

Grange,
Kilmallock,
Co. Limerick
V35 CH99
17/11/2025

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Case reference: PAX91.323780

Ballinlee Wind Farm (17 no. turbines), Co. Limerick

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make the following submission regarding the proposed 17 turbine windfarm at Ballinlee, in County Limerick. I paid the €50 fee online.

My house is in the townland of Grange, adjacent to the R512 strategic regional road (proposed grid connection route), 5km north of Bruff town.

My concerns relate mainly to the proposed grid connection route and its permanent and temporary impacts on people, soils & agriculture, archaeology and protected structures along the route, as outlined in more detail below.

Grid Connection Route under the R512 Strategic Regional Road

The proposal to lay the electricity grid connection cable underground along the R512 Strategic Regional Road, over a 12km distance, would cause significant and unnecessary disturbance to people living along the route and to people commuting to work/school in Limerick City Centre, by public bus and private car.

Alternative options - have not been considered to avoid this impact, such as considering the less trafficked local road network, a route across fields or utilisation of existing overhead electricity cables (as per Garrane Wind Farm application PAX91.323635)

The R512 is a strategic regional route into Limerick City from towns and villages along the route (Ballyneety, Grange, Bruff, Kilmallock, Kilfinane), it is a very busy commuter route and any lane closures or diversions would cause significant traffic impacts and inconvenience over a long period (more than 6 months as stated in the application)

The Bus Eireann service 329 also operates on the R512 road, with 8 services in each direction daily Monday – Saturday, plus 5 services each way on Sundays and Public holidays. These are large coaches that cannot easily divert onto narrow local roads. In addition, the R512 is used by school bus operators for schools in Bruff, Kilmallock, Hospital and Croom.

Water main – my public water supply is from the private Lough Gur Group Water Scheme. This underground pipe runs along the R512 and this does not appear on the applicants maps. Will there be any impact to the continuity of drinking water supply during the proposed excavation of the public road?

I ask that alternative options be considered that have less impact.

Archaeology

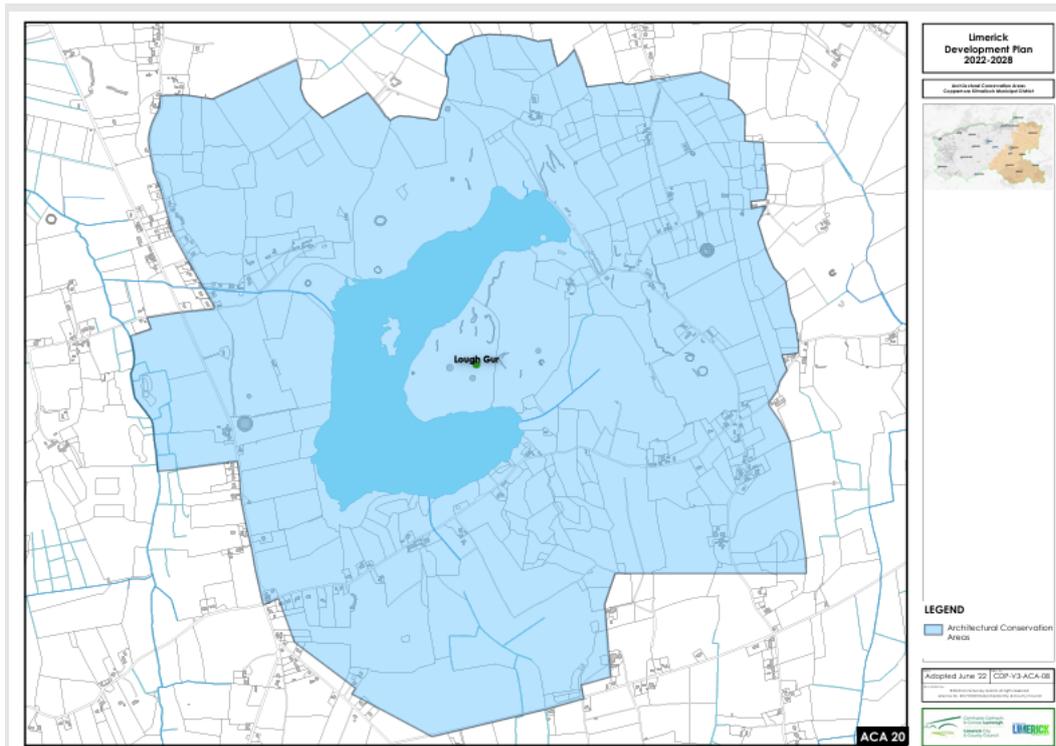
Lough Gur and Grange Stone Circle is a site of international archaeological significance. The applicant has not given this due consideration and there is very little mention of it in the documents submitted.

