

Cahirguillamore
Meanus, Bruff,
Co. Limerick
Date: 14/11/25

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

**Re: Objection to Proposed Wind Farm Development at Ballinlee Wind Farm
Case #:323780**

Dear Sir / Madam,

We wish to make a formal objection to the proposed wind farm development at Ballinlee Wind Farm located in Ballincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick, which is currently before An Coimisiun Pleanála for approval. While we support Ireland's national transition toward renewable energy, we believe that this specific development is unsuitable for the proposed site and would result in significant adverse impacts on the local community, environment, and landscape.

Grounds for Objection

1. Negative Impact on Wildlife and Bird Breeding Grounds

The proposed development lies approximately 4km south of our house at Cahirguillamore, an area known for its important birdlife and natural habitats including the Mute & Whooper swans. Our lands are also breeding grounds for protected and vulnerable species under the GLAS programme. Under this programme landowners are encouraged to protect habitats for certain species. The construction and operation of wind turbines in this area will negate any positive impacts that this programme is trying to achieve with habitat disturbance, noise pollution, and increased risk of bird strikes, especially during the sensitive breeding season.

2. Limerick County Development Plan Objective BR06 – ‘Safeguard the Lands along the Morningstar River’

Under the LCC County development plan 2022-2028, objective BR06 seeks to safeguard the lands of the Morningstar river, it states the objective is to *‘maintain and protect the lands adjoining the Morning Star River from inappropriate development in order to maintain its significance as an important ecological site, as a natural wildlife corridor, as a flood management zone and as a natural amenity area’* The development of these turbines is within the Morningstar_060 WFD Sub-basin (EU Code: IE_SH_24M020800) and includes the Morningstar_060 (River Waterbody Code: IE_SH_24M020800).

We feel that the construction of 17No. 160m high wind turbines within a ‘natural amenity area’ could be considered ‘inappropriate development’.

3. Flooding Risk – Morning Star River

A site-specific flood risk assessment (SSFRA), developed by MWP (MWP, 2025) Within the EIAR Chapter 9, MWP (MWP, 2025): Section 9.2.7 'Flood Risk' advises that: *'The Stage 1 and 2 flood risk assessments indicated that there is potential for flooding at this site. The potential source of flooding was identified as fluvial flooding from the Morningstar River and its tributaries. Particularly in the northern area of the project area'*

It is also advised that '4 of the 17 no. turbines are located within Flood Zone A/Flood Zone B, therefore having a high to medium probability of flooding during the 1% and 0.1% AEP'.

Whilst mitigation factors have been advised in the report, within the rural community where this natural amenity area exists, construction of these turbines could significantly increase flood risk damage to surrounding houses in the catchment of the proposed development.

4. Visual and Landscape Impact

The scale and height (160m) of the 17 proposed turbines are out of character with the local rural landscape. The visual impact on the surrounding countryside, which includes scenic views of the Ballyhoura Mountains will be severe and permanent.

Also to facilitate this development, **14.4hectares** (EIAR 9.3.1) of forestry will be removed from the existing area causing habitat loss, carbon sequestration (approx. 10,500 t CO₂) and deforestation.

5. Effect on Waterbody of the area

Within the EIAR report it advised that *'The GSI (GSI, 2025) have identified 70No. groundwater sources within a 2km radius of the site including the route of the proposed grid connection' and ' There are 3No. Natura 2000 Sites and 13No. pNHAs with an identified hydrological connection to the site and proposed development'*

While the report advises that it is *'unlikely'* to pollute the waterbodies identified, there remains a risk given the proximity of the site to the Morning River. The EIAR goes on to advise that due to *'limited attenuation within the aquifers'* 9.4.4, *'it is considered that there is also an indirect risk to the downstream receiving waterbodies (i.e., Morningstar River and Maigne River and Natura 2000 sites)'*. Therefore, risks to the waterbodies have been identified and should be carefully considered as a negative environmental impact due to this large scale development of wind turbines.

6. Proximity to residential houses

Based on the information supplied in the EIAR – Noise and vibration Report, results are based on mitigation measures being fully implemented. This is a serious concern for people living in proximity to the proposed development.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, we respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála **refuse permission** for this proposed development. While renewable energy is essential for Ireland's future, it must be implemented in a manner that respects local communities, landscapes, and ecological integrity. This proposal, in its current form, does not meet that standard.

We enclose the required €50 fee as part of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

John & Claire Murnane
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