



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's name

LIAM MURRAY

(b) Observer's postal address

Gortnacrieve Hill Cottage,
Rossinver, Co.Leitrim, F91 D427

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else **on this observation**, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

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The agent at the postal address in Part 2

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Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Coimisiún Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**

(for example: 300000)

324290

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

10 year planning permission for Lissinagroagh Wind Farm consisting of 14 no. wind turbines and all associated infrastructure

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Located in the townlands of Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Killea, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Lissinagroagh, Lisdarush, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle and Tullysheherny, County Leitrim.

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word** limit as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

**OBSERVATION BY : LIAM MURRAY;
GORTNACIREVE HILL COTTAGE, F91D427**

My name is Liam Murray, of Gortnacrive Hill Cottage, Rossinver. My cottage overlooks the valley west of Saddle Hill, and is located 1.7 kilometres from the highest proposed wind turbine (T3) to be located on the top of Saddle Hill. (The Visual Assessment (#VP8) was undertaken at the bottom of the lane leading to my cottage)

My wife and I have studied the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submitted as part of the planning application, and we object to the proposed 14 Turbine Windfarm for main reasons of River Pollution risk which could affect Counties Leitrim, Sligo and Fermanagh, and associated Biodiversity risk, as set out below.

River Pollution Risk

The area between Manorhamilton and Rossinver is rich in biodiversity and encompasses four Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and one Natural Heritage Area(NHA), protected under the EU Habitats Directive, EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021. These include:

- **SAC 001403- Aroo Mountain,**
- **SAC 000623 Benbulbin, Glenade Glentiff Complex,**
- **SAC 001976 Lough Gill River system,**
- **SAC 000428 Lough Melvin River system**
- **and NHA 002384 Dough/ Thur Mountain**

Obligations apply to the State and developer to maintain or restore these areas for the protection of designated habitats and species.

The proposed construction of the windfarm, including the felling of Coillte trees, levelling of large turbine base areas (approximate 2000m² area to be levelled per turbine) and access road construction, will cause significant earth movement, and upheaval of the soil ecosystem. These works are proposed within an undulating landscape of hills and valleys, transversed by countless streams and seepage ditches. Excavated soil sediments and potential spillages of vehicle fuels, concrete and construction chemicals will run off without abatement into the surrounding river systems which feed into the **Lough Gill SAC** to the south of the proposed site, and into the **Lough Melvin SAC** to the north of the proposed site. Lough Melvin and it's river system are designated salmonid waters, between Leitrim and Fermanagh and must legally be protected from sediment and pollution under Natura 2000.

The Lough Gill SAC river system is an important game fishery with species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, including sea, river and brook lamprey, white-clawed crayfish, Atlantic salmon and otter (NPWS, 2005). In addition the lake is the main domestic water supply for Sligo town. Pollution of the Lough Gill river system by sediment run-off, fuel spillage,

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or a landslides from the proposed wind turbine construction would have significant ecological and human health impacts in Leitrim and Sligo.

The proposed mitigation measures listed in Chapter 6 of the EIAR including temporary damming of streams to prevent soil runoff are wholly impractical and insufficient to prevent the soil sediment runoff pollution risk into the major SAC's.

Landslide Risk

The 14 proposed turbines will each have a height of 180-185m and will require large excavations, each having a steel tower base diameter of roughly 12m and requiring a supporting concrete foundation of 22m in diameter, and 4meters in depth underground. In particular the two turbines proposed for the top of Saddle Hill (T2 and T3) are in an extremely unsuitable location, as Saddle Hill is covered by 0.2m to 4.5m deep blanket peatland. The EIAR risk assessment (Chapter 7) identifies T2 and T3 as having "moderate to high risk of landslide" according to the landslide susceptibility mapping.

A landslide occurring at this location would likely descend onto the main Manorhamilton to Rossinver Road (R282), and possible damage several residences located at the foot of Saddle Hill. Pollution caused by such a landslide would impact the river systems mentioned above, especially the Ballagh River flowing 800m below Saddle Hill into the salmonid Lough Melvin River system SAC.

Biodiversity Risk

The four SAC's surrounding the proposed windfarm site are rich with protected flora and fauna. Pine Martins, Red Squirrels, Hen Harriers, Hares, Foxes, Bats and Buzzards are thriving in these hills, and protected peatland plants including the Marsh Orchid, round-leaved Sundew, Hare's Tail Cottongrass and Sphagnum moss are in healthy abundance.

