

PLANNING OBJECTION

To: An Coimisiun Pleanála.

From: Pat Fitzpatrick, Inchacooly, Monasterevin, Co Kildare W34 K802.

Date 29/03/2026

Case Reference: PAX09.324055. Proposed Derrynagerragh wind Turbine Farm (& 110kv grid connection) Co. Laois/Co. Kildare/Co. Offaly.

Born in Inchacooly owned and farmed land with my father since 1968. Residence situated on the L -71764. Farmed land in this disadvantaged area and experienced first-hand the devastating effect that the river Figile and barrow brings with a water table is high combined with heavy rainfall. The evidence is well documented over the years and as recent as November 2025. Flooding in the Derrylea/ Inchacooly are devastating costly outcomes for farmers, home owners and wildlife in this large catchment area.

I am in favour of green energy in the appropriate circumstances/area, however for Dara Energy Limited to apply for planning knowing that this area is prone to flooding as recent as November floods of 2025 is proof enough that this company shows nothing but complete disrespect and disregard for the residents, farming community and wildlife in this area and in particular knowing from their own submission ;EIAR 3 ,Appendix 12, page 44 of 46 or page 56 of 155, a possible increase of up to 150mm in the area; probably a conservative estimate.

Point 2 in the" JUSTIFICATION TEST" on Page 3 below states "The proposed wind farm will slightly increase the water levels locally with acceptable levels up to 150mm afflux as per OPW requirements"). **I HAVENT SEEN ANY OPW REPORT FOR THIS AREA.**

An increase in water levels will:

- 1) leave more houses flooded, insurance companies will refuse to insure properties. We know about houses in other parts that cannot get insurance for flooding e.g. Enniscorthy, co Wexford.

- 2) farm land flooded and left unworkable for longer periods of time resulting that farmers missing the latest date to soe, planted crops being flooded and destroyed. This is totally unworkable for the farming community.

- 3) Rising water table of up to 150mm will result in wildlife rearing their next generation been drowned in their burrows. Badgers, rabbits, foxes, wood mice, stoats. Rabbits live in communal warrens both in hedgerows and woodland while badgers create extensive setts. Foxes may use hollows or use old badger setts or dig their own dens in banks.

How can this project even be considered in this location? It needs to be moved to a different location on an appropriate site.



9. JUSTIFICATION TEST

Box 5.1 Justification Test for development management (to be submitted by the applicant)

<p>1. The subject lands have been zoned or otherwise designated for the particular use or form of development in an operative development plan, which has been adopted or varied taking account of these Guidelines.</p>	<p>The proposed wind farm and the TDR watercourse crossing are located in unzoned rural areas. However, the site falls within the designated zoning areas for Wind Energy Development as defined in the respective County Councils' boundaries and in accordance with the Counties' Wind Energy Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kildare County Council - Site falls within the 'Zone 1 - Acceptable in Principle'; and • Offaly County Council - Site falls within an area identified as 'Open to Consideration for Wind Energy Development'.
<p>2. The proposal has been subject to an appropriate flood risk assessment that demonstrates:</p>	
<p>(i)The development proposed will not increase flood risk elsewhere and, if practicable, will reduce overall flood risk;</p>	<p>The proposed wind farm will slightly increase the water levels locally and within acceptable levels (<150 mm afflux as per OPW requirements) and the proposed TDR watercourse crossing will have a negligible impact on flood levels.</p>
<p>(ii)The development proposal includes measures to minimise flood risk to people, property, the economy and the environment as far as reasonably possible;</p>	<p>The proposed wind farm has been designed so that critical or essential infrastructure, such as the substation and the joint bays along the grid connection route, are located outside of flood zones. However, other elements of the development, such as some turbines and access tracks, are situated within flood prone areas. In these cases, turbine plinths have been elevated above the 1-in-100-year flood level, accounting for the effects of climate change and incorporating a freeboard (clearance) of 500 mm. This design ensures that floodwaters will not impact the electrical or mechanical components of the turbines.</p> <p>Access tracks have not been raised above flood levels in order to avoid obstructing the floodplain and to preserve its storage capacity. Since these tracks will primarily be used for maintenance rather than emergency access, and during known weather conditions, this approach has been deemed acceptable</p>

Derrylea & Inchacooly

Location of Turbine site, Underground cable route and Diversions for traffic

Dara Energy Limited map



Lands in Derrylea beside Wind Turbine sites

Coordinates: 53.179403, -7.097536



Lands between point I -K on Map beside proposed turbine site (Road L-70481)

Coordinates: 53.178018, -7.104049



Land Beside proposed turbine site beside point" J" on map

Coordinates: 53.180719, -7.101223



The L-7178 road the main route where the wiring for turbine will be buried. This picture is between point I and H on the map. Road is flooded between .2 meters and .3 meters from point I to H on map and this flood continues around the planed diversion L-71765-point H to G and L-71764 route H to G

Coordinates: 53.168922, -7.102876



I have lived in Inchacooly since 1968 to the present day with the exception of a few years. The barrow river travels through Portarlinton. The flooding in Portarlinton, in particular, Patrick St and Spa St have been an ongoing dilemma for as far as I can remember. Road closures, diversions, sand bags lining the streets and the local fire brigade on duty pumping out water is a regular scene, as recent as November 2025.

This flooding has cause problems out the L-7178 road heading for Derrylea and Inchacooly where I have seen sand bags and the fire brigade pumping water from around houses. These floods eventually arrive out further along the L-7178 and meet the floods coming from the Figile river and all converging in the Derrylea/ Inchacooly area Coordinates: 53.168922, -7.102876. More sandbags and help from the fire brigade.

All off this information has been well documented on local papers over the years. The floods were covered by RTE as recent as November 2025. Portarlinton Fire Brigade will have a log of all the action taken over the years, confirming the information above.

Please scan the QR code to see video of flood in Newspaper article



Coordinates: 53.179403, -7.097536

Routes and Diversions

Based on pages 15–24 of Appendix 2.1B, EIAR Vol. III – Grid Connection Construction Methodology)

Section	Road Reference	Area Name (Townland / Local Area)	Duration (Weeks)	Traffic Management	Diversion	Important Notes
A–B	Local Access Road	Inchacooley Access Road	Not stated	Stop/Go	None	Local access maintained
B–C	R420	Clonsast / Ballykilmurray Area	1	Stop/Go	None	Regional road remains open; 2.5m lane
C–D	R424	Clonaghadoo / Clonduff Area	6	Stop/Go	None	Works move progressively
D–E	L-71761	InchacooLey	5	Road Closure	Fig 2.1B-6	Two diversion options; local access maintained
E–F	L-7176 & L-7051	Derrynadarragh (East)	2	Road Closure	Fig 2.1B-7	Local access maintained
F–G	L-7050 & L-71764	River Barrow Crossing Area	3	Road Closure	Fig 2.1B-8	River crossing may be closed during HDD drilling
G–H	L-71764	Derrylea / Barrow North	2	Road Closure	Fig 2.1B-9	Diversion via L-71765
H–I	L-7178	Derrylea / Upper Section	3	Road Closure	Fig 2.1B-10	Access maintained
I–J	L-70481	Derrylea Bog Access Road	1	Road Closure	Fig 2.1B-11	Turf-cutting access maintained
J–K	L-70481	Derrylea Bog / Wind Farm Link	3	Road Closure	Fig 2.1B-12	Not a through road; works may proceed from both ends
K–L	Wind Farm Roads	Derrynadarragh Wind Farm Internal Roads	4	N/A	None	Private road network; rights-of-way maintained

Diversion

L-71764 between H – G will be closed and there will be a diversion around a back lane L-71765.

L-71765

This tilling machine is 2.7m wide. Combines and sowing machines will be up to 3.5m wide. **Coordinates: 53.167768, -7.097662**



L-71765 is the proposed diversion when works are being carried out on L-71764 This diversion is absolutely unacceptable and unworkable and if the planners spent time monitoring its suitability they never would have considered it. This narrow lane consists of deep verges and drained ditches with soft edges, single vehicle width, sharp bends with poor visibility.

