

Daire

LDG-081389-25



Planning Appeal Online Observation

Online Reference
NPA-OBS-004803

Online Observation Details

Contact Name
Frank O'Reilly

Lodgement Date
13/07/2025 15:01:28

Case Number / Description
322787

Payment Details

Payment Method
Online Payment

Cardholder Name
Niamh Cullen

Payment Amount
€50.00

Processing Section

S.131 Consideration Required

Yes — See attached 131 Form

N/A — Invalid

Signed


EO

Date

15/7/25

Fee Refund Requisition

Please Arrange a Refund of Fee of

€

Lodgement No

LDG—

Reason for Refund

Documents Returned to Observer

Yes

No

Request Emailed to Senior Executive Officer for Approval

Yes

No

Signed

EO

Date

Finance Section

Payment Reference

ch_3RkQT5B1CW0EN5FC0OsHyuvJ

Checked Against Fee Income Online

EO/AA (Accounts Section)

Amount

€

Refund Date

Authorised By (1)

SEO (Finance)

Authorised By (2)

Chief Officer/Director of Corporate Affairs/SAO/Board Member

Date

Date

File With

[Empty box]

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal No

ABP-322787

Defer Re O/H

Having considered the contents of the submission dated/received 13/7/25 from Frank O'Reilly I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 be/rot be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s):

no new material information

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage.

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

Signed

Deane W. ...

Date

06/09/25

EO

Signed

[Empty box]

Date

[Empty box]

SEO/SAO

M

Please prepare BP — Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached submission.

To

[Empty box]

Task No

[Empty box]

Allow 2/3/4 weeks

BP

Signed

[Empty box]

Date

[Empty box]

EO

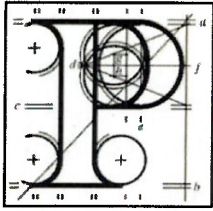
Signed

[Empty box]

Date

[Empty box]

AA



An
Bord
Pleanála

Observation on a Planning Appeal: Form.

Your details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

Your full details:

(a) Name

Frank O'Reilly

(b) Address

Ardaprior Lisgriffin Co Cork P51F4A7

Agent's details

2. Agent's details

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else on this observation, please also write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

N/A

(b) Agent's address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the appeal process we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this observation, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only.)

You (the observer) at the address in Part 1

The agent at the address in Part 2

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the appeal you wish to make an observation on. If you want, you can include a copy of the planning authority's decision as the observation details.

(a) Planning authority

(for example: Ballytown City Council)

Cork County Council

(b) An Bord Pleanála appeal case number (if available)

(for example: ABP-300000-19)

322787

(c) Planning authority register reference number

(for example: 18/0123)

245503

(d) Location of proposed development

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Polnareagha, Ardskeagh, Tullacondra, Crougta, Kilmaclenine, Ballyclogh,
Knockaunavaddreen, , Copestown, Ballybeg, Baltydaniel East, Twopothouse,
Caurraghakerry, Co. Cork

Observation details

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

To the Secretary of An Bord Pleanala

I write to you today to advise you of my steadfast objection to the proposed wind farm consisting of 9 enormous wind turbines and associated high voltage cable as per planning reference number 245503.

This is a rural community that boasts prime agricultural land, is an area rich in heritage and archaeological significance, and has a wildlife that is diverse and vulnerable to the adverse effects that humans impose upon their habitat.

I would like to say that I am a string advocate for change, I understand the requirement to protect our planet by changing our ways, but we must carefully consider the changes that we implement to ensure that these are not short term actions that will result in long term regret, we have in Ireland a sad history of fostering and allowing behaviours and actions that negatively impact our people for generations, we must not make the same mistake. I agree with Green Energy but I do not agree with the proposed location of this site. It is unsuitable for this project and you An Bord Pleanala are the gatekeepers and I implore you to listen to the community and understand that we are rejecting this windfarm based on the absolute unsuitability of the location.

