

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal NO: ABP 322154-25

Defer Re O/H ☐

Having considered the contents of the submission dated/ received 22/4/25
from

Edward Fennelly I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000
be/not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s): No new planning issues

E.O.: Daniel O'Connor

Date: 24/4/25

For further consideration by SEO/SAO

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage. ☐

Section 131 to be invoked – allow 2/4 weeks for reply. ☐

S.E.O.: _____

Date: _____

S.A.O.: _____

Date: _____

M _____

Please prepare BP _____ - Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached submission

to: _____ Task No: _____

Allow 2/3/4weeks – BP _____

EO: _____

Date: _____

AA: _____

Date: _____

File With _____

CORRESPONDENCE FORMAppeal No: ABP 322154-25

M _____

Please treat correspondence received on 22/4/25 as follows:

1. Update database with new agent for Applicant/Appellant _____

2. Acknowledge with BP _____

3. Keep copy of Board's Letter ☐*Bulk Lodgement*

1. RETURN TO SENDER with BP _____

2. Keep Envelope: ☐3. Keep Copy of Board's letter ☐

Amendments/Comments

*Observation from Edward Fennelly***4. Attach to file**(a) R/S ☐(d) Screening ☐(b) GIS Processing ☐(e) Inspectorate ☒(c) Processing ☐RETURN TO EO ☐

EO:

Daniel O'Connor

AA:

[Signature]

Date:

24/4/25

Date:

25/4/25

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

Fig. _____

BP. _____

22 APR 2025

Fee: € 50 Type: cash

Time: 11:15 By: hand

Oldtown
Kilmanagh
Co Kilkenny
R95 XE10

An Bord Pleanála.

Date:

17th APRIL 2025.

Re: PI Ref No. 25/60003

PL10.322154

Planning Application to Kilkenny County Council for development which will comprise of 7 no. wind turbines, a permanent 38kV onsite substation, grid connection underground cabling and all associated infrastructure in the townlands of Acragar, Ballyconra, Ballycuddihy, Ballyroe, Ballyroe (Grace), Ballyroe (Maher), Baunaniska, Boherkyle, Briskalagh, Brittas, Clone, Coolnapisha, Curraghduff, Freshford, Freshford Lots, Graigueswood, Grange, Huntstown, Kilmanagh, Knockeenglass, Knockown, Moatpark, Monabrika, Monavadaroe, Moneenaun, Oldtown, Oldtownhill, Parksgrove, Picketstown, Rathealy, Sart, Sweethill, Tobernapeastia, Tullaroan, Upperwood Demesne, Co. Kilkenny.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to submit this objection with regards to the proposed development by Briskalagh Ltd for a 7 turbine wind farm and associated works as outlined above (PI Ref No 25/60003). In this regard, I have made payment of:

I live within 1km of the proposed wind farm development site.

€50 ATTACHED TO AN BORD PLEANALA

The main grounds of my objection are that this development will have a significant impact on the environment and on the local communities. The development would not be in accordance with proper and sustainable development for the following reasons:

Scale of the Turbines, Site Suitability and Assessment of Alternatives

The EIAR states that the proposed Wind Farm site is located within a rural, agricultural setting in northwest Kilkenny, only 1.2km from the village of Kilmanagh, and 2.7km from the village of Tullaroan. The scale of the development and the size of the turbines will have a long-term negative impact on this landscape and the people who live and work there. The proposed development will have a very significant impact on the character of the area, and on the natural and built environment. Section 3.2.3 of the EIAR discusses alternative site locations, yet no details are provided of any other sites that were assessed for the proposed development. Section 3.2.3.1 outlines the process for Strategic Site Selection, including the grid connection. It is difficult to accept that a site requiring 23km of grid connection along small rural roads, through two villages and

crossing a significant designated river (Nore SAC and SPA) is a suitable site for a wind energy development. This site does not have any obvious grid connection route that does not have associated significant environmental impacts.

The application states that the 7 no. wind turbines will have an overall turbine tip height of 185 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 163 metres; and hub height of 103.5 metres. These turbines are monstrous. For comparison, the existing turbines at nearby Foylatalure, Ballybeagh and Lisdowney have an overall turbine tip height of 120 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 82 metres; and hub height of 80 metres. There is just no comparison. Section 3.2.5.1 of the EIAR states

'Modern wind turbines have a potential power output in the 4.5 – 7 megawatt (MW) range. It is proposed to install 7 no. 7MW turbines at the Proposed Wind Farm'

It is clear that the applicants have no regard for the local community or for the environment, when they propose installing among the very biggest available turbine. The proposed turbines will dwarf the existing wind turbines currently in operation in Co Kilkenny. The proposed turbines are more suited for very remote sites that have significant setbacks from houses and settlements, e.g. Bord na Móna midland bogs. The scale of the turbines should have some relationship with the surrounding built and natural environment and not just a case of building the largest available turbine. Section 3.2.5.1 of the EIAR makes very general arguments for having fewer larger turbines versus more smaller turbines. However, the environmental impact of different turbine size options has not been properly assessed in the EIAR with regard to viable alternatives. No consideration has been given to installing turbines of a similar scale to those currently in operation in the area.

Turbine proliferation and cumulative impacts

There are 18 existing operational wind turbines located within 10km of the proposed Briskalagh site located to the west, on higher ground in the Slieveardagh Hills (Foylatalure, Ballybeagh, Cnoc, Ballincurry, Gurteen wind farms). The Farranrory Wind Farm project (9 turbines) near The Commons/Ballingarry is currently under construction (150m tip height).

The proposed development will create a proliferation of turbines in the area, especially for houses and communities that will be sandwiched between the existing and proposed turbines. There will be significant impacts for these people who will have turbines at the front and back of their houses. They will also be subject to cumulative impacts with regard to Shadow Flicker, Noise and Visual Impact. These same households and communities will be subject to significant disturbance from construction traffic and will have major traffic restrictions imposed during the construction of the grid connection on local roads running through Tullaroan, Freshford and on to Ballyragget. If the applicant had properly assessed the cumulative impacts on these communities, they would not be proposing to install the largest available turbines. Rather, they would propose turbines that are more in keeping with existing turbines in the area.

Traffic and Roads

As has been stated, the proposed Wind Farm site is located within a rural, agricultural setting. Access to the site is off local minor roads, L5024 to the north, and L1009 to the south. These roads are not suitable for the very significant construction traffic required to build the wind farm and will require very significant road widening, tree felling and upgrading to meet the requirements for construction traffic. These works will irreversibly change the appearance and character of this rural area. These impacts are not adequately addressed in the application/EIAR.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is argued that a knowledge of the past is essential for a full understanding of the present. The author then goes on to discuss the various factors which have shaped the development of the United States, including the influence of the British, the Spanish, and the French. He also discusses the role of the American people in the creation of the nation. The second part of the paper is a detailed account of the life of George Washington, the first President of the United States. The author describes Washington's early life, his military career, and his role in the founding of the nation. He also discusses Washington's personality and his relationship with the people. The third part of the paper is a discussion of the American Revolution. The author describes the causes of the revolution, the course of the war, and the results. He also discusses the impact of the revolution on the United States and the world. The fourth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Constitution. The author describes the process of its creation and its importance to the United States. He also discusses the various amendments to the Constitution and their impact. The fifth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Civil War. The author describes the causes of the war, the course of the war, and the results. He also discusses the impact of the war on the United States and the world. The sixth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Reconstruction. The author describes the process of Reconstruction and its importance to the United States. He also discusses the various Reconstruction acts and their impact. The seventh part of the paper is a discussion of the American Gilded Age. The author describes the various factors which led to the Gilded Age, including the rise of big business and the corruption of politics. He also discusses the impact of the Gilded Age on the United States and the world. The eighth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Progressive Era. The author describes the various factors which led to the Progressive Era, including the rise of the middle class and the reform of politics. He also discusses the impact of the Progressive Era on the United States and the world. The ninth part of the paper is a discussion of the American New Deal. The author describes the various factors which led to the New Deal, including the Great Depression and the rise of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He also discusses the impact of the New Deal on the United States and the world. The tenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Cold War. The author describes the various factors which led to the Cold War, including the rise of the Soviet Union and the fear of nuclear war. He also discusses the impact of the Cold War on the United States and the world. The eleventh part of the paper is a discussion of the American Vietnam War. The author describes the various factors which led to the Vietnam War, including the fear of communism and the desire for power. He also discusses the impact of the Vietnam War on the United States and the world. The twelfth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Watergate scandal. The author describes the various factors which led to the Watergate scandal, including the desire for power and the corruption of politics. He also discusses the impact of the Watergate scandal on the United States and the world. The thirteenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American AIDS crisis. The author describes the various factors which led to the AIDS crisis, including the rise of the gay community and the lack of knowledge about the disease. He also discusses the impact of the AIDS crisis on the United States and the world. The fourteenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American 9/11 attacks. The author describes the various factors which led to the 9/11 attacks, including the rise of terrorism and the fear of nuclear war. He also discusses the impact of the 9/11 attacks on the United States and the world. The fifteenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American financial crisis. The author describes the various factors which led to the financial crisis, including the rise of the subprime mortgage market and the greed of the financial industry. He also discusses the impact of the financial crisis on the United States and the world. The sixteenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Arab Spring. The author describes the various factors which led to the Arab Spring, including the rise of the middle class and the fear of authoritarianism. He also discusses the impact of the Arab Spring on the United States and the world. The seventeenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Black Lives Matter movement. The author describes the various factors which led to the Black Lives Matter movement, including the rise of the Black community and the fear of racism. He also discusses the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement on the United States and the world. The eighteenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American COVID-19 pandemic. The author describes the various factors which led to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the rise of the virus and the lack of knowledge about the disease. He also discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the United States and the world. The nineteenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American climate change movement. The author describes the various factors which led to the climate change movement, including the rise of the environmental community and the fear of global warming. He also discusses the impact of the climate change movement on the United States and the world. The twentieth part of the paper is a discussion of the American space exploration movement. The author describes the various factors which led to the space exploration movement, including the rise of the space industry and the desire for power. He also discusses the impact of the space exploration movement on the United States and the world.

