

Date: 13 November 2025

Name: Jonathan Switzer

Address: Camas South,
Bruff,
Co. Limerick
V35 VH74

Case Reference: PAX91.323780

Re: Objection to Planning Application – 10-year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm (17 turbines, 110kv substation, and ancillary works) at Ballincurra, Ballingayroure, Ballinlee North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands, Co. Limerick.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jonathan Switzer, and I am writing on behalf of my family to strongly object to the proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm development. We live in our family home in Camas South, approximately 600 metres from two of the proposed turbines and within 2.5 kilometres of the full development site.

We purchased this house in 2020 as our “forever home.” It was my wife’s family home, and we have invested significant time, effort, and money in improving it, making it a safe and peaceful place to raise our now nine-year-old son. The tranquillity, beautiful views, and supportive community were the main reasons we chose this location.

When we learned that 17 industrial-scale wind turbines were planned so close to our home, we were shocked and distressed. The stress and anxiety caused by this proposal have already affected our health and wellbeing.

1. Health and Wellbeing

We are deeply concerned about the effects of turbine noise, low-frequency sound, and shadow flicker on our family’s health—particularly on our young son’s sleep and development. Numerous studies and first-hand accounts from people living near turbines report sleep disturbance, stress, and other health impacts.

At only 600 metres away, our entire home and garden will be exposed to continuous flicker and noise, leaving us with no respite. The potential long-term effects on our physical and mental health are extremely worrying.

2. Construction and Traffic Impact

Two of the planned access roads will run beside our home. Construction will mean years of heavy-goods traffic on narrow rural roads already unsuitable for large vehicles. This will create noise, dust, safety risks for children and pedestrians, and possible damage to local roads and drainage systems. We are also concerned about increased flooding risk as surface water is redirected by construction works.

3. Property Value and Future Development

We have invested heavily in our home and garden, but if this project proceeds, our property will lose significant value and may become effectively unsellable. It will also be almost impossible to secure planning permission for future extensions due to flicker and noise zones from the turbines themselves.

4. Environmental and Visual Impact

Our home looks out over beautiful farmland and local wildlife habitats. We regularly see swans, pheasants, robins, hawks, bats, foxes, hedgehogs, and many other species. The proposed turbines will destroy these views and disrupt habitats. The presence of turbines of such scale will completely alter the character of the area.

5. Impact on the Local Community

The wind farm will divide the local community, reduce rural housing opportunities (as new developments will be restricted within the setback zone), and discourage families from settling in the area. This will have knock-on effects for local schools, clubs, and businesses, leading to long-term social and economic decline.

6. Lack of Genuine Community Engagement

Ballinlee Green Energy's engagement with residents has been wholly inadequate. Their representative spent only seconds at our door before leaving a leaflet, and they have refused to attend open community meetings. Such limited engagement with directly affected residents is unacceptable for a development of this magnitude.

7. Support for Renewable Energy – But with Proper Siting

We are not opposed to renewable energy or wind energy in principle. However, industrial-scale wind turbines should **not** be sited so close to homes. Renewable projects must be located in areas that do not compromise the health, wellbeing, or safety of local residents.

8. Flooding and Drainage Concerns

The land around our home in the Ballinlee/Camas area is known locally to be **wetland that floods easily**. After just two days of rainfall, the local roads, gardens, and farmlands are already badly flooded. This demonstrates that the area has poor natural drainage and a high water table. We are extremely concerned about how this situation will worsen if 17 large concrete turbine bases, a substation, access roads, and other hard infrastructure are constructed. These impermeable surfaces will prevent natural water absorption and will inevitably displace or redirect water flow.

Where will the excess water go once the land's natural drainage pattern is disrupted? Which neighbouring homes and farms will bear the brunt of this redirected flooding? Has Ballinlee Green Energy carried out a **comprehensive hydrological or flood risk assessment** to determine the downstream impact on residents and local infrastructure?

Without robust independent assessment and mitigation measures, this project risks causing **increased flooding, damage to property, and contamination of private wells and septic systems** in the surrounding area.

Supporting Photographs and Evidence

Please find attached a series of photographs taken around our home and local area in Ballinlee/Camas to illustrate and support the concerns raised in this submission. These images show:

- **Local flooding** that occurs after just two days of rainfall, demonstrating the poor natural drainage and flood-prone nature of the area. (Pictures 1 – 3 show some local flooding this week)

- **Views from our home and garden**, showing how close the proposed turbines (particularly the two located approximately 600 metres from our back window) would be to our property and how they would dominate the landscape. (Pics 4 - 7)
- **Wildlife and farmland** that will be directly affected by the development, including regular sightings of swans, pheasants, bats, foxes, and other native species. (Pics 4 – 7)
- **Local roads and access points** that are narrow, unsuitable for heavy construction traffic, and already at risk of flooding and surface damage. (Pic 1)
- According to the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Wind Atlas**, the Ballinlee/Camas area has an average wind speed of **only 8.1–8.2 m/s**, placing it in the *low to medium* wind speed category. This indicates that our area is **not among the most suitable locations in Ireland** for industrial-scale wind energy generation.

There are many other regions nationally with **significantly higher and more consistent wind speeds** that would provide better efficiency and output for such a development, without placing turbines in close proximity to existing homes and sensitive rural environments.

