

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála
Re: Observation on Planning Application - Shanclon Wind Farm (ACP Ref: 323699)
From: Patrick Farrell, Kilshanvey, Co. Galway

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed Shanclon Wind Farm (ACP Ref. 323699). Our family has lived in Kilshanvey for generations. I was born and raised here, as were my parents and grandparents before me. Two of my brothers and their families also live close by. This is our home and our community.

We are farmers and keep cattle and are concerned about how noise, vibration, and shadow flicker from the turbines could affect our animals and daily operations. Construction traffic, dust, and changes to drainage patterns could also interfere with grazing land and water supply. Our farm and our livelihood depend on a stable, clean, and peaceful environment.

The site lies in an area of sensitive peatland and watercourses. We are very concerned about the risk of flooding - which has already increased in recent years. Excavation of peat and soil for turbine bases and access roads could alter natural drainage and increase flood risk downstream. We are also worried about the large volumes of spoil and peat that will be removed from the bog to be taken. Improper handling could lead to serious pollution of nearby streams and turloughs.

Our area includes wetlands and turloughs that are vital habitats for birds and other wildlife. We regularly see Whooper Swans and other protected species flying over Kilshanvey between nearby turloughs and feeding areas. Disturbance from turbines, noise, and lights could have significant negative effects on these birds. We are also concerned about potential impacts on groundwater and surface water quality - both during construction and operation.

There are several ringforts and a medieval church near the proposed development area. These are part of the historic landscape of Kilshanvey and hold great local importance. Industrial-scale turbines would severely detract from their setting and character. We believe this is contrary to the objectives of the Galway County Development Plan, which seeks to protect archaeological heritage and the integrity of historic sites and landscapes.

Local people were not properly consulted or considered in the planning of this project. Families like ours, who have lived and farmed here for generations, deserve a meaningful say in what happens to our environment. The developer's so-called "community consultation" has felt tokenistic and insufficient.

I ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the Shanclon Wind Farm. This proposal is not suitable at all for this area, due to the karst limestone, the peatlands, and the turloughs. I fully believe that we need renewable energy but not at the cost of our existing environment.

Regards,

Patrick Farrell
Kilshanvey, Co. Galway