

Martina Viglas
1 Screeny Manor
Manorhamilton
Co. Leitrim
F91H1K1
martinaviglas@gmail.com
08337 49365

Manorhamilton 8th July 2026

Subject: Submission/ Observation on Planning Application

Applicant: FuturEnergy Ireland

Case reference No: PAX 12.324290

Proposed Development: Renewable Energy a Wind Farm Development at Lissinagroagh (Dough Mountain), County Leitrim

Location: Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Killea, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Lissinagroagh, Lisdarush, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle and Tullysheherny, Co. Leitrim

1. Introduction

My name is Martina Viglas, and I have lived in Manorhamilton, County Leitrim since 2009. I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for the proposed Future Energy wind farm at Dough Mountain, County Leitrim.

While I support renewable energy and climate action, this proposal is an unsuitable industrial-scale development in a sensitive upland peat landscape. The applicant has not shown, to the legal and scientific standard required under Irish and European environmental law, that the project can proceed without unacceptable impacts on peatland, hydrology, protected species, landscape, local amenity and sustainable development in North Leitrim. Although the applicant FuturEnergy proposes mitigation measures, they are insufficient and cannot guarantee protection of this fragile environment, indicating the site is unsuitable.

2. Scale and Visual Impact



Authors own photograph

I am concerned that fourteen turbines up to 185 metres high, turbine foundations, crane hardstands, roads, borrow pits, drainage works, underground cabling and associated infrastructure would permanently transform and industrialise the landscape of Dough Mountain and the surrounding uplands. I have been regularly visiting namely Saddle Hill and Faughary where I found a lot of significant hidden places related to historical sites such as old cottages, shelters, stonewalls and stone bridge, all connected by a web of old roads (www.osi.ie).

The area of Dough Mountains Outliers is identified in the Leitrim County Development Plan as an Area of High Visual Amenity ([https://www.leitrim.ie/council/services/planning-building/forward-planning-development/leitrim-county-development-plan/appendix x - part b - landscape - visual capacity study for wind farms - wind turbines.pdf](https://www.leitrim.ie/council/services/planning-building/forward-planning-development/leitrim-county-development-plan/appendix-x-part-b-landscape-visual-capacity-study-for-wind-farms-wind-turbines.pdf), specially in the **3.1.3 LCA 4 Arroo and Mountain Outliers Summary and Recommendations** section) valued for its distinctive skyline, scenic beauty, peaceful character and strong sense of place.



Authors own photograph

In my opinion, the introduction of structures of this magnitude would replace an unspoilt natural landscape and fundamentally changing one of North Leitrim's most important natural landmarks and heritage.

3. Wildlife and nature

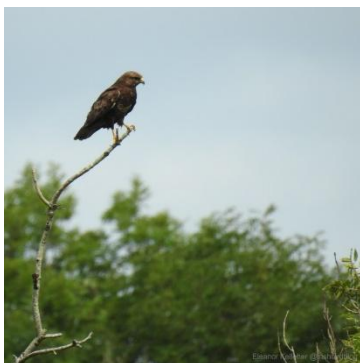
Hen Harrier over Dough Mountain Leitrim, Photo by J.Sheerin April 2026

I am extremely concerned that the applicant's own ecological surveys provide clear evidence that the proposed site supports important bird and wildlife populations, including breeding **hen harriers** recorded consistently over several years, particularly sensitive to habitat loss and disturbance, protected under Irish and European conservation legislation, **seven bat species** and **marsh fritillary butterfly**. The planning application openly acknowledges that the development would have significant adverse effects on this protected species, yet instead of avoiding those impacts, it relies on extensive habitat compensation, monitoring and long-term management measures. In my view, this is a clear admission that the site is environmentally unsuitable for an industrial-scale wind farm. Where such extensive mitigation and compensation are required, it cannot reasonably be argued that the ecological impacts can be avoided with certainty. The applicant has therefore failed to demonstrate that this development can proceed without causing unacceptable harm to a highly sensitive natural environment.



