

Airfield House,
Ardnamullen,
Clonard,
Co Meath
A83PW14

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Ryan Taggart. I am a pilot, engineer, and the airfield owner/operator at the address above. I am writing to object to the proposed Edenderry Gas Pipeline. From the current plans, the proposed route through Ardnamullen will run south to north, parallel and just a few metres west of my long-established and recognised airfield. Due to the immediate proximity of the proposed pipeline and associated construction activities, it has the potential to materially interfere with the safeguarding, operation, and continued lawful use of my airfield and property; therefore, I am considered a sensitive receptor that has not been included or consulted.

I was unaware of any such proposed pipeline until I saw the planning application on the main R148 public road. Upon review of the proposed planning application, there is no evidence of any consideration or meaningful assessment given to my established airfield, which should have been identified as required under the Planning and Development Act for proper planning and Planning Regulations 2001 Article 22, where plans must allow proper assessment. This appears inconsistent with Directive 2011/92/EU and raises concerns with failing to comply with a proper Environmental Impact Assessment concerning the same.

The proposed "Construction Compound 02" is located on a recent waste facility site less than 250 metres west of my active airfield. The Irish Aviation Authority has previously advised that the waste facility should not have been within a 2.7km radius of my airfield due to aviation safety concerns. Please note this waste facility site has not fulfilled its planning obligations and has since been overfilled and now sits above the elevation of my airfield. The proposed Construction Compound 02, due to its location and prevailing winds, will be a further safety hazard and interfere with the safeguarding of my airfield, a grant of permission for the Construction Compound 02 would recklessly endanger the safety of an aircraft or persons in an aircraft, and/or recklessly endanger the safety of persons or property. Ultimately, the grant of permission for such a compound would, at a minimum, further restrict or close my established airfield and interfere with our lawful use and enjoyment of our airfield, its safe operations, and our property rights. At this stage, I have been asked to include the obvious safety objections on behalf the members of the Real Aviators Club at Ardnamullen and other users of my airfield.

The general area around the location of the proposed site has been recognised in a Meath County Council executive planning report, from 2024, as being *"within a strong rural area and within the south-west lowland landscape character area, which is of high value and high sensitivity"*. That official planning characterisation confirms that this is not a generic or low-sensitivity location, but a highly sensitive rural landscape requiring particular care in the assessment of development impacts. The fact that Construction Compound 02 is described as a temporary compound for a large-scale pipeline project does not reduce the seriousness of the likely impacts at this location. A temporary compound of this nature will still involve heavy plant, large vehicle movements, cranes, lighting, material stockpiling, temporary structures, offices, and welfare units, creating dust, debris, wildlife, and other aviation obstacles and distractions over a sustained construction period. The temporary nature does not negate the potential to create serious aviation hazards and obstruction of the airfield's safe operational procedures; it continues to create hazards that would likely affect aircraft systems and performance during take-off and landing, the most safety-critical phases of flight, together with interference to the airfield management programme on the ground.

I respectfully submit that the planning authority cannot properly determine this application without further consultation and a detailed assessment suitable to all.

Kind Regards,


02/07/26

086 2050459

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Date 11th June 2019

Ms Margaret Conneely
Meath County Council
Buvinda House,
Dublin Road
Navan, Co Meath

Development: Meath County Council received a waste facility application referenced WFP-MH-19-0001-01 from Mr Enda O'Rafferty to operate a site at Ardnamullen, Clonard, Enfield, County Meath.

Dear Margaret

It is the observation of the Irish Aviation Authority Aerodromes Department that based on the site map provided, the airstrip which appears to be referenced in relation to this application is known as: "Taggarts", it is located approximately 2kms from Clonard.

This is an unlicensed aerodrome / airstrip. It is outside the scope of regulatory oversight and therefore the responsibility for safeguarding of the airstrip falls to the landowner directly.

In general terms, where an aerodrome is licensed, the primary responsibility for safeguarding (from an obstacle environment but also land use perspective) would fall to the aerodrome licensee or aerodrome operator and the Irish Aviation Authority's Safety Regulation Division supports observations where planning developments are likely to impinge on the safety of aircraft operations. The aerodrome operator or aerodrome licensee would be expected to proactively engage with planning applications that are in the immediate environs of their aerodrome, typically for a facility of this size and scope that would extend to 2.7kms radius from the aerodrome. A safeguarding map should be lodged with the Local Authority to this effect.

As such, given that this is an unlicensed facility, the ongoing safety of aircraft operations is a matter for private individuals, i.e. licensed private pilots and the Authority cannot formally record a particular observation in this regard.

In general terms and from a general aviation safety standpoint, the Authority would consider that the concerns of the landowner appear genuine and should be thoroughly considered by Meath Co. Co. in terms of considering the granting of this waste facility permit.

Yours sincerely

Deirdre Forrest
Corporate Affairs

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