

Submission made by Yolanda Mollahan  
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Cummer  
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Co Galway  
H54 FX54

**Re Planning Application to An Board  
Pleanála**

**Case reference PA 07.319307**

**Direct Planning Application to An  
Board Pleanála**

**in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure  
Development, Co Galway**

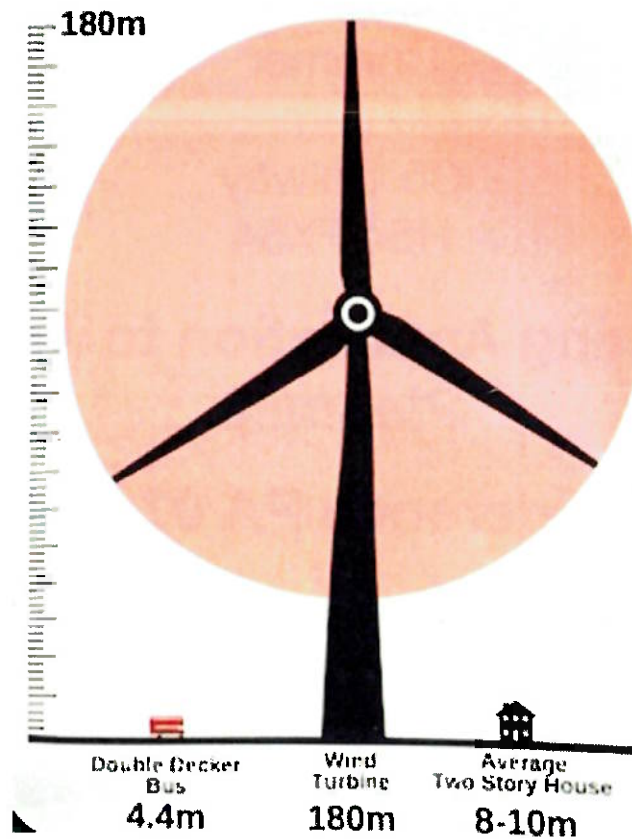
Applicant - Laurclavagh Ltd, Lissarda Business Park,  
Lissarda, Co Cork

Location - Townlands of Laurclavagh, Cahermorris,  
Cluidrevagh, Kilcurriv Eighter, Bunnahevelly More,  
Pollascossaun Eighter,

Pollacossaun Oughter, Kilcurrivard, Ballynacreg  
North.

I would like to raise the following objections/  
submissions in relation to the above development

further information



### **Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028**

Ultimately we must respect the democratic process and the decision by local people that know best and have designated the area of the proposed Laurclavagh Wind Farm as 'Generally to be Discouraged'. All stakeholders had an opportunity to contribute to the open consultation of this plan and Wind Energy Ireland did engage so now must respect the plan. It would be a contravention of the County Galway Development Plan 2022-2028 if this development was approved and

therefore would be contrary to the proper planning of the area.

### **Roads & Traffic**

Further Information Appendix 5 - The traffic study in the further information of the planning application was carried out in 2023, therefore is not accurate now in 2026. This is due to the fact that a lot of people have since returned to the office from working at home, and also due to an increase in the population and therefore workforce/school run traffic has also increase.

Also Appendix 5 under the further information section of the application - 'Standalone Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment' by Alan Lipscombe Traffic & Transport Consultants Ltd, is missing figure 2-8 and Appendix A & B as listed in the contents page. The delivery of cranes, stones/fill for roadways, diggers and other plant for the construction of the proposed industrial scale wind turbine farm has not been taken into account and will definitely contribute to further traffic delays and hold ups.

The N83 is one of the main artery roads for workers, students, buses, travelling into Galway City from Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon and Co Galway. Traffic delays along the N83 are already horrific for commuters. The sheer volume causes massive delays which can start on the N83 (south of the L61461) at the N63 Roscommon turning which is 10km from proposed site turn off. Then another major hold up starts from the Parkmore turning into the traffic lights this is 20km from the proposed site

turnoff at L61461.(see map below)

With the significant daily traffic build ups and delays that taxpaying workers experience already along the N83 it is absolutely unacceptable to add a further bottleneck delay at the proposed site turn off on the N83 at L61461 with a stop & go during the proposed construction, installation and then grid connection phases. The proposed works are planned for Monday to Saturday 7am-7pm for 18-24 months so would cause huge disruption. With the L6146 directly opposite the L61461 it also poses a high risk of collisions with increased volumes of large delivery trucks along the N83 which is a 100km/h road.



