

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA
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 09 JUL 2026
 Fee: € 50 Type: CAH
 Time: 9:22 By: HAN

Druminargid
 Rossinver
 Co. Leitrim
 F91EK27
 10/07/2026

The Secretary.
 An Coimisiún Pleanála
 64 Marlborough Street
 Dublin 1
 DO1V902

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Planning Application reference Number: **PAX12.324290**

Applicant: FuturEnergy

Description of Development: County Leitrim, Dough Mountain, Lissinagroagh Wind Farm, comprising 14 number wind turbines and associated infrastructure at a site located in Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Killea, Lissinagroagh, Lisdarush, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle and Tullysheherny, Co. Leitrim.

Re: Formal/Observation/Objection to the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm by FuturEnergy.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, John Skea, hereby submit a formal objection to the proposed wind farm at Lissinagroagh, County Leitrim.

(1) Where I Live: I live approximately 2.5 km from the two nearest proposed turbines (T3 and T1) which have a height of 185 meters, with a rotar diameter range up to 163 meters. This is an area which I use for recreational purposes, hill walking and taking photographs of the local area and its environs. These turbines would have visual dominance and would impede on my enjoyment of the area. This site has elevations of 459m above Ordnance datum (OD) giving panoramic views towards many surrounding counties to the viewer.

Other factors listed below will also add to my concerns about this project and its impact on the area.

(2) Suitability of the location: One must question the suitability of this location in North West Leitrim if it is appropriate site for a large scale wind farm of industrial proportions (14 wind turbines). The area consists of a vast area of blanket bog, beneath which lies sandstone, shale and some limestone. This area is designated as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA) and in the site synopsis of the area they state that the emplacement of access roads networks and turbine foundations associated with such developments causes habitat loss and disturbance can destabilise peat and lead to erosion (NHA). My concerns are what would the result of excavation of large quantities of peat have on the stabilisation of the mountain in the future.

(3) Habitat Destruction: The excavation of large areas of peat and the use of heavy machinery to facilitate its removal would have a detrimental effect on the flora and fauna of the area. Important Species Found on Dough Mountain as listed in the Red Data Book species found within this area (NHA) are the Red Grouse, (*Lagopus lagopus*), Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*), Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and the Marsh Fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*).

The caterpillar of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly rely on the Devils Bit Scabius (*Succisa pratensis*) plant which is found on Dough mountain

(4) Geology: The Geological Survey of Ireland site report of Dough Mountain (Parks et al 2020) points out the striking features of the area where deep depressions occur on top of the mountain, karstic cavities (in the limestone) have opened up at surface and resulting in the ground sinking and forming Dolines (sinkholes). These sinkholes have become large in both width and depth. When we traversed the bog we referred to them as swallow holes.

Did the proposer assess the stability of the slopes or identify a situation where human intervention would likely cause a landslide?

In his book *Urban Geography* Michael Pacione outlines the effect of Quaternary glaciation (ice ages) and the effect of glacial drift when human interference occurs. "*Subsurface water can move at the interface between the drift and underlying rocks or at discontinuities between the products of different phases of glacial deposition. When developments take place on steep hillsides under these conditions, the consequent alteration in sub surface hydrology and in the pressure between the different materials in the glacial drift can result in land slipping*" Pacione, *Urban geography*, p,402

In the local area we recently had two incidents of land slides occurring after human intervention, in June 2020 close to the Dawn of Hope bridge in County

Leitrim and also in 2020 in Donegal at Meenbog which caused widespread damage to an important salmon spawning river in neighbouring County Tyrone. The Geological Survey of Ireland site report of Dough Mountain (Parks et al 2020) points out the striking features of the area where deep depressions occur on top of the mountain, karstic cavities (in the limestone) have opened up at surface and resulting in the ground sinking and forming Dolines (sinkholes). These sinkholes have become large in both width and depth. When we traversed the bog we referred to them as swallow holes.

