

14.11.2025

Pat & Maria O'Neill,
Ballinrea,
Bruff,
Co. Limerick
V35 HH70

The Secretary
An Coimisiun Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: The proposed development known as Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation and ancillary development located within the townlands of Ballincurra, Ballingayrour, Ballinlee South, Ballinlee North, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North, Camas South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane, Ballynanty, Cahirguillamore, Rockbarton, Grange, Ballynagallagh, Skool, Friarstown South, Friarstown, Rockstown, Rochestown, Carriganattin, Stonepark, Ballynagarde, Ballymacgreese, Glen, Knockbrien, Ballyneety, Scart, Ballyogartha, Carrigmartin, Cahernarry (Cripps), Drombanny, Ballybrennan, Coolyhenan, Knockananty, Ballysimon Commons, Tullovin, and Milltown, Co. Limerick

An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PAX91.323780

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to **formally object to** the Strategic Infrastructure Application (**case ref 323780**).

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 lowland location and fails to take proper account of the environmental, social, and cultural impacts on the local and wider agricultural areas.

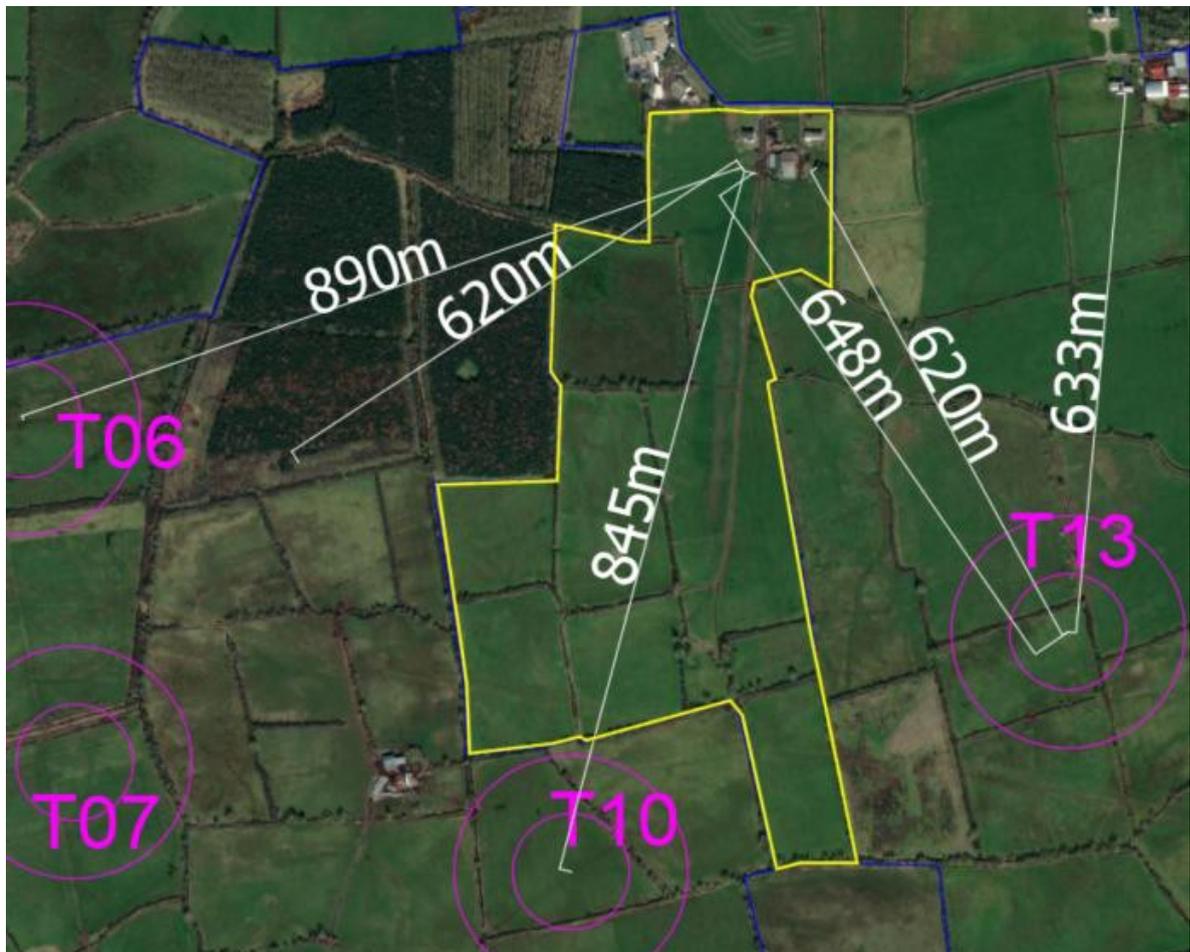
This wind farm would permanently alter the rural character of 'The Golden Vale' area and the immediate local area, and expose nearby residents to health and amenity risks, reduce the residential amenity of our properties, devalue local properties and farm holdings, threaten neighbouring farming livelihoods, sterilise high quality existing agricultural land, sterilise our landholding and children's ability to remain living on Generational family farmsteads, dis-incentivise younger adults from continuing farming, and ultimately threaten the long-term sustainability and viability of our local rural community and surrounding agricultural communities.

