

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

Ballinlee Wind Farm – Individual Submission:

Submitted by: Geraldine Dooley
Address: Camas South, Bruff, County Limerick, V35 EH72.

Date: 15/11/2025

Introduction:

My name is Geraldine Dooley and I live at Camas South, Bruff with my husband Geoff and our family. We have lived here for many years and have worked to establish a sustainable home and woodland on our 30-acre property, 24 acres of which have been forested since 2005. This place is our home, our livelihood, and part of a rural community that has always valued cooperation and respect for the land.

I am submitting this observation as a directly affected resident. I support and align with the observations set out in the Dooley Family Submission but wish to highlight specific concerns that affect our home, our quality of life, and the well-being of the surrounding environment.

Grounds for Objection:

Impact on Wildlife and Habitats:

The lands surrounding our home form part of an important local habitat network, including wintering areas for whooper swans and other migratory birds. The EIAR acknowledges the presence of these species, but downplays the potential for disturbance. Whooper swans are highly sensitive to movement, light, and noise. The scale and height of the proposed turbines (160 metres) will alter flight paths and introduce constant mechanical movement into what is currently a quiet and low disturbance environment. There would also be a huge disruption to the swans during the construction phase. Please see the photos that I have taken myself while walking in the area of the proposed turbines.





I am particularly concerned that the Developer has not undertaken sufficient site-based bird surveys to establish baseline data or flight patterns. The precautionary principle has not been applied.

I have enjoyed watching these birds over the years as they come back to this area year after year. How can we allow this habitat to be disrupted?

Some of the photos were taken today 15/11/2025 & show swans in fields which have flooded with the recent rainfall.





Noise & Shadow Flicker:

Our home lies within 670 meters of the nearest proposed wind turbine. The EIAR's modelling of shadow flicker and noise is based on generic assumptions rather than local measurements. Shadow flicker can be highly disruptive during low sunlight conditions, particularly in the winter months. Noise, both audible and low frequency, has the potential to cause sleep disturbance and ongoing stress. These effects have been well documented internationally but are not adequately addressed in the assessment.

Outdated planning guidelines do not adequately protect us from these proposed, larger turbines. The current Wind Energy Development Guidelines are considered to be outdated, as they were based on much smaller turbines & a 500 metre setback distance, which is seen as insufficient for these modern, larger proposed turbines.

Property Impact:

We have invested heavily in creating a sustainable, biodiverse home environment. The value of our property, both financial and emotional, is directly linked to its rural amenity and tranquillity. The introduction of 160 metre turbines within our view would fundamentally change that character. Should planning for this development be granted, we will be surrounded by all 17 turbines, 5 at the rear of our property & 12 to the front.

The EIAR fails to provide any assessment of potential property devaluation, despite clear evidence from other large-scale wind developments that such impacts are real and significant.

Traffic and Safety:

During construction, the volume of heavy vehicle traffic on our local roads will increase substantially. This poses clear safety risks for residents, school traffic and daily commuting. The turbine delivery route remains uncertain, with references to the Adare Bypass (Foynes Road) deferred for later clarification. Until this information is finalised and subject to public scrutiny, no informed judgment can be made about the local safety implications.

Personal Impact Statement:

This proposal has created deep anxiety and division in our community. We first learned of the project through a letter in late May 2025, long after key negotiations had taken place. That experience of exclusion has been deeply upsetting. The confidential nature of land agreements has damaged trust that will take years to rebuild. The most distressing aspect is the sense of powerlessness, decisions about our home and environment being made without our consent or meaningful consultation.

Conclusion:

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the Ballinlee Wind Farm. The proposal fails to meet the standards of environmental assessment, procedural fairness, and social responsibility that should underpin Ireland's renewable energy transition. If the application is to be reconsidered, it should only proceed following a transparent reassessment that includes site-based ecological surveys, full disclosure of transport routes, and meaningful community consultation.

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 rural character of the area and expose nearby residents to health and amenity risks, devalue local properties, and threaten the long-term sustainability of our wildlife & habitat areas. For these reasons, I ask that the Board refuse planning permission.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind regards,

Geraldine Dooley.