The Geological Survey also points out that Leitrim is one of the few localities in the world where upland ribbed Moraines occur (ridges of glacial drift) and also the broken rock also known as scree leading to a series of straight stream channels forming and flowing radially down the mountain.

“Such an arrangement is rare hydrologically and rarely unaltered by humans” (Parkes et al)

These unique features of the landscape would be disturbed and possibly lost if this development was to take place.

(5) Visual Impact and landscape:

What is landscape? *“an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”* (Council of Europe, 2000)

The landscape in the area marked out for the wind turbines has been dominated by natural factors for centuries, except for the human intervention in recent times which resulted in blanket forestry in some parts of the landscape of the mountain.

Evidence of human intervention thousand of years ago is evident in abundance with Ring Forts and Megalithic tombs and caves dotted along the landscape. This information can be viewed on the *Historic Environment Viewer* provided by the National Monument Service. A fine example of this is a ring cairn (Cist) Fig. 1 on Saddle Hill with radially -set stones indicating an entrance or a cist. It is proposed to construct a wind turbine close to this site. The unprecedented intervention and the construction of a wind farm would mean the loss of many of these historic sites for ever, as well as reconfiguring the landscape for ever.



Figure 1, Cist, Shasmore(Saddle Hill)

(6) Noise and Flicker and Traffic: The Day to Day Impact on the Local Community.

The construction of 14 wind turbines with a blade tip height of 185 meters will have visual dominance impeding the quality of life for the community living in the vicinity of the turbines.

Shadow cast on a vast area of the hinterland which in turn will cause shadow flicker as the blades rotate and in turn a continuous distraction to anyone who is in view of them. The noise from the rotating blades will be a constant source of annoyance, including amplitude modulation(the swish and whoomp of 14 turbines) to anyone within a several kilometres radius of the turbines and may lead to health issues in the future.

During the construction phase of the development traffic(heavy lorries and machinery) will cause traffic disruption noise and dust and it is envisaged that some local roads will have to be realigned to facilitate the construction phase of the development. Dust soiling poses a high risk to the delicate nature of the ecology of the area during the construction phase of the development as admitted by FutureEnergy(11.6.2.1.2 Vol II EIAR).The blanket bog supports Ling heather(*Caluna vulgaris*), bog moss(*Sphagnum*)and Cotton grasses(*Eriophorum spp.*)to name but a few and when these plants which are in a damp environment most of the time are covered in dust and debris the consequences can be devastating.

(7) Insufficient Consultation with the Public: Firstly The title of the project as "Lissinagroagh Wind Farm" is misleading as the wind farm stretches to Faughery and Shasmore (Ballaghameehan), North West of Lissinagroagh. These wind turbines will be visible from every townland and

parish in the Rossinver/Kiltyclogher and Manorhamilton area. Public consultation with the local community was totally inadequate, the first communication about the wind farm project was a leaflet drop in 2021 (newsletter 1), at that time it was Coillte that was promoting the wind farm, that newsletter contained four pages, and that was the only communication until April 2026 when i got the project brochure in my letterbox. The method of public consultation was flawed as people were required to phone or email to make an appointment to attend the community engagement clinics in Rossinver Community centre which which was held over two days on April first and second 2026 between the hours of 12.30 to 8pm and 12pm to 6pm respectively. The community centre in Rossinver is 11.2 km from Manorhamilton the main centre of population in the area.

Regarding public participation in decision making (The Right to know)1998

The Aarhus Convention states that the public has a right to participate effectively in decisions -making on environmental matters.

(1) Access to information

(2) Access to public participation

(3) Access to justice

In this case the Aarhus convention was totally ignored as the window of opportunity to information and public consultation was too narrow.

(8) Hydrology: The area of the proposed wind farm consists of a number of streams which feed into the local river system and in turn flow into two local lakes, which are very important. Lough Melvin on the Northern side of Dough mountain is an important fishing lake and is home to the rare Gillaroo trout (*Salmo stomachicus*), as well as Ferox trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Sonaghan (*Salmo nigripinnis*). This lake is an important fishing lake and attracts a lot of fishing tourist during the season.

