

Objection to Shanclon Windfarm – ABP Ref 323699

Summary:

We are a local family living in Beaghmore, approximately 750 metres from the proposed Shanclon Windfarm. Our family has lived here for 27 years, though our roots in the area go back for generations. We strongly support renewable energy in principle — we have solar panels and an electric car — but we object to this particular development because of its proximity to homes, the sensitivity of the local environment, and the risks it poses to our heritage, wildlife, and community wellbeing.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our family has lived in Beaghmore for 27 years, and our ancestors have lived in this area for generations. We moved home from England to raise our family here and to continue the tradition of caring for the land and the community that our forebears built. We love the tranquillity and nature of the area, the untouched landscape, and the strong community spirit that makes Beaghmore so special.

We are supporters of renewable energy - we have solar panels and drive an electric car - but we believe that renewable energy must be developed responsibly and in appropriate locations. This proposal does not meet those criteria.

1. Environmental Impacts – Rivers, Flooding, and Peatlands

Our home lies close to the Black River, which runs through the back of our land. This river connects to Fahy's Lake and underground waterways, creating a vital wetland ecosystem. The river is a spawning ground for Pike, and supports Otters, Pine Martens, Mink, Geese, Swans, and many water birds.

We are deeply concerned that excavation, peat removal, and road construction could disrupt the hydrology of this delicate system. Any alteration to drainage patterns or disturbance of peatland could increase flood risk, cause water contamination, and destroy natural habitats.

2. Noise, Light, and Loss of Rural Tranquillity

Beaghmore is defined by its peace and quiet — qualities essential to rural life and wellbeing. The noise, low-frequency vibration, and light pollution from turbines and construction will destroy that tranquillity and change the character of the area permanently.

3. Cultural Heritage and Wildlife – “The Castle”

On our land stands an old ruin known locally as “The Castle”, the original home of our ancestors. It is a site of heritage and sentimental value, now home to nesting Barn Owls, a protected species under the Wildlife Acts and EU Birds Directive.

We fear that the disturbance from heavy machinery, lighting, and turbine operation will threaten both the Barn Owls and the historic structure itself. This aspect of local heritage and biodiversity deserves full protection and has not been properly addressed in the developer's assessment.

4. Impact on the Next Generation – Property and Planning

We are also concerned about the impact on property values, mortgage applications, and future planning permissions for our family and community. Living so close to industrial turbines may make it extremely difficult for the next generation to build or buy homes locally.

We returned from England to make a life here and to give our children the opportunity to grow up in a safe, peaceful environment. This development would put that future in jeopardy.

5. Lack of Engagement with the Community

Although limited sound monitoring was carried out in the area, there has been no meaningful consultation or community meeting. Residents have not been given the opportunity to engage, ask questions, or express concerns. This lack of transparency undermines public confidence and is inconsistent with the Aarhus Convention principles of public participation in environmental decision-making.

Conclusion

The Shancloon Windfarm proposal would cause significant and long-lasting harm to the Beaghmore community — to its residents, its landscape, its wildlife, and its heritage. It conflicts with multiple objectives of the Galway County Development Plan and cannot be considered sustainable development in its current form.

We respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development, and to protect the character, biodiversity, and future of this unique rural community.

Yours faithfully,

Kerry Creaven

Beaghmore, Caherlistrane, Tuam, Co. Galway