

Address "Birch Cottage"
Rathcannon
Kilwallock
Co Limerick
V35-NX71

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

E-Mail: Rathcannon2009@gmail.com

Date: 08/11/25

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 Killoonan 220/110kV substation, and ancillary development. Located in Ballincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

To Whom It May Concern,

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

I / ~~we~~ 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 community. For these reasons, I / ~~we~~ ask that the Board refuse planning permission.

Some of my / ~~our~~ summarised individual observations and concerns are as follows: ☺

See attached concerns on Pages 1-7.

Thank you for your time. Plz use my E-Mail to acknowledge

Kind Regards

Joe Ring

08716854929

Conclusion:

I implore Commission Pleanala to refuse this planning application for all the reasons I have outlined. I am not an Engineer, Scientist or Technical Person. However, I can see that this is just way too large a project for this Area (or) Any Area. The Methods used to get this far have been totally unfair on the vast majority of this Community. I recently retired after 42yrs with the Public Service. I was looking fwd to a long, happy, healthy retirement not 17 ind scale turbines outside my back door. Not the way to do business.

There has to be a fairer way.

Please interrogate this plan thoroughly before U decide the outcome

Gör Daubh Wtle Walth Agat.

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

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind Regards,

Joe Ring

Phone (optional)

087/685492

Rathcannon 2009@gmail.com.

Joe Ring
Rathcannon
Kilwelluck
Co Limerick
02/11/25
V35 NX71

To: An Comisiún Pleanála:

Re: Case 323780-25.

Dear Sir/Madam.

There follows my Submission on the above application. I will do my best to outline my deep reservations which I believe its not a good idea. My observations and thought process are based on 50+ yrs lived in this beautiful part of Co Limerick. I know this land like I know my ownself. I am not technically qualified in any way. All I have is my lived experience and a deep love of where my home is. I write this essay for all the voiceless people and flora and fauna who have no say in the final outcome. They matter too and I will speak for them while I have ability to do so. These words are heart felt and totally honest.

1. Community Left in the Dark:

I only became aware of this plan last April. What I know now is that its been gestating since 2020. The wider Community knew nothing. Secret deals with local landowners were done during Covid. Therefore the Company's resource, with stealth and covert activity blind sided the majority of this Community. They have been at this plan five years. The people impacted get five weeks to prepare a defence. Is this a fair arrangement do U think? Anybody can see that there was every effort made to exclude this Community from having any input whatsoever. Hardly the way to do business. We live in a free State with a democracy. However in this case, its more like a Dictatorship. The planned imposition of these Giant Turbines is an act of aggression against the grass roots of our Country. People like myself who have worked all their lives, paid their taxes and were law abiding at all times. Surely to God we deserve better treatment than this carry on.

2. Community Engagement :

I attended advisory clinic 18th September. My Elderly neighbour came with me. We both live alone. Our area has a long history of flooding. We find it very hard to source council insurance. We discussed our concerns with the Company Reps. They said there was an Engineering Solution for every issue we raised. They made light of most of our worries. They called it ~~scare~~ wongering in the Media by those who oppose everything. They remarked that the Biodiversity issue with mitigation of The Whorper Swans was a "right Pain in the Ass". It was creating an awful lot of grief for the Company. We thought this remark very odd and inappropriate at the very least. They seemed to be making up replies ad hoc. The number of turbines varied from 17, then 19 and another time 20. They spoke to us like we were two bold children. We had to sign off on a code of conduct for good behaviour before we spoke at all. The first team member had all the appearance + demeanour of a Bouncer. It felt very intimidating. We came away from this Clinic very deflated and disloyed. They totally dismissed the WHO guidance on best practice re set back distances etc. There would be no Shadow flicker or health issues whatsoever. To top it all off they said sheep and cattle enjoy grazing adjacent to these Giant Machines! Surely any farmer in his right mind wouldn't let his animals next nor near such sites. It made no sense at all. There was an awful lot more which went over our heads as it was quite technical in nature. The whole experience was a huge waste of time. We done it in good faith but not one of our concerns were entertained. We thought this clinic was to reach out to the local residents and treat their concerns with empathy and genuine care. Instead we came away feeling like we were all wrong and the Company could do no wrong. The Clinic was really for Community Disengagement!