I regularly encounter **bats** flying across the Saddle Hill road and around matured trees at the cottage ruins and up to even three **Common buzzards** over farmland and woodland circling

(<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2685245408488407>)



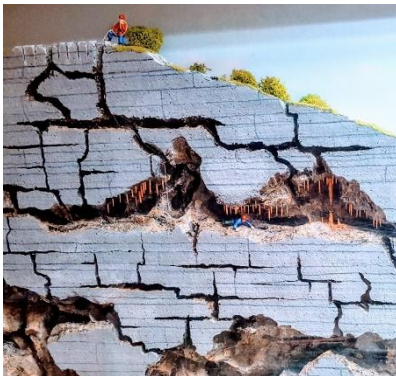
An adult buzzard surveys her territory along the River Shannon, Co. Leitrim. <https://theireishbirdblog.com/2024/02/01/buzzard-an-unexpected-comeback-story/>

4. Water, springs and wells

I am deeply concerned about the potentially irreversible impacts of extensive excavation, drainage works, and peat disturbance on the integrity of the local hydrological system, including streams, rivers, springs, groundwater resources, and private water supplies. Dough Mountain is not an isolated site; it forms part of a wider, interconnected catchment **KARST** where any disruption to natural drainage patterns or peatland function could have far-reaching consequences. Residents depend on these water resources for environmental protection, agricultural activities, and essential domestic needs, and any deterioration in water quality, flow patterns, karst system damage or/and subsequence could have serious and lasting effects on the landscape below mountains and ecosystem.



County Leitrim is truly “hidden heart of Ireland” representing by three hearts together as the sign of WATER



This photograph captures a detailed model of an **Irish karst landscape**, complete with miniature figures exploring its rugged terrain. The scene illustrates the dramatic topography created by the dissolution of limestone, a hallmark of Ireland’s karst regions. (www.gsi.ie)

Number of times I have witnessed stream comes from Faughary valley that regularly change colour after heavy rain and widely absorbs overcome of waterflow feeding wider watercourse further. In this way, the floodwater drains away and dissipates naturally into the surrounding landscape without causing any damage. Further downstream, it joins the Owenbeg River in town. It connects to Bonet River which flows straight to the Lough Gill.

5. Peat, Bog and Ground Conditions

I am seriously concerned about the scale and extent of the proposed excavation, drainage works, and peat disturbance within an area of **sensitive blanket bog and peatland**. The inclusion of a Peat Stability Risk Assessment, together with the requirement for ongoing management and mitigation measures, clearly highlights the vulnerability of the site and the significant risks associated with altering its natural structure and hydrological function. These proposals raise substantial concerns regarding peat instability, potential impacts on water quality, disruption of natural drainage systems, and the long-term degradation of an important and sensitive peatland environment.

County Leitrim has experienced serious peat failures. The June 2020 Shass Mountain bog slide released approximately 160,000 tonnes of peat, damaging farmland, streams and the Dawn of Hope bridge. I saw with my own eyes at the bridge the destructive power of soil erosion caused by heavy rains, which had swept away tons of peat, dozens of trees, and boulders on their way down into the valley. It was



"The hills are alive: lessons from a Leitrim landslide

Locals watched in horror as a mass of peat and rogue evergreens cascaded down a hillside towards their homes."

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/the-hills-are-alive-lessons-from-a-leitrim-landslide/a/133383015.html>

terrible. I don't even want to imagine a similar disaster happening below Dough Mountain.



In 2008, a major peat slide near the Corry Mountain wind farm severely damaged the Owengar River. Similar impacts also occurred at Meenbog Wind Farm in Barnesmore Gap, Co. Donegal.

These examples demonstrate that upland bogs are unsuitable for large industrial developments.

6. Noise, Shadow Flicker and Quality of Life

WHAT THE SCIENCE ACTUALLY SAYS ABOUT WIND TURBINES & HEALTH

A PEER-REVIEWED REVIEW OF 40+ YEARS OF RESEARCH

AUTHORS		WHAT THEY DID		THEIR KEY CONCLUSION	
Jerry L. Punch Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University	Richard R. James Acoustics Expert & Adjunct Professor, Central Michigan University	They reviewed 100+ scientific studies, reports and case investigations from around the world on: ☑ Infrasound ☑ Low-Frequency Noise ☑ Wind Turbines ☑ Human Health	“The evidence overwhelmingly supports that acoustic emissions from wind turbines are a leading cause of adverse health effects in a substantial segment of the population.”		

