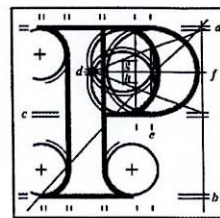


**Our Case Number:** ABP-309770-21

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Octavia Tulloch & Others  
Bratty Road  
Castlepollard  
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](http://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  
Administrative Assistant  
Direct Line: 01-8737184

BL50A

**Teil**  
**Glaao Áitiúil**  
**Facs**  
**Láithreán Gréasáin**  
**Ríomhphost**

**Tel** (01) 858 8100  
**LoCall** 1890 275 175  
**Fax** (01) 872 2684  
**Website** [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
**Email** [bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Bratty Road  
Castlepollard  
Co Westmeath  
N91 P2WR

An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough St,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902.

May 12th 2021

Re: Case reference: PA25M.309770

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG-	040017-21
ABP-	
17 MAY 2021	
Fee: €	50
Type:	cash
Time:	15:45
By:	hand

The proposed development by Coole Wind Farm Ltd 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 in the townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monkstown, Mullagh, Newcastle and other townlands, Co. Westmeath.

*Westmeath County Council Planning Reference 20 / 6121*

Dear Sir/Madam,

We urge that this **Strategic Infrastructure Development Application** be refused for the following reason:

**This Application is contrary to goals for tourism and heritage in North Westmeath**

1. i Westmeath County Council has recently invested and continues to invest in North Westmeath tourism and rural regeneration. Local businesses have responded with their own local investment in tourism businesses.

Tullynally castle has recorded through the nomad counter system 21349 visits to the Tullynally walk since January 2021. This excludes the garden and castle tourism business. Tullynally's garden and castle tourism business has enjoyed incremental growth following considerable ongoing investment since 2015.

Tullynally's 2020-2025 tourism development strategy involves linked tourism offerings with Granard's Knights and Conquests Norman village, walking tours over the heritage rich Neolithic royal ring fort on the top of the hill of Mael & Mullaghmeen forest, in conjunction with multiple tourism businesses within the North Westmeath Tourism group, including accommodation, food offering and attractions. The proposed industrial windfarm sits within the triangle of these four important tourist attractions .

- ii Castlepollard town is less than 7km from the proposed windfarm. It has recently been successful in receiving funding for the Rural Regeneration Scheme, which one of its long term objectives being the refurbishment and development of the Market House and square as a cultural and tourism hub.

Westmeath County Council comments as follows, emphasising the exploration of North Westmeath. It says that the award is

*"To regenerate Castlepollard, building on the unique architectural heritage of the Town Square and Green, creating space for the community and visitors alike, restoring the Market House and delivering a Town Park, establishing Castlepollard as base, from where, visitors will explore the many sights of North Westmeath, enhancing the towns critical role as an economic driver for the region".*



This application for the installation of giant industrial-scale wind-turbines into the landscape of north Westmeath will damage the context, detract from the interpretation and destroy the character of the archaeological and historic sites of the area. It will run contrary to the Council's wish to see people explore the many sights of North Westmeath.

An Bord Pleanála have side stepped Westmeath County Council by allowing Coole Wind Farm Ltd to call this a 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' which appears to be a breach of the democratic rights of the people of Westmeath.

iii Coilte's long-established forest recreation area at nearby Mullaghmeen was selected recently as the Irish Time's' Westmeath hike of choice for Westmeath<sup>1</sup>. Mullaghmeen is an isolated area of forest, comprising the largest beech plantation in Ireland, rising above farmland to a height of 258m above sea level. A few kms to the west, the proposed 15-turbine wind farm will reach to almost the height of the Mullaghmeen summit. The turbines stand on land that is 75m above sea level. The turbines are 175m high. The turbine tip will therefore reach 250m in height above sea level. This intrusion cannot be reconciled with strategies to develop tourism.

