

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Mark Shaw
CastleLambert
Athenry
Galway
Galway
H65 R858

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Date: 22 May 2026

Re: Observation to the proposed development of a 220kV substation, telecommunications mast and underground electricity cable infrastructure with associated works.

Location: Rathmorrissey, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I moved from the UK 20 years ago to escape the overdevelopment there and to build a life in what was then a peaceful rural area in Castlelambert. Even at that time, we already had to contend with the impact of the motorway — the constant noise, visual intrusion, and loss of rural character.

Now our community is facing the proposed peaker plant development, along with plans to dig up the local roads for associated works. My family has invested heavily in our home and property, including significant expenditure on our driveway and surrounding infrastructure. It is deeply frustrating to see the area subjected to further industrial disruption.

I am especially concerned about the impact on safety and quality of life. My two sons cycle this road every day to meet their friends at Lisheenkyle school. Road excavation works, heavy machinery, stop-and-go traffic systems, increased vehicle movements, noise, and vibration will create serious hazards and disruption for local families and children.

This is no longer the quiet rural community we chose to live in. Residents have already absorbed major infrastructure impacts from the motorway, and it is unreasonable to expect the community to endure yet

another large-scale industrial development with further disturbance, traffic, and loss of amenity.

Absence of Standalone Noise Assessment

I am also concerned that no standalone noise assessment appears to have been carried out regarding the proposed grid connection infrastructure, including the substation and associated works. I do not believe sufficient assessment has been provided regarding potential construction noise, operational noise or the impact on nearby residents located along the proposed cable route and surrounding rural roads.

Cumulative Construction Impact on Health and Wellbeing

I believe insufficient information has been provided regarding the cumulative impact of construction activity, heavy traffic movements, excavation works, noise and prolonged disruption on the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents living close to the proposed infrastructure works.

Prolonged Trenching, Road Closures and HGV Traffic

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the impact prolonged trenching works, excavation, road occupation, traffic management systems and heavy construction traffic would have on narrow rural roads and the communities that rely on them daily. The application documentation confirms significant road closures, stop/go traffic systems and substantial HGV movements during construction, which could result in serious disruption and ongoing inconvenience for local residents and road users.

Long-Term Landscape Reinstatement and Visual Amenity

I am also concerned that insufficient information has been provided regarding long-term landscape reinstatement and ongoing maintenance responsibilities following completion of the proposed works. In my view, the cumulative impact of vegetation loss, hedgerow disturbance and infrastructure works could have a lasting effect on the visual amenity and landscape character of the surrounding rural area.

Students Travelling Daily Along Affected Roads

Many students and school staff from surrounding rural areas travel daily along these local roads to schools in Athenry by bus, car, bicycle and on foot. The road network already experiences significant traffic volumes during school drop-off, collection and commuter periods, particularly within this expanding rural residential area characterised by substantial ribbon development.

Additional Safety Risks for Young People and Vulnerable Road Users

Children and teenagers regularly use these roads to travel to school, sports training and other local activities. I am concerned that prolonged construction works, trenching activity, temporary road restrictions and increased heavy goods vehicle traffic associated with the proposed cable route would create additional safety risks for young people, cyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable road users throughout the area.

Cumulative Industrialisation of the Wider Cashla Peaker Project

In my view, the cumulative industrialisation associated with the wider Cashla Peaker Project, including substations, underground infrastructure, lighting, fencing and associated works, would have a significant negative impact on rural amenity, residential character and the long-term sustainability of surrounding rural communities. I am also concerned about the long-term effect this level of industrialisation could have on the

quality of life, enjoyment of property and future viability of surrounding homes and agricultural landholdings.

Priority for Renewable and Lower-Carbon Alternatives

I believe greater priority should be given to renewable energy, energy storage and lower-carbon infrastructure solutions rather than substantial long-term investment in infrastructure associated with fossil fuel generation. In my view, the proposed development raises concerns regarding consistency with future climate policy, sustainable development principles and Ireland's transition towards a lower-carbon energy system.

Residents and Landowners Not Individually Engaged

I am concerned that many residents, landowners and businesses affected by the proposed development were not individually engaged regarding the practical impact the project could have on homes, farms, local roads, property access and daily community life. No clear information appears to have been provided regarding issues such as noise, vibration, road closures, rock-breaking, groundwater impacts or future maintenance requirements.

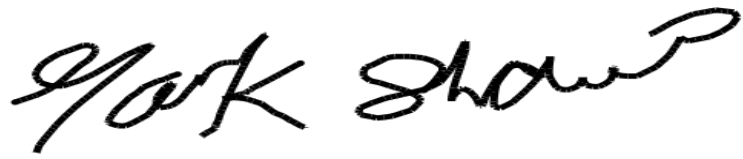
Scale of Disruption and Infrastructure Pressure Underestimated

In my view, insufficient consideration has been given to the practical impact this development would have on local communities, rural roads, farms, traffic movement, groundwater conditions and the overall character of the surrounding area. Residents and road users would experience the development as a significant and prolonged infrastructure project rather than as isolated standalone works. I believe the scale of disruption and infrastructure pressure associated with the proposed development has been underestimated within the planning documentation.

Conclusion

I believe the proposed development is not suitable for this rural location and would contribute to the long-term industrialisation of the surrounding countryside. The likely impacts on homes, farms, schools, local roads, biodiversity and community life have not been fully addressed or adequately mitigated within the application documentation. For these reasons, I do not believe the proposal is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development, and I respectfully request that permission be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Shaw". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Shaw" written in a single continuous stroke.

Name: Mark Shaw

Date: 22 May 2026