For these reasons, we ask that the Board refuse planning permission.

Our objection is based on the following specific planning grounds of observation:

- Ground 1: Shadow flicker.
We reside 648m from the nearest wind turbine and will be exposed to serious shadow flicker within our dwelling and curtilage of our HOME as per the MWP documents. Numerous Turbines are within 1.5km of our HOME.
Zero shadow flicker is acceptable, the issue is known at design stage and should be designed out by removing the offending turbines. The developer cannot introduce a problem into our dwelling and reduce our amenity.
The same applies to my mothers home, except only 620m away, a generational farmstead building.

- Ground 2: Breach of minimum distance to existing dwelling.
My mothers residence beside us is 620m to Turbine T13. This is a breach and must be removed.
Another residence is within 633m and likewise a Breach.



- Ground 3:
Turbine Noise will affect our health and health of children locally with various health issues including autism, sensory issues, and epilepsy. We are within 648m of the nearest building and my mother's residence is within 620m of the nearest Turbine.
At a private consultation with the developer, called a clinic, we were told we would hear constant noise !!!

This is unacceptable and we do not consent to any noise or nuisance at our dwelling or within the curtilage of our dwelling. This known issue needs to be considered, especially as we are highlighting it NOW prior to grant of permission.

Refer to recent High court case at Gibbet Hill, Co.Wexford, and shut down orders around same.

- Ground 4: Effect on our family livelihood.
We have a dairy herd, and these animals are highly sensitive to stress from environmental noise, vibration and movement. The proposed development threatens our family's future livelihood.
Turbine noise, infrasound levels, and turbine and ground traffic vibration are particular issues.
The EIAR has failed to mention or mitigate for same, either through reductions in herd stress or follow on testing of animals for the entire 10 year construction period and during the 35 year operational period.

Loud noises induce stress in dairy cows, which can increase their somatic cell count (SCC) and indicate udder damage and inflammation. The stress response releases hormones that disrupt normal physiological functions, potentially leading to a higher risk of mastitis and a decrease in milk quality and yield. Managing noise exposure is crucial for both animal welfare and milk production.

Our dairy business partners check Somatic cell counts (and others) at collection and will refuse to collect if these counts change and worsen due to induced stress. This is unacceptable and has not been mitigated or controlled for in the EIAR or proposal.

How loud noise increases SCC

Stress response: Loud sounds cause stress, which triggers the release of stress hormones like adrenaline.

Physiological disruption: Stress hormones can disrupt the immune response and other physiological processes that are important for healthy milk production.

