

From:

Enda Walsh

Carrowmore, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway

Eircode: H91 XFN4

An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref. No. **PAX07.323699** – Objection to **Shancloon Wind Farm**

My name is Enda Walsh, and I have lived in Carrowmore, Caherlistrane all my life. My family has been rooted here for generations and my father lives next door. This is a peaceful rural community where the land, the air, and the environment have always been healthy and safe for raising children. I want future generations to inherit the same quality of life that we have been fortunate to enjoy.

I live on the proposed delivery route for the substation. My home is just over 1km from the substation. This places me at the heart of both the construction and long-term operational impacts.

Flooding

As a farmer, I have seen significant increases in flooding in recent years due to more extreme rainfall events. The proposed removal of large volumes of peat and its replacement with concrete and steel would:

- Remove natural water absorbing bogs.
- Accelerate run-off and flooding onto farmland, roads and homes.
- Permanently damage natural drainage.

Once bogs are disturbed, the damage cannot be undone.

Water Pollution Concerns

Our drinking water is from the Caherlistrane Kilcoona Group Water Scheme, the source is a borehole. The scheme supplies over 2,000 homes and farms. The threat to our drinking water supply is extremely serious. The plan to drive piles and pour concrete for massive turbine foundations directly into the ground carries a real risk of contamination. Piling and grouting works in karst can rapidly transmit sediment, chemicals, cement materials and fuel contaminants through fissures and conduits, bypassing natural filtration and directly entering groundwater used for human consumption. Disturbance of karst features may alter groundwater flow paths, reduce well yield triggering subsidence or sinkhole formation, jeopardizing water security and public safety.

Lack of Genuine Consultation

There has been no engagement with residents, even though we are 1Km away from the substation and the turbines will have serious impacts on our lives.

Health & Human Impact

This development creates risks to physical and mental wellbeing, particularly through:

- Water contamination.
- Noise and low frequency / infrasound.
- Light pollution from the substation and turbines.
- Stress, anxiety and loss of quality of life for local residents.

I also note that under the Planning and Development Act 2024, a development may be refused if it is likely to have serious effects on the environment, including serious effects on human health (Schedule 4, Part 1, Item 3). I believe this proposal meets that threshold.

Visual Impact & Landscape Destruction

The proposed turbines and substation would destroy the scenic rural landscape that defines this area. They would:

- Shatter the natural views of Knockma.
- Disrupt the long-distance views towards Croagh Patrick.
- Pollute the night sky with permanent lighting.

This project would industrialise a natural landscape that residents have protected for generations.

Impact on Wildlife & Bird Collision Risk

Our area lies directly on the flight path of breeding waders moving to and from Lough Hackett. Turbines in the locality will inevitably result in:

- Bird strikes and fatalities.
- Habitat loss.
- Further decline of vulnerable species.

Impact on Our Bog & Turbary Rights

My family has turbary rights and cut turf annually on the bog, less than 150m from the proposed Turbine 1.

I have deep concerns regarding:

- Loss of access to the bog as the footprints for both Turbine 1 and Turbine 2 will cross the existing bog road, meaning we may not be able to access our plot to harvest our turf. There is a wayleave that gives turbary right holders access to their plots to harvest turf. The developer is blocking this without any consultation or consent.
- Risk of bog slide, as our plot is at a higher elevation to Turbine 1.
- Bog drying out or becoming flooded as drainage systems are changed.
- Noise nuisance when working on the bog from turbines.

Despite all of this, we have had no contact from the developer.

Conclusion

This development would bring severe and irreversible harm to our community, including:

- Threats to health and water safety.
- Environmental and habitat destruction.
- Damage to landscape, heritage, and quality of life.
- Loss of peace, wellbeing, and rural identity.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask An Bord Comisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for Shanclon Wind Farm.

Yours Faithfully

Enda Walsh
Carrowmore
Caherlistrane
Co. Galway
H91 XFN4