

Stephanie Mahon

Cloonaglasha,

Tuam,

Co. Galway

Re: Objection to Shancloon Wind Farm – ACP / ABP Ref: 323699

To whom it may concern,

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed Shancloon Wind Farm development. My name is Stephanie Mahon, and I recently moved to Cloonaglasha seeking peace, quiet, and wellbeing after years living in a busy and noisy housing estate. My home is located extremely close to the proposed Turbine T11, barely outside the stated “legal safe limit” of 720 metres, and I am deeply concerned about the impact that such a large industrial structure – of 180 metres in height – would have on my health, quality of life, environment, and future security.

This location was chosen very carefully and intentionally. It offers everything that supports my wellbeing: tranquillity, scenic and unspoiled boglands, holy wells, peaceful walking routes, wildlife, protected habitats, and a warm, welcoming community. The natural environment here is not just visually beautiful — it is restorative, culturally significant, historically important, and emotionally grounding.

It is extremely upsetting that what was intended to be a long-term, safe home environment may now become overshadowed by industrial noise, flicker, and environmental disruption.

Key Concerns

1. Health, Sleep, and Personal Wellbeing

I work in a demanding and high-pressure job. I moved here specifically to protect my physical and mental wellbeing, including the quality of sleep that is crucial to my long-term health. I am living with an ongoing autoimmune condition and previously underwent chemotherapy and radiotherapy in 2018. I have a support letter from my doctor if required.

Noise, vibration, and sleep disruption are known stressors that can impact immune regulation and recovery, and the very presence of a large industrial turbine so close to my home feels like a direct threat to my health stability.

2. Noise Pollution, Flicker, and Animal Welfare

I am extremely concerned about:

- Night-time noise and low-frequency hum
- Disruption of natural sleeping rhythms
- Effects on pets, neighbouring livestock, and local wildlife
- The mental strain caused by constant shadow flicker

I have seen data available for 80m turbines, but these proposed structures are 180m, more than double that size, and I have not seen transparent, technical, or professional risk assessments that address the increased scale, power, noise output, or flicker range.

3. Water Quality, Wells, and Hydrology

Many residents, including myself, depend on private wells and underground water systems. Any alteration of bogland, drainage, foundations, concrete works, or heavy vehicle movement could contaminate or disturb natural water paths. Once groundwater contamination occurs, it cannot be reversed.

4. Environmental & Ecological Impact

The bogs are protected under European environmental law, and they represent a unique ecosystem that should not be disturbed for industrial construction. I am also extremely concerned about bird and bat fatalities, having researched published data in other wind farm locations. The wildlife here is thriving — and it should remain so.

5. Lack of Meaningful Consultation and Respect for Local Residents

At no point did the developers engage with me in a meaningful or supportive way. Information was left at the door, but nobody stayed, listened, or answered questions. As someone newly settled into the area, this felt dismissive, excluding, and unfair.

6. Heritage, Ringforts, and Archaeological Risk

This area has visible ringforts, confirmed through aerial photography, and they carry heritage, historical, and cultural significance. In County Clare, a motorway was rerouted to avoid disturbing a single hawthorn tree, and a ringfort disturbance has since been linked with continuous accidents nearby. These structures must not be interfered with — whether physically, spiritually, or culturally.

They deserve protection, not proximity to industrial development.

Conclusion

This development places industrial infrastructure into the heart of a residential, rural, peaceful, and environmentally sensitive community. It creates significant risk with no meaningful benefit to those who must live beside it. I moved here to heal, rest, and build a future — not to become the collateral damage of an energy project that disregards residents, health, and heritage.

For all these reasons, I strongly and respectfully request that this application be refused.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Kind regards,
Stephanie Mahon