

Grange

Bruff

Co. Limerick

The Secretary,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902
Case reference: PAX91.323780

Date: 17-11-2025

Re: 10-year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, underground electric cabling systems between the wind farm site and connection point at existing Killonan 220/110kV substation, and ancillary development. Located in Ballincurra, Ballingayroure, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

To Whom It May Concern,

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

I recognise the importance of wind energy in meeting Ireland's National renewable energy targets and addressing climate change. However, this development is unsuitable for this location and fails to take proper account of the environmental, social, and cultural impacts on the local area.

This wind farm would permanently alter the character of the area and expose nearby residents to health and amenity risks, devalue local properties, and threaten the long-term sustainability of our community. For these reasons, I ask that the Board refuse planning permission.

Some of my summarised observations and concerns are as follows:

- Archaeological concerns - Lough Gur is a site of international significance due to the area's rich archaeology and environment. It is home to Ireland's oldest and largest stone circle and the only natural lake of significance in Southeast Limerick. Lough Gur also has an abundance of ancient monuments in State care with a reported 2,000 archaeological monuments in a 5km radius. (<https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/lough-gur-visitor-centre-lakeshore-park/>). It is one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites. Humans have lived near Lough Gur since about 3000 BC and there are numerous megalithic remains there.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lough_Gur)

- The Grange Stone Circle in Limerick is a remarkable symbol of the Bronze Age. This 4,000-year-old circular enclosure, the largest of its kind in Ireland, is composed of 113 contiguous standing stones. Excavations have unearthed thousands of shards of broken beaker pots, animal bones, and other objects, suggesting the circle was used for sacred rituals.
(<https://heritageireland.ie/unguided-sites/grange-stone-circle/>)
- Lough Gur and Grange Stone Circle are less than 5km from Bruff. The project documentation shows that wind turbines will be visible from the shores of Lough Gur. The wind turbine farm will be clearly visible to hill walkers from Knockadoon and Knockfennell, two hills in proximity to the lake. Thousands of visitors come to these sites every year. Many locals use the natural beauty of the area for enjoyment and relaxation. To site this wind farm in such proximity to an area of such international archaeological importance and to scar the visual environment, in my opinion is significantly erroneous. Furthermore, the excavation dig from the wind farm to Killonan, to connect the wind farm to a substation, will traverse between Grange Stone Circle and other smaller Stone Circles in close proximity. The excavation dig will be within a few metres of these Stone Circles, which given the massive historical significance of these sites, is in my opinion potentially very damaging and should not be allowed.
- The connection excavation dig between Bruff and Killonan along the R512, is approximately 25km. Almost 5,000 vehicles use this road daily. The traffic disruption this will cause will be significant and extremely stressful for road users and inhabitants along the route and is in my opinion, unsuitable in such a built-up area.
- The reference and use of health and safety regulations dating back to 2006, when the size and scale of proposed wind farms was of a far lesser scale would seem to be irrelevant, to what is being proposed for this area. I would respectfully suggest that the process of regulation updating that is currently being done, be completed and then applied to this proposed project, in conjunction with input from the Health and Safety Authority, who are the leading experts in this area.
- Bruff National School is in very close proximity (less than 2.5km) to the proposed wind farm, with over 200 children enrolled, inclusive of an autism unit, along with an after school building in very close proximity. I would have significant concerns in terms of what impact this wind farm will have in terms of health affects for children and am of the view that we should have independently issued reports completed over a significant period of time, to show what affects a wind farm of this scale can have, or not have, on children's health, in such a school setting. The NHMRC 'considers that further high-quality research on the possible health effects of wind farms is required'.
(<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/environmental-health/wind-farms>)
- Approximately 4,000 people (CSO 2016) live in the area affected should this wind farm proceed. I would suggest therefore that this is not a rural area per se, but one of low population density, and that a wind farm of this scale is not suitable to such a vibrant area.
- The area is currently a fantastic location to reside. In my opinion the attractiveness of living in the area will dilute significantly should the wind farm proceed. The ability to source planning permission for housing schemes or one-off houses, due to wind farm based restrictions around same, will have significant long term consequences for the areas population and growth, which would have further significant knock-on effects, for the social, business, sporting and cultural development and the existence of the way of life for the area.

Case Reference PAX91.323780

I strongly urge that this development be rejected for the reasons outlined above.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Kind Regards,

Francis O' Dwyer
