

Observation Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Carol Nolan TD.

THE CURRAGH

CADAMSTOWN

BIRR

CO. OFFALY

R42 TX00

Case Reference: PAX19.324161

Proposed Development: Lemanaghan Wind Farm, Lemanaghan and surrounding townlands, Co. Offaly

Applicant: Lemanaghan Wind Farm DAC (Bord na Móna & SSE Renewables) Submitted by: Deputy Carol Nolan TD, Offaly

Date:26-05-2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a formal observation in strong objection to the proposed Lemanaghan Wind Farm development (15 wind turbines with a blade tip height of up to 220 metres, associated infrastructure, access roads, and substation) at Lemanaghan Bog, Co. Offaly.

Lemanaghan Bog is a landscape of exceptional archaeological, historical, cultural, and ecological significance.

The proposed industrial-scale development would cause irreversible damage to Ireland's national heritage and should be refused.1. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Lemanaghan Bog is recognised as one of the richest wetland archaeological landscapes in Europe, with evidence of human activity dating back over 5,500 years.

It contains one of the highest densities of archaeological finds in Ireland, including:

- Significant monastic associations and strong historic links to the national monastic site at Clonmacnoise.

The construction of turbine bases and extensive new access roads would require deep peat excavation and major ground disturbance.

These risk destroying undiscovered artefacts and features preserved for millennia in the anaerobic bog environment.

Given the scale of the proposal (15 turbines), meaningful mitigation is unrealistic. This would amount to significant damage to a nationally important archaeological landscape.

The bog forms part of a wider sacred cultural landscape.

2. Landscape, Biodiversity and Ecology

Lemanaghan Bog supports important wetland habitats, flora, fauna, and protected species. Peatlands like this are critical for carbon storage, water regulation, and biodiversity. The development would introduce permanent industrial structures into a sensitive, open bog landscape, causing habitat fragmentation and long-term hydrological disruption.

This conflicts with national and EU peatland restoration objectives.

Visual and Amenity Impact

The 220-metre turbines would dominate views across northwest Offaly, including from local communities (Ballycumber, Ferbane, Pollagh, etc.) and areas linked to Clonmacnoise. The proposal would industrialise a historically resonant landscape that should be preserved.⁴

Other Material Planning Considerations

- Strong Local and Elected Opposition
- There is significant community opposition, supported by the Lemanaghan Bog Heritage and Conservation Group. Offaly County Council has unanimously recommended that the proposal “should not be considered” by An Coimisiún Pleanála.
- Cumulative Impact. Offaly has already accommodated multiple wind farm developments on boglands. Further industrialisation of the county’s remaining peatland heritage is disproportionate.
- Alternatives. Bord na Móna should prioritise full rehabilitation and conservation of this heritage-rich bog rather than further industrial use. Renewable energy targets can be met on less sensitive sites.
- Procedural Request. I ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to give full consideration to the EIAR and NIS, with particular independent scrutiny of the archaeological and cultural heritage assessment. Given the national importance of the issues, I support the call for a public oral hearing.

Lemanaghan Bog must be protected in its current natural state as a unique cultural and ecological asset.

No industrial development of this scale should be permitted on a site of such heritage importance.

I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this application.

Is mise le meas,

Carol Nolan. Independent TD for Offaly.