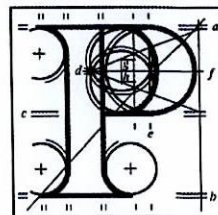


Our Case Number: ABP-309770-21

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Michael Fagan
Coolure
Coole
Co. Westmeath

Date: 24 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,

PP Eimear Reilly

Eimear Reilly
Administrative Assistant
Direct Line: 01-8737184

BL50A

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Láithreán Gréasáin
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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
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An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough St,
Dublin 1

12/05/2021

Case reference: PA25M.309770:

**Townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole,
Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monktown, 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.

• Michael Fagan. Coolure, Coole, Co. Westmeath

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	040008-21
ABP-	
17 MAY 2021	
Fee: €	50
Type:	cash
Time:	15.45
By:	hand

Chapter 12: Landscape

12.1 Introduction

"As detailed in Section 2.5.1, Chapter 2 of this EIAR, there is a current grant of permission on the Proposed Development site for a wind farm consisting of up to 13 no. wind turbines with a tip-height of 175 metres, upgrading existing internal access roads, providing new internal access roads, an on-site substation, underground cabling, temporary construction compound, and ancillary infrastructure. An Bord Pleanála issued the decision to grant permission for the wind farm on 27th March 2020.

- 1) This statement above is incorrect and is deliberately misleading. Westmeath County Council refused planning permission for the proposed thirteen turbine industrial wind farm called Coole Wind Farm in December 2017 under a clause in their County Development plan called PWIN 6. Coole Wind Farm brought the case to An Bord Pleanála in January 2018. After two delayed decisions An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission in March 2019. The North Westmeath Turbine Action Group sought a Judicial Review on this decision. The Judicial Review was granted. The case was fully heard in the Commercial High Courts in March 2020. No decision has been made to date. Therefore the grant of planning permission is not currently valid as it is in contention. Coole Wind Farm makes this deliberately misleading claim throughout this planning application. If permission for the thirteen turbine wind farm had been fully passed in 2019 (not 2020 as also incorrectly claimed) then the thirteen turbine Coole Wind Farm would be built and operational by now, not seeking to enlarge itself to SID status to avoid the current planning deadlock.

Chapter 14: Material Assets

While the grid connection is being constructed on the road from Coole to Multyfarnham, the road will be closed while works are carried out at the crossings of the River Inny – twice. There is no time limit on the road closures. This will add 9 miles twice daily to all those, including pupils and teachers at Wilsons Hospital school, who use this road on a daily basis.

•The L1826 road from Coole to Multyfarnham is not a proper 2 lane road – there are no white lines down the middle of it and if a lorry is passing a car, one of them has to pull over to the verge. There are soft verges all down this road as it runs across the bog. In many places the grid connection trench will be dug in the middle of the road, and the cable joint pits being 2.5metres wide x 6 metres long at every 500 metres will be in the middle of the road. On top of the actual construction and trench digging it is estimated at

• *Approximately 15 truck movements per day to each works area to both remove excavated material and deliver appropriate infill material. A small number of truck movements will be required to deliver cable route components (ducting, membranes, etc) to site.*

The application states that the road will stay open during most of the grid connection construction work. However, in the main the road is simply not wide enough to sustain a 2.5 metre hole in the middle, plus diggers, tipper lorries and construction traffic to be able to keep the road open. For over 6 months this will cause huge disruption and expense to those that travel to and from Coole every day.

14.3: Three Ireland placed a communications Mast in Coole Village about 16 years ago. This is ignored and not shown on the map of Masts in the region – is this intentional, or do they plan to decommission this mast? The sightline from Coole Mast to the Finea Mast crosses the centre of the wind farm.

In the application it says: *'If the construction of the proposed grid connection does not proceed, the proposed development would not be constructed as it would not be viable without the grid connection. The potential to reduce Westmeath's and indeed Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels would be lost'.*

This sounds like blackmail.

I would like to point out permission has been granted for a large solar farm to the Hon Thomas Pakenham in the parish of Coole, this will be operational in 2024. Everyone is happy with this development.

I have been breeding horses for the past 40 years, turbines have a major impact on horses so if CWF are granted permission I will be forced to stop breeding horses or else move to a new location. Is this fair?


Michael Fagan