscommon. If turbines are put up the views will be destroyed and no one will want to climb the hill any more.

In fig. 3.2 it appears that turbines 2,6,,9 and 13 are in the path of the buffer zone for Three Ireland. Three Ireland has the best mobile phone connection in this area. It is not good, but is the only viable one locally. This now is to be destroyed by the turbines.

Remote working will be impossible in this area if the currently fair internet coverage is degraded by blockage from the turbines. Turbine no 11 is just within the buffer zone of at least one residence.

Since covid a lot of people have been working from home, if these turbines go up people will no longer be able to work from home due having bad or no coverage for internet.

In our house we all use the 3 networks; the signal isn't great at the best of times but it is better than nothing. My son works as an engineer and dose do some work from home using the internet, if the turbine goes up, he will no longer be able to do work at home as will so many other people in the area who use the 3-network coverage for internet and phone signal.

- Each turbine foundation will require 600 cubic metres of concrete and lean mix. This will be coming in ready mix lorries, approximately 70 concrete lorries per turbine, making a total of 1,050 concrete lorries entering the wind farm site but no delivery route has been planned. It is thought the L5755 will be used.
- To cart 250,000 cubic metres from the borrow pit to the various parts of the wind farm site will need approximately 17,000 lorries.
- The most direct route from the Borrow Pit to the site and for many of the concrete lorries coming to the site will be along the L5755. A single track lane that cannot take 2 large lorries passing each other, let alone up to 18,000 lorries heading up and down the road. No where in the application is it mentioned that the L5755 is to be upgraded, widened or made into a road suitable for this amount of traffic.
- A high volume of air pollution, dust, noise and other pollution will be caused by this amount of traffic on a very small, country road.
- If 600 cubic metres of concrete are being poured into each turbine base as a foundation, it would be presumed, that as most of the turbines are going to be sited on bog, that 600 cubic metres of peat will have to come out. However, it states that peat will only be extracted at 2 turbine sites – this seems strange.
- It states that the extracted dry peat will be used for 'landscaping'. This peat has no nutrients in it and is therefore rendered useless as a growing medium, not a good way to landscape.

In an age of carbon footprint, it makes no sense in using up so much concrete for foundations per turbine and also the digging up of bogs to put turbines in.

Yours faithfully,

Brendan Dermody.
Belle Dermody.
Sean Dermody.

Ursula Meehan.
Catriona Dermody

Siobhan Masterson.
Heather Masterson.
Ellie masterson.