

Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Case Ref: 323958

Proposed 110kV Grid Connection – Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Name: **Annerose Schichhold** and Family

Address: Rickardsland North, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny

Eircode: Y34A620

Date: 14/02/2026

We, as in

- **Annerose Schichhold,**
- **David Mc Donald,**
- **Erik Schichhold,**
- **Tim Mc Donald,**
- **Sofie Mc Donald**

make this submission in respect of the proposed 110kV grid connection under Case Ref. 323958. We reside within the receiving environment of this development and have previously made a submission under Case Ref. 323957 (Ballyfasy Wind Farm). The Grid connection forms enabling infrastructure for that project and has no independent purpose. The concerns raised in relation to the wind farm are directly relevant here and are incorporated by reference.

The application seeks approval for two materially different grid connection options: a 12km underground 110kV cable (GCO One) and a loop-in connection to the existing Great Island–Kilkenny 110kV overhead line involving removal of an existing pole set and installation of new 110kV interface masts (GCO Two). The final selection is to occur after planning approval. This lack of certainty significantly limits the ability to properly assess environmental, landscape and community impacts.

Under GCO One, the route runs along the public roadway through Mullenakill and immediately adjacent to Mullenakill Church (RMP No. KK036-014001), a Recorded Monument under the National Monuments Acts. The proposed trenching, ducting, joint bays and associated heavy machinery operations would take place within the same narrow rural road corridor directly adjoining this historic church ruin and graveyard. The statutory protection afforded to a Recorded Monument extends to its setting and archaeological potential. The documentation does not adequately demonstrate how extensive excavation works in such close proximity can occur without risk to structural stability, sub-surface archaeology, boundary fabric and the historic character of the site. This is not an abstract location on a map but an established burial ground of ongoing community significance.

The 12km underground option also involves prolonged trenching works along rural roads and adjoining lands, raising concerns regarding drainage disruption, road integrity, hedgerow removal, agricultural access and cumulative construction traffic impacts when considered alongside the turbine works.

Under GCO Two, the proposal includes the installation of new 110kV overhead interface masts as part of a loop-in arrangement to the existing transmission line. These would introduce additional permanent vertical infrastructure into an already sensitive rural landscape. When considered cumulatively with the proposed turbines, this represents further industrialisation of the area. While compliance with national grid safety standards may be asserted, the proximity of new high-voltage structures to rural dwellings inevitably raises legitimate community concern in respect of long-term residential amenity and health perception. The documentation does not convincingly demonstrate that these additional structures will not materially intensify landscape and amenity impacts.

Both options involve permanent infrastructure and significant construction activity across a wide rural corridor. The grid connection cannot be treated as minor utility works; it is integral to a large-scale energy development and must be assessed cumulatively with the wind farm proposal. The absence of clear certainty as to which option will be constructed further undermines the robustness of the assessment.

Having regard to the proximity to a Recorded Monument, the scale of trenching works, the proposed introduction of new overhead 110kV structures, the cumulative impact with the wind farm development, and the lack of design certainty at application stage, we respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed grid connection under Ref. 323958.

Annerose Schichhold

Annerose Schichhold
14/2/2026

David Mc Donald

David Mc Donald
15/2/26

Erik Schichhold

Erik Schichhold
14. Feb. 26

Tim Mc Donald

Tim Mc Donald
15/2/26

Sofie Mc Donald

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