The Grange Stone Circle is the largest on the island of Ireland. It is located adjacent to the R512 grid connection route, and the impacts on it and nearby national monuments have not been adequately considered. Furthermore, the Lough Gur area is an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) in the Limerick Development Plan and it is also designated as not suitable for wind energy development. The visual impact of the turbines when viewed from the Lough Gur landscape, including from the elevated locations such as Carrig Aille and Knockfennell have not been included in the visual impact assessment.

4.6 ACA 20 - Lough Gur

This ACA is designated to ensure that new development is compatible with the Lough Gur landscape of rolling hills surrounding the lough and the complex, significant archaeological features designated by the OPW on its Sites and Monument Record. An Area of Special Development Control also applies to this area, given the dense concentration of archaeological structures and the preservation of the integrity of area.

Refer to ACA Map 20



Lough Gur is such a significant site it was proposed by Limerick County Council for inclusion on Ireland's tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Lough Gur Natural Heritage Area

Lough Gur is designated as a WildFowl Sanctuary, one of only 68 in the country, listed by NPWS.

Lough Gur is also a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA 000437).

According to the applicants EIA - *This area Supports nationally important numbers of shoveler, tufted duck and coot, in addition to other species including cormorant, mute swan, whooper swan, teal, gadwall, mallard, pochard, lapwing and curlew. Some of the habitats found at the Lough were recorded supporting the rare plant species golden dock.*

And the EIA confirms - *Yes, there is ecological connectivity between the Development and this pNHA. The Development is located within the foraging range of waterbird species for which the pNHA is designated. Notably the whooper swan population that roost at Lough Gur and can travel up to 5 km to foraging grounds. Located c. 4.6 km northeast.*

Protected Structures

Sixmile Bridge (RPS Reg. No. 455 and NIAH Reg. No. 21902305) – this bridge over the Camogue river in Grange is a protected structure located 2.5km north of my house on

the R512 towards Limerick. The applicant proposes horizontal directional drilling at this location and it is not clear what impact this will have on the protected structure or if the R512 road will need to be closed during the works and what impact that would have on traffic flows.

Golden Vale agriculture and soil impacts.

The site is within the area known as the Golden Vale, a historic name given to an area of rolling pastureland, considered the best land in Ireland for dairy farming, the region has been described as the "heart of the Munster dairying country". The weekly cattle mart in Kilmallock is one of the largest in the country.

Agriculture and dairying are economically important to our rural community, the impacts from soil compaction need to be considered and I hope the Dept. of Agriculture, Teagasc, ICMSA and IFA will be consulted.

Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impact of all existing and proposed wind farm developments needs to be considered. Limerick has a disproportionately high land mass identified as "preferred wind area" when compared to other parts of the country. This should not mean our landscape is overrun with windfarms. Please consider the cumulative impact of the other existing, granted and currently proposed windfarms in the area, it is unrealistic to expect our community and our landscape can accommodate all of them.

Please give due consideration to the impacts of the proposed wind farm on the daily lives of people living here.

Regards,

Rachel O'Keeffe