

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Observations on the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm Development (Dough Mountain and Saddle Hill)

Case Reference: PAX12.324290

Dear Members,

In observation of the proposed wind farm development as detailed above, please find our submission of objection to this below:

We moved to Rossinver in North County Leitrim in 2020, having fallen for this beautiful area and the house and land we now call home. As the crow flies, we are just 6.5km from the proposed wind farm site and can clearly see the existing turbines on Saddle Hill whilst on daily walks along our local lanes.

We have set up a small self-contained holiday lodge which attracts visitors to this special place from all over the world. Here are some comments from our visitors:

"Had the loveliest time at Black Pig Lodge, felt like the homiest Airbnb I'd ever stayed at. Incredibly serene surroundings." (USA)

"We looked for something in nature, silent, special." (Germany)

"We had a really lovely stay – very peaceful location, woke up to birdsong." (Ireland)

"The perfect getaway. Not the place to find a night life unless you are into owls and wildlife." (Ireland)

"favourite stop by far on our road trip around Ireland" (USA)

"This quiet area was perfect...to enjoy sports and the beautiful countryside" (Jamaica)

"I found the environment conducive to rest, creativity and connecting with nature" (Ireland)

So, our guests have clearly enjoyed visiting the wonderful landscape in this special part of Ireland.

Just recently, Leitrim County Council has launched "Most Definitely Leitrim", a campaign designed to encourage people to consider relocating to one of Ireland's most idyllic locations. This might not prove quite such an idyllic option if approval is given to a large wind farm in an area of outstanding natural beauty with highly sensitive flora and fauna. 14 huge wind turbines on the horizon of an iconic local mountain may not seem too inviting to many. We moved here in 2020 to establish a tourism business, but the wind farm is detrimental to the natural environment and beauty of the landscape, on which the very important local tourism industry depends.

And that leads nicely on to our next observations:

The site of the proposed wind farm falls in large part within the Dough Mountain AHVA (Area of High Visual Amenity) coded as B3 in the Leitrim County Development Plan. This clearly states that the AHVA is deserving of protection. Within the AHVA and adjacent to the proposed wind

farm site is Dough Mountain NHA (Natural Heritage Area) which has been protected in law since 2005. Quite how the installation of a large wind farm on this site will not adversely affect the area is beyond comprehension. Are we not all responsible for nurturing our natural environment and the biodiversity therein?

Furthermore, I refer to "The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland 2025"

In this document (the European Council Directive on the Conservation of Habitats, Flora and Fauna 92/43/EEC), amongst many other subjects, two habitats (both to be found atop Dough Mountain and Saddle Hill) are highlighted as in a bad or declining state, namely H4030 Dry Heath and H7130 Blanket Bog. These habitats are priority ecosystems protected under the EU Directive. Setting up a wind farm with all its associated infrastructure on such fragile and protected ecosystems surely cannot be deemed reasonable when we all know that we need look after our vastly depleted natural environment.

The environment(s) on Dough Mountain and Saddle Hill support an array of animal life, such as the nesting Hen Harriers, Red Grouse (all wild birds are protected by the Irish Wildlife Acts and the EU Birds Directive), The Irish Hare, the Pine Marten (both legally protected native species under the Irish Wildlife Acts and international European directives), and the Marsh Fritillary butterfly to name but a few (the Marsh Fritillary is Ireland's only legally protected insect. It is formally protected under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive).

Please also note that Golden and White-Tailed Eagles have the Dough Mountain region on their flightpaths. 14 new wind turbines could potentially lead to bird strike.

We are not opposed to renewable energy being the way forward, indeed, we have a bank of solar panels on our land which supply us with electricity, cut our bills and heat our water. They were installed with minimal disruption and are sandwiched happily between our native flower meadow and our small native woodland.

So, we know that renewable energy can be generated sympathetically and in harmony with the natural environment.

However, the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm (with all associated site works and grid connection) in our opinion, and for the reasons outlined above, would be a large renewable energy source in the wrong place, so, with respect, we would like it noted that we strongly object to the proposal and recommend that planning permission is refused.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission,

Kind regards,

Paul and Elspeth Stockwell
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