This lane is:

- 1) Not capable of taking all the traffic that comes from Portarlington via L-7178 heading for Monasterevin L-7050
- 2) With two-way traffic will result in a total bottle neck. There is barely enough room for the machine pictured above. I can only imagine the mayhem from cars meeting never mind tractors and trailers meeting lorries. Vehicles will end up in the drain because of having to reverse and the whole route will be blocked.
- 3) Absolutely no consideration for the health and safety of Pedestrians, cyclists or persons on horseback. Imagine a child meeting the tractor and grubber pictured. What are local users advised to do; jump through the hedge? jump over the hedge? This is a road regularly used by walkers, cyclists and people on horseback and this is because it is a quiet narrow road.
- 4) This lane is 1.4km long.

Again, a total lack of respect for the people in this community and no consideration for their safety.

Farming Community

Farmers that live along the Coolnafearagh Road L-7176 in the vicinity of point F on the map are faced with an unworkable problem. The road between point G and F L-7050 will be closed due to digging trenches and tunnelling under the barrow river for cable ducting. Presently farmers travel between .5km and 1 km to reach Inchacooly from approximately point F on the map but instead they would need to travel the L-7176, R424 and the R420 to Portarlington and back out the L-7178 to Inchacooly. One round trip would mean an additional 31 km on a tractor. Fifty loads of silage, over 1500km extra on a tractor for one task for one farmer. Farmers living in Inchacooly who need to farm on the Coolnafearagh Road will be making these journeys in reverse. On-going farming activities include; spreading fertiliser, spreading slurry, cutting silage,

bringing silage home. cutting hay, turning hay multiplied by 4 times baling hay, bringing hay home, ploughing, sowing, spraying, combining, moving grain, moving cattle, just looking at cattle as a stock person, fencing. Facing this detour is a total joke, it is unworkable and undoable, it just cannot happen.

The community

The average distance from Inchacooly (53.164586,-7.096970) to the Canal Harbour (53.142605,-7.067640) in Monasterevin is 3.6 km. With the road closure point G-F, it means a de-tour via Portarlinton. Inchacooly via Portarlinton to the Canal Harbour in Monasterevin is 16km. The additional distance is 12.2km or 24.4km round trip additional km.

Family of three kids and father working Monastervin direction.

- Drive children to school morning and collect evening 24.4km x 2=48.8km x 5 days=244km.
- Drive 3 children to Football, soccer, basketball, dancing/music and actual competition or visiting friends 12 round trip to deliver and 12 round trips to collect. This would be conservative in some houses. 24 trips x 12.2km=292km
- One parent working in Monasterevin Direction 5 round trips x 24.4km=122km
- Shopping/visiting/socialising/religious commitments 10 return trips 24.4km=244km

Over 900km /week additional travelling.

- Fuel efficiency of 7 litres/100km on short journeys= 63 litres/week over 900km
- @ 1.70/litre= €107/week
- @ 2.00/litre=€126/week
- Extra wear and tear on car.
- The average km/hr on short journeys is 60km/hr; stop/start and going through portarlinton therefore 900km =15 hrs extra driven/week
- The extra stress for drivers in trying to meet deadlines.
- A huge amount of extra pressure on families.

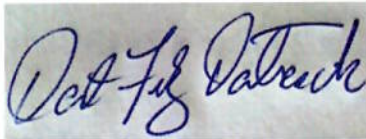
This is totally unacceptable.

Declaration

It is very clear from the evidence presented that this application is completely unsuitable for this area. The environmental impact to this area is totally unacceptable. The diversions will leave farming impossible from a time and monetary perspective. The cost to households from the additional KM travelled and the additional hours due to the diversions. In addition, the proposed detour is completely unsuitable and dangerous.

I therefore request that An Coimisiun Pleanála refuse permission in full.

Pat Fitzpatrick



29/03/2026