It is difficult to understand why Ballinlee Green Energy selected this location when official SEAI data shows more viable areas available elsewhere. The poor wind resource further undermines the justification for placing a development of this magnitude within a populated rural community and environmentally sensitive landscape. (Pics 8 – 9)

These photographs provide clear visual evidence of why this area is **unsuitable for an industrial-scale wind farm** and highlight the likely environmental, visual, and flooding impacts should the development proceed.

We respectfully urge the planning authority to refuse this application, taking into account the severe and irreversible impacts it will have on our family's health, quality of life, property, and community.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Switzer

Camas South, Bruff, Co. Limerick

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1 / 2 / 3 – Ref Flooding this week

ROAD BESIDE US FLOODING WHERE ACCESS ROADS ARE GOING



FRONT GARDEN AFTER 1.5 DAYS RAIN!



FIELDS BEHIND US AFTER 1.5 DAYS RAIN – 2 TURBINES GOING IN THIS LAND!



4/5/6/7



Wild
Buzzard



Robin

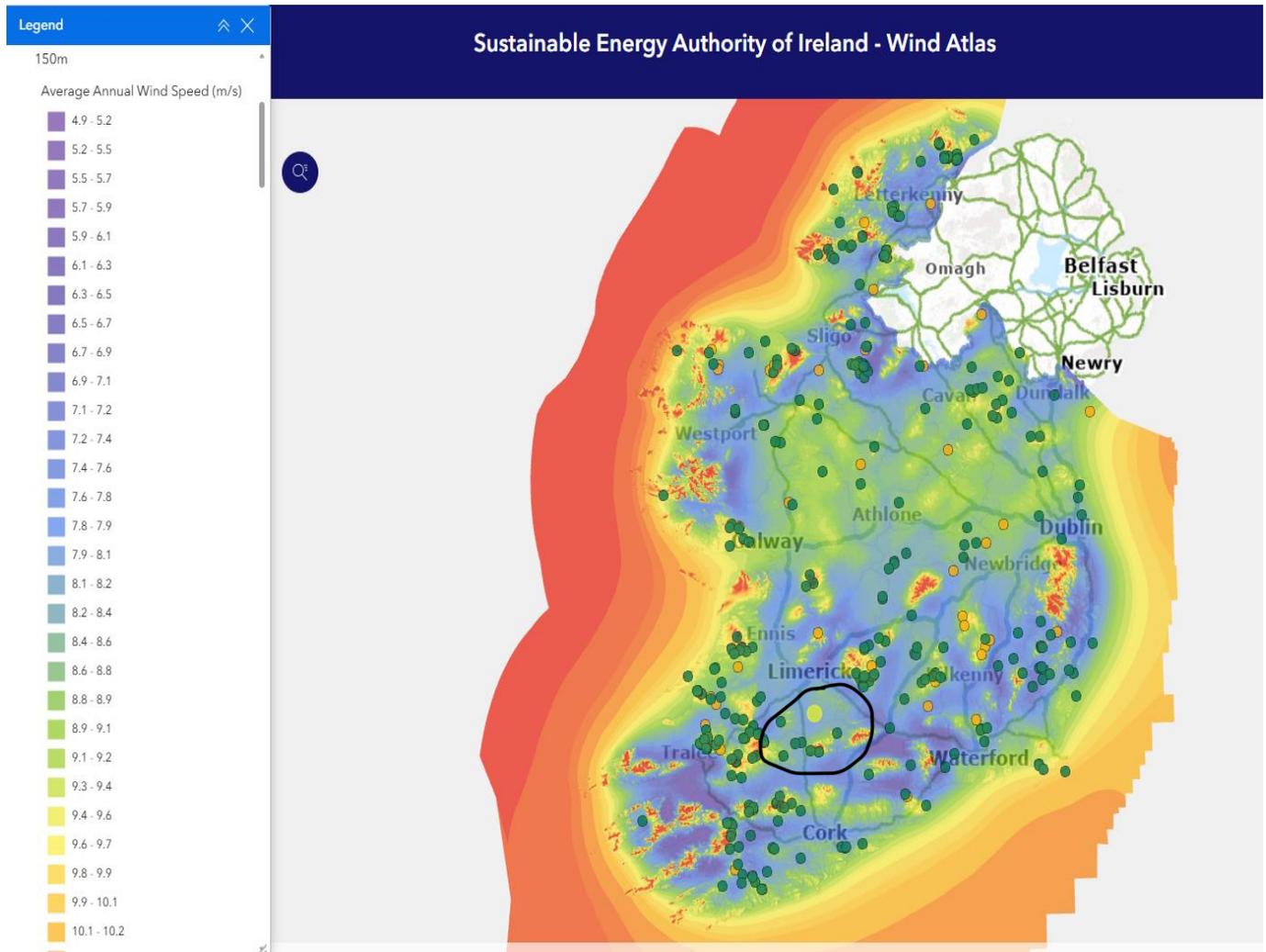
Cows enjoying their view while we enjoy ours



WHY WOULD WE WANT OUR VIEW RUINED? ITS PERFECT!



8 – Showing our area at wind speed range of 8.1 – 8.2 – Much more suitable sites around Ireland!
SEAI



9 – Showing more local area on SEAI wind atlas

