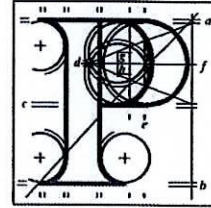


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Shane Lynam
Ballydoogan
Moate
Co. Westmeath
N37FX64

Date: 05 May 2023

Re: Renewable energy development comprising 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
Umma More and adjacent townlands, County Westmeath.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your observation or submission in relation to the case mentioned above 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.

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.

For further information on this case please access our website at www.pleanala.ie and input the 6-digit case number into the search box. This number is shown on the top of this letter (for example: 303000).

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

BL50A

Teil
Glaao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

3rd May 2023

Submission to Bord Pleanála Case reference: PC25M.313351

Objection to Wind Farm Development of approximately 9 wind turbines and all associated works.

I live approx. 3 kms from the proposed development site. It is my view that this project would represent a significant environmental & safety impact in the immediate and surrounding area of the proposed development both during the construction and operational phase of the project. I am objecting on the following grounds:

- 1) Construction of the wind turbines including the sizable foundations that are required will result in habitat loss in the area and, as has been identified in the EIS, species that will be affected include bats, pine marten and kestrel, not to mention countless others. *(Ref Appendix A)*
- 2) The long-term impact of wind turbines of this size on bird flight patterns and nesting bird behaviour is inconclusive and is of concern due to the numbers of SAC's & SPA's in county Westmeath *(Ref Appendix B)*
- 3) The road infrastructure leading to the site is not suitable to transport the large components required to construct the wind turbines. Whereas other sites for example, close to Ferbane and Cloghan in Co. Offaly are suitable for HGV traffic. The roads around Moyvoughly/Drumraney are not.

Sample of roadway en- route to proposed site from Drumraney



- 4) The proximity of the wind turbines to houses in the area is such that quality of life for people living there will be affected by flicker and noise from the turbines. *(Ref Appendix C)*

- 5) Massive and unnatural structures of this nature will have a profound psychological affect on residents of the area as was observed in a study by Roy D. Jeffery, MD FCFP
- 6) Blocks of ice which form on the blades and can fall off during cold and foggy weather will present a significant hazard to persons walking in or near the wind turbines.
- 7) Desirability to live in the area will be irrevocably damaged which will have long term negative affects on the community of Movoughley in particular which has suffered many years of neglect from government authorities despite local groups maintaining the community hall and other amenities in the area.
- 8) Various reports will comment that "there are a number of one-off houses in the area", this is wholly misleading and non-representative of a rural community which will be further devastated by a development of this nature.

In conclusion, I regard this site to be unsuitable for a development of this size and nature and alternative more remote sites are available around the country.



Shane Lynam - MSc. Environmental Health & Safety Management
Ballydoogan
Moate
Co. Westmeath
N37FX64

Points of Local Interest

Map 1 illustrates the biodiversity study area and the following locations, as indicated on the map, may be of interest to the local community:

- **A - Watercourses** – The site at Ballynacorra is associated with a number of watercourses. These watercourses are known to support a variety of fish species including salmon, brown trout and stone loach amongst others, as well as a wide range of aquatic insects. Aquatic invertebrates such as mayfly play an important role in the food chain for a wide array of faunal species, including fish.
- **B – Agricultural Grassland:** The grassland habitats on site comprise mainly of improved agricultural grassland. Although these habitats are often of relatively low biodiversity value, they do provide some supporting habitat for foraging faunal species locally including mammals such as badger. Field boundary hedgerows and treeline provide important foraging resources and habitat connectivity for a variety of wildlife including bats.
- **C - Conifer forestry:** This habitat is often relatively low in biodiversity value due to the density of trees planted and the monoculture nature of the species composition. Nonetheless a variety of species can be found utilising the cover provided by this habitat here, including the pine marten and a variety of bird species, including goldcrest and song thrush.



Useful sources of information

BirdWatch Ireland <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie>
Bat Conservation Ireland www.batconservationireland.org/
Irish Wildlife Trust www.iwt.ie



MAP 1 – BALLYNACORRA STUDY AREA AND
ASSOCIATED POINTS OF INTEREST

If you would like further information, please contact
MKO: info@mkoireland.ie

Ballynacorra Biodiversity

Information Leaflet
July 2021



This leaflet was presented by Aidan Stakelum
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Email: aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com

(Pine marten (credit: WILDLIFE GmbH / Alamy Stock Photo)



Local Biodiversity

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a term given to the variety of life on earth, including all species and ecosystems.

A wide variety of specialist ecological surveys are being undertaken at Ballynacorra and the surrounding area by MKO, with the project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors. These surveys have targeted a wide variety of species and habitats with the aim of determining their distribution in the area. Species recorded in the study area to date include pine marten and a number of bat species.

This leaflet provides a brief overview of a variety of habitats and species of interest with potential to occur within the site as well as some interesting facts for the reader.



(Soprano pipistrelle (Credit: Christian Giese)

Habitats and Species

Mammals

A number of mammals including badger and the elusive pine marten have been recorded in the area. Although this species is rarely seen, preferring to be most active at dawn and dusk, tracks and signs of the species can frequently be found in the field, and confirmation of the species can be achieved using remote cameras or through DNA analysis of droppings.

There are nine bat species in Ireland, and a number of these species have been recorded foraging within and around the Ballynacorra study area, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, *Myotis* species, Leisler's bat, and brown long-eared bat. Ireland's smallest bat is the soprano pipistrelle, which weighs as much as a €1 piece. Each bat can eat over 3000 midges in one night! Ireland's largest bat, Leisler's bat, has also been recorded.

Bird species

A wide variety of common and widespread bird species typical of farmland habitats have been recorded in the study area. Of particular local interest include sparrowhawk, buzzard and kestrel.

Hedgerow and trees

The agricultural fields that comprise the majority of the study area are bounded by a network of hedgerows that provide an important refuge for wildlife. Hawthorn that forms the primary hedgerow species here provides dense cover and abundant flowers in spring that are important for pollinating insects as well as berries in autumn that many birds depend on. Many mature ash trees are present within the hedgerows.



Site Biodiversity



Ballynacorra is situated within an agricultural grassland landscape with a small area occupied by commercial forestry. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species of local interest recorded during ecological surveys of the area. These include:

Habitats

- Agricultural Grassland
- Hedgerow and treelines
- Conifer plantation
- Watercourses

Species of interest

- Bats
- Pine marten
- Kestrel



(Kestrel)(credit: WILDLIFE GmbH / Alamy Stock Photo)

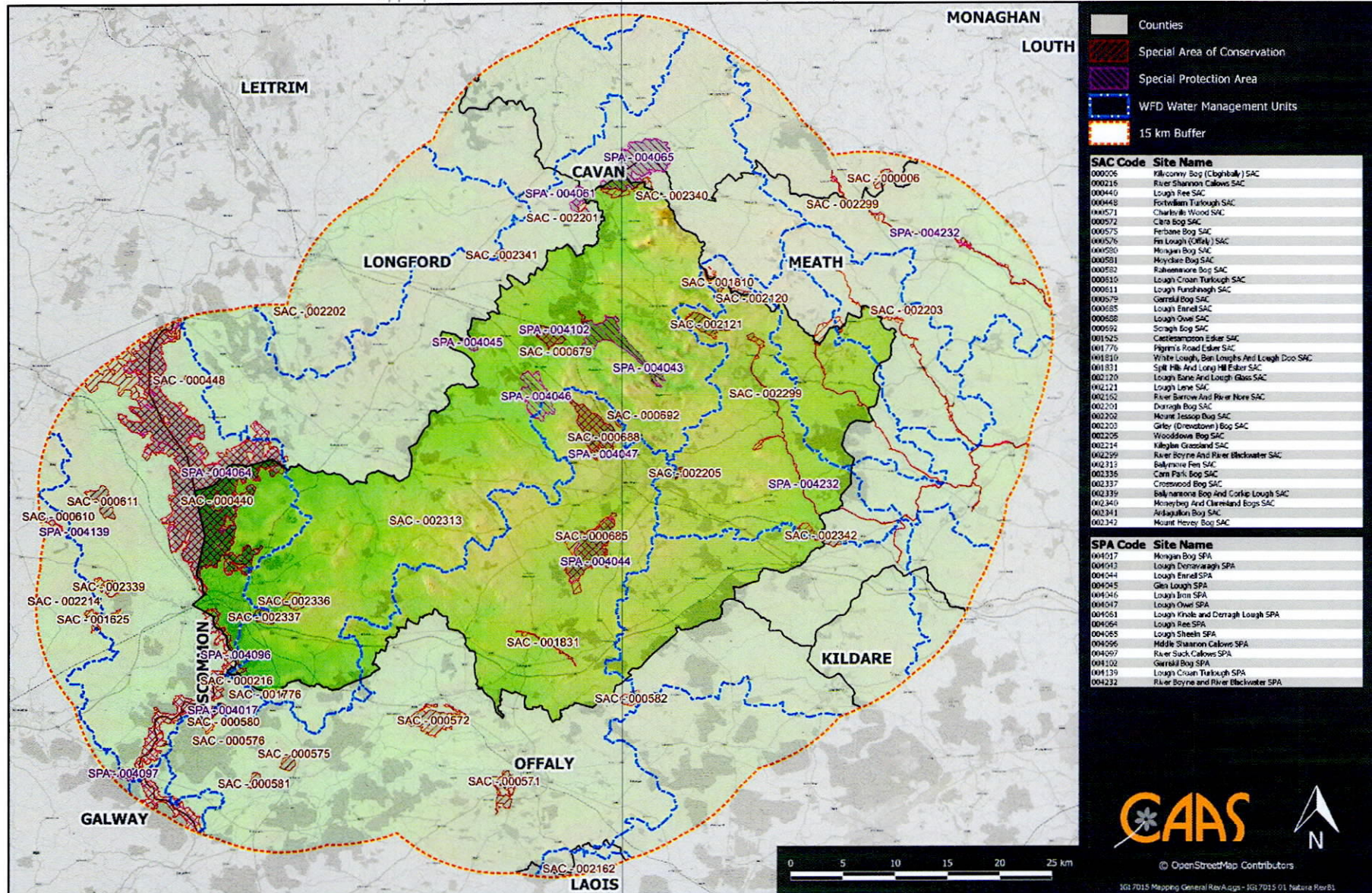


Figure 3.1 European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary

