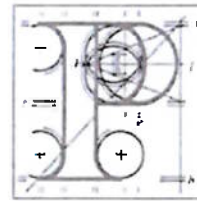


**Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Temple of Éiriú  
c/o Jay Carey  
Leana  
Kilnaboy  
Co. Clare  
V95 P40Y

**Date: 11 October 2023**

**Re: Proposed Coolglass windfarm and related works**  
In the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill,  
Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kilenabehy, 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,

PP Em  
Evan McGuigan  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line:

PA04

<b>Tel</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaó Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1800 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Ríomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sraid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
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## **Temple of Éiríú** **Celtic Traditions**

Upholding the Ancient Spiritual Traditions of Ireland

[www.templeofeiriu.ie](http://www.templeofeiriu.ie)

Jay Carey  
Leana,  
Kilnaboy,  
County Clare,  
V95 P40Y.  
[REDACTED]

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1.  
03/10/2023

**Planning Application Reference:** PA11.317809

**Applicant:** Statkraft

**Re:** Coolglass Windfarm and related works

**Location :** The townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamanry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

A Chara,

I write to voice the Temple of Eiríú's strong concerns regarding Statkraft's proposal to install a windfarm, comprising two clusters of wind turbines at Fossy Mountain and on the townlands of Wolf Hill, an area rich in wildlife and a key component of our national heritage.

When our membership was notified of Statkraft's proposal for this area in Laois, their response was a resounding no to this windfarm. Those familiar with the proposed location and nearby sacred sites were stunned as to the logic behind wanting to erect 180 metre turbines in such close proximity to nearby homes in such

a tranquil area. It is our understanding that a development of this scale would seriously negatively impact the lives of local inhabitants, some of whom live 700 metres from the proposed wind farm, and for this reason alone we posit that this proposal should be refused.

During a recent Temple of Éiriú community gathering in County Wicklow at the Equinox, September 23rd, over 40 of our members from the four corners of Ireland sent prayers of support to other community groups who met that same morning in Tulla, County Clare and other locations, and on Monamansryns megalithic sacred space. The strong nationwide turnout, highlighted the growing concerns of people regarding Statkraft's wind farm proposal for Coolglass. It was agreed by all present that it is the responsibility of An Bord Pleanála to safeguard and protect geologically sensitive areas, hence it is our request that this proposal be quashed.

Ireland's water is a precious asset with much of this land sitting atop a network of interconnecting underground water courses and streams. We firmly believe any development that runs the risk of polluting our underground water network needs to be ruled out, as is the case with this proposed development.

The Swan public water scheme has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as being 'vulnerable and without an alternative source'. This local water scheme is fed by the entire area of the proposed Wolfhill cluster, to give this proposed development the green light and risk water table pollution to this area along with the knock-on pollution risks to the wider underground water network, is a gamble that has far too serious repercussions to take.

The people of Ireland have had a special relationship with water historically, with over 1000 holy wells mapped and still tended by locals to the present day, our rivers are named after some of ancient Ireland's goddesses, including the Shannon (Sionann) and the Boyne (Boann), bringer of wisdom and fertility. While we understand the need for new and clean energy sources, it is the belief of the Temple of Eiriu that water is sacred and essential to life, hence is the duty of our Government/An Bord Pleanála to safeguard its quality, and to rule out pollution risks, which due to the interconnected underground water network make it next to impossible to contain.

Our members expressed their grave concern regarding the severe impact this wind farm would have on the vibrant biodiversity in Coolglas and surrounding areas.

There has been an above 75 per cent decline in flying insects in much of Europe in the last two decades, alongside the growth of wind farms and pesticides. In Ireland our insect decline rate is currently at 68 per cent. Of the 934 species on our Red Lists, 3 percent are now extinct, 194 (21 per cent) are in decline, of which 123 (13 per cent) are under threat of extinction.

An Bord Pleanála has already granted planning permission for two other wind farm developments within 10 kilometres of the Coolglas proposal, comprising 29 wind turbines in total. It is unclear what impact these will have on biodiversity in the area, which is essential for the health of our ecosystem. We believe granting additional permission in this area will cause a cascade of stress on the area's ecosystem, tipping the balance, as well as ruining the hunting grounds of nesting pairs of ringed and documented peregrine falcons living in this area of Laois. One pair has their nesting site within a stone's throw of this proposed wind farm and this proposed wind farm is a threat to their continued existence. Fossy, is the anglicised version of the Irish word *fassach*, meaning wilderness, and that wilderness will end for Fossy mountain if this proposed wind farm is granted permission.

Hence we urge An Bord Pleanála to reject Statkraft's windfarm application, in the heart of Ireland, a place where heretofore some of our members, pilgrims and walkers visit to be at peace with nature. It is our understanding that the people of this land should have the freedom to be with the sacred sites as our ancestors did and as such it is our contention that the natural quiet of these areas needs to be observed, hence in addition to the points previously submitted, we object to this application on the grounds of noise pollution.

We request that An Bord Pleanála safeguards the peace and tranquillity of the Coolglass so that those who travel there to be with the land can do so in quiet, so that at least a portion of the local wildlife habitat is preserved, avoiding further stress on an insect population that is disappearing at a shocking rate.

I trust that our objection will be heard and taken on board in your consideration of Statglas's appeal and that a wise decision will be made. It is our hope that no further action on our end will be required.

Mise le Meas,

Jay Carey (Temple of Éiríú Chairperson)