Lough Gill on the Southern side of the mountain is the main source of drinking water for area including Dromahaire, Manorhamilton, Rossinver and Kiltyclogher. Therefore any pollutants in the water courses, such as sediment from concrete, clay and dirt from excavation, or oil leaks from heavy construction machinery would have catastrophic effect on the water in the area, with potential eutrophication from construction sediment. As mentioned above, bog moss (*Sphagnum*) is found in abundance in this area. This moss acts as a sponge and its estimated that sphagnum can soak up 20/25 times its weight in water. When rain occurs the moss can control the water run-off from the slopes, if the moss is contaminated with dust soiling or debris from construction it makes the moss inefficient as its ability to hold water is restricted.

"Construction dust severely damages *Sphagnum* moss through physical smothering and chemical alteration. Because *Sphagnum* lacks true roots and absorbs moisture directly

from the air and rain, airborne cement or limestone dust causes plant tissue necrosis, blocks photosynthesis, and alters the carefully balanced acidic microclimate”(Royal Collage of Chemistry). [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Without Sphagnum mosses there would be no bogs in Ireland. Bogs have a living surface which is made of a carpet of Sphagnum mosses. This is floating on a thick layer of partly rotted plant material that is soaking wet. This is why when you walk across the surface of a bog it feels bouncy.(Irish peatland conservation council)

(9) Leitrim County Development Plan: Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 identifies Dough and Thor mountains as areas of high visual amenity(AHVA). It recommends the protection of this area, and states the key characteristics in section (4.6.2)*The moorland plateau associated with the summit of this mountain (above the 450m contour) is a remote and visually open area due to the scarcity of woodland vegetation. The main land cover is bog and there is very little built development thereby conferring a sense of wildness to this area. The summit of the mountain presents an important scenic skyline as backdrop to the surrounding valleys.* It also states in its recommendations (4.6.4)that *“the boundary of the (AHVA) remains in recognition of the skyline of the mountain summit which is deserving of protection”.*

(10) Coillte: Since the 1960's Coillte which is a semi-state body has invested heavily in afforestation in the whole of Leitrim and in particular North Leitrim. From my observations as a resident of the area they have little regard for the land or the landscape in the area.

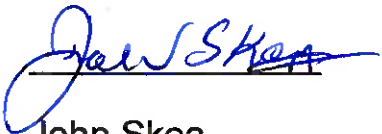
Coillte have a poor track record regarding where clear -fell occurs of forestry an example of this is Crumpaun, County Leitrim where their licence (LMO1-FL0010) and (LM010011) were suspended by the department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for serious pollution (sediment runoff)which effected water quality of an area designated as Special Area of Conservation(SAC) where Atlantic salmon spawn.



Fig 2 Recent tree felling by Coillte damaged a mountain stream at Cooladonnell
Leitrim2026

(11) Conclusion: For the reasons I have stated above in my observations, the consequence on the sensitive Dough mountain area, landscape degradation, the risk to Lough Melvin and Lough Gill and associated water channels, the threats to biodiversity, and the impact on the local community I request An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for the proposed wind farm at Lissinagroagh County Leitrim.

Yours Faithfully


John Skea

Appendix

Source of external information:

(2) National Parks and Wildlife Service [site Synopsis 002384]Dough/Thur mountain.

(3) National Parks and Wildlife Service [site Synopsis 002384]Dough/Thur mountain.

(4) Urban Geography, Pacione Michael, Routledge[Page 402]

(5) National Monument Services, historic Environment Viewer[map]

(8) Irish Peat Conservation Council

(8) [www.royal Collage of Chemistry.com](http://www.royalcollageofchemistry.com)(accessed 6/7/2026). [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

(9) Leitrim County Development Plan2023-2029 [Appendix VII - County Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment.pdf](#) (size 33.3 MB)
[Appendix VIII - County Leitrim Landscape Designations.pdf](#) (size 18 MB)