

Emmett Scanlon + Philip Dodd

Residents

Lacka

Shinrone

Birr

Co. Offaly

R42 RX80

RE: An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PAX92.324246, located within the townlands of Cloonaheen, Ballincor Demesne, and Curralanty, County Offaly, and Clonfree, Castletown and Cronekill, County Tipperary.

To whom it may concern:

We have been residents in this area since 2003. We own a small cottage on approximately 1 acre and recently purchased land of approximately 8 acres beside our home, which is bordered by a small river, which is a tributary of the River Camcor.

We have been working over the last two years to allow this land naturally develop and return to an area of local biodiversity. We believe sincerely in our role as stewards of the ground we have. While we technically have purchased this and therefore “own” it, we see our role as one of stewardship, one of care of something which existed before us and will after. We have no commercial interest in this ground, it is perhaps ‘useless’ in this regard; but we feel this strengthens our observation, speaking as we do, not only on behalf of ourselves but on the plant and animal life that we share the land with.

We have planted over 200 trees; allowed areas to grow fallow and return to meadow; coppiced woodland in accordance with best practice; invested in expertise to lay hedges in the traditional method; and, most recently, following a successful grant application from Hares Corner / the Burren Beo Trust, we have made a new bio-diversity pond area. We are not farmers and have only an amateur history in gardening to date, however we took this opportunity to do what we could to make a positive contribution to the local area and, we hope, to address larger issues of climate change. We understand that our land is less than 750m away from the site of this proposed windfarm.

We note here, in light of the above, that we support wind and other forms of renewable energy. We believe in the evidence that these forms of energy are needed now more than ever in order to reduce carbon output and mitigate climate change. However, we are concerned about the location of these windmills, specifically with regard to the fact they are being placed in areas of peatland.

We understood that neither the Offaly or Tipperary Development Plans support the idea of windfarms in this particular area and we are concerned that this proposed development is in contravention of this.

We are aware of the observation being made by the Greater Birr Wind Action Group. We commend their work and diligent investigation into the policy and environmental context of the proposal. We specifically refer to these items in their submission, as we feel they clearly articulate the concerns for our site, our land and the wider local area.

Chapter 2 — Site Selection, the County Development Plan and Coolglass

We are concerned that the local authorities do not deem this land at all suitable for this development in their Development Plans. The process of making a Development Plan is open, thorough and requires expert and public input; they are not casually constructed documents. Therefore given the local authorities designation of this land as unsuitable, we are deeply concerned that any consideration might be given to this development.

Chapter 3 — Hydrology

Our land is bounded by a river which feeds into the River Camcor. We are concerned that the proposal does not appear to have done accurate or clear work on dispatch pathways. We already see positive changes in our local river since we arrived, we see fish, life, birds returning as the land is held in gentle use.

Chapter 4 — Ornithology

Our stewardship of this land relates to birds and birdlife. Since animals stopped grazing the land, we now see starlings in the grass. We record birdsong regularly and recently recorded a curlew. We are well aware of the delicate balance of these interconnected systems and are concerned that the proposal appears inadequate in how it has come to understand and respond to the ornithology of this area.

Chapter 6 — Biodiversity

We believe in the interconnectedness of things, and that a system is easily damaged or displaced. We share the concerns of the Birr group in this regard.

Chapter 7 — Noise

We are concerned that noise will have an adverse effect on our area and that this has not been properly mapped and managed in the proposal.

We ask that our observation be taken into consideration in the assessment of this proposal. We are not opposed to windfarms but feel there is sufficient evidence that

this proposal does not meet the standards needed to ensure that in solving or addressing one issue, we set off a whole series of significant local consequences for human and other life in this area.

Sincerely

Emmett Scanlon and Philip Dodd

01.07.2026