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email
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Date: 03rd November 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

RE: Planning Observation Case File Reference VA04.324632
Applicant: Perigus Energy Ireland Midco Ltd
Proposed Development: Construction of a 220kV Air Insulated Substation, Grid Connection and Associated Works
Location: Ballyneague, Ballydaniel and Knocknagappagh, Co. Cork

Submitted via the An Coimisiún Pleanála online portal

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to submit an observation regarding the above planning application.

I am currently a university student, but I grew up in this area and hope to return here after completing my studies. My long-term goal is to build my future close to my family and to remain part of the rural community that has shaped my life. Because of this, I care deeply about the decisions being made today and how they will affect the area for decades to come.

While I understand the importance of renewable energy and improving Ireland's electricity infrastructure, I do not believe this development is suitable for its proposed location. My greatest concern is the impact it would have on local wildlife, the natural environment, and the character of the countryside that so many people value.

Impact on Wildlife and Natural Habitats

One of the most special aspects of this area is its rich wildlife. Growing up here, I have regularly seen foxes, badgers, bats, birds of prey and many other species that depend on the hedgerows, wetlands, fields and woodlands surrounding the proposed site.

The construction of a large industrial-scale substation would cause significant disruption to these habitats through excavation, heavy machinery, increased traffic, noise and lighting. Wildlife corridors that have existed for generations could be fragmented or destroyed, forcing animals away from areas where they currently feed, nest and shelter.

I am particularly concerned about bats and birds of prey. Bright security lighting and continuous operational noise could negatively affect bats that rely on darkness to hunt. New electrical infrastructure and overhead lines may also increase the risk of injury to birds moving through the area.

Once wildlife habitats are damaged, they cannot simply be recreated elsewhere. Future generations should have the same opportunity to experience the biodiversity that currently exists in this part of East Cork.

Protection of Water Resources

The proposed site contains natural springs that contribute to local waterways and the River Tourig catchment.

These water sources are an important part of the local ecosystem and ultimately contribute to water supplies further downstream. The construction and operation of a large electrical substation brings risks associated with fuel spills, chemical leaks, contaminated runoff and sediment entering watercourses.

As someone who hopes to live in this area long into the future, I believe protecting our natural water resources should be a priority.

Concerns Regarding Flood Risk

The proposed development is located in an area known locally as Cronin's Bogs.

This land naturally absorbs and stores water during periods of heavy rainfall. Large-scale construction works, drainage alterations and extensive hard surfaces could significantly reduce the land's ability to perform this function.

Any increase in flooding risk would have long-term consequences for local residents, farmland and the surrounding environment.

Preserving the Character of the Area

Although I currently attend university, I consider this area my home and I hope to return here permanently in the future.

One of the reasons many young people want to live in rural communities like Killeagh and Inch is because of the landscape, natural environment and quality of life they offer. The countryside is not simply scenery. It is part of our identity and part of what makes people choose to stay in or return to the area.

The introduction of a large industrial electricity facility would permanently alter the appearance and character of this landscape. I am concerned that approval of this project may also encourage additional large-scale energy developments in the future, gradually transforming agricultural land into an increasingly industrialised environment.

Impact on Local Heritage

The proposed development is located relatively close to Rath Fort, an important archaeological feature within the local area.

This historic site forms part of the cultural heritage of our community. Any risk of damage from heavy construction activities, excavation works or vibration should be thoroughly investigated before permission is considered.

Historical sites such as these are irreplaceable and should be protected for future generations.

Questions Around Access and Safety

I am also concerned about the location of the development and the access arrangements proposed.

The substation would be accessed by narrow routes through the surrounding area, and it is unclear whether these access arrangements are suitable for heavy construction traffic or emergency vehicles.

In the event of a fire, equipment failure or other emergency, safe and rapid access would be essential.

Cumulative Impact of Energy Infrastructure

There is already substantial energy infrastructure located within the wider area.

The additional construction of a large 220kV substation should not be assessed in isolation. The combined impact of multiple energy developments on wildlife, landscape character, noise levels and rural amenity should be fully considered before any decision is made.

Conclusion

As someone who hopes to return to this area after university and build my future here, I am concerned about the long-term impact this development could have on the wildlife, environment and rural character of the community.

The decisions made today will shape what this area looks like not only for current residents but also for future generations. I believe the proposed development would cause unnecessary harm to valuable wildlife habitats, place pressure on local environmental resources and contribute to the gradual industrialisation of a landscape that has traditionally been agricultural and rural.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for Case File Reference VA04.324632. Alternatively, I ask that significant further environmental studies and information be required before any decision is made.

I would appreciate being kept informed of any updates, reports or decisions relating to this application.

Yours faithfully,

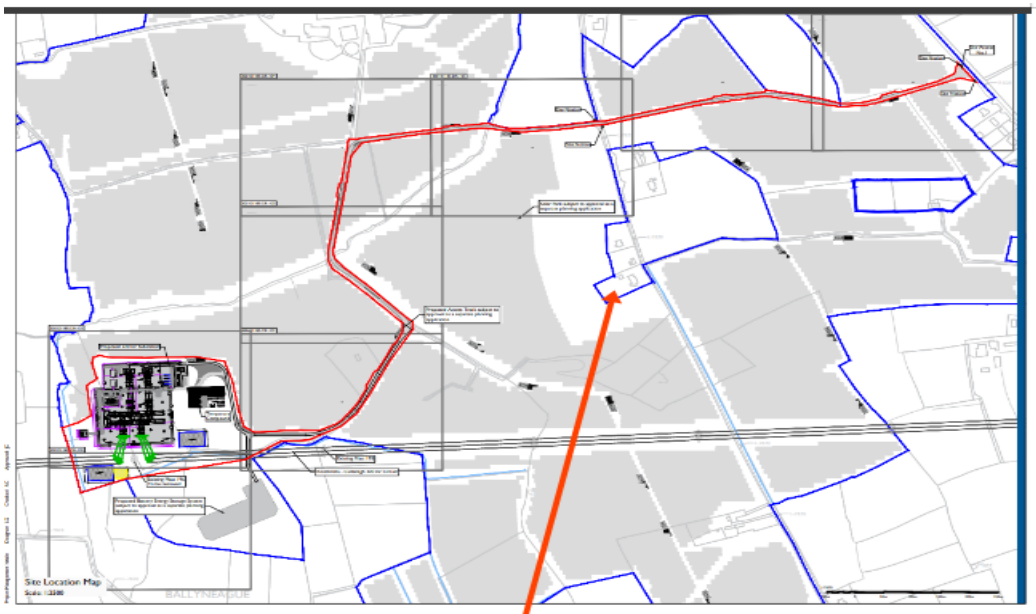


Izabella Chidlow

Supporting Information

I have included supporting photographs and maps showing the location of the proposed development and the surrounding countryside. These images help to illustrate the natural landscape, wildlife habitats and rural character of the area that I believe should be protected for future generations.

Map showing substation, access tracks and proximity to my house



Location of my house
Proposed substation will be approximately 600m away from house

Current View to Southwest from my House



Image showing view to Southwest from my house with Substation in proposed position