WHAT THEY FOUND

WIND TURBINES DO PRODUCE INFRASOUND & LOW-FREQUENCY NOISE This is not in dispute.	YOU DON'T NEED TO HEAR IT TO BE AFFECTED The body can respond to infrasound and low-frequency noise below the level of hearing.	CLEAR PATTERN OF HEALTH SYMPTOMS WORLDWIDE • Sleep disturbance • Headaches • Dizziness / Vertigo • Ear pressure • Fatigue & Stress Reported in many countries by people living near turbines.	SLEEP DISRUPTION IS THE MOST CONSISTENT IMPACT Linked to a wide range of physical and mental health problems.	LOW-FREQUENCY NOISE BEHAVES DIFFERENTLY • Travels long distances • Penetrates homes easily • Often worse at night	THERE IS A BIOLOGICAL MECHANISM Infrasound can affect the inner ear and balance system, causing many of the reported symptoms.
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IT'S NOT "JUST ANNOYANCE"

- Decades of evidence show real physiological impacts.
- Affects a significant portion of the population.
- Children, the elderly and those with existing conditions may be more vulnerable.

MULTIPLE TURBINES = GREATER IMPACT

- Turbines don't act alone.
- Waves can overlap, pulse and amplify.
- This creates fluctuating pressure and "throbbing" sensations.

THIS ISN'T ONE STUDY. IT'S DECADES OF RESEARCH.
Communities deserve honesty, transparency and protection of health.

IF THIS MUCH EVIDENCE EXISTS... WHY ARE PEOPLE STILL TOLD THERE IS "NO EVIDENCE"?

Source: Punch, J. L. & James, R. R. (2016). Wind Turbine Noise and Human Health: A Four-Decade History of Evidence that Wind Turbines Pose Risks. Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society, 36(5), 319-337.

PEER-REVIEWED

I am seriously concerned about the potential impacts of turbine noise, shadow flicker, and aviation lighting on nearby residents, their homes, and their ability to enjoy their properties and surrounding outdoor spaces. The scale, height, and proximity of the proposed turbines raise significant concerns regarding residential amenity, visual intrusion, and the potential reduction in quality of life for those living in the surrounding area. These impacts must be carefully and thoroughly assessed.

I live in 2km distance from the proposed turbines, using the outdoor spaces regularly as any other residents in our estate. I would be very concerned namely regarding sleep as the swooshing extremely increase during nighttime and can be widely heard from long distance approximately

1 km away.

7. Planning Policy and Previous Refusal

The Leitrim County Development Plan (LCDP) 2023-29 supports renewable energy only where proper planning and environmental requirements are met. The Leitrim Renewable Energy Strategy also states that new wind farms require careful planning and environmental assessment. The proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm fails to demonstrate that Dough Mountain is a suitable location.

In 2010 An Bord Pleanála refused permission for a wind farm on Dough Mountain (PL.12.234741) because of its **protected blanket bog** and the **unacceptable visual impact**. The current proposal is significantly larger and would have even greater impacts on the carbon sink and landscape. As the Dough Mountain has not changed since 2010, it is difficult to justify approval of a more extensive development of 14 turbines up to 185 metres high plus turbine foundations, crane hardstands, roads, borrow pits, drainage works, underground cabling and associated infrastructure.

8. Grid Connection

The applicant acknowledges that the wind farm and grid connection form one project, yet I am concerned that the wind farm and grid connection should be assessed together as one project, including all cumulative environmental impacts.

9. National Renewable Energy Policy Direction

Ireland already experiences renewable energy curtailment because of limited grid capacity and energy storage. Before industrialising sensitive peatlands and landscapes, greater priority should be given to offshore wind, rooftop solar, grid upgrades, energy storage, retrofitting and community energy projects.

