



The Holey Soles Hillwalking Group
C/o Bee Park
New Line
Manorhamilton
Co. Leitrim F91 HCD9
[Leitrim Hill Walking](#)

Application Details: Applicant FuturEnergy Ireland
Development; Proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm
Case Reference PAX12.324290
Location; Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Killea, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Lissinagroagh, Lisdarush, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle and Tullysheherry Co. Leitrim.

About the Holey Soles Hillwalking Group

We, the Holey Soles Hillwalking Group, wish to lodge an observation on the above proposed development. Our Group, based in Manorhamilton, have been in existence for over thirty years, enjoying the hills and beautiful untouched landscape of north Leitrim. In addition to scheduled walks, we run the annual Leitrim Glens Hill Walking Festival and Charity Walk. Visitors to our Festival return year after year to walk this pristine unspoiled landscape. They comment on the sense of peace and tranquility that this landscape offers and the beautiful views. Dough is one of the mountains on our scheduled walks and annual festivals, a mountain renowned for much of the treasures that Leitrim offers us locals and tourists alike.

OUR OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

At the outset, we wish to emphasise we are pro-renewable energy. We believe we have a responsibility to safeguard the environment for ourselves and for future walkers and generations to enjoy. However, we outline here our grave concerns on a number of grounds.

Location, scale, and visual impact

Dough is recognised within Leitrim's County Development Plan as an area of high visual amenity. Therefore, this proposed development contravenes our county's Development ([Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 - Leitrim County Council](#)). We feel very strongly that an industrial development of the scale of Lissinagroagh Wind Farm is in the wrong place. 14 turbines, each at 185m will negatively dominate the landscape not just locally but for miles around.

Impact on the blanket bog and related risks

The siting of this proposed project on upland bog seems extremely ill advised. While traversing this karst landscape we regularly come across bog slides, see dolines and are aware of caves on the mountain. In addition to the risk of landslides, the release of carbon from the natural bog sink makes the proposed project even more inappropriate in our opinion. The GSI landslide susceptibility map shows Dough Mountain as a high-risk area for landslides. It is likely that this vulnerability will be exasperated by this large-scale wind farm development. (Copy of map attached). The construction of roads and laying platforms to the site will inevitably lead to the destruction of the bog and have a devastating impact on the landscape overall.

Impact on biodiversity - Often when walking Dough Mountain, we spot flora and fauna such as nesting sand martins, hen harriers, butterflies and many species of insects. We are lucky to have a local keen bird watcher in our Group to help with identification of so many species. Our Group operates a Leave No Trace Policy as part of our commitment to preserving nature.

A recent report from the Government's Independent Advisory Committee on Nature Restoration found that 90% of protected habitats are in unfavourable conservation condition, with Ireland being one of the lowest-ranked countries in the world for intact biodiversity. This proposed development will have a detrimental impact on biodiversity and go against current government and European policies to protect and restore our natural habitats. [HOME | Help to shape Ireland's Nature Restoration Plan](#)

Impact on Tourism Development -This proposal is at odds with Leitrim County Council's Leitrim Tourism Strategy 2023-2027 and Leitrim's Recreation Strategy 2023-2032. The industrialisation of this landscape would diminish the experience of visitors who value the area for walking, cycling, nature, scenery, and enjoyment of the countryside. Having quiet places in nature like Dough Mountain is vital to mental wellbeing. Turning it into an industrial zone will deny our access to this natural resource for exercise and mental wellbeing. Furthermore, it will affect tourism development and this important source of income for local businesses, vital in this area of natural beauty.

In conclusion, for the above reasons, we urge you to refuse planning permission for the Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm.

See below attachments.

Sheila O'Keeffe
Secretary, Holey Soles Hillwalking Group

GSI Landslide Map



Members of the Holey Soles Hillwalking Group



PHOTOS FROM OUR WALKS AND FESTIVALS ON DOUGH MOUNTAIN



