

## Sinead White

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**From:** Gary Cloonan <garycloonan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday 8 January 2026 16:21  
**To:** SIDS  
**Subject:** Caherlea Group Water Scheme – Further submission Laurclavagh Wind Farm 319307.  
**Attachments:** Scan 2026-01-08 1206 (1).pdf  
**Categories:** Sinead White

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Hi,

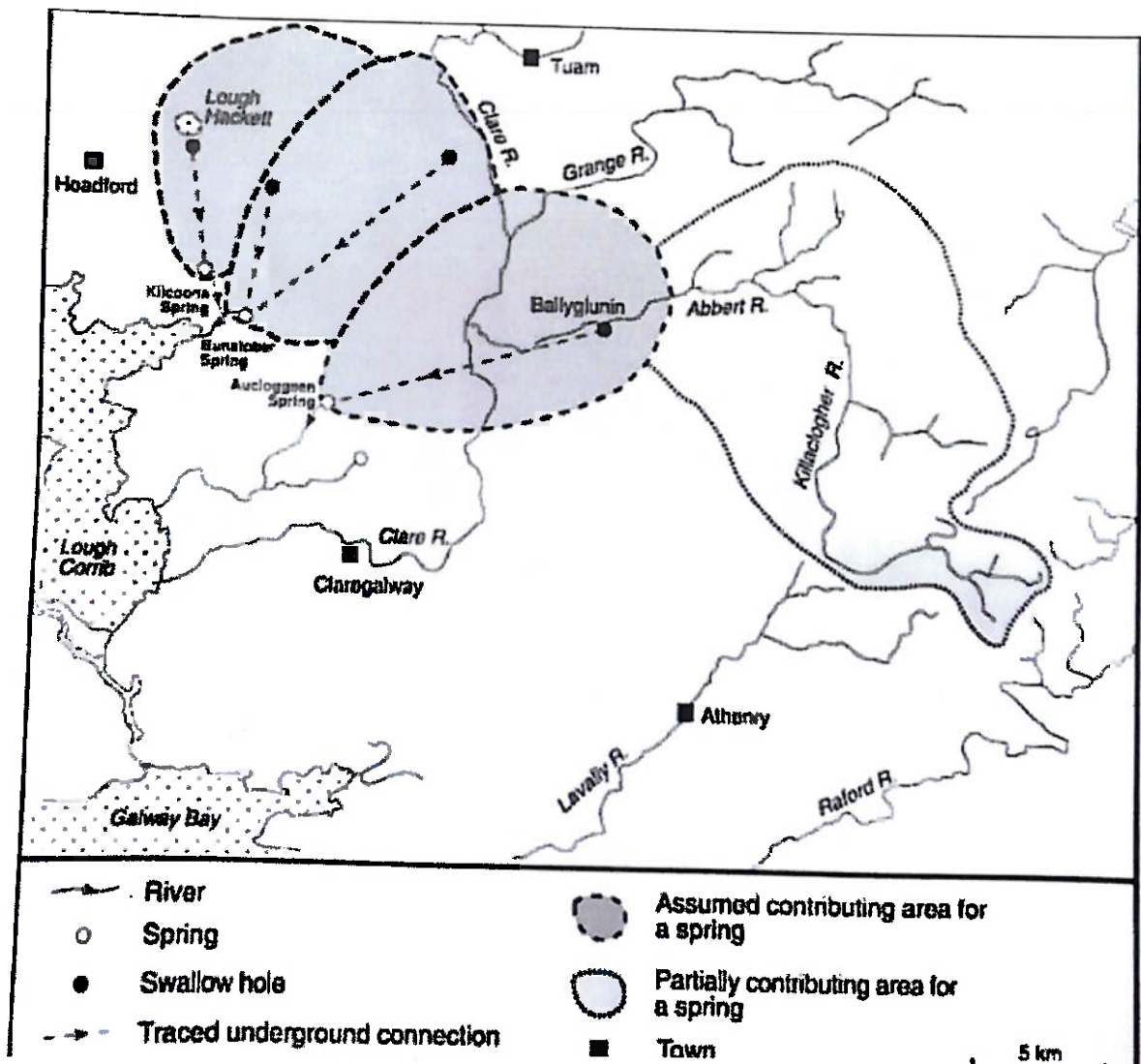
Please see attached submission from Cherlea Group water scheme in relation to Laurclavagh Wind Farm 319307.

