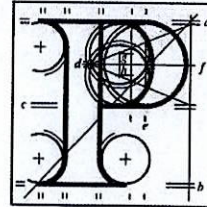


Our Case Number: ABP-309770-21

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

John and Jo Ann Barrett
The Old Rectory
Coole
Co. Westmeath
N91 TF38

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

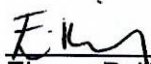
Dear Sir / Madam,

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

Tel
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

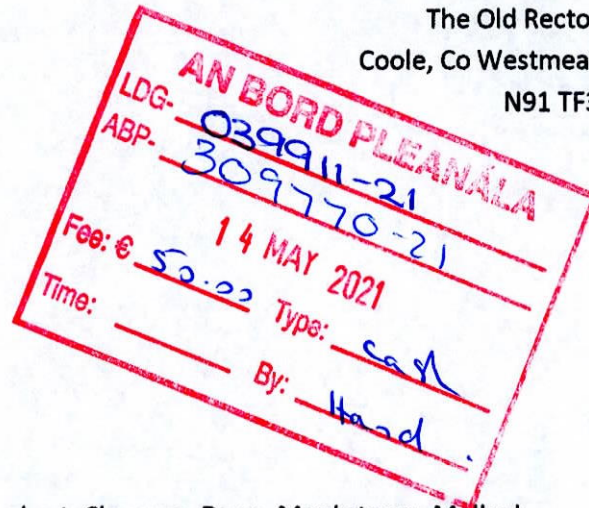
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
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John and Jo Ann Barrett
The Old Rectory
Coole, Co Westmeath
N91 TF38

13th May 2021

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Rotunda
Dublin 1



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.

We wish to make a written submission / observation to the above SID.

We urge that this Strategic Infrastructure Development Application be refused on the following grounds:

(1) WIND

on Page 4 of the Planning Application:

*Site zoning in current
development plan for the area:*

*Site is not subject to zoning provision but is located
within an area designated as 'low capacity' for wind
energy development.*

And in 3.2 it is claimed that should Coole Wind Farm not go ahead "the opportunity to capture an additional part of Westmeath's valuable renewable energy resource would be lost"

If Westmeath has 'low capacity' for wind, (and I assume that is why the turbines have to be taller) why can we not look at another renewable energy source. (Solar Farm?)

(2) RENEWABLE ENERGY

The government is restricting the harvesting of peat for home owners, the ESB, and other companies. They are realising that the bogs are globally important in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and have an incredible carbon storage capacity.

- Each turbine will need approximately 200 cubic tonnes of concrete for its base.(1) This means that 200 cubic tonnes of peat will be extracted. How many houses would 200 tonnes of peat, heat? Where will Coole Wind Farms SID put this peat?

- Has anyone measured the carbon cost of building the turbines (roads built and widened, concrete in, peat out, ...) against the amount of energy that could be created by the turbines?
- I have not seen any provision for after- the- life of the wind turbines, who will dismantle them when they are finished in 30 years? Are they made of recyclable materials?

(3) ARCHAEOLOGY

Chapter 13 deals with all the archaeological items in the vicinity. The survey that was carried out was visual, a walk-over survey. There is a lot of recorded monuments in the area, and quite likely there will be more.

IF there is a find when digging for the turbines, will Coole Wind Farms SID halt their digging? The Mayne Bog has a Bronze age oak road, (71 and 73 Figure 13-13) which was dug up and a lot of it destroyed by peat harvesting.

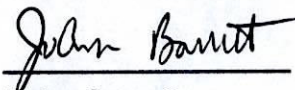
If this was a domestic build, near a church or graveyard, an archaeological dig would be insisted upon before planning permission granted.

Can Coole Wind Farms SID assure that IF there is a find, they will halt digging and have it assessed by the proper Heritage/ Archaeology Group? This will cause delays, but if something has been there for a few thousand years, what's another year?

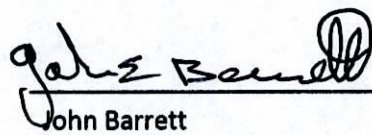
I have no qualifications as an engineer, an environmentalist, etc, but I think common sense would say:

- that it is foolish to build on a bog.
- With the amount of archaeological history in the area, surely, there will be more found when the digging begins.
- how can you tell people they cannot take turf out of the bogs to heat their homes, which they have done for centuries, and then say it's OK for Coole Wind Farms SID, to take out 200 metric tonnes (approx) x 15 turbines?

I urge that this SID Application be refused.



John Barrett
The Old Rectory
Coole, Co Westmeath



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The Old Rectory
Coole, Co Westmeath