

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **An Bord Pleanála** <[no-reply@pleanala.ie](mailto:no-reply@pleanala.ie)>

Date: Fri, May 10, 2024 at 1:46 PM

Subject: Your Observation Reference: SID-OBS-001898

To: Rachel Maguire <[rtmhic@gmail.com](mailto:rtmhic@gmail.com)>



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Strategic Infrastructure Observation Confirmation

<b>Your reference</b>	SID-OBS-001898
<b>An Bord Pleanála case number or brief development description as provided</b>	319307
<b>Name</b>	Rachel Maguire
<b>Fee</b>	€50.00
<b>What happens next?</b>	Our staff will process your observation. This will take about five to seven working days. We will send a letter in the post to tell you if your observation is valid — or not.
<b>Further information</b>	You can get further information on Strategic Infrastructure on the <a href="#">An Bord Pleanála website</a> . This includes the <a href="#">Strategic Infrastructure Applications Public Guidance Document</a> .

Cloonbar  
Kilconly  
Co Galway

To

An Bord Pleanála / An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 2  
6<sup>th</sup> January 2026



RE: AN BORD PLEANALA NO: **319307-24**  
PROPOSAL FOR 8 approx. 185 M HIGH WIND TURBINES AND GROUND WORKS TO  
SUPPORT THEM AT LAURCLAVAGH, COUNTY GALWAY.

RE: INDUSTRIALISATION OF OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE

I have additional observations/ objections based on the latest submission from Laurclavagh planning/ MKO etc to do with this invasive planning application.

I would like to question if this company submitted their information on time and in accordance with all regulations?

Item 2 Ornithology. I appreciate ABP calling the company out on their lack of information on this subject. My observation and opinion is that it is still very much lacking the honesty of admitting the extreme harm that this and the other proposed locally wind turbine developments would do to these species and their habitats. Where is the admittance of impact that huge blades, noise pollution, air pollution, destruction of habitat and actual bodily harm has on this delicate balance of protected and indigenous species? The very long list of species inhabiting this currently un industrialised area of Galway can also be seen listed on the Shancloon wind turbine proposal for 11 of these huge structures and all the extra roads, noise, infrastructure etc. This is only down the road from this Laurclavagh proposal and would of course have a cumulative impact, it is tragic that an area like Cloonbar which with it's wildness and bogland areas is like a nature reserve at present is also under threat from industrialisation. There seems to be information lacking on bird deaths reported last year due to turbines. I also firmly believe that destruction of habitat in my area of Cloonbar and in the area proposed above is illegal and immoral. The knowledge that all of these species live

and fly across this area and the surrounding local area should be enough to refuse this application. There are of course all the species of bats and other wildlife that need also to be taken into consideration here. Their conclusions seem at direct odds with the findings of locals with local knowledge and care especially in relation to the bat population where several sites were identified by locals. As already mentioned Lough Corrib, Lough Hackett and flooded turloughs are all close to this area and birds currently fly across to live or visit these as part of their natural habitat and lives. I observe that putting these huge turbines and all their massive infrastructure in such biodiversity rich locations would directly and negatively impact biodiversity.

Quote from DIRECTIVE 2014/52/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

(11) The measures taken to **avoid, prevent, reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment, in particular on species and habitats protected under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (10)** and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (11), **should contribute to avoiding any deterioration in the quality of the environment and any net loss of biodiversity**, in accordance with the Union's commitments in the context of the Convention and the objectives and actions of the Union Biodiversity Strategy up to 2020 laid down in the Commission Communication of 3 May 2011 entitled 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020'.

I would argue that they absolutely have not outlined realistically or in any way honestly stated the cumulative impact of this development and all its infrastructure combined with other local planned wind turbines and their infrastructure impact.