Kind regards,  
Gary Cloonan

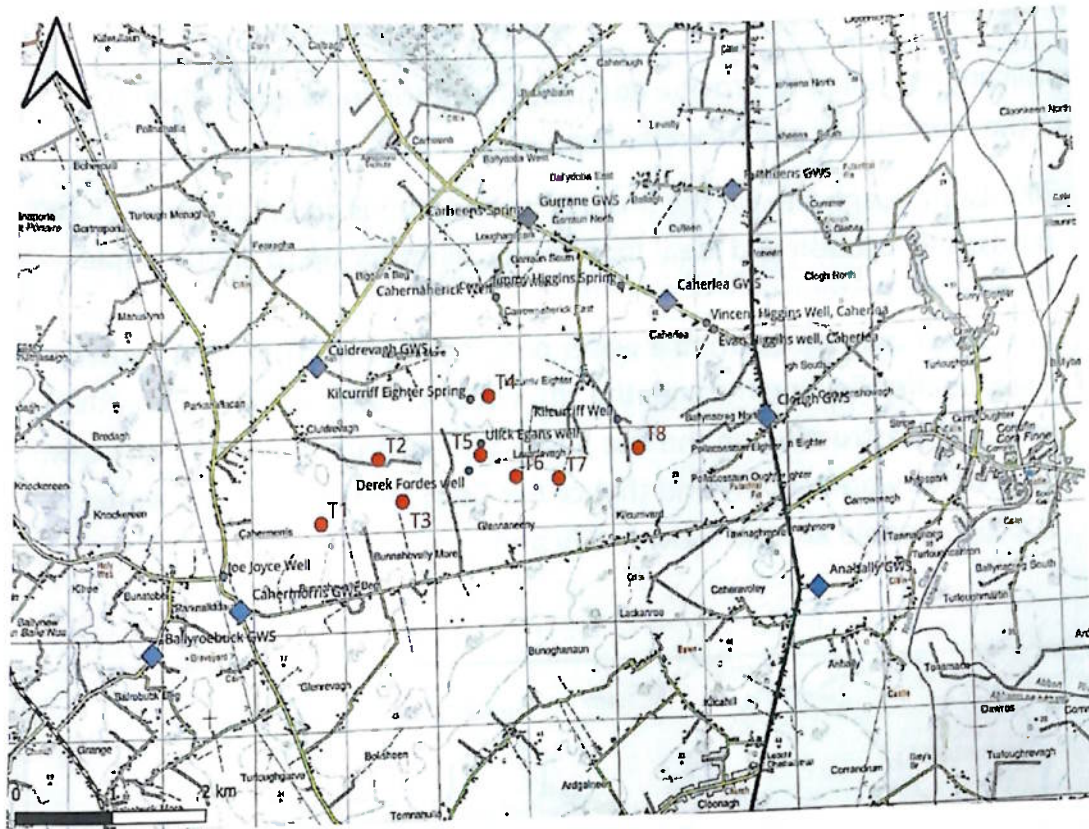
## Caherlea Group Water Scheme – Further submission.

The applicant has failed to provide adequate mutation in its application to protect the community and its water supply.

1. The Laurclavagh site for the proposed windfarm is an unblemished Karst landscape location and ideal for filtering water for up to 5000 people locally. The water is of pristine drinking quality regularly tested for same. The site should be deemed a water protection zone. There is a known main aquifer flowing through the site which connects to the Clare River and any construction on the site poses a major threat to contamination of peoples water supply and that of the Corrib which provides water to 200,000 people around Galway City and surrounds.

