

Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902

From: Michael Burke Ironpool Kilconly Tuam Co Galway

Planning Reference Number: PAX07.323699 - RWE Renewables Ireland Limited - 11 no.  
turbine wind farm and associated infrastructure

I would like lodge a formal objection in respect to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm  
Development SID (Case 323699)

As a person who has spent substantial amounts of time photographing the flora and fauna in the  
proposed area for the turbines I can attest to the abundance of wildlife found in the area.

The area home to 17 species of butterfly including the Marsh Fritillary (*Eurodryas aurinia*) which  
is protected under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive

The Irish Hare (Protected under Wildlife Act 1976 / 2000, EU Directive 92/43 Annex V)

The Irish stoat (*Mustela erminea hibernica*) (Protected under Wildlife Act 1976 / 2000)

Deer

Foxes

Badger

Along with the mammals the area is also home to the Common lizard and Frogs. Again an issue  
here is that no provision has been made in the road designs through the site for Herp Tunnels  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphibian\\_and\\_reptile\\_tunnel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphibian_and_reptile_tunnel)) to allow passage under the roads  
for amphibians and reptiles. This is particularly important on the sections of floating road as the  
preferred design will have vertical steel sides.

We also have evidence of 7 Red listed Birds (not including the White tail Eagle and Golden  
Eagle found as part of Bird Surveys) these include.

Barn Owl

Curlew

Kestrel

Meadow Pipit

Redwing

Snipe

Golden plover

And evidence of 16 Amber listed birds

Goldcrest

House Sparrow

Kingfisher  
Linnet  
Mute Swan  
Skylark  
Spotted Redshank  
Willow Warbler  
Gadwall  
Greenfinch  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Whooper Swan  
Starling  
Merlin  
Cormorant  
Tree Pipit

Of the red listed bird species 2 are believed to be breeding in the area

In the open bog land area between proposed Turbine 10 location and proposed Turbine 11 have been observations of Woodcock again during summer nesting period.

In the area between proposed Turbine 9 location and proposed Turbine 10 location there are nesting Snipe each summer. This is evident from observing the display flights and the distinct noise a Snipe generates around their nesting territory.

We also believe there is a site of nesting Curlews within close proximity to proposed Turbine 10 location as we have observed audible calls from Curlew during the nesting period close to this location.

We did not investigate further as under Section 22 (9)(f) of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended) a licence is required for a person to take or make photographic, video or other pictures of a wild bird of a species specified in the licence on or near a nest containing eggs or unflown young.

A least 6 species of Bat have been detected in the area.

In addition to all the fauna the flora in the area consists of lichen, moss, heather and wild flowers.

Along with the Flora and Fauna photography I enjoy the remoteness and solitude of the area for timelapse sunset videography and along with other local photography enthusiasts regularly use areas within the bog at night for long exposure astro photography. The area is particularly suitable for this as light pollution in the night sky is virtually non existent. Adding turbines with night time lighting will destroy this.

Another issue I have great concern over is the fact that the developer has gone to great lengths to highlight that the turbines going on bog are on cutaway bog. If these turbines are going on

cutaway bog why is the developer planning to extract and store 97731 cubic meters of peat (enough to fill the pitch in the Aviva Stadium to a depth of 13.5m) In addition to this the developer has indicated that if they do get planning permission during the de-commissioning stage in 30 years they only plan to remove the turbines, hopefully planning is not granted but if it is a condition of planning must be that sufficient funds are ring fenced at the out set to fully restore the landscape and remove all foreign material (roads, turbine bases and all associated infrastructure) from the site so future generations can again enjoy the beauty of our landscape.

Another point I would like to express my concern in relation to the turbine delivery route along the L6483, the plans to widen the road and remove vegetation causes concern as 1.46km of this road borders a Bird Sanctuary in the townland of Ironpool. The drawings included as part of the EIA from the developer indicate not having land rights along the majority stretch of this route. Consent is required of all relevant land owners to widen this road. See drawing P20-306-0100-0001 that indicates in blue where the developer has acquired permission.

The last issue of concern I would like to highlight is that the location of the proposed site compound, based on maps published both online and in literature published by RWE, is outside the study area indicated in the published maps. From our own studies of the site compound using roadside and online aerial imagery we believe that the site could also contain two undiscovered archeological sites as shown in the image below. These potential sites have been notified to national monuments for consideration.

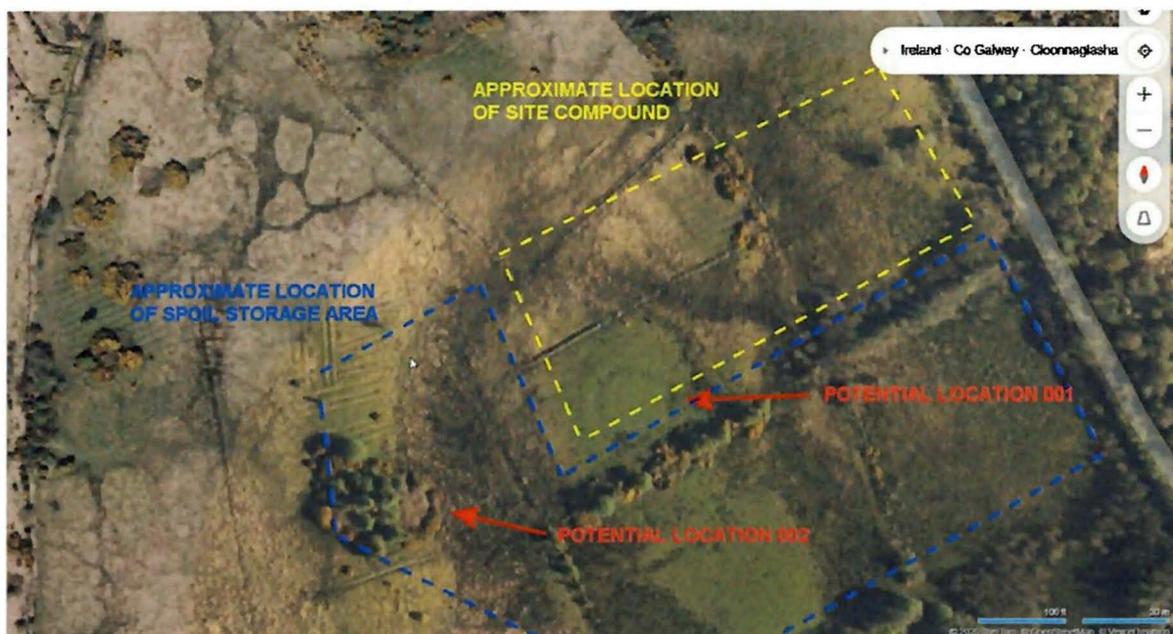


Image Bing Maps

Link to RWE study area map

<https://ie.rwe.com/-/media/RWE/RWE-Ireland/projects-and-locations/shancloon/TIC01-map-of-study-area-2.jpg>