I have observed the following which details the reasons why this farm should not proceed, as well documented supporting materials on the community group appeal lodged by Solicitor Joe Noonan

- 1) Preliminary point on illegality of Council decision

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

“The community was deliberately denied any opportunity to comment on the additional material submitted by the Applicant under the RFI Request, or on the commentary on it made by those whom the Council chose to copy it to. As a result, members of the public who may have wished to participate were excluded from the process.

We consider that this exclusion decision was unlawful and contrary to fair procedures and public participation rights. As a result, the Council permission decision in our view is unlawful.”

The application should be refused on this basis.

2) Access Roads to The Proposed Site

There is unacceptable uncertainty around the turbine delivery route, something commented on also by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Given that whichever route is chosen entails significant works to enable the loads to be transported, we submit that a defined route should have been identified by now and that it should have formed part of this planning application.

In its absence, **this application should be refused as premature.**

My wife and I are self-employed in the same business and rely daily on the rural roads surrounding the proposed development site to carry out our work. These roads are **narrow, uneven, and already under pressure**, particularly during farming seasons when **large agricultural vehicles** are frequently using them. Our business depends on efficient travel throughout the area, and we regularly transport equipment and visit client sites using this route.

We are deeply concerned that the proposed wind farm project will:

Overburden rural roads not designed to handle heavy industrial traffic;

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

Cause **major disruption** to our business by delaying access and increasing risk;

Result in **damage to road surfaces** from repeated heavy-goods vehicle movements, which the local authority is unlikely to be equipped to repair quickly;

Lead to **road closures or restrictions** during construction that will limit access not only for ourselves but for residents and services.

These are not abstract concerns. The proposed turbines — each 175 metres tall — will require the delivery of **oversized components** and **frequent HGV movements**, which our rural road infrastructure is simply **not built to accommodate**.

In addition, there are **serious road safety implications**. These roads are already difficult to navigate in winter or in poor visibility. Adding large industrial vehicles into the mix will **increase the risk of collisions**, particularly around blind bends, junctions, and areas with no hard shoulder or verge space. The presence of children walking or cycling to nearby homes or farms makes this especially concerning.

We are also concerned about **emergency access** during construction. The disruption to local roads could **delay emergency services**, including ambulances or fire brigades, from reaching homes and farms in a timely manner — especially if works are blocking key access points. This is an unacceptable risk to public safety.

We strongly believe that this infrastructure project is **wholly incompatible with the nature of the road network in this area**. The roads are not suited to the scale of what is being proposed, and the **impacts on small business operations, local safety, and essential access** must be fully acknowledged and taken seriously.

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

3) Visual impact, landscape character

The land on which these turbines are proposed will cause a **dramatic and irreversible change** to the landscape character of this area. Please refer to the attached photograph, taken from our garden, which clearly shows the open rural views we currently enjoy — views that will be dominated and **disfigured** by the construction of nine 175m turbines.

We are already flanked by existing turbines to the **left and right** of our home. This proposal would add turbines **directly in front of us**, creating a **wall of industrial infrastructure**, enclosing our home and severing any remaining sense of unspoiled landscape. The effect of this will be deeply unsettling — not only visually, but psychologically — turning our home into a place surrounded by constant visual reminders of heavy industry.

The **cumulative visual impact** of these turbines cannot be dismissed. The scale of these structures — at 175m, taller than any building in rural Ireland — will **dominate the skyline**, day and night. At night, the **red aviation warning lights** will flash across the dark sky, eliminating the natural darkness of the area and destroying the peaceful night-time environment we currently experience. This is a form of **light pollution** that has **no place in a rural residential setting**.

The Board must consider that rural landscapes like ours hold **cultural, emotional, and environmental value**. These are not just fields — they are lived-in spaces, seen from kitchens and gardens, farmed and walked by generations, and held in respect by local communities. This project would **industrialise a natural valley**,

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

stripping it of its character and robbing local people of the connection they have to their land.

We urge the Board to refuse this application on the grounds of:

Severe and disproportionate visual intrusion

Destruction of rural landscape character Loss of residential amenity

Night-time light pollution from red aviation lights Cumulative turbine saturation already affecting this locality

4) Equine Impacts

It is important to note that the **Council Veterinary Inspector has recommended refusal** of this application. This recommendation must be given serious weight and scrutiny by the Board, particularly in light of the evidence and expert reports submitted as part of the **community group appeal**, which clearly set out multiple just and reasoned grounds for rejecting this project.

