



Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's name

Lisa McMullin

(b) Observer's postal address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Cappanasruhaun, Attymon, Athenry, Co Galway
H65W328

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else **on this observation**, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

n/a

(b) Agent's postal address

n/a

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

The agent at the postal address in Part 2

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Bord Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**
(for example: 300000)

323699

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Shancloon Windfarm RWE Renewables
11 no. turbine wind farm and associated infrastructure

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Townlands of Beagh, Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonweelaun,
Cloonaglasha, Cloonteen, Corillaun, Derrymore, Ironpool, Shancloon,
Toberroe and Tonacoolen, Co. Galway

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word limit** as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

Submission to An Bord Pleanála in Objection to the Proposed Shancloon Wind Farm

Planning Reference: 323699

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Ltd.

Location: Townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Cloonsheen, Cloonteen, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe & Tonacooleen, Co. Galway

Submitted by: Lisa McMullin

Address: Cappanasruhaun, Attymon, Athenry, Co Galway H65W328

Date: 10/11/25

1. Introduction and Standing

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed Shancloon Wind Farm development by RWE Renewables Ireland Ltd. I am a resident of Co Galway and am extremely concerned about the volume and speed industrial wind developments are being introduced in the county. This submission is made in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the EU Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EU, and the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

2. Summary of Objection

While supporting renewable energy in principle, this proposal is unsuitable for its location and fails to meet legal, environmental, and community obligations. The key issues are:

- Excessive turbine height (up to 180 m) dominating a sensitive bogland landscape.
- Proximity to homes and community facilities causing shadow flicker and noise.
- Peatland and Annex I habitats disturbance contrary to EU Directives.
- Contravention of the Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028 Objectives NHB1, CC1, and EDT9.

5. Grounds

- Carbon release from peat undermining climate objectives.
- Inadequate community consultation and absence of a transparent benefit fund.

3. Description of the Proposal

The proposal includes 11 wind turbines (each up to 180 m tip height), new access roads, 14 culverts, one bridge, a 110 kV substation, and associated infrastructure across approximately 689 ha. The site consists primarily of peatland and agricultural fields near Shrule, Tuam, and surrounding townlands.

4. Relevant Policy and Legal Framework

Relevant laws and policies include:

- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- EIA Directive 2014/52/EU
- Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC & Birds Directive 2009/147/EC
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
- Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) and Draft Revised Guidelines (2019)
- Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028 (Objectives NHB1, CC1, EDT9, and NHB10)

5. Detailed Grounds of Objection

5.1 Landscape and Visual Impact

The turbines will dominate the skyline of a rural bogland landscape, intruding on local heritage and protected views. This contravenes Policy EDT9 and Landscape Objective LCA1.

5.2 Ecology, Habitats, and Biodiversity

The site includes Annex I habitats (active raised bog, dry heath) protected under the Habitats Directive. The EIAR fails to demonstrate no adverse effects on European sites. This breaches Objectives NHB1 and NHB10.

5.3 Hydrology, Peat Stability, and Carbon Release

Peat disturbance risks slides, hydrological alteration, and carbon release, undermining climate goals. This breaches EPA 2022 Guidelines and the precautionary principle.

5.4 Noise, Shadow Flicker, and Human Health

Setbacks of 720 m is not enough. Noise and flicker impacts are underestimated, contrary to WHO (2018) Guidelines.

5.5 Community, Amenity, and Procedural Fairness

Inadequate consultation and unclear benefit scheme contravene DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines Section 6 on community engagement.

5. Grounds

5.6 Material Contravention of the County Development Plan

The site lies in a low-capacity landscape zone and materially contravenes EDT9 and NHB1 under Section 37G PDA 2000.

5.7 Cumulative Impact and Decommissioning

Cumulative impacts with nearby wind farms are ignored. No decommissioning bond or peatland restoration plan provided, contrary to EPA (2022) guidance.

6. Requested Determination

Given the legal, environmental, and amenity conflicts, I respectfully request that An Coimisiun Pleanála REFUSE permission

7. Conclusion

The Shancloon Wind Farm would industrialise a sensitive bogland area, contradicting the Galway County Development Plan, EU Directives, and the principles of sustainable development. For these reasons, the proposal should be refused.

Kind regards,

Lisa McMullin

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to request the Board to hold an oral hearing, please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes