

Planning Objection to Proposed Ballinlee Windfarm

Application By: Ballinlee Green Energy Ltd

Case Reference: PAX91.323780

Submitted to: An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. D01V902

Submitted By: Jonathan Switzer, Ciara Leonard & Luke Switzer, Camass South, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

Date: 12/11/2025

To Whom it May Concern;

We Jonathan Switzer, Ciara Leonard & Luke Switzer write in connection with the above listed planning application at Balincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camass North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in Co. Limerick,

We wish to object strongly to this proposal and ask that the board refuse planning permission.

Before we summarise our observations, we feel it is important to explain a little bit about ourselves. We bought our forever home in 2020, before then it was Ciaras family home from when it was built in 1999 where her mother lived until she passed away. Linda, Ciara's mother chose this site because of its beautiful views in a quiet and tranquil area which she loved until her final days. This home was always a hub of activity, a place where everyone gathered over the years for family celebrations and occasions. Linda was known to feed all the Robins and many wild birds and animals that came calling to her decking, something that we continue to do to this day and that our son loves to do also. Our home continues to be a gathering place for all our families, often being referred to as a peaceful haven.

Through determination and financial commitment, we renovated and improved the house before moving in. We continue to put our hearts and resources into our property and are proud to call this our forever home.

Our 9-year-old son Luke loves the outdoors and spends his time in our back garden playing. He loves our views, as recently as today he spotted a pheasant out our back window! Nature excites Luke and he has told us that we would hate for the turbines to change anything. Luke along with our nieces have been seen deep in conversation with the cows that regularly come to our fence at the end of our garden. Friends of ours visited from Florida this summer and their 8-year-old daughters' favourite moment was being able to be outside so close to animals and nature. She was amazed.

Our home is the foundation of our families world, we are all devastated and heartbroken hearing about the plans for this development.

Some of our summaries, observations and concerns are as follows;

Community Engagement/ Consultation:

We feel that Ballinlee Green Energy have not engaged in an appropriate manner with ourselves and the greater community. We had corresponded via email and telephone with Ballinlee Green Energy on numerous occasions before receiving any response. We were informed that they would be conducting house visits to the homes like ours that were significantly impacted by the construction of these Industrial size turbines. This house visit took place mid-week during work hours at I would imagine a time the company generally considered households to be unoccupied. What was observed on our security camera was a brief knock with a letter immediately slipped through our post box advising us of their visit. This took approximately 5 seconds which is clearly unacceptable given the huge impact this development would have on all of our futures. As a family unit we were not comfortable with the idea of welcoming strangers in to our home.

We asked Ballinlee Green Energy Ltd to keep us informed of any workshops or meetings that would be scheduled in the community, the last response received was that as a company they would not be conducting a group community meeting as they had health & safety concerns (who's we wonder?).

Visual Impact:

17 Industrial size wind Turbines, 165 approx. metres in Height with a rotor diameter of 136 metres. There should be no further explanation needed however we feel that we need to detail some of our concerns.

The proposed distances of the turbines show that T5 a proposed 689.3metres from our home (not from our property boundary, where our 9-year-old plays in our back garden), T4 is a proposed 762.4metres from our home. These 2 turbines are only 350.9 metres apart at the foundation. These turbines would create a notable change to the visual character of our home and surrounding area. There are a further 4 turbines within 1.5Km of our home, a further 9 turbines within 2 km of our home and the final 2 are within 2.2 Km of our home.

The 17 proposed Industrial size wind turbines would introduce a dominant and visually intrusive presence within the landscape. These turbines are 40metres higher than the Dublin Spire, for some perspective.

During the day the view from both the front and back of our home and surrounding area will be absolutely decimated. Instead of having beautiful farmland, woodland, Riverview's and mountain scapes this will be replaced with 17 industrial wind turbines. At night our beautiful night sky view will be replaced by the aviation warning lights that will surely be a necessity with these monstrosities. Why would we want to exchange our beautiful views for this?