These plant species on Dough Mountain and Saddle Hill will be damaged by the impact of the large scale windfarm construction, with many of the protected plants not returning once the excavations have impacted their root systems.

The EIAR also identified 38.8ha of upland blanket bog, which is an Annex 1 Habitat, around the proposed location of Turbine T3, on top of Saddle Hill, which will be irreversibly damaged. The shortsightedness of destroying Ireland's best carbon sinks, peatlands, in order to meet the renewable energy targets under the government Climate Action Plan cannot be overstated.

In addition, the proposed large scale turbine construction will destroy nesting sites for grouse, snipe, hen harriers and other ground nesting birds, (Hen Harriers in particular are indicated in the EIAR as likely to be 'highly disturbed'). The construction phase will damage fox and badger sets and remove trees in which red squirrels and listed bats are roosting.

The operational windfarm will continue to threaten animals and protected birds of prey that traverse the area from one SAC to another. The Chapter 6 Ornithology study in the EIAR is very limited in only looking at a 20km radius of raptor movement. Recent raptor studies from Glengarriff National Park have recorded tagged White Tailed Eagles flying from Cork to Donegal, with the flight path frequently over Leitrim and the Lough Melvin area. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp3pn3xnqn2o> The EIAR Chapter 6 for Ornithology mitigation states that the operations will 'clear the windfarm regularly of sheep carcasses' to prevent raptors from descent between the turbines, which would likely result in death. This is highly impractical mitigation and wholly insufficient to protect the listed birds of prey.

Visual Assessment

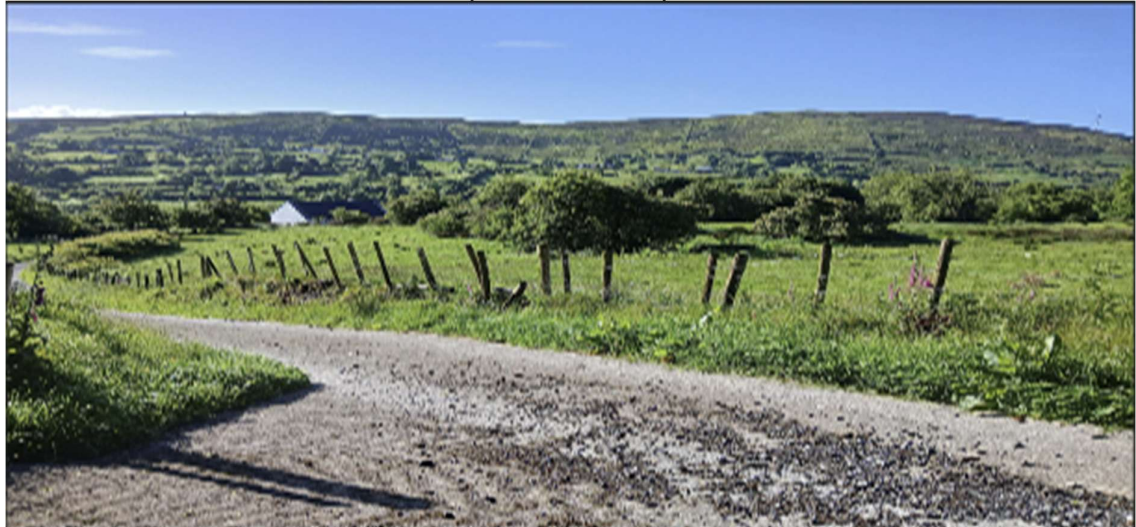
The Chapter 13 Visual Assessment is not comprehensive. It is indicated that the 14 large turbines at 185 meters height will be visible from as far as the Sligo road coming into Manorhamilton from the south as well as from the shores of Lough Melvin to the north. However only two locations have been assessed along the road R282 from Manorhamilton to Saddle Hill (VP12 and VP15), although over 30 residences are located along this route, many