We have a **close family member who works with horses** in a professional equine yard located **immediately beside the proposed turbine site**. The scale of these turbines is such that the **blade tip will directly overshadow** the very area where horses are exercised and ridden on a daily basis.

We are **deeply concerned for the safety of our family member**, his co-workers, and the horses themselves. Horses are **highly sensitive animals** that can be easily startled by sudden movement, shadow flicker, and unusual noise — all of which are characteristics of wind turbine operation. A startled horse poses a **serious risk of injury** not only to itself but to the handler or rider.

The Board must consider whether it is appropriate — or indeed responsible — to permit a development that places **livelihoods, lives, and animal welfare in direct jeopardy**.

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

We respectfully request that the Board examine all professional and community submissions carefully, particularly those dealing with **animal behaviour, health, and proximity risks**, and that it gives due regard to the expert opinion of the Council Veterinary Inspector in refusing this application. The application should be refused on this basis.

5) Impact on wildlife

My wife has already include in her observation that we have a protected species, **the red squirrel**

While there is no commercial forestry between my home and the proposed turbines, the area is rich in mature hedgerows, trees, and natural corridors typical of rural Irish landscapes. These features are proven to support red squirrel activity, especially in fragmented environments. As a legally protected species under the Wildlife Act 1976, any disturbance or degradation of these habitats within 2km of their known range should be treated with caution. We ask that An Bord Pleanála require an up-to-date habitat survey and apply the precautionary principle in light of potential impacts on red squirrels and their nesting zones.

Red squirrels typically range over 2–5 hectares (20,000–50,000 m²) in dense woodland.

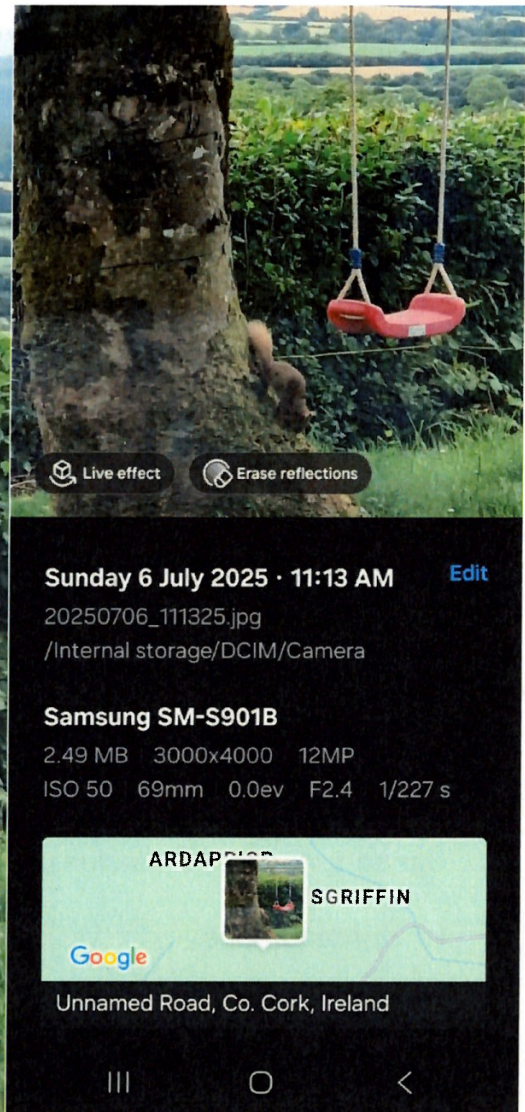
They are known to travel up to 2–3km between fragmented woodland patches, especially during dispersal, foraging, or when looking for mates or nesting sites.

This project will very realistically impact red squirrel territory

The application should be refused on this basis.

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.





Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting material include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct **fee** is included with your observation. You can find out the correct fee to include in our [Fees and Charges Guide](#) on our website.

This document has been awarded a Plain English mark by NALA.

Last updated: April 2019.

