

Regarding Shancloon Windfarm Ref 323699

Dear Sir / Madam,

We wish to lodge a strong objection to the proposed Shancloon Wind Farm (ABP Ref. 323699).

We live in Kilshanvey, within approximately 2 kilometres of the nearest proposed turbine. We have lived in this house since we got married and I have lived in the area all my life, as have generations of my family before me. We both care deeply about our local area - its peaceful countryside, natural beauty, wildlife, and great community spirit.

This proposal would change all of that forever.

The scale and height of the proposed turbines would completely dominate the surrounding landscape. From our home, we would have a direct and unavoidable view of them. The turbines would destroy the rural character of Kilshanvey and the sense of openness and calm that we value so much.

Our home and daily lives would be overshadowed by these enormous industrial structures, which have no place in a quiet, natural, residential area like this.

We are very worried about the noise from the turbines - both the low-frequency sound and the constant movement of the blades. Living so close to them, we fear this would cause ongoing disturbance, day and night, and have a serious impact on our peace, health, and quality of life.

We live right beside a Turlough, and each year we are lucky to see Whooper Swans feeding and resting there. We have seen them many times fly in the direction of the area where the turbines are proposed. We think the proposed wind farm would be directly in their flight path, posing a serious risk of collision and disturbance. Turloughs are listed as priority Annex I habitats under the EU Habitats Directive. Whooper swans are listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Both should be a priority for conservation.

My wife especially loves walking the bog roads, where you can still enjoy peace, birdsong, and open skies. The thought of these roads being torn up for construction, and the bog damaged by heavy machinery and turbine bases, is heartbreaking. Once that landscape is disturbed, it can never truly be restored.

We are also worried about that the windfarm will have an impact on the value of our house. We are extremely concerned that the visual impact, noise, and shadow flicker associated with turbines of this scale will make our home less desirable and significantly reduce its market value. Homes situated near large wind turbines in other parts of the country have suffered serious devaluation and in some cases have become impossible to sell.

We feel this is deeply unfair to families like ours who have worked hard to build a life here, only to face the prospect of being left with a home that no longer holds its value or appeal.

We were never consulted about this development. We did receive a leaflet but never got to speak directly to the developers. There was no public meeting, only a clinic in Tuam that you would have to book. Considering how close we live to the proposed turbines, and the impact it will have on this lovely community, this lack of communication is unacceptable.

For these reasons - including the visual and noise impact, the destruction of peatland, the risk to Whooper Swans, and the lack of consultation - we respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for Shancloon Wind Farm.

Yours faithfully,
Gerard & Caroline Farrell
Kilshanvey,
Kilconly
Tuam,
Co. Galway