Submitted via the An Coimisiún Pleanála online portal

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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: 220kV Air Insulated Substation and Associated Works
Location: Ballyneague, Ballydaniel and Knocknagappagh, Co. Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed 220kV substation planned for our area.

I am 17 years old and have grown up in this part of East Cork all my life. Like many of my friends, I hope to continue living here in the future. We are lucky to live in a beautiful rural area surrounded by farmland, wildlife, forests, rivers and open countryside. It is a place that many young people are proud to call home.

While I understand that Ireland needs renewable energy and improvements to the electricity network, I do not believe this development is the right project in the right location.

My concern is not only about how this project will affect people today, but how it will affect future generations who want to live, work and raise families here.

The Area We Want to Grow Up In

Many young people in the area hope to stay close to their families when they are older. We want to have the opportunity to build homes, raise children and continue the farming and rural traditions that have existed here for generations.

Developments like this will permanently change the character of our countryside. Instead of fields, hedgerows and open landscapes, future generations could be surrounded by substations, large electrical structures, pylons and industrial energy developments.

I worry that if this project is approved, it will make it easier for similar developments to be built in the future, leading to even more industrial development across agricultural land.

Impact on Local Wildlife

One of the best parts of living here is the wildlife around us.

It is common to see foxes, badgers, birds of prey and bats in the area. Many of us have grown up walking local roads and fields where these animals live.

The construction of a major electricity substation would bring years of disturbance from machinery, construction traffic, noise and lighting. Wildlife could lose important habitats and be forced out of the area.

The proposed overhead electrical infrastructure may also present risks for birds of prey, while constant lighting could affect bats and other animals that rely on darkness to survive and hunt.

Once these habitats are damaged, they are very difficult to restore.

Concerns About Water Quality

The land around the proposed site contains natural springs which connect to local rivers and watercourses.

As young people who will live in this area for many years to come, we depend on these natural resources remaining clean and protected.

A development of this scale brings risks from construction activities, fuel spills, oil leaks and polluted runoff. Any contamination could impact local waterways and potentially affect water supplies downstream.

Protecting these natural resources should be a priority.

Flooding Concerns

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

Local people know this land as a naturally wet area that helps absorb and hold water during periods of heavy rainfall.

Building a large industrial facility with roads, foundations and concrete surfaces could change how water moves through the area. I am concerned that this could increase flood risks in nearby locations and damage an important natural feature of the local environment.

Protecting Local History

Our area has a rich history that should be protected.

The proposed development is located relatively close to Rath Fort, an important archaeological site. This historic monument has been part of the local landscape for generations.

Large-scale excavation works and heavy machinery have the potential to damage important underground features associated with the fort. Once heritage is damaged, it cannot be replaced.

Future generations deserve the chance to experience and learn about these historic sites just as previous generations have.

Visual Impact on the Countryside

The countryside around Killeagh and Inch is one of the things that makes this area special.

Many local residents enjoy the views across farmland, hills and open fields. These landscapes are part of our identity and attract people to live here.

I do not believe the visual information submitted with the application fully shows what the completed development would look like.

Before any decision is made, the public and decision-makers should be provided with clear and accurate images showing the true impact of the substation, towers and other infrastructure on the landscape.

Safety and Emergency Access

I am also concerned about the location of the proposed substation.

The site appears to be accessed by narrow tracks running through a proposed large solar development. This raises questions about how emergency services would reach the site quickly in the event of a fire or other serious incident.

A facility of this scale should have safe and practical access at all times.

Existing Infrastructure in the Area

There is already significant energy infrastructure in the wider area, including the Lyrenacarriga energy development nearby.

Adding another major substation and associated infrastructure would further change the character of what has traditionally been a rural farming landscape.

The combined impact of these developments should be properly considered.

Impact on Future Communities

One issue that is particularly important to young people is the future of our community.

If large industrial developments continue to replace farmland and open countryside, the area could become less attractive for families and young people who hope to remain here.

Many of us want the opportunity to build our futures in a rural setting rather than seeing the area gradually transformed into an industrial energy zone.

The decisions made today will affect what this area looks like for decades to come.

Conclusion

For all of these reasons, I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for this development.

I believe the project would have significant impacts on the countryside, wildlife, local heritage, water quality, landscape character and the future of our community.

As a young person who hopes to continue living in this area, I want future generations to enjoy the same rural environment that my friends and I have grown up with.

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

Yours sincerely,

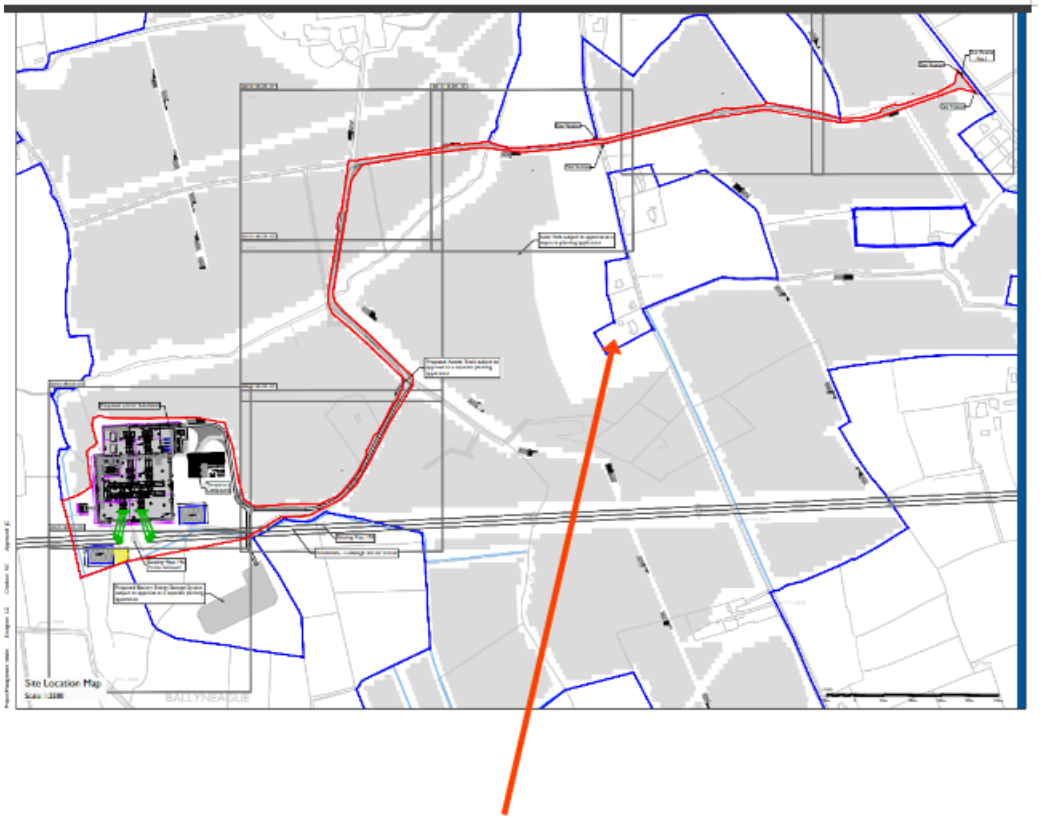
James Chidlow

J Chidlow

Supporting Information

I have included photographs and maps showing the proposed development area and the surrounding countryside. These images help demonstrate the rural character of the area and show how significantly the landscape could change if this project proceeds.

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 South-West from my House



Image showing view to South-West from my house with Substation in proposed position

