

Formal Objection to the Proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm

Abp-317616-23

Acp- 323783-25

To: The Secretary

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1, D01 V902

Date: 16/11/2015

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	_____
ACP-	_____
21 NOV 2025	
Fee: € 50	Type: PA-
Time: 9:15	By: P.S.P.

From: John Normoyle

Craghera

Cranny Co Clare

V15EF20

Subject Objection under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Cloonkett Wind Farm, County Clare (14 turbines, 150 m tip height)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, John Normoyle, wish to strongly object to the proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm Development at Cloonkett and Burrenfadda, County Clare.

We live in Craghera, right in the centre of the proposed wind farm. The area around the proposed site of the wind farm is truly beautiful and the visual impact of 14 enormous wind turbines is extremely upsetting. There are numerous wind farms in close proximity already. However, this proposal has turbines which are far larger than anything already in the area. Also there are more of them.

Firstly, our home is located within 1km distance of at least 5 of the turbines, some as close as 600mtrs. All 14 are within 1.5km of us. This is a flat plain. How is this allowed? We understand that the regulations state 500mtrs, but surely there should be a limit of how many can be near a particular home? We will be literally surrounded by them. They are positioned in a semi circle around us. (please see attached map, black dot is our home). They are positioned at the west side, the south side and the east side of us. Meaning, during sunlight hours we will be affected by a flicker as they are at 3 sides of the house. Most of the prevailing wind comes from the South and South West, meaning we will be affected by noise as the wind blows.

The proposed wind farm is located within a region of exceptional environmental sensitivity, characterised by peatland ecosystems, freshwater habitats, and a complex network of watercourses feeding into Gortglass Lough and the Lower River Shannon SAC (002165). This landscape supports an unusually diverse range of protected species — including Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Curlew, Barn Owl (habitat is within approx. 100mt of a turbine), mute swan, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, and Marsh Fritillary Butterfly — all of which depend on the unique mosaic of bog, farmland, and open water found in this area. The ecological and hydrological interconnections between the peatlands, Gortglass Lough, and downstream designated habitats mean that any disturbance within the proposed site carries significant risk of cumulative and long-term damage.

The site lies within foraging and potential breeding range for both the Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), species listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. The developer's EIAR recorded 65 Hen Harrier observations and over 15,500 flight- seconds within the site boundary — yet no flightline mapping or cumulative collision risk analysis was presented. Similarly, there is no dedicated survey for the Marsh Harrier, despite multiple local reports of sightings.

New evidence confirms that Gortglass Lough serves as the public water abstraction point for the Killadysert Public Water Supply, operated by Uisce Éireann. This lake provides treated drinking water 1,500 homes, schools, businesses, and a new hotel development in the Killadysert, Cranny and Coolmeen areas. The river draining the Cloonkett bog feeds into this lake, meaning that any sediment, chemical, or pollutant runoff from turbine construction, peat disturbance, or maintenance will flow directly into the drinking-water catchment. Under the Water Framework Directive and EU Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184), Ireland is required to prevent deterioration of surface-water quality at public abstraction points. The precautionary principle therefore mandates that no project be permitted where such contamination cannot be ruled out beyond reasonable scientific doubt.

The application's mapping is based on outdated Ordnance Survey maps that fail to show numerous residential properties — some built over 20 years ago. As a result, key assessments of noise, shadow flicker, residential amenity, and visual impact are invalid. Clare County Council's own validation requirements and the Office of the Planning Regulator's guidelines stipulate that site maps must include all dwellings and receptors within 100 metres of the site boundary. This omission constitutes a material deficiency that undermines public consultation and the validity of the EIAR. Permission was not granted by landowners within the area to walk their land, or do any kind of noise testing, therefore any studies put forward cannot be valid.

We are very close to the wild Atlantic way. The village of Kildysart is home to Cahercon, which is a multi million Euro development. It is set to be a 5 star hotel. This is going to be far more beneficial addition to our area, than this windfarm will be. Gortlass Lake is another tourist attraction. We are just 2.5km from this and so many tourists walk this area. This will be impossible during construction and not enjoyable afterwards. The area will be ruined. At the moment it is a beautiful peaceful area for walking, cycling and just being outdoors. Without this there will be a negative impact on so many peoples mental health.

The value of property in the area will decrease. This will force many families into negative equity, and will turn off any young people from building in the area or settling here. The turbines will sterilize the land, making it impossible for anyone to get future planning permission.

The developers have been very untrustworthy so far. They state in their proposal that the local community are positive about this proposal. This is not the case. Any communication we have had with them has been frustrating, as all they do is feign ignorance for any questions we have put forward. How can we be assured that anything they have in their proposal will be done to the standard that they state.

In conclusion I whole heartily and strongly object to the proposed construction of this wind farm in Cloonkett. This project is far too big for this small rural area.

Thanking you,

John Normoyle,

Craghera, Cranny, Co Clare. V15EF20. bouncycastleman@hotmail.com. 0871385697.

Please see enclosed map. X marks my home.

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Noise Monitoring Locations
- Turbine Locations