Udder damage: The immune and physiological disruptions can lead to damage in the udder tissue, causing an increase in somatic cells to be released into the milk.

Inflammation: The increased presence of leukocytes (white blood cells) and epithelial cells in the milk is a sign of an inflammatory response, often triggered by an infection like mastitis.

Vibration from Turbines and Traffic running along the boundary of our fields on Gravel tracks, is another potential issue.

This is an unacceptable risk to our existing family farm business and livelihoods.

- **Ground 5: Generational farms and the future.**

Our children intend to build and raise families on our Farm once they have completed their education and as they start their careers and hopefully can support independent family lives. They hope to be a part of and support a vibrant local community into the next future and are needed to sustain these small rural agricultural towns throughout the Golden Vale.

And as we have a housing crisis in this country, and a crisis in encouraging and supporting the next generation into farming, they must be allowed the opportunity to continue our family farm into the future and this will include the ability to provide houses for themselves. This also reduces the burden on the state.

This proposal will sterilise our landholding from this possibility, with any developer likely to object to any new dwellings our children may wish to build on our existing farmland, in proximity to their 'industrial wind turbine park.' See recent example below. <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/tipperary/news/wind-farm-company-challenges-planning-permission-for-tipperary-womans-home/a2077572701.html>

- **Ground 6:**

Property devaluation of our home and farm holding and issues this will create for us in the future with potential care, and our children trying to raise finance for our family farm business.

- **Ground 7:**

Construction Noise and disruption and impact on our family home and its amenity value, and our farm holding. The developer has applied for a 10-year permission and therefore we face significant construction noise, dust, disruption daily for potentially a decade. Approximately 20km of a Grid connection, 10.8km of internal roads, blasting at quarries being called borrow pits, rock breaking, 100's of HGV movements a day, and all on a high-quality farming landscape. An industrial scale development, which will be its very nature impact the quality of our Farmland and generational homestead. We are also within 500m of the proposed ESB substation and the constant operational traffic this will bring for the next 35years.

There will also be a fire risk from the substation.

- Ground 8:
The application does not comply with the requirements of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe (ETS No.176) (**Florence Convention**).
This lowland area of the significant national and cultural importance is called the Golden Vale. It is totally unsuitable for an Industrial wind turbine park, which would irreversibly damage the Golden Vale area, known as the best farming land in the country. This proposal will alter the landscape away from Agriculture in nature and towards Industrial language. It will sterilise and destroy vast areas of the best Agricultural land in the country, with industrial engineered hard stand areas, tracks, bridges, sub-station buildings, cable routes, industrial fences, and create vast kilometres of unmaintainable and unproductive wastelands around all these areas.
- Ground 9:
The proposal will have a detrimental effect on biodiversity and wildlife, including but not limited to whooper swans, red squirrel, lesser horseshoe bat protected species but also the various other resident local flora and fauna. It will detrimentally impact tourist sites in the area including the internationally renowned Lough Gur Archaeological Park and views out of same.
- Ground 10:
There was no adequate EIAR visual assessment prepared for the proposal, with no visual's representative of the actual landscape of the 'central study area,' close to our farmland and home. The enormity of the proposal and its proposed dominant nature in the landscape and detrimental effects on our amenities and community has not been shown.
- Ground 11:
Risk of Major Accident and Disaster to GNI pipeline. The quantity of aggressive civil construction works in proximity to high pressure pipelines in the area, create an unacceptable risk to residents.

This proposed development **is not** in the public interest, is contrary to the objectives of appropriate and sustainable development included within Local, National and European policy, planning and environmental Legislation, and fundamentally it does not comply with the requirements of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe (ETS No.176) (Florence Convention).

It will destroy the Golden Vale Landscape for Generations to come.

We would respectfully suggest these grounds require An Coimisiun Pleanála to refuse permission for this proposal.

Yours Sincerely,



Pat & Maria O'Neill.