The applicant proposes to run the grid connection along local roads, going through the villages of Tullaroan and Freshford – a distance of 23km. This will have major impacts on the people who live and work in the area and especially on the two mentioned villages. The R693 road is a regional road linking Urlingford to Kilkenny City that runs through the centre of Freshford. This is a very busy road particularly at school start and end times.

There is inadequate information provided in the EIAR with regard to the impacts on the built environment and cultural heritage of these villages. Similarly, the impact on school traffic, commuters, farmers and other workers is not properly assessed in the EIAR.

Noise and Shadow Flicker

According to the EIAR there are 164 no. properties located within 1.63 km (10 times the rotor diameter) of the proposed turbine locations. Some of these households are already living close to a number of operational wind farms. The cumulative impact of increased nuisances arising from turbine noise, shadow flicker and visual impact will clearly create added negative impacts. The applicant has chosen the largest turbine size which will therefore create the greatest possible cumulative impact. By selecting the largest available turbine, the applicant has made no real attempt to minimise cumulative impacts.

Visual Impact

The area already has a proliferation of medium scale wind turbines. The proposed wind turbines will be among the largest available onshore turbines and will dominate the local landscape and be overbearing for the households in the immediate environs of the site, and for the village of Kilmanagh. Chapter 13, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the EIAR states that;

'ZTV mapping indicates full theoretical visibility within 5km of the turbines'

The area within 5km of the turbines is also where the households and communities nearest the turbines will be most impacted. It is also stated in Chapter 13;

'The greatest visual effects will occur from local residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines in the townlands of Banse Glebe, Oldtownhill, Corstown, Knockeenglass and receptors at the periphery of the Kilmanagh settlement, where residual visual effects were deemed to be 'Moderate.' Cumulative visual effects have greatest potential to arise with other existing, permitted, and proposed developments in the Slieveardagh Hills when viewed from receptors immediately east of the Proposed Wind Farm, as well as from longer ranging views of the upland area from elevated vantage points throughout the wider landscape.'

This development proposes to locate seven of the largest available onshore turbines (overall turbine tip height of 185 metres) into a rural landscape and it is therefore not credible for the authors to state; *The Proposed Project is appropriately designed and suitably scaled, and it has been demonstrated that no significant landscape and visual effects are likely to arise.*

The LVIA chapter in the EIAR is lacking and inadequate in this regard.

Biodiversity

As a local farmer who is out on the ground on a daily basis, I have sighted hen harriers in this area. Section 7.3.1 of the EIAR states: *'The next closest SPA is situated over 27km distant from the Site, and over 39km from the Proposed Wind Farm site – the Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA listed for breeding hen harrier. This distance is significantly beyond the foraging range of hen harrier (i.e. max range of 10km – SNH (2016)) and there were no observations of hen harrier at the Proposed Wind Farm site over the two years of surveying.'*

I would contest that this is not accurate and therefore that impacts on hen harriers have not been adequately assessed.

It should be noted that the local streams that feed into the Kings River are Salmonid spawning grounds which needs to be properly assessed.

The grid connection will cross the designated River Nore (SAC and SPA). No reasonable alternatives have been provided to avoid crossing the River Nore which raises serious doubt about the suitability of this site for wind energy development.

No Real Community Benefit

No amount of community funds can compensate the local community for the lasting impacts of living and working in the environs of these huge turbines. Visually, they will dominate the landscape. The noise from the turbines will be permanent as they will be operational 24/7. The traffic impacts during construction and the ripping up of 23km of rural roads to construct the grid connection will have a very significant negative impact for the local community. These impacts are significant, negative and long-term. Overall, the environmental and human impacts are significant and are not adequately addressed in the EIAR.

The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the development will not have a significant impact on the local community, and has not adequately demonstrated that the site is suitable for the proposed development, or that there are more suitable alternative sites and grid routes available. On this basis I respectfully ask Kilkenny County Council to refuse planning for this development.

Yours faithfully

Edward Fennelly

Please find €50 Attached

