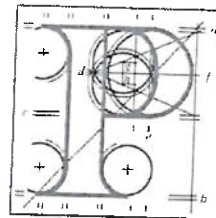


Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

The Resident  
Aughadreen  
The Swan  
Athy  
Co. Kildare  
R14AH61

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

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Dublin 1

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG- <u>062057-23</u>	
ABP- _____	
<b>04 OCT 2023</b>	
Fee: € <u>50</u>	Type: <u>card</u>
Time: _____	By: <u>Hand</u>

Case Reference: PA11.317809

*Development address; I the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.*

*Property location as referenced number 58 in Chapter 14 of Shadow Flicker planning application.*

*Proposed Coolglass Windfarm and related works*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in connection with the above listed planning application. I do feel its important to communicate and voice our concerns as a homeowner and living on our family farm all my adult life. This is our family home, and we are the 5<sup>th</sup> generation living in this townland of Aughadreen. I wish to object to the proposed development by Statkraft as I believe this is not good planning. I also wish to advise that I am not against wind generate but I am against it when I see this approach to wind farm development. I list below are some of my summarised observations and concerns.

Last January/ February we were made aware of a proposed windfarm which was being considered for at the above location. This message was delivered to our door and on the day my mother was home, and I was working from home in my office. There was no effort made to ring the doorbell and to engage. We seen a brochure left in our porch. This was the beginning of us trying to understand what was coming down the line.

Some weeks later we did get a call to my property from the liaison official and this was the first opportunity to engage. I found the agenda when we spoke lacked structure. The two-representative introduced themselves and begin to generally give information about the proposed development. There point made was to visit the website and there is photomontage which could be viewed. There was no conversation advising that we could meaningfully engage and voice concerns on this proposed development.

At this point in the engagement, I voiced to the liaison officer was how was it possible to propose such a development of this scale in an area was not open for Consideration as per the Laois Co Co county development plan. When I raised this concern with the Liaison officer, I was told this statement was simply not true and his words were 'why would Statkraft spend time looking for planning in this area if it was not open for consideration. We had a preplanning meeting with Laois County council, and they have no problem either' I advised the Liaison officer that I got my information my local Councillor Padraig Fleming. The liaison officer then went on to say 'this is an example of how the true is being miscommunicated and that my statement was not true'.

I have taken some time to highlight this point as this was Statkraft understanding of community engagement but in my opinion, I felt there it was a box ticking exercise to call to my house give me a glossy brochure.

I also raised point about noise, light flicker, and visual impact. Statkraft simply cannot guarantee the following:

- That there will not be excessive noise and ultrasonic emissions sounds from these turbines. They can only reference planning law and unfortunately the current guidelines do not protect my property and my family.
- Effect value of my property. A reduction in our family home place that we have built on over the years.
- We have seen legal cases where families have had to sue windfarm companies as because of wind turbines located in close proximity to properties, I reference such court case Michael Clifford V Enercon Services and this information obtained from Irish Examiner dated Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Having read such an article has increase anxiety levels for our family.
- It has been identified in the planning application that my (property number 58 in Chapter 14 of Shadow Flicker and reference on page 13 of this section) property will be affected by light flicker. This important point was not mentioned by Liaison offer when called to my property. I had to look through the planning application to find this information myself Ref Volume 2 – Chapters 14 Shadow Flicker. It mentions in that the 180 meter high Turbine(s) will shut down in period where light flicker effects a specific property. This is only possible if the property has a light flicker detector located on the property and. This statement is not possible.

- When my kids want to build on our family farmland, I am aware the Statkraft can object to this application. This will affect the future of my family plans. I don't believe they will want to live in close proximity an industrial wind farm.

Some other points I would like to highlight:

We are led to believe that these wind turbines will help our environment, I believe this not to be case at the point being push is wind if free, this is not the case as these turbines when become end of life can not be recycled and will be sent to landfill.

We are also led to believe that electricity price will come down if we produce electricity from, we can see Germany are the leading EU county for wind energy and yet they are listed as the most expensive for electricity in 2022. Wind energy will not reduce out electricity prices.

The proposed windfarm development serves no function if it cannot be connected to the national grid. Connection to the national grid is fundamental to the entire project and the cumulative effect of both must be assessed according to the EIA Directive. The Bord needs to regard this proposal as premature in the absence of a grid connection application.

The location of these two clusters of turbines are on two different sites one on Fossy Mountain and the other on the townlands of Wolfhill presented by the developer as one site is disingenuous and misleading.

The Bord needs to regard the cumulative effects of both sites of this proposed windfarm on Fossy Mountain and Wolfhill named by the developer as 'Coolglass Windfarm', combined with the following projects which have already secured planning permission.

- a. EirGrid's Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project (Coolnabacky 400kv Substation).
- b. 18 No. wind turbines in the nearby townlands of Ballinclogh Upper, Garryglass, Clarabarracum, Clontycoe, Dooary, Cloncullane, Crubeen, Cullenagh, Rahanavagh and Raheenduff. *Ref.11.242626 (Laois County Council).*
- c. 11. No. wind turbines Pinewoods Wind Farm *Ref. PL11.248518 (An Bord Pleanala).*
- d. 300 Acre Solar Farm at Bigbog, Coolnabacky, Esker, Money Lower and Loughteeog, Stradbally. *Ref.17/532 (Laois County Council).*

The Bord must consider the cumulative effects of this proposed development along with the other granted developments mentioned above, all of which are within a 10km radius of the subject development. The Bord must consider the visual impact on the rural scenic landscape

close to the Heritage village of Timahoe and the rural scenic uplands of the Coolglass, Aghadreen, Moyad, Scotland, Wolfhill, and Slatt areas. The proposed development alone would form a visually obtrusive feature in the landscape and negatively impact the nationally significant archaeological, heritage sites and sacred spaces. (2003\_Unesco Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage) and (European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage).

The location for the proposed development is in an area not open for consideration by the Laois County Development Plan and deemed unsuitable for wind development due to the sensitive environment. The proposed development sits in a Water Source Protection Zone (see CDP map 10.4). The Swan public water scheme identified by the EPA as being 'vulnerable and without an alternative source' is fed by the entire area of the proposed Wolfhill cluster. Water courses and streams which originate throughout the catchment of the proposed windfarm development, ultimately feed the River Nore and River Barrow, which are both noted for its sensitive stocks of freshwater pearl mussels and crayfish. The Bord needs to have regard in particular to the cumulative effect with regard to Margaritifera Margaritifera, dwrovcmis, which requires protection under Directive 92/43/EEC, on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna.

Laois is well known for its peregrine falcons. The bord must consider the locally known established nesting sites of the identified and documented pairs of ringed peregrine falcons, and their yearly chicks located between Slatt, Spink and Dunamaise. The nesting site in Slatt is only meters from the proposed turbines on the Wolfhill site. The hunting ground of the peregrine falcons nesting at Slatt is directly over the proposed turbine area on Wolfhill and the surrounding area (Birdwatch Ireland/NPWS). The bord must consider the cumulative effects of the Coolglass windfarm project in conjunction with the above-mentioned projects already granted permission. I urge in the strongest possible way not to hinder the feeding ground of these protected birds. In accordance with the EU Habitats Directive, these birds must be protected.

According to the guidelines issued by The Bat Conservation Council of Ireland (2012), Wind Turbine/Wind Farm Development a preliminary desktop study should include all details of known bat roosts, bat activity and other records of these animals from within a 10km radius of the proposed wind turbine development. The bord needs to consider the cumulative effects of Coolglass windfarm development in conjunction with the above-mentioned projects on the locally known bat populations and all wildlife in accordance with EU Habitats Directive.

The developer cannot mitigate against the noise of a 180mtr turbine with a setback distance of approximately 700mtrs to the nearest homes. The developer cannot realistically mitigate how the uphill/downhill gradient will treat the noise from turbines of this measure and what effect it will have on the nearest homes. This development is too close to the homes of local people for turbines of this scale.

The bord must consider the cumulative effects of the Coolglass windfarm development in conjunction with the above-mentioned projects already granted permission, on the local community and its people. The community has had no meaningful engagement with the developer Statkraft. Glossy brochures delivered through letter boxes does not constitute public participation. No public meetings were held with the community. Therefore, we were obliged to have our own public meetings in the local halls of The Swan and Timahoe to discuss our concerns regarding the environment and protection of our homes. (Article 7 Aarhus Convention) We are a civilised community of people, all with our concerns of climate change and willing to play our part.

I respectfully urge that planning permission for this development be refused.

I enclose 50 Euro in respect of this objection. All correspondence in this matter can be sent to the below address:

Aughadreen, the Swan, Via Athy, Co Kildare with Eircode R14AH61

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.