Can I ask is ABP/ACP satisfied that their list was dealt with fully as I most certainly don't think it was? **I don't think the clarity requested was provided at all adequately.**

Item 6. Grid connection

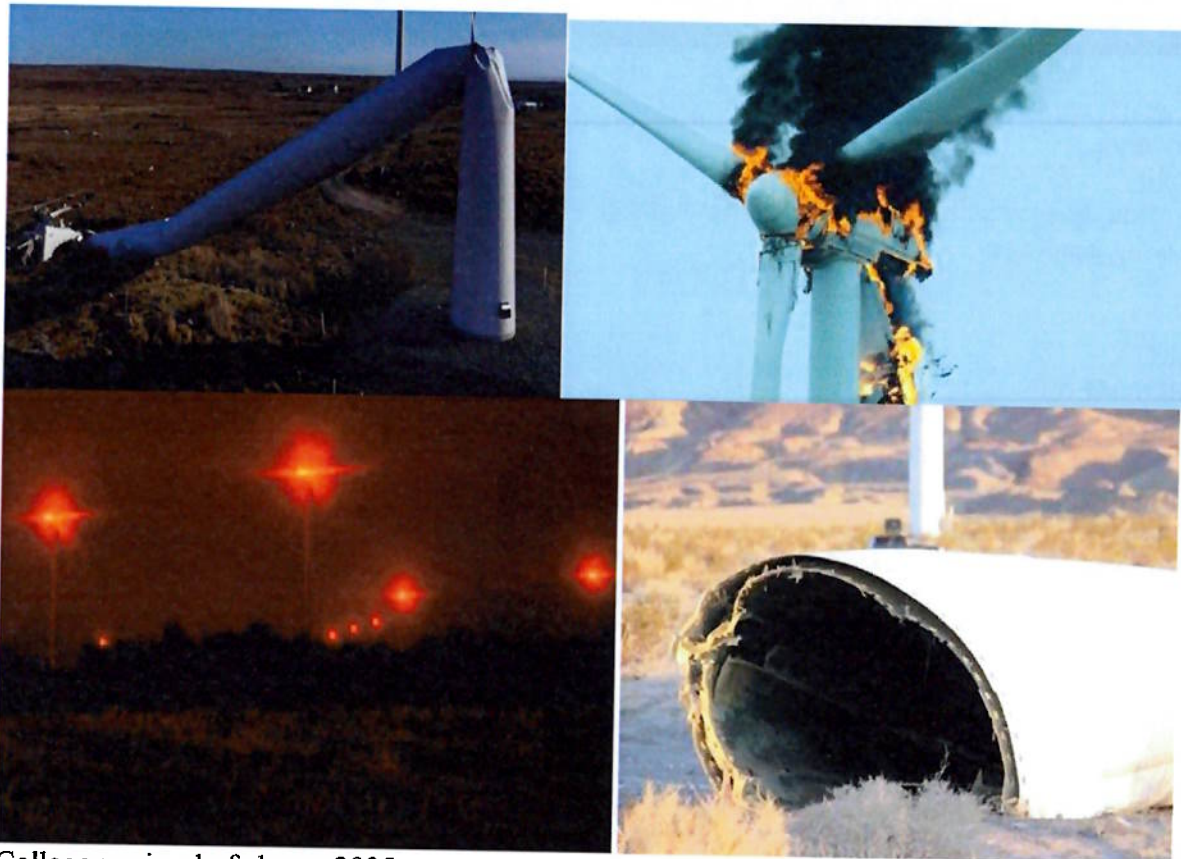
Again I would question and observe that this was not answered with adequate clarity. I also would observe that several articles this year have stated that turbines already in situ are being turned off and yet the company is still being paid for electricity it is not producing. The articles have stated it is because of the grid not being able to take the electricity. We live in a country area where we don't need a huge amount of electricity or infrastructure. One of the benefits of this is the wildlife gets to live here in peace as we do. Health and air quality is better.