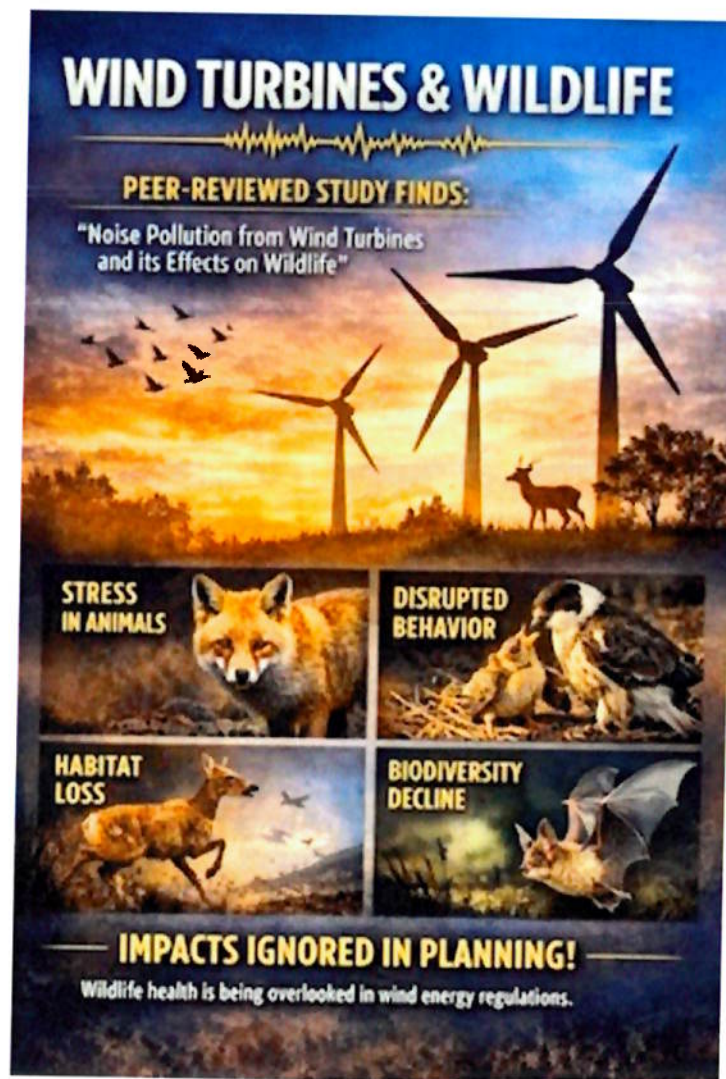
Realistically it is hard to understand how delivery of the huge 81.5m turbine blades can be safely and non evasively delivered to the proposed site. Even with widening of parts of the narrow L61461 road the shear length and use of a blade adapter transport system doesn't seem possible at this narrow road. See picture below of the L61461 road and a picture of haulage oversized load wind turbine blade silvery system.



Ornithology

With the vast range of bird species observed in the area of the proposed site including Hen Harrier, Whooper Swans, Curlew, Snipe, Kestrel, Black headed Gulls, Lapwing, Buzzard, Sparrow hawk it shows the variety that are attracted by the rough grassland, open countryside, hedgerows, field margins for hunting and will be nesting/breeding nearby. We have a major environmental responsibility to protect and not destroy them. The swans migration path towards the Corrib from the Clare River includes via the proposed site. Recently a white tail eagle and a marsh harrier have been recorded on Lough Corrib, Co Galway by wildlife photographer Shane Coyle on 03/01/26.

A major peer reviewed scientific review has found that wind turbine noise can negatively affect wildlife health and ecosystems too. The paper is called **Noise pollution from wind turbines and its effects on wildlife**. Author Dr Noga Teff - Seker and her environmental planning, ecology and noise research specialist colleagues. It was published in the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews Journal and was based on global evidence in October 2022.



## **Grid connections**

If proposed wind farm goes ahead the roadworks for grid connection (if planning given) would cause further massive increases in traffic delays for commuters along the N83 which is completely unacceptable. People already have to leave their homes at an ungodly hour due to existing traffic bottlenecks to get to work and schools/childcare en route so absolutely don't need any more disruption. The grid connection from the proposed site to Cloon substation, expected to take 9-12 months (EIAR-NIS 4.6.2) and therefore will cause additional

massive traffic disruption to workers and families trying to get to work and schools. The N83 is a main artery for people to get into workplaces and using the M17 motorway to get onto the M6 motorway has proven disastrous as all traffic from these two motorways now conjoins at the N6 and joins the 'car park' at Bóthar na Dtreabh which is choked up with traffic going in along the old Dublin Road and heading the other direction into Parkmore estate, Ballybrit Business Park (where many multinational companies are based) and Galway City. Pictures below show traffic jams already experienced daily north and south of Claregalaway on the N83.





