

# OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 323761

Marion Stone  
Hillsbrook  
Barnaderg  
Tuam  
Galway

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Date: 16 November 2025

**Re: Observation/Submission to proposed wind energy development at Cooloo Wind Farm**

Location: Cloondahamper, Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally, Slievegorm  
- Co. Galway

Applicant: Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the proposed 9 Turbine Cooloo Wind Farm and all its associated works that have been proposed to be constructed in the Barnaderg/Cooloo area. As a young person, I hope to build my house here in the future, the construction of these turbines will prevent me from doing this.

Being from a part of this area you feel a sense of community everyone knows each other, you meet anyone they say hello or wave if driving, if the turbines come into the community, it will damage the community spirit that we have developed over the years.

When I am driving in my community area I like to see fields, cows, crops, tractors etc not big turbines damaging our scenery. It is not an exaggeration to say that we are also back to Civil War politics setting neighbour against neighbour

Secondly, I am concerned about all the endangered wildlife that live in these areas. These will die out and will be no more if these turbines are allowed. Our lands and our water systems will be damaged with the construction on these turbines. The swallows that come home every year will be hit with a turbine this is not good.

I am concerned about the health issues associated with the turbines such as effects of the shadow flicker and infrasound on people.

People who have houses near the turbines, their homes will be devalued causing financial difficulties. As a person whose father has a small farm this will impact on him as a landowner as there is a risk long term on him using his own land.

Lastly in my opinion Neoen renewables Ireland, the multi-national company recently acquired by a Canadian multinational company called Brookfield have shown a complete disregard for the health and welfare of people and animals that live in our communities.

I strongly request An Coimisiún Pleanála to consider my submission and refuse planning for this development. I also wish to express my concerns on the following issues

### **Barnaderg Gortbeg Group Water Scheme**

I use the water from Barnaderg Gortbeg Group Water Scheme as my main source of drinking water for my household. The water is of excellent quality and I am very concerned that pollution of various types such as silt, sediment and other contaminants will enter the water source, causing me and my family harm. With the location of two Turbines within the Source Protection Area (SPA) I believe the Cooloo Windfarm should not be granted permission whatsoever, especially in such a highly karstified and hydrologically sensitive area.

### **Noise**

Planning permission for the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm should be refused on the basis that it poses a clear and foreseeable risk of substantial interference with the normal use and enjoyment of nearby homes. In *Byrne & Moorhead v ABO Energy* [2025] IEHC 330, the Irish High Court found that wind turbine noise—specifically low-frequency and amplitude-modulated sound—constituted a private nuisance under common law, as it significantly disrupted residents' ordinary domestic life. The Court held that such noise amounted to an unreasonable and continuous intrusion, preventing the quiet occupation of the home and resulting in the permanent shutdown of three turbines in County Wexford.

The Cooloo proposal relies on outdated ETSU-based noise criteria that fail to account for the same low-frequency and modulated noise effects found to cause substantial nuisance in the Wexford case. Given the proposed turbines' greater height and rotor size, the likelihood of these harmful acoustic effects occurring at Cooloo is even higher. Approving this development under obsolete standards would disregard the High Court's findings and expose local residents to predictable and legally recognized interference with their right to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes. Planning permission should therefore be refused in full on these grounds.

### **Biodiversity Impact - Bats**

I object to the Cooloo Wind Farm because the proposal fails to adequately protect bats, which are strictly protected under EU law. The developer's surveys show that several bat species, including the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, use the area leaving a real risk of collision, disturbance, and loss of important foraging habitat. As these impacts cannot be confidently ruled out, the project should be refused on the grounds of non-compliance with the EU Habitats Directive and insufficient protection of bats and their habitats.

## **Visual Impact**

The proposed turbines would be highly intrusive and visually dominant, overwhelming the existing rural character of the local landscape. Their visibility from multiple vantage points would transform a natural and agricultural setting into an industrial-scale development.

The proposal is out of scale with the surrounding environment. The turbines' extreme height and size would cause visual clutter and a loss of scenic amenity, remaining visible even at long distances and creating continuous visual intrusion.

When combined with existing or approved wind farms in the region, this development would lead to visual saturation and skyline dominance, further eroding the landscape's character and reducing its recreational value.

The developer's visual impact assessment understates the visibility and significance of the turbines. Photomontages appear selective and fail to represent the true extent of visual intrusion likely to be experienced by residents and visitors.

The proposal would diminish the rural amenity, tranquillity, and identity of the local region. It threatens the area's sense of place and the quality of life for residents who value the natural and agricultural landscape.

The local wind farm's size and visual impact are excessive and inconsistent with the character of the area. While supporting renewable energy, developments must respect the local landscape — this project does not. The proposal should therefore be refused on the grounds of unacceptable visual and landscape impacts.

## **Conclusion**

In light of the serious concerns outlined above I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development. The proposal is not compatible with the principles of proper planning or sustainable development and would have lasting negative effects on local residents, farmers, and the wider community. I therefore strongly object to this proposal and ask that it be refused in full.

If permission is not refused outright, I request that an oral hearing be held so that local residents, farmers, and the wider community can have our say on the impacts of this development.

Yours Sincerely,

Marion  
Stone

Name: Marion Stone

Date: 16 November 2025