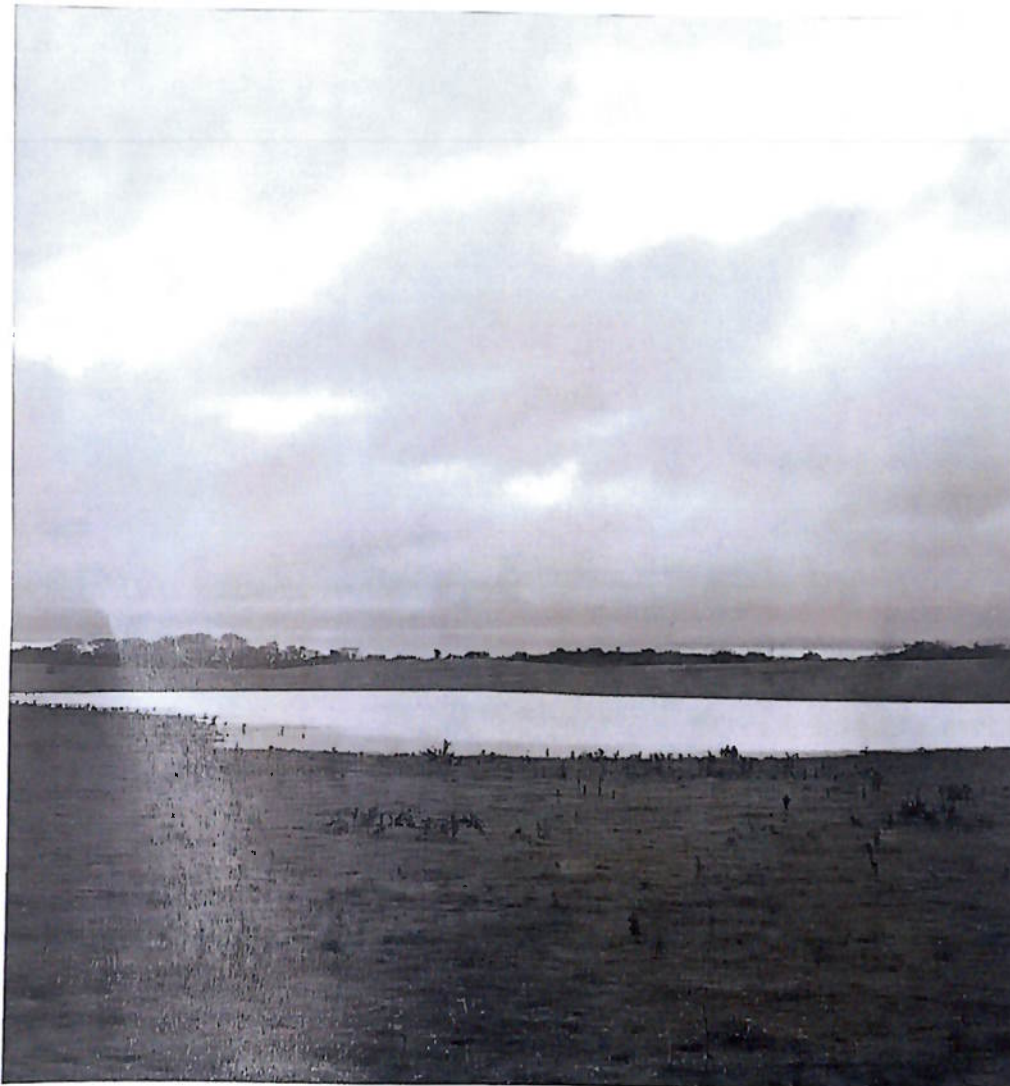


# Caherlea Group Water Scheme – Further submission



2. The above Maps of the site clearly shows the numerous Water Schemes , open Springs and private wells in the area. It also shows the close proximity of the site to the Clare River some 2.5km from the site. I would also point out nearby Turloughs which are unique to this area, Belclare 3km, Corofin Callows 3km and Manusflynn 2km.
3. There is also many flood zones within the site which have not been mentioned by the applicant in its further information. Wells located within 150 metres of Turbine 5 have not been mentioned or addressed. There are numerous depressions on the landscape “deolines) indicating underground aquifers. This flood picture B is approximately 3 acres in size and 1.5 metres deep is less than 300 meters from Turbine 2

Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 2 was taken in October 2025 and shows complete flooding near Turbine 2. Turbine 2 is also located 1.2 Km from Castlehackett National School

4. The original EIAR report stated that quarrying would occur near Turbine locations for extraction of stone. The applicant states that there will be quarry holes dug out over 15 metres in depth. Our Groundwater is only less than 17 metres in wintertime from ground level. The applicant has not ruled out using explosives. This would cause deep fracking and possibly damage underground aquifers. The applicant has not shown any

mitigating actions that would lessen the threat to our water. Also, deep excavations for turbine foundations, dewatering, and grouting **“could have the potential to significantly affect flows to the source to water wells and springs”** supplying the many Group Water Schemes. These springs are **karst-fed**, and thus highly sensitive to disturbance or contamination. Any alteration to groundwater flowpaths or pressure gradients could disrupt the source yield or introduce pollutants directly into the drinking water system.

Despite this, the developer proposes to construct **large turbine bases** (3–3.5m deep) and other infrastructure directly within the SPA — an inherently high-risk and inappropriate activity in a **regionally important aquifer with “Extreme” groundwater vulnerability**. This is more than adequately covered in the Hydrology report of Dr. Pamela Bartley, Hydrologist in an earlier submission.

4. The site includes areas with potential **karst depressions on the land “Dolines”**. **These depressions litter across the landscape** indicating underground aquifers.

Given the karstic and fractured limestone geology of the region, pollutants can travel rapidly and unpredictably through groundwater conduits, meaning **even small incidents of fuel, oil, or cement contamination could reach drinking water sources** before natural attenuation occurs.

#### **5. Reliance on Mitigation and Lack of Independent Verification**

The EIAR’s conclusion that there will be “no significant impacts” relies almost entirely on **mitigation measures** (such as silt traps, drainage buffers, and fuel management protocols) and **self-monitoring** by the developer.

However, mitigation **cannot eliminate inherent hydrogeological risks**, particularly where deep excavations and heavy construction occur within a drinking water protection zone. No contingency plan is provided for **failure of these measures**, nor has any **independent hydrogeological audit** been proposed during construction.

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#### **6. Conclusion**

The proposal is fundamentally incompatible with the **precautionary principle** and with the objectives of the **EU Water Framework Directive**, which requires

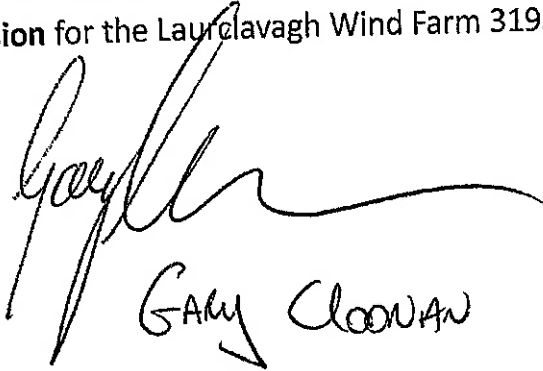
the protection of water bodies from deterioration.

Placing turbines and construction works **within a public water supply protection area** poses an unacceptable risk to the community's drinking water.

The complexity of the karstic hydrogeology, the proximity to sensitive receptors, and the cumulative catchment context all indicate that this site is **unsuitable for large-scale wind farm development.**

For these reasons, we urge Commission Bord Pleanala to **refuse planning permission** for the Laurclavagh Wind Farm 319307.

Signed



GARY CLOONAN