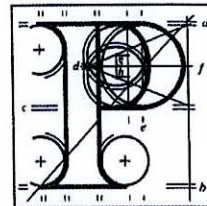


**Our Case Number: ABP-316212-23**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Fáilte Ireland  
Áras Fáilte  
88-95 Amiens Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 WR86

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Re:** Proposed development of 26 wind turbines and associated works  
at the Ballivor Bog Group, County Meath and County Westmeath

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

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.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737247

PA09

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[www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
[bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

SIDS  
Kanen

**Derek Kelly**

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**From:** Bord  
**Sent:** Friday 2 June 2023 13:24  
**To:** Appeals2  
**Subject:** FW: Submission-Case Ref: PA25M.316212  
**Attachments:** Fáilte Ireland-Submission Ref. PA25M.316212.pdf

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**From:** Yvonne Jackson <Yvonne.Jackson@failteireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2023 10:58 AM  
**To:** Bord <bord@pleanala.ie>  
**Subject:** Submission-Case Ref: PA25M.316212

Dear Secretary,

Fáilte Ireland would like to take the opportunity to make a submission to a planning application which is currently lodged with An Bord Pleanála **Ref: PA25M.316212 - Permission is sought for a proposed Wind Energy Development and Associated Works at Ballivor Bog Group, County Meath and County Westmeath.**

The attached submission has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority.

I would be grateful if you could send a reply email acknowledging receipt of submission.

Regards,

Yvonne

**Yvonne Jackson**  
**Product Development-Environment & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland**

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86  
M +353 (0)86 0357590



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**Fáilte  
Ireland**

**Turasóireacht Náisiúnta  
An tÚdara Eorbartha**  
National Tourism  
Development Authority

An Bord Pleanála,  
64, Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902

By email: [bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

**Re: Observation on Planning Application Case reference: PA25M.316212**

**Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála for a Wind Energy Development and Associated Works at Ballivor Bog Group, County Meath and County Westmeath.**

The Secretary,

I refer to the planning application which has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála for the proposed construction of a 26 no. wind turbine Wind Energy Development and Associated Works.

As a prescribed body in the planning process, one of the main objectives of Fáilte Ireland is to advocate for the protection of key tourism assets and amenities. The Irish landscape is one of the primary assets for tourism in the country and has been the cornerstone of international tourism marketing campaigns for decades. This is highlighted in the most recent 'Overseas Holidaymakers Attitudes' survey, is that 93% of our overseas visitors want to experience Ireland's unique scenery. Therefore, as the Irish landscape is one of the primary reasons for visiting the country, it is essential that the quality, character and distinctiveness of this valuable resource is protected.

The proposed development will be located on bogs within the Ballivor Bog Group in counties Meath and Westmeath, namely Ballivor, Bracklin, Carranstown, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West bogs. Fáilte Ireland has been allocated €68million EU 'Just Transition' funding for tourism in Ireland's Midlands. The Just Transition tourism project will transform tourism across 8 counties in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Ireland's Ancient East through a regenerative tourism scheme. We are committed to establishing the midlands as one of Europe's leading regenerative tourism destinations, renowned for its thriving communities and flourishing natural environment. A key tourism priority is to support the regeneration and repurposing of peatlands and related land through the delivery of a strategic network of connected walking, cycling and water trails across the midlands. We note that the proposed development includes provision of amenity access and amenity pathways using existing entrances off the R156 and local road along with 3 No. permanent amenity car parks in Ballivor Bog



(50 no. car parking spaces), Carranstown (15 no. car parking spaces) and Bracklin Bog (15 no. car parking spaces) and the provision of bicycle rack facilities at each location.

In considering the proposed wind farm development Fáilte Ireland acknowledges the requirement at a national level to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and to increase support from renewable sources, including wind. Notwithstanding, Fáilte Ireland is also aware of the significant effect that wind farms can have on the local and wider landscape, including the landscape as a major asset in support of national and international tourism.

We note that Chapter 13 of the EIAR, presents an assessment of the landscape and visual impact of the proposed development on nationally and internationally important cultural landscapes of very significant tourism value in the surrounding environment. A summary of the assessment is presented in Table 13.17 and the EIAR includes Photomontages showing the proposed development and the proposed development in cumulation with other permitted and planned wind farm developments in the study area.

Table 13.17 summarises the visual impact of the proposed development on these sites;

- Hill of Tara (Photomontage Viewpoint VP02), that the 'magnitude of change' in the existing view (from the proposed development) is 'negligible' and the 'residual significance of visual effect' is 'slight'.
- Loughcrew Megalithic Landscape (Photomontage Viewpoint VP11) is for 'negligible' and 'moderate'.
- Frewin Hill (Photomontage Viewpoint VP08) is for 'slight' and 'not significant'.
- Trim Castle (Photomontage Viewpoint VP19 (which is not correctly labelled)) is for 'slight' and 'slight'.
- Commons of Lloyd (Photomontage Viewpoint VP14) is for 'negligible' and 'not significant'.
- Royal Canal & Greenway (Photomontage Viewpoint VP07) is for 'slight' and 'slight'.

We note that these locations are between c. 4.6 and 23.8km from the proposed development and we further note that An Bord Pleanála previously granted permission for 9 wind turbines up to 185m in height at Bracklyn to the immediate north-west of the proposed development. The photomontages show that the permitted Bracklyn Wind Farm will be visible from the majority of these sites, including Tara, Loughcrew and Trim Castle. The photomontages of the proposed development show that the Ballivor Wind Farm will also be visible in views from all of these sites, and from some, e.g. Royal Canal will be more visible during winter season, when leaf cover is absent. Importantly, the photomontages of the proposed, planned and permitted wind farms show the extent of such development that will be visible from these highly sensitive landscapes and the potential for significant cumulative effects.

Therefore, we would request that the Board considers, assesses and satisfies itself that the proposed Ballivor Wind Farm development will not result in significant effects, either on its own or



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cumulatively, on the landscape or visual environment of these highly sensitive, national and internationally significant cultural and tourism sites.

It is the policy of the Fáilte Ireland to support sustainable development and we acknowledge that there is a requirement to provide for and develop renewable energy, at appropriate locations and in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.

Yours Sincerely,

*Shane Dineen*

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Shane Dineen

Environment & Planning Manager, Fáilte Ireland