If you are considering industrialising the country side it is a huge impact. Way bigger than this company outlines. Way more cumulative. The actual benefits of these monstrosities needs to be weighed up against the **huge cost** to inhabitants, habitats, air quality, water quality, wildlife, mental health, physical health, the carbon costs of the huge amount of materials involved, the destruction of trees, hedges, scrubland, bogland (in the case of Shancloon/ Cloonbar), the generators, the 1000s of tonnes of concrete, the 1000's of trucks, building, re building, collapse or widening of extra roads, diesel trucks and blasting, the pollution to air, soil and water, noise pollution, light pollution from all the works vehicles and the constant red light on top of the giant turbine, risk of temperature change/ increase of country areas, massive displacement of wildlife.

Also look at how houses etc are being made more energy efficient, how technology is moving forward, how there are less destructive alternatives to energy production like putting solar panels on roofs in ugly (already industrialised) industrial estates. How not honest the calculations of these turbine companies are as they know they will be paid even if it is not working, for them it is about the money in my opinion and as an observation. Also please take into account what happens when they **break**.

These are huge structures with moving parts, they break, they require maintenance, they have elements in them that are damaging to the environment, they apparently even require generators (this could also be clarified), they apparently can't currently be recycled in Ireland. I don't see anything on these reports stating

how there are blade failures, breaks, subsidence issues etc and this is frustrating and in my opinion misleading. All that is involved in constructing them, transporting them, maintaining them, fixing them when they break, deconstruction, change of parts, motors etc, if they require connecting to the grid, if they require wider roads, more destruction of natural habitats, hedges, trees etc then of course **all of this should be taken into account** when calculating how actually 'green' are they? How does their carbon claim **actually** add up and pan out when you take honest calculations of **all** of this. What flooding do they cause, what interference with water tables, with bogland, with wildlife. The 1000's of tonnes of concrete, the large dead areas, the constant glowing bright red lights...no more dark skies.



Collage re visual of above, 2025.

Stress. I would like to observe and acknowledge from my own experience and from talking to my friends, neighbours and other people under the same threat in rural communities around Ireland the stress that this is putting on us. That we are being put under what feels like an attack from these big companies. It feels like an attack on our environment, an attack on our countryside, an attack on our wildlife, an attack on our peace and peace of mind, an attack on our health, an attack on our freedom, an attack on the value of our homes.

We are then in this limbo of not knowing what to do, to stay and keep trying to protect what we know is important and valuable or to leave; but then not be able to get anyone to buy our home because who on earth would want to live near loads of these turbines? Proper guidelines need to be put in place, we currently seem to have no protection against this attack in Ireland and neither does our beautiful countryside!



Previous observation.

I am objecting strongly against this proposed windfarm development in Laurclavagh on several grounds under the following headings:

1. LEGALITY
2. ENVIRONMENT
3. WILDLIFE
4. SHADOW FLICKER, LIGHT AND NOISE DISTURBANCE
5. HEALTH IMPACT AND SLEEP DISTURBANCE
6. HOUSE PRICE DEVALUATION
7. SAFETY, SIZE, SCALE AND SITE SUITABILITY
8. FALSE OR IRRELEVANT INFORMATION IN APPLICANTS APPLICATION
9. CONSTRUCTION AND UNSUITABLE ROADS

#### 01.LEGALITY

I have to question the legality of this whole process. We were told that when the SSE wind turbine park was constructed over near Oughterard with 58 approx. 100m high turbines that they would be generating enough electricity for Galway City and County, that it was an ideal situation due to wind speeds etc, that those turbines were the ideal height and efficiency. It went ahead, causing great heartache for many in the area, causing much destruction of landscape and untold and unchartered damage to wildlife. But there it is and on the SSE website they still claim to be able to provide all the electricity we need. So why are several much higher developments such as this Laurclavagh one being landed on communities such as ours in this area? Surely if this part of County Galway is to be turned into a power plant, with immense change of land use, views, damage to peoples lives, destruction to 1000's of metres of mature hedgerows, trees, habitats, ecosystems, wildlife, protected species etc there should be a Strategic Environmental Assessment done?

If all this is unlawfully going ahead just to tick a few political boxes and make some companies a lot of money in the name of greenwashing then there is something very wrong with this ABP system/ process. I request that the extent of these plans are disclosed to EPA and all relevant European bodies, I believe there are several plans for multiple 185m high wind turbines in this area of Galway alone that ABP is aware of and consulting with companies on. I will also be putting in a freedom of information request to find out how much money ABP is making from these many planning submissions for wind turbines developments that are affecting so many of our lives and causing huge amounts of stress and upset.

It seems highly likely from reading what has happened in other countries that we not only are having to pay to attempt to protect the environment from these companies destroying our very valued ecosystems and peace; but also if they get the go ahead we also end up paying while these huge turbines stand idle. There is nothing environmental about this whole process in my opinion and if this Laurclavagh development got the go ahead it would be highly unlikely that it would ever offset the huge damage and destruction caused from producing and installing these 185m monstrosities even in a carbon sense let alone any other sense (such as loss of wildlife, habitats etc).

From what I have read/ observed all the 'wind energy guidelines' seem completely out of date and not relating to these huge 185m high turbines at all. This is surely leading to or allowing this situation of communities/ people's health/ wildlife etc being put at risk. I call on all of them to be reviewed, risk assessed and for the appropriate bodies to be informed that this lack of care is causing harm. Where the company has used/ quoted these guidelines I make the observation that they are now not relevant and are in immediate need of revision. There has been much anger and distress at the meetings relating to how on earth we are even having to gather together and fund a fight for our wildlife, our health, our homes etc when the whole development seems insanely wrong! How are companies such as this being allowed to apply to do this to us?

Clientelism... On top of that these companies are allowed to consult privately with ABP, have years to prepare etc how is that in any way fair? Please let me know who I can get to apply to and privately consult with to save our environment from destruction. How many working hours and money are being lost by people like me who don't want a massive industrial scale turbine development in anyone's 'backyard'?

I question were turbines of this size and construction even meant by their designers to be used in locations such as this, so close to peoples' homes and causing such huge damage to a beautiful ecologically diverse country area with their immense foundations and substructure not to mention huge blades in an area rich in birdlife. I question Laurclavagh Limited on their statement saying that the proposal is 'strongly supported by EU and national policy and legislation'. It seems to me that it is proposing to put the turbines in an area not suitable for turbines are they saying that the EU and national policy legislation has no say in where these developments should be, no regard for scale, wildlife, health etc? Are they saying that a company has the right to say it has EU support and be allowed to apply for planning regardless of size, toxic substances, irreversible damage to areas, destruction of community, noise levels, pollution, deaths of wildlife, visually changing a whole area etc as long as they call it 'renewable energy development' or similar? I would observe and argue that the location, scale (points mentioned) etc are very relevant and a blanket allowing of the company to apply is not right and I question the legality of it. It has already caused harm as has the company with a planning application in approx. 10km away where I live. I would point out that even just one tiny part of this rich ecologically abundant area the bat population is protected under E.U. Directive 92/43/EEC. There are of course many many more species living or migrating through this beautiful area and the legality of this application proceeding even on this point needs to be highlighted/ observed. I would suggest that the appropriate bodies need to be informed that this kind of threat is being allowed to get even to this stage with ABP.

## 02.ENVIRONMENT

The proposed site of the windfarm has limestone pavement, mature hedgerows, hazel, hawthorn and is a unique habitat to many birds, bats and wildlife. I am asking the board of An Bord Pleanála to consider this area carefully as the future existence of these species depends on them.

