

To: An Board Pleanala

Date: 18th Oct 2025

CASE REF: 323699

I vehemently oppose the proposed wind farm development at Shanclon for the following reason.

Section 5.2.2 of the planning guidelines acknowledges that the birds most at risk are swans, geese, divers, etc. It mentions potential impact on migratory birds movement between breeding, feeding, and roosting areas requires careful consideration. However, it fails to mention what I believe is the highest risk, which is the proposed wind farm is located just north of the Belclare turlough. This turlough is breeding ground for many bird species including the Whooper swan.

The location of the proposed development is situated approx 4 Kms to the north of the Belclare Turlough. The Environmental Impact Assessment fails to even mention the Belclare Turlough, its proximity to the site and the fact that it is the winter home for many migratory birds. It does mention the Shrule turlough but also omits the Hacket turlough and the Castlegrove lake. During the feeding season these swans fly back and forth between all these turloughs. Shanclon is situated right in the middle of their flight path between feeding grounds.

The proposed Shanclon development is situated on the TAKE OFF and LANDING STRIP for these migratory birds. I know this because these swans fly directly North West over my house every year on their way back to Iceland. I look out for them when they depart every March.

Whooper swans gradually increase their height altitude by approx 20 meters per Klm after take off, meaning that they might reach 80 to 100 meters by the time they reach Shanclon. They fly directly over Shanclon, Cloonbar, every year. I'm not sure who did the risk assessment study but it's obvious they missed the Whooper swan migratory flight path over this proposed development. The Whoopers will fly directly into the turbines as they depart from Belclare turlough.

Why would anyone with a conscience want to build a wind farm on the landing/take-off strip (or the swans runway for want of a better word) for the Belclare migratory swans. If this development goes ahead it will be the end of the Whooper swans in Belclare.

Anne Lynch

*Anne Lynch*

The Mill Cottage, Bodane, Tuam, H54KT10