

The Secretary
An Coimisiun Pleanala
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

Morning Star Stud,
Rathcannon,
Kilmallock,
Co Limerick.
V35KH66.
14^h November 2025.

Re 10 year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 nowind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation and ancillary development

Located in Ballinacurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North and South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

To whom it may concern,

I Brian Thompson write in connection with the above listed planning application at Ballinacurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North and South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

I wish to object strongly to this proposal and request that the Board refuse planning permission.

Some of my summarized observations and concerns are as follows;

1. Effect on Our Farming Enterprise

We operate a stud farm specialising in the breeding of thoroughbred racehorses. Based on our review of documentation prepared for the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association, it appears that the proposed development would have a significantly detrimental impact on our business.

One of the proposed turbines will be located within 1,000 metres of our land, placing it directly within the horses' line of sight. Horses are highly sensitive animals and rely on the "flight response" when confronted with sudden or unfamiliar stimuli. Such reactions can lead to serious injury to the horses themselves and to those responsible for their care.

Concerns have been raised regarding the potential effects of noise and infrasound on equine sleep patterns, as well as the disturbance caused by light flicker from rotating blades during low sun conditions and the movement of blade shadows throughout daylight hours.

The typical farm environment has an ambient noise level of approximately 30–45 decibels. Turbines located within 1,000 metres can increase this to 50–70 decibels—levels known to trigger a fight-or-flight response in horses.

The UK Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government has previously acknowledged, in refusing permission for a wind farm proposal, that such developments can have a significant adverse impact on nearby equine enterprises.

Individual thoroughbred horses can represent substantial financial value. Stud fees for thoroughbred mares are high, involving major investment by owners. If progeny are injured, their sale value can be reduced to zero or severely diminished, directly affecting the viability of farming operations.

Furthermore, insurers may decline to provide cover where turbines are located in close proximity to equine establishments, leaving owners exposed and at risk of litigation with no viable alternative.

The imposition of large wind turbines in an area with low wind capacity is incompatible with the continued use of our land as a stud farm and poses a direct threat to our livelihood.

2. Planning

Ours is a family-run farm, and succession planning is vital. The next generation must be able to reside on the land in order to continue the operation of the enterprise. The presence of a large wind farm in the vicinity may make it more difficult to secure planning permission for a family home. Realistically, a farming enterprise cannot be properly managed without the owners living on the farm.

3. Biodiversity and Wildlife Protection

The lands surrounding the proposed development are predominantly agricultural, including areas known locally as Corcas lands. The Morning Star River flows through these wetlands. Wildlife in the surrounding uplands has already declined markedly in recent years; several bird species have almost disappeared, and hares and rabbits—formerly common—have become scarce.

Because the Corcas lands are wet and prone to flooding, they have remained largely undeveloped and serve as an important refuge for wildlife. Whooper swans are frequently observed in this area during the winter months.

Placing a major wind farm in the centre of such a sensitive and undeveloped wetland will have serious consequences for biodiversity across the wider area. Although mitigation measures may be proposed, their effectiveness is doubtful given the limited community support for the project.

4. Water Quality and Drainage Risk

The Morning Star River is already classified as having poor water quality. Large-scale excavations and concrete foundations within wetland areas present a significant risk of further contamination to the river, its tributaries, local groundwater, and private wells.

Conclusion

It is difficult to comprehend how a wind farm of this scale could be proposed in an agricultural area with low wind potential, particularly where sections of the site comprise sensitive wetland habitat. I am deeply concerned about the impact this development would have on our farming enterprise. The project poses serious risks to local wildlife and water quality. I therefore respectfully urge the Board to refuse planning permission for this development.

Brian Thompson.