
ARKLOW BANK WINDPARK PHASE 2 - ACP REF OA27.319864

From Anna Higgins <annahiggins22@gmail.com>

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To Marine <marine@pleanala.ie>; Mark Higgins <mark.e.higgins@hotmail.com>

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Mr Mark Higgins
Willow
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Date: 29th July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

As I have previously made an observation before the further information was requested by An Commisuin Pleanala, I am making this observation now free of charge.

I am very concerned about the beaches along the East Coast and particularly worried about Brittas Bay which is where I grew up. I have witnessed the erosion first hand on the beach since the first 7 turbines were erected on the Arklow Sandbank. It is undeniable how much the beach has been devastated and also the introduction of thousands of stones and shells onto what was once a complete sandy beach.

Every year thousands of visitors come to the beach to get some relaxation and recreation time away from their homes and work. I have met many people from Dublin who come down for the day with their families to get away from their very small apartments with very little outside space. Brittas Bay is a valuable resource for the public and the Arklow Sandbank should not be turned into an industrial zone to benefit the profits of large corporations. I am not against wind energy but I am doggedly against erecting 53 enormous wind turbines onto the Arklow Sandbank which is not only a feeding ground for many birds but is also protection for the beaches along the coastline.

If the construction of 53 windmills do go ahead there will be a lot of noise emanating from the pounding into the ground of these turbines and also the water quality of the sea will disintegrate so much so that it will be unfit for bathing. This will dramatically affect the amount of visitors to the area which in turn will affect any tourism businesses in the area and local shops and cafes, pubs and restaurants, etc.

If you have never been to Brittas Bay I would ask you to please come and see it for yourself. On a sunny Sunday both car parks in Brittas Bay fill up very quickly, usually by noon, which then requires

local farmers to open their fields for overflow car parks. Thousands of people could visit on one day but not feel crowded on the beach as it is 6km long.

I have attached a link to information on Brittas Bay for your information.

<https://www.theirishroadtrip.com/brittass-bay-beach> As you can see the sand dunes are designated a Special Area of Conservation, "The dunes above the beach have been designated as a proposed Special Area of Conservation due to the unique wildlife that makes its home there."

If the Sandbank is interfered with our Special Area of Conservation will be destroyed.

I ask you to please visit Brittas Bay and walk the full beach before considering the application by SSE. Look at the people enjoying their time there. Take note of the erosion on the south end of the beach particularly that only started since the current windmills were erected. This beach is for everybody and for future generations and should not be put at an unconsidered risk when there are alternatives such as floating platforms.

Thank you and kind regards

Mark Higgins