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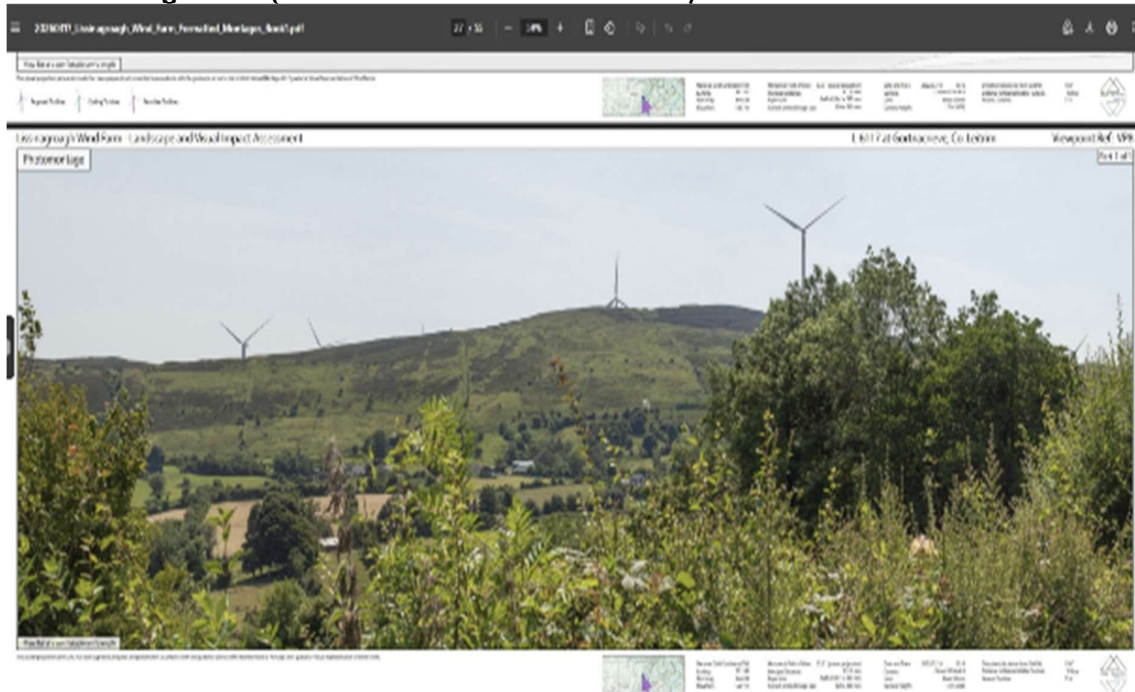
of which will have clear views of the wind farm. Several of the chosen assessment location appear to be in hollows and behind hedges, from where the visual impact will be minimised, rather than seeking out worst case impact assessment locations.

The location closest to our cottage, View Point VP8, displays a view from the lane at the bottom of Gortnacrieve Hill, in a dip, behind a high hedge. The reality of the current view and the likely impact from our residence on Gortnacrieve Hill has not been genuinely represented in the assessment. The highest turbine T3, would be located right on top of Saddle Hill, towering to the left of the existing three 130m turbines of the Faughary Windfarm , can be seen to in these recent photos to the right.

Current View from Gortnacrieve Hill (hill above VP8)



EIAR Montage VP-8 (from bottom of Gortnacrieve Hill)



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Current View from Gortnacrive Hill – with 130m high Faughary turbines visible (VP8)



My Montage View from Gortnacrive Hill – with 180 m high turbines on Saddle Hill



My Montage View from Gortnacrive Mountain Bog Lane – with 180 m high turbines on Saddle Hill, to the left of existing 130m Faughary turbines



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Point of correction: Table 13-8 of the EIAR incorrectly states that Gortnacieve viewpoint VP8 is 1.7km from Turbine T14. This is incorrect, it should state 1.7km from Turbine T3, on top of Saddle Hill. Turbine T14 is in fact the furthest turbine from VP8.

Conclusion

While the need for renewable energy generation in Ireland is understood and supported, the size, scale and location of the proposed Lissinagroagh Windfarm carries multiple significant risks to the environment and human health across several Counties. These including biodiversity loss in designated SAC's due to soil disturbance, landslide risk and water pollution which could impact salmonid rivers, as well as the Sligo town main drinking water supply. The proposed wind farm will also negatively affect the many residents in this populated area of North Leitrim due to visual obstruction, shadow flicker and noise impacts. Tourism is a very important aspect of local economy, which will be reduced if the biodiversity of the area is not protected. This runs counter to the recent National Tourism Policy Statement published in December 2025 by the Department of Enterprise Tourism & Employment <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/a-new-era-for-irish-tourism-new-national-tourism-policy.html>.

The national need to reduce dependency on carbon heavy fuel should in part be addressed by reducing high energy intense industries in the country, such as data centres that consume over 20% of Irelands electricity, rather than by constructing industrial scale windfarms in locations that are critical to Irelands biodiversity and ecological sustainability.

Regards,

Liam Murray and Gunn E. Nagel

l.seoirse.murray@gmail.com

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation. Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to request the Coimisiún to hold an oral hearing, please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

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No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

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Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes