

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA
LDG- 088 930-26
ACP-
02 JUL 2026
Fee: € 5 Type: C.A.9
Time: 11:15 By: [Signature]

John Ryan
Moneyshingaun
Shinrone
Birr
Co.Offaly
R42 N998

An Coimisiún Pleanála
32 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

~~30~~ 06/2026

Re: Objection — Planning Application PAX 92.324279 — Ballincor Wind Farm, County Tipperary/Offaly

Dear Inspector,

I am writing to object to this wind farm. I have lived and farmed at Lissernane in the south-west of County Offaly all my life. The closest of the proposed turbines, T10, would sit 1,660 metres from my land, and from my elevated home all eleven would be visible. I work outside every day, on my own farm and on the farms of my neighbours, and I know this place as well as anyone.

The bog is what worries me most. Sharavogue Bog sits ten metres from the boundary of the proposed site. Ten metres. This is active blanket bog — the kind that takes thousands of years to form — and work is underway at the moment to restore it to the condition it should be in. Turbine foundations cannot be sunk into bogland on the immediate boundary of a place like that without doing it harm. A bog depends on water and the water table around it staying as it has always been. Once access roads are cut and foundations excavated, the water begins to move differently. Ground that should hold moisture starts to dry out. Anyone who has seen what happens to bog after heavy works nearby knows the pattern. The restoration of Sharavogue will be undone before it has properly begun.

The ground itself cannot hold these machines. In the developer's own site investigation, nine of the twelve trial pits dug into the peat collapsed before they could be properly examined. The borehole nearest the most flood-prone turbine — T9 — found material of zero resistance from two metres below the surface down to nearly thirteen metres. That is near-liquid ground. Dense gravel, the only material capable of supporting a 180-metre turbine, was not found until between fifteen and eighteen metres depth. The conclusion that these foundations can be placed safely rests on a temporary works design that has not yet been drawn up. It is to be prepared after planning permission is granted. A 180-metre turbine cannot stand on a design that does not yet exist.

There are otters in the river here. I see them regularly. The Little Brosna runs past this land — people fish it and walk along it, and the otters have been there as long as I can remember. The bog also

supports ground-nesting birds whose numbers in this country have been falling for years. The river is already in trouble before any construction begins: the Little Brosna is classified as Poor, and the tributary that drains the wind farm site itself is rated Bad/Seriously Polluted by the developer's own ecologist. Phosphorus, the main pollutant driving that decline, was never measured by the developer in the water sampling carried out before construction. There is no baseline against which the damage from construction can be measured.

The developer's own photographs from the site show iron ochre — the rusty red sludge that forms in disturbed peat — sitting in the groundwater at shallow depth. Iron washed into a river coats the stream bed, suffocates the insect larvae that feed the entire river, and damages salmon gills directly. It was not measured in the water sampling, is not included in the construction monitoring plan, and has no mitigation attached to it anywhere in the submission. The risk to the river is not theoretical. In October 2003, construction of a wind farm on peat ground in County Galway triggered a peat slide that contaminated the Owendalulleagh River and killed an estimated fifty thousand fish. Different site, yes but the same combination of deep excavation in saturated peat next to a river. To place eleven separate construction sites on bogland alongside the Little Brosna, with all that entails, is to put both the river and the birds at very real risk. The developer's assurance that everything will be fine is not one I can accept.

Badgers are a separate and serious concern for me as a farmer. We have had TB on the farm in recent times. Anyone working land in this part of the country understands how heavy the badger activity is here, and how closely badger movement is tied to the spread of TB through cattle. The Department of Agriculture runs a monitoring programme on the badgers in this area. Large-scale construction, vibration and disturbance across the landscape will drive those animals into ground where they have not been before, where they will encounter cattle they have not been near, and where the monitoring programme can no longer track them. Two or three years of construction works on this scale, right beside me, with badgers being pushed in every direction, is not something I can take lightly.

The R492 — the developer's chosen haul route — will carry the bulk of the heavy goods traffic for two to three years, including concrete pour days when a heavy vehicle will pass every six and a half minutes from morning to evening, and night-time deliveries of the turbine components themselves. I use these roads every day. Cattle have to be moved on them. Silage runs happen on them. Farm machinery shares them with the school bus. None of that can continue normally with that volume of construction traffic running on a road the developer's own assessment describes as narrow, with limited hard shoulders and several bends. The conclusion that the impact on local roads will be "imperceptible" is not a description I recognise from the roads I use.

I can already hear the turbines at Knockshegowna from my own yard. Not always — but on a quiet night when the wind drops, they are clearly audible. Those turbines are smaller than the ones now proposed, and they sit further away than T10 would. The Ballincor turbines would stand 180 metres to the tip of the blade — taller than anything in the countryside at present — and they would be closer

to me. There is no escape from a noise of that kind when it is sitting over you night after night. I have been told my property falls outside the area measured for noise. I find that hard to credit when I can already hear smaller and more distant turbines from my own yard.



The visual impact image above captures most closely the view from my land which as you can see will be transformed entirely. I will have a 180 degree full view of all Eleven turbines across the landscape, as will all my neighbours. Eleven turbines, each one taller than anything in the surrounding landscape, sitting on the bog directly in front of me — from the yard, from the fields, from the road and from the house. My land sits above the bog where these machines would stand, which means I would not be looking up at distant turbines on a horizon. I would be looking down into the full sweep of the rotating blades, in motion, at or near my own eye level. This is a different visual experience from anything in this landscape at present.

The Knockshegowna turbines are already in that view. Carrig has been approved to the east, and there are further wind farms at Derrinlough, Cloghan and Cush across the wider area, all visible on a clear day. Adding another eleven 180-metre machines to that picture is not a single development. It is the completion of an industrial enclosure of a landscape that has looked the way it looks for hundreds of years. At night, turbines of this height carry red aircraft warning lights at the top — eleven of them flashing across the bog in front of me, where now there is no light at all.

Shadow flicker is a particular concern because of how my land sits. My ground is higher than the valley floor where the turbines would stand. When the sun is low in the morning, the shadow from a 180-metre turbine carries a long way, and it carries further still when the ground catching it is up the hill from the source. I do not believe this has been worked out properly for my property.

The land and house at Lissernane are the entirety of what I have. The application runs to thousands of pages of assessment but contains no assessment at all of what eleven 180-metre turbines on the boundary will do to the value of the farm. The only Irish study to have used the Property Price Register found a measurable reduction in the value of rural homes near turbines of this scale. The developer chose not to address this. There is no compensation available to me for what I will lose if this is built.

I am asking An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse this application. There is a Special Area of Conservation on the boundary. There is a river beside it that already has problems before any construction begins. There is a bog and a bird population that cannot absorb what is being proposed. There are local roads that cannot carry the construction traffic without two or three years of disruption to ordinary daily life. There are houses and farms close by where people live and work outdoors, and where the sound of these turbines will carry on still nights. And there are eleven 180-metre machines being placed on ground that, by the developer's own site investigation, cannot reliably hold them.

I have farmed this land all my life. I know what lives here, and I know what it sounds like at night when the wind goes down. I would ask the Inspector to give my concerns the weight they deserve.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Ryan', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

John Ryan