The increase in tourism, the introduction of Greenways and the promotion of Castlepollard will be very seriously, negatively affected by any Industrial Wind Farm.

## 2 There are inaccuracies in the application which are misleading.

i Many figures relating to the hub height of the wind turbines have been calculated assuming a hub height of 100.5m and a blade tip height of 175m, in particular in Chapter 11 Noise. The application says the diameter of the blades will be 155m, thus each blade will be 77.5m which must mean the hub height is reduced to 97.5m or the blade tip height is to be raised to 178m which is over the 175m stated in the application.

ii In the SID application in *Application Form for Permission / Approval in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development* on page 6, Coole Wind Farm Ltd state **NO** to the question *Is the site of the proposal subject to a current appeal to An Bord Pleanála in respect of a similar development*. This is misleading as this application was given the right to Judicial Review and having been heard is awaiting the ruling in the high courts. Planning has **not** been given for PL25M.300686.

iii The photomontage 10 in Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet depicts the wind turbines in the same picture as the Hill of Mael on the left at 240m and Mullaghmeen on the right at 258m above sea level. The ground where Coole Wind Farm Ltd is applying to build the turbines is 75m above sea level so the tip of the blades will reach 250m above sea level. Thus they will be higher than the Hill of Mael and only 8m below the top Mullaghmeen which is not how the turbines are depicted as they all appear lower than the Hill of Mael, Photomontage 10 is misleading.

Photomontage 21 shows how the proposed Wind Farm will dominate the view from Mullaghmeen and that is looking down on the turbines whereas they will actually be much higher. This wind farm will dominate these two landmarks of North Westmeath.

## 2 Wind speed inadequacy:

i Met Eireann's Annual Average Wind Speed data for 1981 to 2010 has Mullingar (14.1 kph) having the third lowest average wind speeds in Ireland. There are more sensible places to build industrial wind farms, where the winds are the lowest like off the coast where the winds are substantially stronger. The average wind speeds at Wexford for example is 20.6kph, this is more than 30% higher average wind speeds to that of Mullingar.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/health-family/fitness/32-great-hikes-around-ireland-one-in-every-county-1.4514690>



According to Energy Educate from the University of Calgary if the wind speed doubles the power output will increase eight times. This would mean the power generated on the East Coast as in at Wexford would be 4 times that generated in Mullingar. The centre of Ireland is not the place to erect industrial wind farms, off shore has more wind and less effect on the population.

ii Coole Wind Farm Ltd have not specified the exact wind turbines that are to be use in the proposed Wind Farm, therefore the figure of carbon loss for manufacturing, constructing and decommissioning of said the turbines cannot be verified.

The factors that affect this figure - dimensions of the blades, the mining of the rare metals that will be needed for the motors, where the parts of turbines are built and transport carbon costs. The figures in the carbon loss calculations should be quantified before and factored in prior to wind power generation installation.

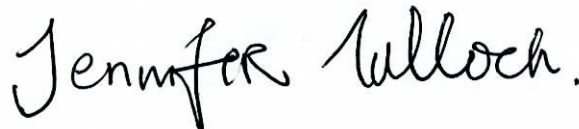
iii Coole Wind Farm Ltd claim that Westmeath County Council does not have a plan to reduce dependency on fossil fuels without this development, however Westmeath County Council has given planning permission for a significant solar wind farm at Tullynally Castle, between Castlepollard and Coole.

Yours faithfully

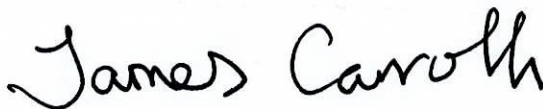
Octavia Tulloch  
Tourism Manager  
Tullynally Castle  
Castlepollard



Jennifer Tulloch  
Bratty Road  
Castlepollard  
Co Westmeath



James Carroll  
Bratty Road  
Castlepollard  
Co Westmeath



Claire Pakenham  
Tullynally Castle,  
Castlepollard

