

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála

(Submitted via the online portal)

Re: Objection to Shancloon Windfarm – ABP Ref 323699

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our family has lived in Beaghmore for 27 years, and our roots go back several generations. This is a peaceful rural community defined by its tranquillity, natural beauty, and strong sense of neighbourliness. We value the untouched landscape, the vibrant community spirit, and the biodiversity that thrives here. These are qualities that cannot be replaced once lost.

While we support renewable energy in principle, this particular development is inappropriate for this location due to its close proximity to homes, the sensitivity of the local environment, and the risks it poses to both human and ecological wellbeing.

Our home is approximately 750 metres from the proposed development. Our 90-year-old mother, who was born and reared in this area, still lives with us. She suffers from a heart condition and anxiety, and we are deeply concerned about the potential impacts of turbine noise, vibration, and shadow flicker on her health and quality of life.

We also note that sound monitoring was conducted at our property, but the monitoring equipment was placed beside trees, which may have affected the accuracy of the readings. The developers only contacted us for the purpose of placing the monitor and provided no meaningful information or follow-up, which reflects poorly on the transparency of the process.

Our land borders the Black River, which runs through the back of our property. This river and its connected wetlands, including Fahy's Lake and underground waterways, form a vital hydrological network in the area. The river is a spawning ground for Pike and supports Otters, Pine Martens, Mink, Geese, Swans, and many species of water birds.

We are extremely concerned about the potential for flooding and water contamination resulting from large-scale excavation, peat removal, and drainage works associated with this project. Disturbing peat and altering drainage patterns could have significant downstream effects, harming both farmland and wildlife habitats.

On our land stands an old ruin known locally as "The Castle", the original home of our ancestors. It is a place of historic and sentimental value to our family and the wider area. The ruins are now home to nesting Barn Owls, a protected species under the Wildlife Acts and the EU Birds Directive.

Any disturbance or alteration to the surrounding environment, through construction noise, lighting, or changes in local ecology, could endanger both the remaining structure of the house, which has deeply personal value to us, and these nesting birds.

We are disappointed by the lack of engagement from the developers. Other than the brief visit during sound monitoring, there has been no effort to hold a public meeting or to discuss the proposal with local residents. This lack of transparency and respect for the local community undermines the principles of public participation enshrined in the Aarhus Convention and national planning guidance.

We ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to consider the people who live here, families who have cared for this land for generations, and to recognise the risks this proposal poses to our environment, our community, and our wellbeing.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that permission be refused for the Shancloon Windfarm.

Yours faithfully,

Ann Creaven, Beaghmore, Tuam, Co. Galway