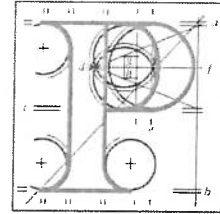


**Our Case Number:** ABP-317809-23

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Bruce Wilkie  
Slatt Lower  
Wolfhill  
Athy  
Co. Laois

**Date:** 09 October 2023

**Re:** Proposed Coolglass windfarm and related works

In the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development 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.


The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the 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 or email [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie) quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

  
Evan McGuigan  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line:

PA04

Teil  
Glao Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Riomhphost

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(01) 858 8100  
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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

An Bord Pleanála

64 Malborough Street

Dublin 1

Date: 2/4/23

Development Address: Coolglass Windfarm

Description Extract:

To whom it may concern,

I, Bruce Wilkie, wish to object to the above planning. I have been raised in this area by my parents, including my late father, Bruce Wilkie Snr. My father was, in my eyes and many around him, a wildlife enthusiast. He was also a breeder of rare birds of prey. His knowledge of the areas surrounding this planning were the most detailed and precise anybody could have. He passed this knowledge onto my siblings and myself all our lives with regards to all animal species and living patterns in this area and many others.

I am also a licensed breeder of birds of prey and have the upmost knowledge of these species in the talked about area. For the past decade or so there has been an increase of the peregrine falcon due to their success of breeding in the area. There are 2 breeding pairs, one being no more than 1500m from the site and the other being approximately 2500m from the site, as the crow flies. These 2 pairs flying patterns are circulating this area and I have witnessed both pairs encounter each other, sometimes no more than 200m from the site. As well as proof of these nests I can also prove the nesting of Ravens which are also 2500m from the proposed site, which regularly circulate my home, approximately 500m from the proposed turbines, during the mating season especially. On a regular basis the sparrow hawk and kestrel make appearances hunting around and on my property. There are several other endangered/ protected bird species in this area I have eye witnessed, including hen harriers, owls, several pairs of buzzards, curlews, red kites, woodpeckers, woodcock and snipe. I have put up owl/ kestrel nest boxes in the surrounding area over the duration of a few years.

As for the endangered mammal species in the area there are populations of red squirrel, pygmy shrew (Europe's smallest mammal), pine marten and deer all of which need the surrounding forestry for food and shelter. There are several bat species (supported by an abundance of bat boxes, some no more than 100m from the proposed site).

The water system that runs through the site is connected to the freshwater pearl mussel population in the river Nore. As you know the freshwater pearl is a critically endangered species which is found nowhere else in the world. There is a high possibility the water systems will become polluted and threaten all species that use this water system including the mussel. There is an otter population on the river Nore and once the breeding season begins the previous seasons offspring tend to use this river route to find a new territory for themselves. There is a presence of crayfish in this area also.

If this development goes through it will most definitely decimate these species in the area and my home will no longer be the place as I know it. I use the surrounding lands to fly and train my own birds and if this planning passes that will be the end of it. I write this letter with an extreme heavy heart as I plan to build and start a family right here and hope to share my knowledge of the importance of our native species to my children, like my father had done with me.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG:	066989-23
ABP:	
04 OCT 2023	
Fee: €	50
Type:	Cash
Time:	
By:	Hand

PA11-317809.

I strongly urge the planning authority to consider the knowledge of the local populus to be taken into account, as this will change mine, and many others, homes forever. I would like to hope that whoever reading this letter will understand the importance of this area to these animal species and deny this from going ahead.

I have enclosed 50 euro in respect of this objection.

If there are any correspondences in relation to this matter, they can be sent to me at the below address:

Slatt Lower

Wolfhill

Via Athy

Co Laois

Yours,

Bruce Wilkie.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BW' or 'B Wilkie', written in a cursive style.