

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

RE: Case reference: PAX19.324161

Description: Regarding application from Bord na Mona to construction Wind Farm - 15 no. wind turbines, 220m tip height, 220kV on-site substation and associated infrastructure at Lemanaghan Bog, Co. Offaly.

From:

Name: Donal McEvoy

Address: Lemanaghan, Ballycumber, Co Offaly, R35HP97

Personal Objection – Noise and Shadow Flicker Impact on My Home

I Donal McEvoy object to the proposed Lemanaghan Wind Farm on the grounds that the development would have an unacceptable impact on my home & Farm.

I am a third-generation member of my family living in Lemanaghan and purchased my family home six years ago with the intention of remaining here permanently, close to my family and community, and raising a family of my own. The boglands and surrounding landscape have always been an important part of our daily lives, local identity, and heritage.

I believe the proposed wind turbines would have a significant and lasting negative impact on both the character of the landscape and my overall quality of life. As someone working within the agricultural sector, my work regularly involves very early mornings and long hours during demanding periods of the year. Any ongoing disturbance, including impacts on rest and sleep, could directly affect my ability to safely and effectively carry out my work responsibilities. I am also concerned that prolonged disruption of this nature could have a negative impact on mental health, wellbeing, and the long-term enjoyment of my home and community.

1. Three turbines would be within approximately 1 km of my home

My home based on my eircode R35HP97 and farm are located at **53.29678673291204, - 7.746607138876625**. Based on the proposed turbine coordinates, my dwelling would be approximately **883 metres from T12, 896 metres from T14, and 927 metres from T5**.

This means that **three proposed turbines would be within approximately 1 km of my home and farm**. I am also concerned about the cumulative operational noise from **all 15 turbines**, not simply the nearest three.

2. The noise figures are predictions, not actual measurements at my house

I understand that the turbines are not yet built and that future operational noise must be predicted by modelling. However, that makes it essential that the modelling is clear, conservative and specific to my actual home and farm.

Bord na Móna has not measured future turbine noise at my house. The nearest actual recording location appears to be **NML6 / H026**, approximately **466 metres from my home**, and the nearest comparable modelled receptor appears to be **H0012**, approximately **91 metres from my actual dwelling**. Neither is my exact house location.

I do not accept that a nearby recording location or modelled proxy point provides sufficient certainty for my home, family, farm or livestock.

3. Predicted noise at a nearby point does not prove my home is protected

Bord na Móna predicts up to **39.6 dB LA90** at H0012. However, this is a modelled prediction at a nearby receptor point, not an actual measurement at my house.

The issue is not simply whether a table contains a predicted number. The issue is what my family and I will actually experience at our home and farm when multiple 220 metre turbines are operating nearby.

4. Wind turbine noise is not just a single decibel figure

I am concerned that turbine noise may include **night-time disturbance, sleep disruption, thumping or pulsing noise, amplitude modulation, tonal noise, low-frequency character, wind direction effects and worst-case propagation conditions.**

These matters must be assessed at my actual home and farm before any permission is granted.

5. Cumulative noise from all turbines must be assessed

The assessment must consider the **combined/cumulative noise from all 15 turbines**, including the individual and combined contribution from the closest turbines, namely **T12, T14 and T5.**

I request that An Coimisiún Pleanála require Bord na Móna to provide a clear dwelling-specific and farm-specific cumulative noise assessment for my actual coordinates.

6. Farming and livestock must be considered

I am not only a householder. I am also a farmer. My livestock and farming operations may be affected by construction noise, vibration, operational turbine noise, low-frequency character, traffic, machinery and general disturbance.

The Applicant should not treat my farm as a background land use. The likely effects on livestock, farm routines, animal welfare and day-to-day farming operations should be specifically assessed.

7. This should not be left to complaints after the turbines are operating

I do not accept that post-operational monitoring or a future complaint process is adequate protection. I should not have to suffer noise disturbance first and then try to prove the harm afterwards.

The likely effects on my home, farm and livestock must be fully assessed and prevented before permission is granted.

8. Concerns Over Damage to Peatlands, Biodiversity and Heritage

In addition to my serious concerns regarding the potential health impacts of the proposed turbines, I strongly object to the significant and irreversible environmental, ecological, archaeological, and cultural damage this development would cause to the boglands and surrounding area.

The proposed site is not an empty or expendable landscape suitable for industrialisation. It is a sensitive peatland environment with deep historical, archaeological, and cultural significance.

This area forms part of the wider landscape connected to Clonmacnoise, one of Ireland's most important early Christian settlements and historical sites. The boglands, waterways, and ancient routes surrounding the area have shaped the identity and heritage of the region for centuries and remain an important part of the local community's sense of place. I believe the historical and archaeological significance of the area has not been sufficiently considered. Lemanaghan Bog forms part of the ancient Slí Mór pilgrim route connecting Lemanaghan to Clonmacnoise, dating back to the 7th century. Given the historical importance of this landscape, there is strong potential for undiscovered archaeological features, ancient pathways, and historically significant landforms within the proposed development area. The extensive excavation required for turbine foundations, access roads, cable trenches, and drainage infrastructure could result in irreversible damage to archaeological remains and the wider historic landscape. Once construction commences, any destruction of previously unidentified archaeological features or historical landscapes could not be undone.

The environmental impact of constructing wind turbines on peatlands is also deeply concerning. Disturbance of bogs can release large amounts of stored carbon, methane, and dissolved organic carbon into the atmosphere, damaging an important natural carbon sink and undermining the environmental justification for the project itself. The construction process would permanently damage peat-forming habitats and alter the natural hydrology of the area through drainage and water flow changes.

There are also serious concerns regarding the potential for water contamination and disruption to local water systems. Construction activities could lead to silt runoff, pollution, and changes to natural drainage patterns, all of which could negatively affect water quality and the surrounding ecosystem.

In addition, the development threatens important local biodiversity. The boglands provide habitat for protected wildlife, including eight red-listed bird species such as the endangered breeding Curlew, along with bats, badgers, foxes, and the Irish hare. Habitat destruction and disturbance caused by the development would have serious long-term ecological consequences.

Finally, this proposal would permanently industrialise a natural and historic landscape that cannot be restored once damaged. While it has been stated that the turbines themselves may be largely recyclable at the end of their lifespan, the extensive road networks and thousands of tonnes of concrete foundations embedded within the boglands will remain long after the turbines are removed. The resulting environmental, visual, and cultural damage would be effectively irreversible, leaving a permanent scar on an area of exceptional natural, historical, and cultural importance.

9. Request to the Commission

I request that An Coimisiún Pleanála require Bord na Móna to provide:

- a clear cumulative noise assessment for my actual home and farm;
- individual and combined noise contributions from **T12, T14 and T5**;

- cumulative noise from **all 15 turbines**;
- night-time noise and sleep-disturbance assessment;
- assessment of amplitude modulation, tonal noise and low-frequency noise;
- assessment of wind direction and worst-case conditions;
- confirmation that the receptor used is truly representative of my actual dwelling;
- and an assessment of potential effects on livestock and farming operations.

If Bord na Móna cannot clearly demonstrate that my home, farm, family and livestock will be protected from unacceptable noise disturbance, I request that permission be refused or the turbine layout be redesigned.

yours sincerely:

Donal McEvoy

Lemanaghan, Ballycumber, Co Offaly R35HP97