

Objection to: Wind Farm Development Proposal – Case Ref: PAX91.323780

Andrew Daly

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Date: 9th November 2025

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a young farmer aged 36 years. I live in Ballinlee North with my partner and two young children aged 5 years and 3 months old respectively. I own land in Ballinlee North, Camas South and Camas North, most of which lies between half of 1 km and 2 km from the proposed wind turbines.

I am writing to formally object to the proposed wind energy development submitted by Ballinlee Green Energy Limited under Case Reference **PAX91.323780**, located across the townlands of Ballincurra, Ballingayroure, Ballinrea, Knockuregare, Ballinlee North, Ballinlee South and Camas South, approximately 18km southwest of Limerick City and 4km west of Bruff, County Limerick as stated in the application. **The turbines are less than 2 km from the town of Bruff – not 4 km as stated in the application. Please note.**

The development involves the construction of **17 wind turbines**, associated infrastructure, and a grid connection, with a potential output of **75 to 95 megawatts**. While I support the national goal of transitioning to renewable energy, I believe that this project in its current form and proposed location, raises several **serious planning, environmental, social, and health-related concerns**.

1. Lack of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the scale of this project, it is my understanding that the application was submitted **without an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)** or a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Given the potential impacts on:

- **Local biodiversity** (including protected habitats and species)
- **Watercourses and hydrology**
- **Cumulative landscape and visual impacts**, and
- **Residential amenity**

The absence of these assessments is deeply concerning and, I believe, contrary to the principles of sustainable planning. A development of this magnitude warrants **robust environmental scrutiny** under the EIA Directive. **I firmly believe that an assessment when conducted cannot be completed on one day and must be conducted over 365 days to make the assessment accurate and worthwhile to correctly assess the impacts at the different stages of the calendar year.**

2. Proximity to Residential Homes and Impact on Local Community

Wind turbines of industrial scale (16 of the 17 turbines are 160m high), can result in significant **noise pollution (including low-frequency noise and infrasound)**, **shadow flicker**, and **visual intrusion**—particularly for residents living within a few kilometres of the site. My own home – V35NY60 - is less than 1 km from the nearest proposed turbine.

The affected townlands are **rural, low-density communities**, and such developments will have a **disproportionate impact on quality of life**, peace, and the character of the area. The cumulative psychological and physical impacts on local residents, including my elderly parents, who are even closer to the turbines than I am, raises issues such as stress and sleep disturbance.

3. Lack of Meaningful Public Consultation

There is **no clear evidence of meaningful engagement or consultation with the local community**. Local residents deserve to be informed, heard, and included in a transparent planning process—especially for a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) of this scale.

Many community members only became aware of such proposals in July 2025 when we were informed by neighbours. This undermines public trust and is inconsistent with the principles of participatory planning.

4. Landscape and Cumulative Visual Impact

The proposed location lies in a **scenic rural area** with cultural and natural heritage. The development of 17 industrial-scale turbines will have an irrevocable impact on the **visual amenity** of the landscape, including views from nearby homes, farms, and public roads. This is particularly damaging in a county like Limerick, which values its rural and scenic identity. I also note that there is a similar project just a few short kilometres away in Garrane (Case 323635) where a further 9 turbines are planned to be installed. This will lead to a cumulative effect on the countryside that is unacceptable. We live in the Golden Vale which is steeped in history for our luscious greenery and fertile rich agricultural land. The installation of these turbines will turn our stunning and beautiful area into an industrial land zone.

5. Potential Negative Impacts on Wildlife and Habitats

The site is in proximity to **Natura 2000 designated sites** or **ecologically sensitive areas**. These include Lough Gur and the Stone Circle in Grange. The absence of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is particularly worrying in this context. Wind farms can:

- Disrupt bird migration patterns
- Cause habitat fragmentation
- Lead to bat mortality due to blade strike or barotrauma

Without a comprehensive ecological assessment, these risks are unknown and unmanaged.

6. Lack of Transparency Regarding Grid Connection Route

The application refers to associated infrastructure and grid connection, yet there is **insufficient clarity** about the route, method (underground/overhead), and potential impacts of the grid connection infrastructure. **This will undoubtedly affect farmlands – including my own, habitats, private property, and road infrastructure. It must be transparently assessed. From my understanding the cable will pass the Stone Circle in Grange. This is the most archaeologically significant feature in the county. I cannot understand how it is proposed that they allow digger work in its immediate vicinity.**

7. Cumulative Impact with Other Energy or Infrastructure Projects

IMPORTANT: If all this concrete is allowed to be poured into fields near my lands, there will be a displacement of water to neighbouring lands – including my own land. These are wet lands already. There needs to be an assessment of **cumulative impacts** in the region, particularly as other energy/infrastructure developments are proposed or planned

nearby. **Planning decisions should consider not just individual developments, but the broader regional burden placed on rural communities.**

Conclusion

I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to reject this application based on the inappropriateness of the location, its proximity to homes and sensitive habitats, along with the other issues raised above.

I request that my objection be formally recorded and that I am kept informed of any further developments regarding this case.

Furthermore, **I request an oral hearing** for the reasons outlined above and because I believe that my future and that of my young family will be adversely affected by this development if it goes ahead.

Yours faithfully,
Andrew Thomas Daly.

Ballinlee

Bruff

Co Limerick

V35NY60