

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough St,
Rotunda,
Dublin 1, D01 V902
23/10/2025

Our reference no: 25-99S&MBL01

RE: Proposed wind farm development of 7 Turbines, 110kV substation and associated works within the townlands of Leitrim, Lumville, Ballinla, Clarkeville, Ballyfore Big, Ballyfore Little, Ballyeakin and Ballykilleen, in (Coolestown By) Co. Offaly

An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PAX19.323579

To whom it may concern,

We wish to submit our objection to the above development for the following reasons:

1. We keep cattle on farm land at Lumville. The nearest turbine to this land is T5. All of the land we farm is contained within 1450m of T5, with the nearest boundary being approximately 900m from this turbine.
The risk of shadow flicker is recognised by the industry as constituting 10 x rotor diameters. The published length of the Ballinla Wind Farm turbine blades is just under 80m each. Therefore the rotor diameter is 160m, not including the nacelle dimensions.
The land is situated north-northeast of T5.
Approximately half of the land we farm is located within 1600m of T4, which is located southwest of this land.
This means that all of the land we farm is going to be subjected to shadow flicker from two different turbines, for substantial periods of the day, particularly during the months from October to April due to the low position of the sun.
We are very concerned at having to work in an area which is being so impacted by shadow flicker from these turbines, and are very concerned for our animals, and our own health and welfare in doing so.
2. Having lived in close proximity to the construction of the nearby Yellow River Wind Farm, we are all too aware of the substantial disruption caused by construction noise, heavy traffic, and dust throughout the 18-24 month construction period. This is particularly impactful in what is a quiet, rural area.
There are significant safety concerns for those of us who use the quiet, rural roads in the immediate area of the Ballinla Wind Farm for walking, running, cycling, and driving: all roads in the vicinity of the Yellow River Wind Farm were severely affected in this regard, and residents' safe use of the road in the area was significantly curtailed due to valid safety concerns. Furthermore, there was significant damage caused to the roads in the Rhode and surrounding areas, as well as two bridge collapses, one of which resulted in a major road closure for 5 months whilst the bridge was replaced. It is inevitable that similar disruption and damage will be caused during the construction of the Ballinla Wind Farm.
3. Having closely witnessed the construction of the turbines on the Yellow River Wind Farm, we have seen the utter devastation caused to the natural environment during the construction phase alone: thousands of mature trees and hedgerows were obliterated: the "replacement" of destroyed mature trees and hedgerows with saplings is simply not a good enough reparation for the damage caused due to the substantial time it will take for the saplings to mitigate the loss of

the mature trees and hedgerows. We have also witnessed the enormous excavations required for each turbine, with consequent untold release of carbon to the atmosphere for which there is no facilitation to recoup or offset. We have witnessed the hundreds of tonnes of concrete and enormous quantities of steels that are used in the foundations of each turbine, eventually hidden underground out of sight. Taking all into account, it is quite clear that wind turbines never become “carbon neutral”, they do not provide “clean, green energy”, and they are at risk of becoming obsolete potentially within their own lifetime, viewed by our successors as a disgraceful blot on our generation. Furthermore, the fact that wind turbine components cannot be recycled further adds to them adding to our environmental destruction, not reducing it as is claimed. Meanwhile, the concrete and steel foundations of each and every turbine will be in the ground for ever more: pollution that is conveniently out of sight.

4. From our property, we can see 23 of the 29 Yellow River Wind Farm turbines, and a large section of both the Mount Lucas Wind Farm and the Cloncrane Wind Farm. There are several other wind farms recently installed in the north-east Offaly area, at Walsh island, and the Derries. There is a large solar farm currently being installed in Rhode village, and another major solar installation due to commence at Greenhills in the near future. We have also got ongoing development in the Rhode “Green Energy” Park, as well as a substantial development imminent in Derrygreenagh of battery storage units etc. If one stands at the top of Fahy Hill between Rhode and Ballybrittan, one is surrounded by wind turbines at all points of the compass. The area has had its fill of construction, disruption, closed roads, heavy traffic, having to now live under the shadow of multiple turbines, having to now live with the almost constant noise made by the turbines, having our skyline destroyed by the turbines by day, and the red aviation lights peppering the skyline by night, and having our houses devalued. Enough is enough, the area has become a dumping ground for Ireland’s renewable energy drive. It is time that the burden is shared more equitably, and that no more wind turbines are installed in the area, with immediate effect.
5. The devastation caused by wind turbines to wildlife and habitats is very well documented. Given that northeast Offaly is being hailed as a leader in habitat restoration of bogs, and the consequent improvements in biodiversity, with development of greenways through the bogs and Grand Canal, the price paid particularly by birds and bats being killed by turbines is too high. The death toll particularly amongst larger birds at wind farms, especially birds of prey, is inexcusable. Whilst many dozens of dead eagles, peregrine falcons, red kites, barn owls and buzzards have been recorded at Scottish wind farms, we in Ireland have very recent records of 3 sea eagles killed by Donegal wind turbines between October 2024 and May 2025. The northeast area of Offaly is home to buzzards, barn owls, long-eared owls and peregrine falcons, all of which are at hugely increased risk of injury and death due to the proliferation of wind farms in the area in recent years. The area is also used by overwintering Annex I Whooper Swans as well as our resident Mute Swans, and flight-lines for both species coincide with the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm. Both species are at significant risk of injury and death if this wind farm goes ahead.
The impact of wind turbines on bats is very well known, the number of deaths caused is simply not acceptable. The disruption caused by construction traffic, and the untold effects of turbines below ground, causes major dispersal of badgers. There is an old, active badger sett on the lands in Lumville, and whilst the badgers here have never caused any issue, their dispersal and possible return following the completion of the turbines is putting both this healthy badger colony, and our cattle at risk of TB infection.

We are aware that there is strong cross-community resistance to this, yet another wind farm development in the immediate area, and wish to lend our full support to our neighbours in their objections to the Ballinla Wind Farm proposal going ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Robert Bergin and Dr. Maureen Byrne in blue ink.

Robert Bergin and Dr. Maureen Byrne
Dunville,
Rhode,
Co. Offaly,
R35FX56
23/10/2025