Health & Wellbeing:

Noise Pollution- having spoken to someone who lives quite near to a wind turbine, it has been compared to the noise of a jet plane on a runway that never actually takes off. A constant noise. A whooshing noise has been referenced with turbines in full flow. We fear that our sleep will be disrupted by the 17 industrial wind turbines, resulting in fatigue which will in turn exacerbate pre-existing health issues. Sleep deprivation is linked to a chronic health problems including heart disease, kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke, obesity and depression. Sleep deficiency is also linked to a higher chance of injury in adults and children.

Our deepest concerns are for our 9-year-old son. Studies show that the increase in noise levels can cause disruption of learning, interference with concentration and reading comprehension. The health risks associated with chronic exposure to this elevated noise are sleep disturbance, stress, headaches, nausea, visual blurring, chronic fatigue and loss of energy and irritability. We are deeply concerned about how this project could affect Lukes mental well-being in the long term.

Shadow Flicker- Shadow Flicker from a wind turbine is described as the intermittent strobing shadow cast by rotating blades when they block the sun. The locations of these 17 industrial wind turbines surround our home and many homes within our community. Shadow flicker is known to cause annoyance, stress and a decrease in quality of life for those affected. There will be no escaping shadow flicker in any area of our home or garden.

We will happily arrange to have our GP prepare a letter outlining our existing health issues should this be required.

Works during Construction:

I wish to raise serious concerns about the proposed access roads for the Ballinlee Green Energy wind farm development, which will connect to the L1414 road near coordinates 52.470681, -8.585094.

Our home is located approximately 200 metres from these proposed access points. The L1414 is a narrow local road that already struggles to accommodate the existing traffic, which includes farm machinery, trucks, cars, cyclists, and families out walking. At its narrowest sections, two vehicles can only pass each other safely by slowing almost to a stop. Larger vehicles in particular have great difficulty navigating this road.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the proposed access points are on a bend, which already poses safety risks. Adding heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) associated with the construction and maintenance of an industrial-scale wind farm will significantly increase traffic volume, road wear, and the potential for accidents.

This road requires regular repairs under current traffic conditions. It is difficult to see how it could safely or sustainably accommodate the level of heavy construction traffic that this project would generate.

Many residents use the L1414 road daily to access Bruff town and its amenities, including the primary school and the pre-school/after-school facilities at the Bruff end of the road. Numerous families including ours travel this route every morning and afternoon to drop off and collect our

children. The introduction of large numbers of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed wind farm would make these journeys significantly more dangerous.

The additional HGV traffic would also likely lead to congestion along the L1414, particularly during peak school travel times. This would not only increase the risk of accidents but would also cause unnecessary stress and delays for families trying to reach school, childcare, work, and other essential appointments. It appears that Ballinlee Green Energy has not adequately considered the serious implications for road safety, traffic flow, and community wellbeing during any phase of construction.

We have been informed that during the construction phase, heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) will be operating between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, and that construction could take several years to complete. This would cause prolonged and significant disruption to our community and to our daily lives. The constant movement of HGVs along the L1414 will increase noise, dust, and traffic congestion, making the area far less safe and peaceful for local residents.

We are particularly concerned about the safety of our child and other children in the area, who regularly walk to visit friends and neighbours along this road. The increased volume and size of construction traffic would make these everyday activities considerably more dangerous.

There are 2 asthmatics in our home, Construction sites generally generate a significant amount of dust from materials such as cement, silica dust, chemicals fumes, and other pollutants.

The land in Camass and Ballinlee is prone to flooding, something we have witnessed ourselves in local fields and roads, our own gardens and drive. The questions we have from a personal point of view are as follows;

1. Where exactly will surface run off from the turbine bases and new access roads be directed?
2. What sustainable drainage systems are being implemented to prevent run off from increasing flood risk to neighbouring lands such as our home?
3. What monitoring or mitigation commitments are in place post construction?
4. What happens if our garden and home suffer from increased flooding, which would cause damage?

