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28 th July, 2026

OBSERVATION ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2
ACP Reference: ABP-319864-24
Dear Sir/Madam,

Our family have a holiday home in in Brittas Bay since the 1990's. We are now grandparents and want our grandchildren and future generations to be able enjoy the wonderful amenity that Brittas Bay is.

I am making an observation on this application because I ,like many others, am concerned that a very large industrial development is proposed on a shallow and dynamic offshore sandbank close to beaches, dunes, protected habitats and coastal communities.

I support renewable energy and accept that Ireland needs offshore wind. My objection is not

to offshore wind in principle. I believe that Arklow Bank is not the right location for a wind

farm of this size. I am not convinced that the additional information proves the project will

avoid harm to the sandbank, sediment movement, nearby beaches, protected habitats, bathing waters, or wildlife.

The Applicant relies mainly on computer modelling but has not clearly shown that the model

is accurate enough to support its conclusion that the impacts will be negligible. If those predictions are wrong, the effects could be felt by local communities, tourism, the environment, and the State.

EU law requires permission affecting protected European sites to be based upon complete,

precise and definitive findings capable of removing reasonable scientific doubt. Where uncertainty remains, the precautionary principle requires protection rather than

optimism or
reliance on future monitoring.
Future generations will not judge this decision by the urgency of present-day climate targets alone. They will judge it by whether Ireland protected irreplaceable natural assets when it still had the opportunity to do so, while pursuing the transition to renewable energy in a manner that respected both the law and the environment.
I therefore request that ACP refuse permission, or require further independent assessment, unless and until SSE provides scientifically robust evidence demonstrating that the project will not adversely affect Arklow Bank, coastal processes, water quality, protected habitats, wildlife or the integrity of the adjoining Wicklow and Wexford coastline.
I also suggest that other options such as floating wind Turbines be investigated when looking at the options available for increasing the offshore wind development. The current obsolete fixed infrastructure has already altered the brittas Bay beach shore and any future development as proposed will only worsen the situation.

Yours faithfully