Mature hedgerows have been a focus recently in Teagasc, not just with regards to the ecosystem, flood control, bio diversity and shelter that they provide; but also with regards to carbon. I would request that the

EPA are informed with regards to the massive destruction of mature hedgerows that these wind turbine applications are currently encouraging. Especially in this area of Galway where we have an abundance of small fields and roads often bordered by mature hedgerows or trees. In short our area is currently nothing like the barren expanses of fields and large roads that you might encounter in the East. And so this company would be directly destroying 1000's of meters of hedgerows causing damage to ecosystem, flood control, bio diversity, shelter and increasing carbon if allowed to go ahead. The removing of trees and hedgerows, widening of roads, massive foundations, substation, extremely tall visually impacting people made structures etc would change this environment from what it currently is to a totally different one and calls for protection agencies to step in. Turning a rural area into an industrial scale power plant, a strategic Environmental Assessment is called for. I would question the companies assessment of how much 'tree and hedgerow' removal they would need to do to put these industrial turbines in this area. As we have seen from other developments the sheer size of the blades etc means that roads that have been serving the communities for the last decades are suddenly not wide enough and even more destruction takes place. I request that this proposal for erection of wind turbines be refused.

### 03.WILDLIFE

There is a cumulative destructive effect on wildlife for each and every turbine that is proposed and if it goes ahead to construction. I can see in my area how even just these companies going around with their plans (and money) have caused some land owners to start ripping out mature hedgerows and trees. If these proposals go ahead the damaging effect on wildlife will get cumulatively worse for each turbine constructed. The habitats of the wildlife will be severely affected as many ecosystems will be destroyed by the 1000's of tons of concrete used for the foundations and infrastructure needed to support the turbines, such as substations, roads, road widening etc. Mammals such as badgers, rabbits, foxes, pine martins, shrews and hares. I enjoy walking up Knock Ma regularly and only recently (31/03/2024) saw a big flock of Brent Geese flying approx.. SW when I was near the summit. There is actually so much wildlife in the area it would require 100's more pages to go into it. Since living and walking in the area for over 20 years I am aware of many species of birds including hawks, whooper swans, geese, cuckoo skylarks, barn owls, swans, wagtails, robins, finches and many more who I'm not able to identify who live, visit or fly through this area. There are also many bats living and flying in the area. Each turbine puts their lives at risk. At different times of the year the turloughs and lakes in the local area attract different species of birds to fly over the area where the turbines are proposed. There are also many, many smaller species that make up the ecosystems in the proposed area such as types of insect, frogs, snails etc all of these would be effected. Not far from the proposed area I have seen otters and also it is near Lough Corrib (Special Area of Conservation no 00297 so it is reasonable to say that wildlife such as birds travels across to Lough Corrib (and away again) through/from areas such as this at different times of the year. The applicants EIAR has even stated that the Hen Harrier has been found in the area.

I believe that the huge impact on the large number of wild species in the area is enough grounds to refuse this application. I also believe this proposed development contravenes all conservation measures put in place by the EU to protect nature and biodiversity. This includes migratory routes for birds and mammals under article 15 of the E.U. Directive 2023. A competent planning authority shall ensure these species, wildlife and biodiversity are protected. They do not have an income to be able to object unfortunately so it is up to us to speak up for them and try to avoid harm of or even extinction of these precious species. Let them continue living their lives please in their home!

### 04. SHADOW FLICKER, LIGHT & NOISE DISTURBANCE

My friends home situated near turbine 1 will be effected by all of the above. Currently they enjoy the peace of the area and the natural undisturbed light from their windows. As we have seen on video examples and reports of residents, shadow flicker can make some rooms in the home unusable if flicker is there for several hours. I know if I was visiting I would not want to sit in the room with the flicker effect. I can see how very quickly it would impact general well being. These are such big turbines it hasn't been possible in the short

space of time to find out what the general increase in noise level could be exactly. Currently when I visit it isn't noisy, other than maybe intermittent or brief noise such as from a lawnmower. I visit her home a lot and would be concerned about noise levels, especially if I was minding the children outside. My hearing is very sensitive and apparently there are different levels of noise, it would be awful to think I could no longer visit due to these turbines effecting my hearing and well being. I would be very concerned about the children's hearing as it also is very sensitive and they currently love to be outside most of the time after school until bedtime, on a windy or wet day these turbines are apparently even louder (how loud I haven't had the answer given) and should not be situated near to peoples homes. There are reports on the noise being damaging, this can be discussed in more detail as there are many reports on it. The company hasn't given accurate readings of what it is like to be close to one/ several of their turbines in relation to shadow, light and noise disturbances. Sadly, I can see the Oughterard turbine red lights on a clear night, it used to just be the stars. Obviously if these Laurclavagh ones go ahead the light pollution will be worse as they are proposed a lot bigger. People staying with me would often comment on the amazing views of the night sky, seeing many layers of stars as it is so dark in this area, so little light pollution. This 'stargazing' appreciation and tourism that appreciate a night sky will be destroyed with the construction of these 185 m turbines with their v bright lights on top. I believe this planning application should be refused. I believe that any future planning applications for industrial turbines near to people's homes should not even be considered.

## 05. HEALTH IMPACT AND SLEEP DISTURBANCE

Already I have seen my friends who live in the area, suffer upset and stress because of this whole process and the potential damaging effects the turbines would have on their lives. My godchildren are very outdoorsy and usually are outside playing as soon as they are back from school. They have friends who visit some of whom have illnesses which have been shown in studies are negatively effected by large wind turbines. At the moment their parents are happy for them to play in the peaceful country surroundings if this development is allowed to go ahead this will no longer be the case. The long periods outside playing, going for walks and bike rides will be impacted and their health will decline as they are forced to stay inside more to avoid the harmful effects of the turbines and construction. The house they have worked so hard on to be a great family home has been put under threat even by this company being allowed to apply for permission. I have seen my friends becoming more stressed and even look into how they could sell up and leave the area despite having many friends and roots there. I have seen this stress come to my door as well as yet another of these 'energy' companies plan (7 turbines at the back of my house) it has been in the preplanning stage for a while and every time I am enjoying the peace, wildlife, undeveloped beauty and ease of the area I remember with a heart wrenching jolt that it is all under threat. As these industrial scale turbines are huge they have been shown to increase the noise levels in an area such as this to much higher level when working. I have asked what the noise level will be and have not received an answer. One of my friends lives 5km from one not as big and she says when it's raining the constant swoosh from it drives her crazy especially at night. Night time out in the country is currently extremely peaceful and I dread that being changed. Even during the day often the only sounds are birds singing. The company and ABP need to be realistic about the impact of types of noise and noise levels on peoples health. Also the health of animals and wildlife in the area. There is also the issue of light pollution as well as this noise pollution. There is also the issue of toxic substances used in constructing these turbines and their proximity to houses, people, livestock etc. Lightning strikes are relatively common in these areas (my house and neighbouring houses have suffered being hit by lightning in the past) this apparently can release these toxins from the turbines into the land and/ or water supply. I can get written evidence from the Eir and ESB people who would have had to attend our area/ homes in the past after the lightning if needed.

Any stress or excess noise can impact sleep. Most people I know who live out in this fresh air countryside area like to sleep with a window open, this would be impacted by noise from these turbines at night. There is also the stress of feeling stuck in this situation now that to try to escape when this currently long process of a company like this fighting to put up these unwanted turbines means you can't sell up and leave as people do not want to buy a house with the threat of these monstrosities possibly round the corner. This is

another reason I think the process needs revising, putting large numbers of people under this stress is harmful to mental health. We have heard from several people now living in areas where they let turbines near their homes of how much it has impacted their health. For example tinnitus, migraines etc. Also that their mental wellbeing was impacted in a number of ways such as stress, loss of members of the community, people leaving the area, empty houses due to people not wanting to live in the area any more, distress about the future as children would leave the area and not want to come back, sadness that they allowed it to happen as they didn't realise/ weren't told how bad it would be.

On top of these health concerns there is the very real possibility of drinking water contamination. As full and extensive tests do not seem to have been carried out by the company and there has been no proper strategic environment assessment it seems highly likely that the huge foundations, thousands of tons of concrete would interfere, possibly irreversibly with the underground aquifers and water system. I have encountered this in the past where I lived in an area known for natural springs and sadly after a building project involving concrete foundations took place the springs were no more.

#### 06. HOUSE PRICE DEVALUATION

The siting of industrial sized turbines near to homes negatively impacts the house valuation. I have asked several Auctioneers on their opinion on the impact of industrial size turbines and how it would affect the value of my home if the turbine was 1 KM away. I was told by 1 it was unlikely anyone would want to move to the area and the house would probably be unsaleable. The devaluation of peoples homes needs to be considered by ABP with this and any large scale turbine developments, there could be legal consequences to this as well as with the health impacts.

#### 07. SAFETY, SIZE, SCALE AND SITE SUITABILITY

I think this is very inadequately addressed in Laurclavagh Ltd. application. I would argue that there are very real safety concerns for people, animals, wildlife and environment if this development was to go ahead. Water, drinking water and ground contamination from construction phase and continuing risk with turbines in place if damage occurs. Breaking structure risk. Death due to blades rotating. Changes in air pressure and direction around the turbines, local disturbance in air, dust, pollutants etc from blades spinning. Damage from noise/ infrasound etc. Collapse of ground, roads, pipes, buildings etc. Damage from flicker effect. The scale is totally unsuitable for a rural community location. Who designed them and were they designed for this type of location with this many people living and this amount of biodiversity? This is a complex area with underground waterways, limestone, caves, turloughs etc it is very unsuitable for this development. It is home to many people, many family homes, many animals, birds and wildlife the negative impact on these lives makes it a very unsuitable site.

#### 08. FALSE OR IRRELEVANT INFORMATION IN APPLICANTS APPLICATION

There are many points in the application that I disagree with such as the company proceeding with an application in an area designated as 'generally to be discouraged' knowing full well the stress and upset these applications cause people. They don't seem to acknowledge on any level the damage it would cause to go ahead. For example, there is an acknowledged bat population in the area and it is obvious to anyone that destruction of a bat populations habitat and erecting giant wind turbines is going to have a negative (deadly) impact on the bat population. However as with many of their points the company decides to state 'a range of mitigation measures are in place to protect bats and their habitats' and yet wants to continue with all destructive measures mentioned...concrete, toxins, v damaging noise, lights, air pressure changes etc! On a different level they also state they have communicated with the community in the area; however from talking to several people who live in the area this does not seem to be the case. I know in my own instance of the company RWE in my area not far from this proposal that they do not answer even basic questions on

noise level when asked so I believe my friend and her neighbours when they say there hasn't been communication/ answering of queries from this company Laurclavagh Ltd.

#### 09. CONSTRUCTION AND UNSUITABLE ROADS

During construction phase the roads which are used everyday by locals cycling, bus and driving to work would be terrible, these are country roads.

If widening takes place to allow for these monstrosities trees and hedgerows that have lined the road for years will be destroyed. Noise and air pollution will impact negatively on the community every day.

Construction involves vast amounts of very not environmental materials such as 1000's tons of concrete, heavy machinery, toxic materials etc these can be spoken about in more detail. Air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, increased carbon from these and destruction of mature hedgerows, trees manufacture of turbine, transport, fossil fuels etc are all to be taken in to account please.

In conclusion, I am very concerned, angry and distressed about the Laurclavagh Ltd (Enerco) application 319307/24 and all it entails. Please take seriously all of my points and those of others submissions you receive against this application as we would be devastated if it went ahead. Also please think of the countless species who currently call this area home; but who don't have any way of objecting on their own behalf. I urge and request for the Bord to refuse this application.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Maguire.  
06.01.2026