3. Fragmentation of Project:

As far as we can tell, there are plans for 17 turbines. At my back door facing N/NE there are 5 on the map. The remaining 12 machines are to the East of my house. There is a significant distance between the five to the Nth and the 12 to the South. It is really two wind farms being erected in this local area. On top of that, the same company have another farm in planning c. 5 miles to the West @ Garrane Bruce. There are nine machines in this one. Also, in planning are six turbines in Coolcappa Rathkeek. In total, plans are in place for 32 Giant Wind Machines in this area of Co Limerick. Surely this is major over concentration in this local area? The project near we is called Ballinlee Green Energy. In order to join the 12+5 as outlined above, they will have to dig up roads, fields, drains and ditches, making it look like just one unit. This wanton vandalism of our beautiful county is totally wreckless. It's anything but Green.

4. Wrong Location:

There are many reasons why the location is flawed. I will outline the principal negatives as I know it like the back of my hand. The 5 Turbines to the N/NE of my house are planned on an existing historical flood plain. The Morning Star river and local drains flow over that every Winter. Even today as I write (3/11/25) the fields are covered with surface water. It's madness placing 60ft turbines on a swamp. There is a very real possibility they will sink into the bog. The 12 turbines to my East + Sth are planned for the Ballinlee Valley - going from Bruff towards Drumm. I have spoken to an Independent Engineer about this site. He has vast experience in the Wind Industry. When he checked his wind maps for this area, it clearly indicated that the turbines will be idle most of the time due to lack of wind!

5 Bird Survey - Personal Observations. Case: 323780
 I live @ v35 NK71. It's just off @ Rd L1414. Buff. Mhacca to
 There is a layby viewing point at the junction of my litter road
 and the L1414. It gives a beautiful panoramic view across
 the floodplain facing Nth towards Lusk City. Several Bird
 Watchers for the planned Wind Farm parked their vehicles in
 the layby over the past months and years. I never once saw
 them leave their vehicles to survey the site. They used an
 app on their smartphones positioned on the dash of the
 van/car to record any passing bird. The farm passage going
 into the Carrass flood plain is c. a mile in. Therefore
 the survey only covered a tiny portion of the entire site.
 This is lazy at best and very flawed data at worst. I
 only live 200yds from this location. I spoke to one
 gentleman who told me he was a subcontractor doing
 the survey. He sat for hours in his car week after
 week. I am part of the Local Community Alert group so
 I approached him. He clarified he was not up to anything
 illegal and we had a benign conversation. It became very
 clear in no time that this was standard practice for Bird Survey.
 There are seven farms on this site and 100's of acres.

No way was this a valid survey. It lacks credibility in any way.

6 Whooper Swans - Mitigation - See 7.7.2.1.1 - Planning Application
 Every Winter as many as 30-40 Whoopers arrive from Ireland
 They winter graze the same field every year. These are wild birds.
 They are not sheep! From reading the planned mitigation measures
 it looks like U can corral these birds into a designated field
 no bother at all. This is pure fantasy. I know these birds. I've
 enjoyed their company for the past 30yrs. They are extremely
 vigilant and speak very easily. Any attempt to bully or push
 them around will not work. It will lead to these birds abandoning
 this location and never return. This would be an act of hostile
 biodiversity destruction. It will be the death knell. Shocking Mitigation.

6. Continued Today, Nov 5th 2025 the Whoopers have returned to their usual field near my home. Its always a sign of Short Winter Days and that Christmas is on the way. Its a real joy to see them return from Iceland, almost 3K kms in total. This is a stunning annual migration. If this Wind Farm goes up, the Whoopers will be in grave danger of imminent mortality. The 3 turbines, T1, T2, and T3 will obstruct their flight paths in all directions. These Birds fly to Lough Gur each evening and return to grazing field each morning. There is no mitigation measure that can protect them from harm. The
 ③ Giant Turbines will shred and Swan that goes anywhere near them. Its nots to think otherwise.

7. See Plan Ref 6.7.1.4.1.1 - The Badger.

I have walked these fields for +50 yrs. I know them like the back of my hand. Greenspace admit destruction of two sets will take place to facilitate new bridge across the Morningside River. Why can't the bridge location be put well away from the Badger's Home? This is a shameful admission in their application and totally unjustified. There are numerous Badger Sets all over the site, Nth Str.

If these Badgers are forced out of their existing homes, they will move into neighbouring farms. Any animal that might have TB will thus spread the disease across the landscape. This is the last thing we need down here as TB is already out of control. Its not all down to the Badger either. Its a lot more complex issue. There are Badger families for many generations along all the double ditches in this area. When left alone they keep to themselves. Good Bio Security will be totally lost if Badger Sets are destroyed or disturbed.

8. Avian Flu - Bio Security.

Today on the Radio, several reports of Avian Flu in domestic chicken flocks. Migratory Birds bring it in annually. Its very serious if it gets out of control.