Property Devaluation;

Studies show that a home within close proximity of a wind farm, particularly the size of the one planned for our area is very likely to suffer property devaluation. These studies show a negative correlation between proximity to wind turbines and property values. Some studies show a 14,7% loss in value within 1KM with a greater impact from larger more modern turbines, such as the ones planned here by Ballinlee Green Energy. As previously stated, we have worked hard and saved hard to buy our forever home, and continue to invest to improve our property. Our home is our biggest investment, and the risk of its value falling so sharply is deeply worrying.

We wish to make it clear that we are fully supportive of renewable energy developments in Ireland and recognize the importance of transitioning to sustainable energy sources. However, we cannot support the construction of large-scale industrial windfarms in our community. The proximity of these developments to homes, community spaces and flood prone land raises serious concerns regarding safety, environmental impact and quality of life. We believe there are many more suitable and less densely populated locations across Ireland that should be prioritised for such projects following proper environmental and community impact assessments.

Above all we ask that the health, safety and well being of our family and community be considered before Ballinlee Green Energy's financial interests.

Images of Our Back Garden where 2 Turbines are located within 763metres







Image from the Front of Our Home



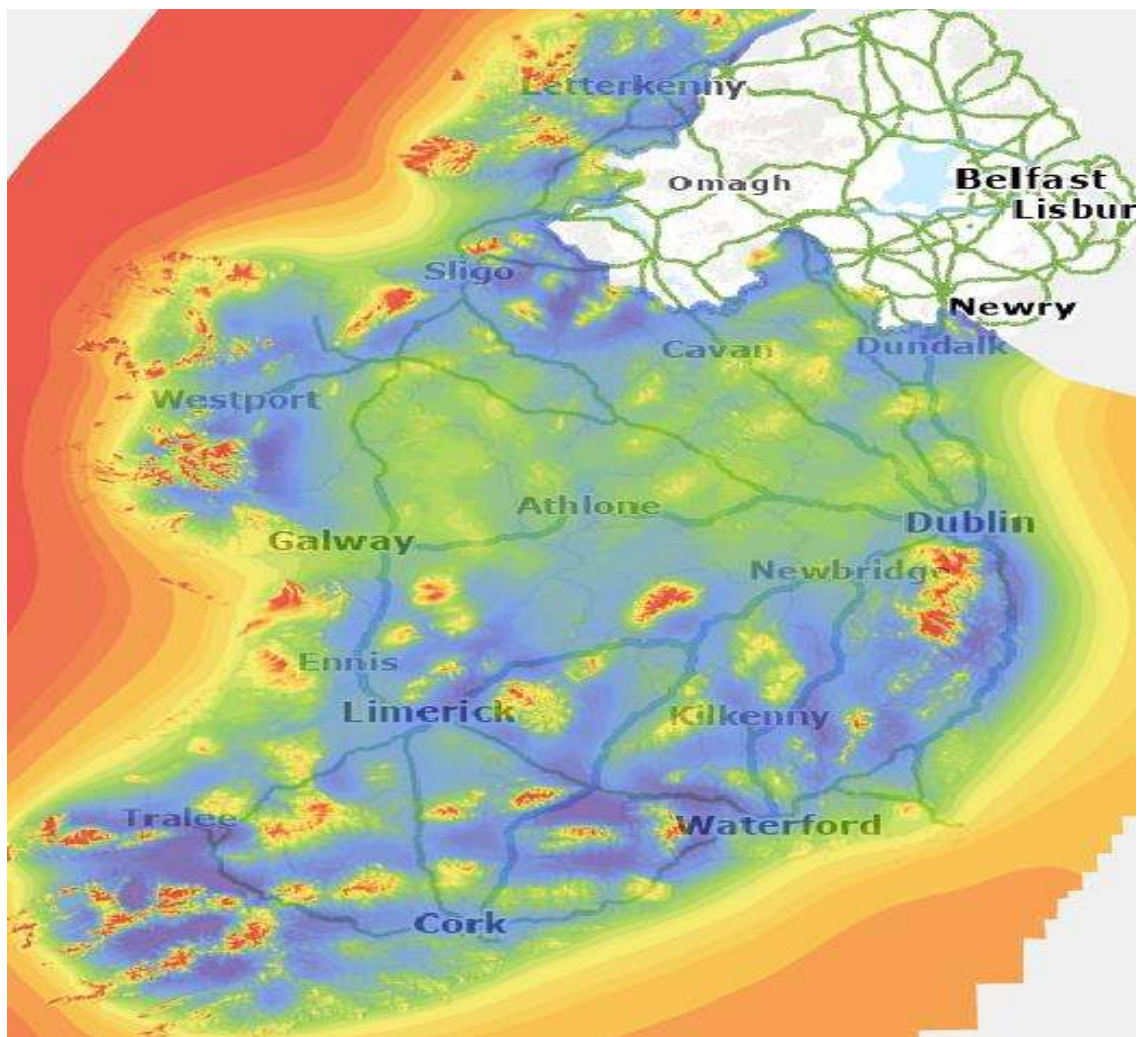
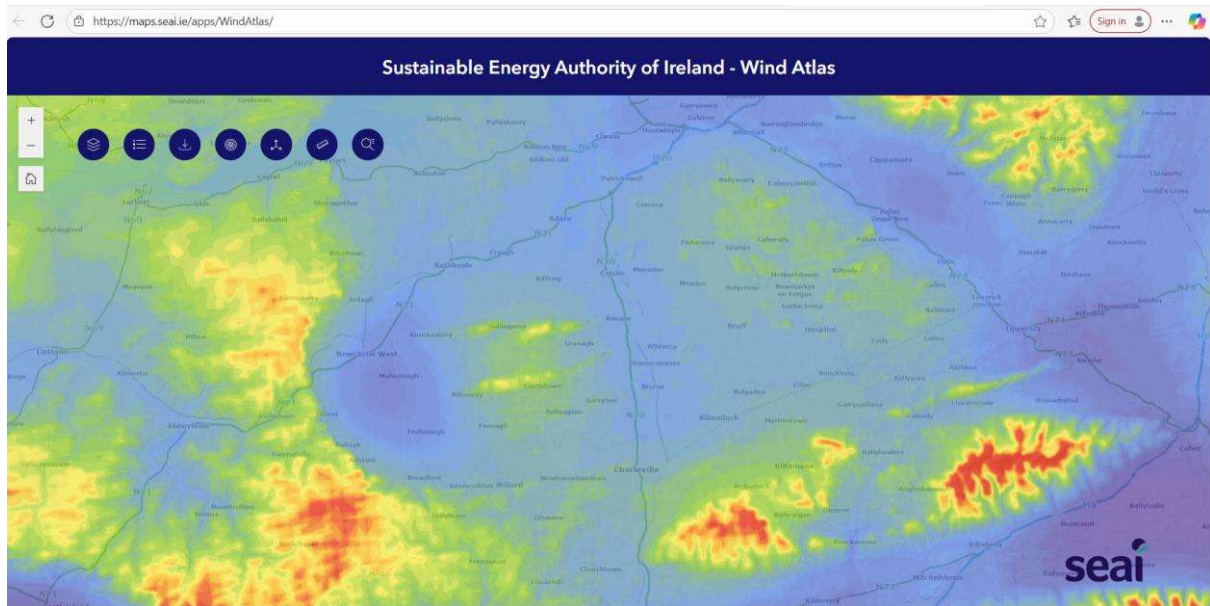
Image of the Local area flooding, taken November 2025.



Waterlogged field at the back of our garden



SEAI Wind Atlas For Ireland- With reference to more suitable location for Industrial Wind Turbine Farms. Light blue refers to low / medium windspeeds.



Yours Sincerely,

Jonathan, Ciara & Luke Switzer.

Camass South, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

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