## Water

The Abbert River and the Grange River flow into the Clare River and the Clare River flows into the Corrib River.

The map below shows the position of the River Clare in relation to the proposed wind farm site at Laurclavagh and where the Cloon substation is. There is a very serious risk of contamination during construction and



## Recent High Court cases taken against wind farms

### Ballyduff Wind Farm, Kilcomb, near Enniscorthy Co Wexford

May 2025

**85m** X2 wind turbine farm in Wexford.

A ruling of 'unreasonable interference' was decided and an injunction was granted to restrict one of the turbine's operation.

Webster & Rollo V Meenacloghspar (Wind) Ltd -  
€30,000 compensation awarded

Shorten & Carty V Meenacloghspar (Wind) Ltd -  
€55,000 compensation awarded

Ref - <https://www.thejournal.ie/.high-court-orders-turbine-to-shutdown-at-certain-windspeeds-overnight-sleep-disturbance-6716101-May2025/>.

### Gibbett Hill Wind Farm near Bunclody, Co Wexford

March 2025

Byrne & Moorhead V ABO Wind Ireland @Gibbet Hill wind farm Wexford - €360,000 awarded in damages & three out of the six **80m** turbines are permanently closed down

In both cases the Judges visited the wind farm sites during the trials to hear the noise firsthand & nuisance caused to people in their homes.

Ref - <https://www.irishtimes.com/.crime-law/courts/.2025/03/14/wind-farm-companies-admit-liability-in-co-wexford-couples-nuisance-claims/>.

**Conclusion** - it would be a good idea for inspector/s to visit the site as a real understanding of the landscape, habitat and housing in relation to the proposed wind farm could be experienced. With computer generated images and video the real understanding of the landscape, biodiversity, placement of homes around the proposed wind farm site can't be fully understood. The eight 185m high turbines would be extremely dominant, obtrusive and destructive to the landscape which is of a notable scenic and historic amenity.

Ultimately it's all about product placement and to place 8 monstrous 185m industrial turbines in a peaceful residential rural area of at least 480 homes that includes a lot of rich biodiversity, rare ornithology, Lough Corrib (Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation) and the Clare River (which flows into the Lough Corrib) would be criminal. These projects must primarily take into account 'product placement' and we must be guided by the County Galway Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (County Galway Development Plan 2022-2028) which clearly states that this area is ***generally to be discouraged*** (see map 15 below/page 68 LARES). The meaning (to be read in conjunction with policies in Section 19 of LARES) is as follows - ***Areas where wind energy development is unlikely to be favourable considered on account of the potential to adversely effect protected landscape, water, ecological resources and residential amenity*** (page 71 of LARES). The amount

of residential homeowners in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm site which will be negatively impacted if this development is allowed to proceed is sizeable.

A local leisure amenity that is used by a lot of people is Knockma Hill. It is 170m in height and is a prominent landmark in Co Galway. It is the legendary burial place of Queen Maeve and in folklore Knockma was the seat of Finnvara, King of the Connacht fairies. The proposed wind turbine farm will destroy the incredible panoramic view of Galway and the landscape from Knockma Hill. Galway tourism boasts that ***from the summit of Knockma may be obtained one of the grandest panoramic views in Ireland*** and they take walking and hiking tours there.

A precedent has now been set with the ruling of two recent high court cases where turbines were determined to cause 'nuisance interference' to homeowners and shut/partially shut down. These turbines were 80m and 85m high whereas proposed Laurclavagh wind farm turbines are a monstrous 185m in height.

If we are serious about meeting Climate Action targets why have we now 122 data centres in the country. Data centres are using up to 20% of our electricity so if we do have to have these monstrous turbines why not place them at the data centre sites or better still floating turbines. The best compromise to come to is to use floating turbines. They are less invasive to biodiversity, have a zero environmental impact on the seabed and the land, can access stronger steadier winds in deep

water, minimises visual clutter, noise and nuisance interference for communities and are easier to instal. Yes, less profitable to large corporations that own wind farms but if they are serious about producing electricity via turbines this should be their first choice.

We can't put the well being of homeowners/workers and wildlife, threaten biodiversity and the landscape above big profit making industrial wind turbine farm owners who are more interested in huge profiteering and the systematic destruction of rural Ireland and established residential communities within it. I would therefore respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission of this wind farm application.

