

Camass
Bruff
Co Limerick
V35 H677

The Secretary
An Comisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Case reference: PAX91.323780

Date: 16th November 2025

Re: 10-year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm

To Whom It May Concern,

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

We wish to object strongly to this proposal and ask that the Board refuse planning permission. We request for an Oral Hearing in relation to this wind farm application, for the reasons outlined within. The proximity and impact this will have on Lough Gur, an architectural and archaeological site of international importance, and the impact on our Golden Vale's high value landscape. Furthermore, the scale of the project and the pattern of population distribution which will have a widespread profoundly negative impact on our local community and way of life.

While we support Ireland's renewable energy transition, this project conflicts with key objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as well as findings in the developer's own Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

1. Objective EN O1: Protect and enhance the landscape character of Limerick, ensuring development does not adversely affect designated scenic routes, views, or areas. The EIAR acknowledges "significant landscape and visual impacts" due to turbines of 160m blade tip height. This scale is incompatible with EN O1 and undermines the rural character of Ballinlee South, Camas, and surrounding townlands.
2. Policy EN P2: Conserve and manage areas of high landscape value. The proposal conflicts with this policy by industrialising a rural landscape.

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3. Policy EN P3: Support renewable energy only where consistent with environmental, landscape, and community protections. Objective EN O5: Ensure wind energy proposals avoid cumulative adverse impacts. The EIAR notes cumulative effects with other wind farms in Limerick/Munster but fails to adequately assess regional saturation. This omission breaches EN O5.
4. Objective EN O7: Protect residential amenity from noise, shadow flicker, and other adverse effects of wind energy. The EIAR models shadow flicker at the maximum permitted threshold (30 hours/year). Any exceedance would breach EN O7 and national guidelines. Noise is predicted to be perceptible within a 1–2 km radius, undermining residential amenity protections. Our home is within a 2.5 KM radius of 3 of these monster turbines. I do not believe that enough reassurance or evidence has been provided to clearly show that this development will not be in breach of EN O7.
5. Policy EN P9: Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, protecting SACs and SPAs. The NIS identifies risks to hen harrier (SPA nearby) and bats, with mitigation relying on turbine curtailment during peak activity. Such conditional measures do not guarantee compliance with EN P9.
6. Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires decisions to align with the Development Plan. This proposal conflicts with EN O1, EN O7, and EN P9. The Aarhus Convention guarantees meaningful public participation. Consultation has been limited, undermining transparency. The EU EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) requires robust cumulative impact assessment, which is inadequate in this case.
7. Community and Human Impact: Noise Pollution: Turbine noise, including low-frequency sound, can affect sleep quality and mental health for nearby residents. My home along with over 200 other residents will be affected accordingly. We find it incredible that any planning authority could allow such an impact on any community. The Shadow Flicker being another huge concern - Rotating blades can cause shadow flicker, which is disruptive and potentially harmful to those with neurological conditions. Finally, from a community impact perspective studies suggest proximity to wind farms can reduce property values, impacting local homeowners unfairly. There is evidence that wind farm operators will object to planning applications in the proximity to the development – this will have a huge impact on any community, limiting the numbers of new families settling in the area which will, in the long term only serve to diminish the vibrant community we have all worked so hard to establish.

The Ballinlee Wind Farm proposal directly conflicts with multiple objectives and policies of the Limerick Development Plan 2022–2028. The developer's own EIAR and NIS confirm risks to landscape, biodiversity, and residential amenity. For these reasons, we respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála refuse permission for planning application PAX91.323780.

Yours sincerely


Nollaig and Tom Coleman

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