10. Support for a Low-Carbon Future

My objection is not to renewable energy. Ireland must continue the transition to low-carbon energy, but developments must protect peatlands, biodiversity, water quality, landscapes and rural communities. Poorly located renewable projects risk permanent environmental damage and weaken public confidence in climate policy.

11. The Wider Importance of Protecting Leitrim's Natural Heritage

Across Europe, despite the continued expansion of major energy infrastructure such as nuclear power stations, hydroelectric dams and other large-scale developments such as Grand Dixence Dam in Switzerland and major nuclear energy facilities such as Hinkley Point C in the United Kingdom, governments have recognised the importance of protecting exceptional natural landscapes through national parks and protected areas such as Cairngorms National Park in Scotland, Parc National de la Vanoise in France, Berchtesgaden National Park in Germany, Gran Paradiso National Park in Italy and Sarek National Park in Sweden. These areas demonstrate that environmental protection and responsible development can coexist, if landscapes of outstanding ecological value are preserved rather than industrialised. These protected landscapes preserve irreplaceable natural systems that are essential for biodiversity, climate resilience and future generations.

The complexity of these ecosystems extends far beyond what any individual can fully understand. Their protection depends upon the combined knowledge of hydrologists, geologists, ecologists, meteorologists, ornithologists, botanists and many other scientific disciplines. Modern environmental science continually reveals how interconnected and fragile our natural world truly is. Every year, researchers deepen our understanding not only of the human body but also of the Earth's ecosystems, from microscopic organisms to entire landscapes. This growing body of knowledge reminds us that nature is both extraordinary and vulnerable.

Globalisation has connected the world through shared systems, common responsibilities and mutual obligations. However, this global perspective has also revealed the extraordinary importance of local landscapes, regional identities and unique natural compositions that cannot be replaced or replicated elsewhere. The paradox of our modern era is that while globalisation allows humanity to recognise the value of natural heritage on a worldwide scale, it also highlights the urgent need to protect the individual places, ecosystems and communities that give our planet its diversity and character. Protecting local natural treasures is therefore not contrary to global responsibility; it is one of its most important expressions. (UNESCO – World Heritage and Biodiversity: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Local Biodiversity Outlooks 2).

The protection of places such as Dough Mountain is therefore not only a local concern but part of a wider European and global responsibility to preserve the diversity of natural systems that cannot be recreated once lost.

Having lived in Manorhamilton for almost 20 years, I have developed a deep appreciation for the landscape surrounding Dough Mountain, Benbo, Saddle Hill and the wider North Leitrim area, with its rivers, waterfalls, forests, valleys and cliffs. County Leitrim possesses exceptional natural wealth. Its mountains, salmon rivers, deep lakes and peatlands create a landscape unlike any other.

Coming from the Czech Republic, where extensive networks of protected landscapes and nature reserves exist and where even the removal of mature trees is strictly regulated by law, I have always been surprised that so much of Leitrim's outstanding natural heritage remains without stronger statutory protection. I have often wondered why many of its most valuable places have not already been designated as protected natural heritage sites, particularly considering the extensive work undertaken by scientists, environmental specialists and local communities.

For this reason, I have been deeply encouraged by the remarkable community response to the proposed **FuturEnergy Lissinagroagh (Dough Mountain) Wind Farm**. This proposal has united an extraordinary number of knowledgeable local people, environmental experts and dedicated volunteers committed to protecting this unique landscape. It is an honour to stand alongside them in addressing An Coimisiún Pleanála.

12. Conclusion

For these reasons, I submit that the proposal is contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The applicant has not removed reasonable scientific doubt regarding peatland, hydrology and ecological impacts. The development would industrialise a sensitive upland landscape, damage visual and recreational amenity, and create unacceptable risks for protected habitats and species.

I therefore respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for the proposed wind farm development at Dough Mountain, including all associated infrastructure, the proposed 10-year permission period and the proposed 35-year operational lifespan.

Yours truly,

Martina Viglas