

Ruadhán Gormally, Cloonsheen, Cloghans Hill, Tuam. Co. Galway

Nov 16th, 2025

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Objection to Proposed Wind Farm at Shanclon (Planning Number: 323699)

I am writing to object to the proposed Shanclon Wind Farm particularly because the site lies within a landscape dense with **turloughs** and includes areas of **active raised bog**, both of which are EU priority habitats of exceptional ecological importance. As a young person who cares deeply about Ireland's natural environment and the legacy being left for my generation, I am extremely concerned that this development poses a significant and irreversible threat.

1. Environmental Impacts on Turloughs

Turloughs are unique karst wetlands that depend on delicate hydrological systems. Construction of turbine foundations along with access roads and underground cabling can alter groundwater flows, disrupt seasonal flooding, compact soils, and degrade or permanently destroy these habitats.

2. Threats to Active Raised Bog

The proposal also affects or lies adjacent to **active raised bog**, one of the rarest and most threatened habitats in Europe. These bogs take thousands of years to form and hold massive stores of carbon, playing a vital role in climate regulation. Any drainage, excavation, vibration, or alteration of water-levels associated with turbine construction risks degrading the bog structure, drying the peat, and causing long-term ecological damage.

Ireland has already faced legal challenges for the destruction of peatland habitats, and it is essential that planning decisions do not repeat past mistakes.

3. Cumulative Ecological and Hydrological Risk

The combined presence of turloughs and active raised bog means that the site is exceptionally sensitive. Disturbance in one area can have knock-on effects throughout the hydrological network. Both habitats require stable water systems; even small alterations to drainage or groundwater flow can have outsized impacts.

Any Environmental Impact Assessment must:

- Fully investigate karst hydrology and inter-connected groundwater systems.
- Assess the effects of drainage, excavation, and vibration on peatlands and bog hydrology.
- Evaluate the risk of peat degradation, subsidence, and carbon loss.

5. Cultural, Educational, and Climate Considerations

Turloughs and raised bogs form part of Ireland's natural heritage. They are irreplaceable landscapes valued for biodiversity, archaeology, hydrology, climate regulation, and education. Damaging them in pursuit of renewable energy would contradict Ireland's environmental obligations and climate commitments.

Conclusion

Given the extreme fragility and ecological importance of both **turloughs** and **active raised bog** and the long-term consequences for biodiversity and climate, I respectfully request you to **refuse planning permission** for Shancloon Wind Farm.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Yours faithfully,

Ruadhán Gormally