

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to make the following submission to object to the above SID application for the following reasons. Our property is marked on the attached map, our house is located approximately 1.75km from the two nearest proposed turbines, T3 and T4.

1. The blade length of the turbines proposed for the Ballinla Wind Farm is 79.35m, therefore the rotor diameter will be a minimum of 160m, including the nacelle dimensions. Bearing in mind the industry standard of shadow flicker occurring to a distance of 10 rotor diameters away from a dwelling, this recognised troublesome affect of wind turbines will affect properties up to 1.6km from each turbine.

The lands of our farm adjacent to our home lie between 1.08 and 1.6km from proposed T2, and between 1.2 and 1.8km from proposed T3. Approximately 75% of our land is within 1.6km of both T2 and T3.

Both of these turbines are located south-southwest of our home and farm.

Therefore, we are very much at risk of becoming victims of shadow flicker as we go about our work in and around our farm and our home, particularly when the sun is lower in the southern sky during the late Autumn, Winter, and Spring months.

I also own and work on farmlands in Lumville. All of my lands here lie within 865m and 1.5km of proposed T5, whilst approximately half of this land lies within 1.35km and 1.6km of proposed T4.

Proposed T4 lies southwest of this land, whilst T5 lies south-southwest of this land. Again, we are very much at risk of becoming victims of shadow flicker from T4 and T5 for prolonged periods particularly throughout late Autumn, all of the Winter, and well into the Spring, as we go about our daily work on this land.

You will therefore understand our significant concerns with having to work and farm under such stress-inducing conditions. We understand that turning turbines off during risk periods is used in mitigation, however it would seem that the prolonged periods our immediate area of work will be affected by multiple turbines would require turbines to be deactivated for significant periods of time.

2. We have grave concerns about the ongoing noise that will be generated by the wind turbines, given the proximity of multiple proposed turbines to our home, our farm, and the homes of our children, and the turbines' position to us in relation to the prevailing winds.

This will be an impact that will have to be endured by us, and our children and grandchildren, for many years to come, and will contribute in no small part towards devaluing our lands and homes.

3. Given the proximity particularly of proposed T2, T3, T4 and T5 to our farming lands, we have concerns regarding the effects on air temperatures that the turbines may have. There are potential, as yet unknown and unquantifiable effects both on ourselves, our livestock, and on the quality and quantity of grass that we produce on our land to feed them. Furthermore, as turbines are known to affect microclimate for some distance on their downwind side, and given that all of our lands, our home, and the homes of our children are on leeward of all 7 proposed turbines to the prevailing south-westerly Irish winds, we have grave concerns that our lives, our health and our homes will be significantly impacted by the proximity of these turbines.
4. Whilst we appreciate the importance and contribution towards sustainable energy that wind turbines claim to offer, it is abundantly clear that north-east Offaly has far more than its fair share of wind farms and turbines in a relatively small area. We have a clear view from our home of the entirety of Cloncrane Wind Farm, and a number of turbines from both Mount Lucas Wind farm, and the Yellow River Wind Farm. Whilst our view during the day is impacted by these turbines, by night we have a clear and irritating view of multiple red aviation lights dotted across a large expanse of what was an unspoiled, dark horizon. With the installation of yet more turbines in closer proximity to our home, all 7 of which will be clearly visible from our home, our day- and night-time enjoyment of views and horizon is set to be further negatively impacted. This is another factor which will contribute to devaluing our lands and homes.
5. The construction of the Ballinla Wind Farm is expected to take 18 to 24 months. There will be substantial disruption caused both to us going about our working day, and to our children going about theirs, as we are subjected to the considerable noise of construction traffic, the dangers posed by heavy construction traffic on quiet roads on which we walk, run, cycle and drive, and the inevitable damage caused by heavy construction traffic to these small rural roads. The construction of the nearby Yellow River Wind Farm resulted in 2 bridge collapses, one a major incident which resulted in the R400 being closed for over 5 months, causing considerable disruption to all of us living in the area. The small roads in the area to be used during construction of the Ballinla Wind Farm are simply not designed for the volume nor weight of traffic which they will be subjected to, and damage to these roads will cause significant upheaval to those of us who have to live with the consequences.
6. Due to the visual impact of the existing wind farms that are visible from our home, the installation of yet another wind farm in greater proximity to our home will affect the value of our home. Furthermore, my children have built their homes on my land, all of which will be significantly impacted from both a visual and auditory perspective, with consequent negative impact on the value of their homes.
7. The impacts on wildlife caused by wind turbines is irrefutable. The Ballinla Wind Farm is located on the flight path of Annex I Whooper Swans, which arrive to Ireland to utilise their preferred habitat in the immediate area. Resident Mute Swans, as well as recent arrivals

to the area Giant Egrets and Common Cranes are also drawn to the rewetted bogs and have been sighted in the immediate area. Wind turbines pose a major risk to these birds, evidenced by the recent deaths of 3 White-tailed Eagles on Donegal wind farms in the 8 month period between October 2024 and May 2025.

In Scotland, in the 10 year period between 2014 to 2024, there were 71 raptor deaths as a result of collisions with onshore wind turbines reported by wind farms: it is obviously not known how many further deaths were unrecorded. They included many buzzards, barn owls, and peregrine falcons, all of which species are present on and around our land at Ballybrittan and Lumville.

The death toll particularly of birds of prey at wind farms across the world is staggering and utterly unacceptable, particularly in light of evidence to suggest that the scale of devastation can be mitigated (eg colour of turbine blades, technology to detect approaching birds and shut down turbines): such mitigations appear not to be being implemented in Irish wind farms at least.

The negative impact of wind turbines on bats is also very well documented. Proposed Turbines 4 and 5 are located in close proximity to an ancient badger sett in Lumville: when construction of the Yellow River Wind Farm commenced, there was a similar ancient badger sett abandoned by the badgers, which dispersed across a wide area of several square kilometers to satellite setts. This spread of badgers across a number of farms presents potential for the spread of TB.

With trojan efforts in the area to rewet/rewild the bogs and the expected increase in colonisation by rare bird species, and development of greenways along the Grand Canal and beyond, the installation of turbines which are very well known to cause severe and widespread damage and death to wildlife and their habitats is unacceptable.

We note that there is strong resistance to this development across our local community for many reasons including and in addition to those we have listed in this letter, and wish to lend our support to our neighbours in voicing their objections including those with very significant health, equine and animal welfare concerns. Thank you for considering our objections to this most unwelcome development in the area in which we live and work.

Yours Sincerely.



Sean & Mary Bergin

Ballybrittan
Edenderry
Co. Offaly
R45 WV05

Date: 23/10/2025



Ballinla Wind Farm

2km Buffer outlined
Blue, 1km Buffer
outlined Magenta

Location of
dwelling house

Sean & Mary
Bergin

Turbines

Substation

Site Entrance

TDR

1km Buffer