8. Conrad Nicoll Hatch of Birdwatch Ireland spoke on this outbreak. He stated emphatically if any migratory Birds, like our Whoopras, are disturbed or displaced deliberately off their grazing sites, it will seriously breach Bio Security. This is exactly what the Wind Farm Company Green Source Plan to do. Such actions have the potential to destroy the entire Poultry industry in Ireland. This would be a disaster.

9. My House is right on the edge of Rathcannon Curragh. This is a low lying wetland both sides of the river. It is rich in Biodiversity and Heritage plus Archaeology. People come there from all the local towns etc to walk their dogs etc. It's an area of pristine natural beauty and tranquility. It's wonderful for your mind and body to chill out from the stresses of life. The only sounds in your ear will be the local song birds. It's a piece of Heaven. This will all be no more if this Wind Farm goes up. These boofy Wunsters will forever destroy the natural beauty of the entire landscape. Nobody in their sane senses goes for a relaxing walk in a Wind Farm. It just does not happen. It will be a massive blow to all who love this area and have enjoyed its wonderful ambience over the years. It will be a disgraceful loss to us all who love it the way it is.

The location of T3 is a field rich in heritage and archaeology. Plans to put forestry there some time ago were rejected at planning stage due to intense historical deposits on the site. The Dept of Agriculture refused Coillte a forestry licence accordingly. Warming Stream River.

10. I've fished this river all my life. It's rich in aquatic life. Salmon go up it to their spawning Beds every December. Otters live and feed all over it. The 3 Turbines in Camgeen, T1, T2 and T3 are dangerously close to the River Bank. There is a real danger of a serious pollution incident which could wipe out the entire river. It's a nightmare scenario.

Joe Ring - V35-NX71

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Case 323780

11. Turbines to the East + Sth of my home - 12 planned. When I stand at my back door today and look East, I see the beautiful Galloewltns. I've enjoyed this view for many's the day. Greensource plan to erect 12 no Giant turbines, all c. 60ft high. This is a very densely populated area. My neighbours are still shocked with this plan. These giant structures will be only 640meters from each home. The residences are referred to as "Noise Receptors". The very thought of one such structure would be a nightmare. We are talking about 12 of them in a few local farm fields. The blades alone are the length of a GAA Pitch. The cumulative effect of these 12 machines will devastate this Community. These are good, kind, neighbours with young families. Some of the kids have special needs. Their parents are distraught. They feel totally betrayed by the Government, the local neighbours who are losing their land, and in general they feel totally demoralised. The Community is split in two as are some families. The damage done by this plan will never be wended. It is catastrophic.

It breaks our hearts to see what's planned for this neighbourhood. We have had no say to date, just told this is it so suck it up. The trouble is U can't suck it and see if they go up, they stay up. We all know that. End of.

12. The Grid:

To a layman like myself it strikes me that all this Green Energy will overwhelm the Grid. As it is, tis Data Centres are devouring the Green Energy. My ESB Bill has not come down. I am all for alternatives to fossil fuels. I recently installed Solar Panels. Great job. Can't see why Solar could be rolled out to all roof tops in the land. There is no regional strategy for the wind industry. The planned farm, 8km to West of me will overlap County Bards. This is not regulation.

13 Heritage + Archaeology + Tourism

If U look at the Historical Environment Viewer, you will soon see how rich this area is in history and heritage. When U visit the Natural History Museum in Dublin, the Rathcunniff Elk is just inside the front door. This skeleton was unearthed in a bog beside the proposed location of the 12 turbines between Dravin and Bruff. Lough Gur is only 5 miles down the road. It is a major Tourist Resort. If this plan goes ahead, the vista from Lough Gur will be destroyed forever. It's bound to damage the experience of this Neolithic Site. It's also a designated area for Dark Sky Status + Special area of conservation. These Giant Structures will be seen for miles and miles across the land. It will be a horrible sight and most likely cause loss of income to many local businesses. Who wants to visit a Giant Wind Farm?

14 Health Impacts:

I am not a medic. However I have a friend who lives near two turbines. Her family's physical and mental health has been destroyed. They are devastated and nobody will help them. The various sound frequencies coupled with the shadow flicker have disturbed their sleep patterns, caused unexplained headaches, nausea and mental health issues. This is factual and not the rant of a mad person. It's her lived experience and she has nowhere to go. Her home is worth zero value. You couldn't give it away. There is only 2 Turbines involved. There are 17 planned near me. I am terrified what will be my experience. It does not bore thinking. There are hundreds of my neighbors in the same boat. The Company Reps brushed aside my fears, saying my fears factually inaccurate and negative spin declared by the medic. I can only relate what my friend is living with. This is a tragedy for her family. I don't want or wish the same on myself or my very kind neighbors.