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12 O'Clock Hills Recreational & Heritage Project,

Belvoir, Sixmilebridge,

Co. Clare

V95 YKN5

DATE: 30th October 2024

Planning Proposal Objection: Knochshanvo Windfarm Bord Pleanála Case reference: PA03.320705

To whom it may concern,

With regard to application for planning permission to develop a wind farm, ancillary infrastructure and grid connection route (GCR) located in the townlands of Snatty, Hurdlestown, Oatfield, Drumsillagh, Sallybank, Gortacullin, Aharinaghbeg, Knockshanvo, Cloontra, Cloghoolia, Ballycullen and others, County Clare. And located in the townland of Court, County Limerick. (<https://knockshanvoplaning.ie/>)

Introduction: The 12 O'Clock Hills, located in East Clare, have become a cherished recreational and historical landmark for both locals and visitors alike. On average, more than 2,500 individuals explore the 12 O'Clock Hills every month, as recorded by our people counter. The development of hiking trails and the preservation of heritage sites have been a result of the dedicated efforts of the 12 O'Clock Hills Project Committee, comprised of volunteers.

Our observation / objection is directed towards the proposed Drumshanvo Windfarm, specifically the 3 turbines in close proximity to walking trails which poses a significant threat to the natural beauty, safety, and experience of the 12 O'Clock Hills.

Concerns:

1. Proximity to Hiking Trails: 3 # turbines are in dangerously close proximity to the established route hiking trail. At a distance of <100m, hikers, walkers, and trail users will be directly impacted by the presence of the wind turbine.

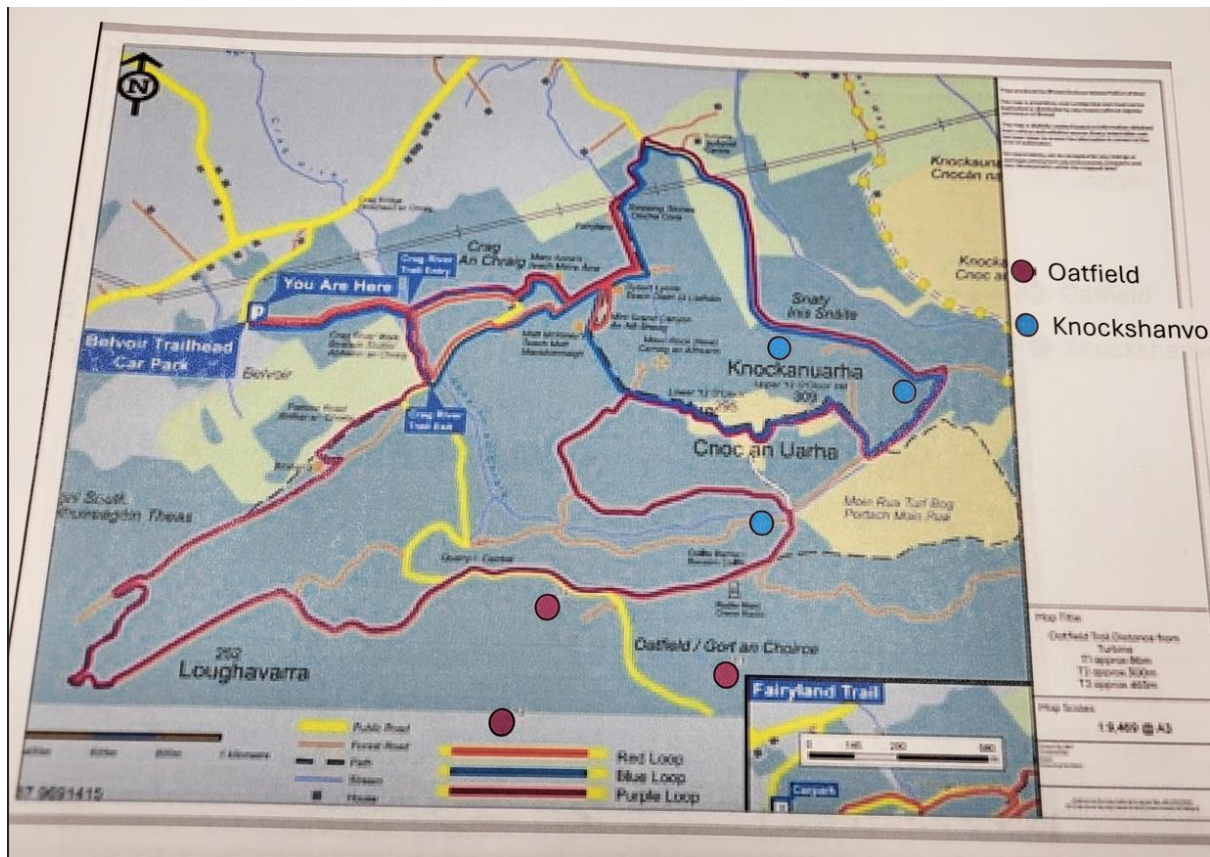
2. Size of Turbine: It is our understanding that turbines is set to become the largest wind turbine ever erected in Ireland, standing at nearly 200 meters. The sheer scale of this structure exacerbates the potential risks and environmental impact on the 12 O’Clock Hills. The visual intrusion and noise generated by such a colossal turbine would undoubtedly compromise the tranquillity and scenic beauty that the hills currently offer.

3. Construction Disruption: The extensive construction required for the wind turbines, including transportation of materials and machinery, poses a significant disruption to the current harmony of the 12 O’Clock Hills. This disturbance, along with the ongoing noise and light generated during the construction process, will have a detrimental effect on the overall experience of the hills for both current and future visitors.

4. Long-term Visual and Environmental Impact: The proposed wind turbines threaten to mar the panoramic views and natural aesthetics that make the 12 O’Clock Hills a unique and cherished destination. The long-term visual disruption, noise pollution, and the alteration of the landscape would be an unprecedented threat to the very essence that the 12 O’Clock Hills Project Committee has worked so hard to preserve.

5. Cumulative Effects of Multiple Applications: We are concerned that Knochshanvo has done EI assessments in isolation without considering the cumulative impacts of Oatfield turbine applications (and potentially others). See overlayed map of positions of oatfield and Drumshanvo proposed turbine locations. It is inaccurate and disingenuous to do impact assessments on each in isolation without considering the cumulative effects. The map shows how close they are and must be considered as an entirety

6. Out-dated Guidelines: Our understanding is that guidelines are from 2019 wrt turbine distance from dwellings, each other etc. and never assumed turbines of the size of these ones so cannot be correct. New guidelines which reflect the newer scale of turbines should be used when assessing these turbine locations & their impact.



Conclusion: The 12 O'Clock Hills Project Committee strongly opposes the establishment of the Knockshanvo windfarm in such close proximity to the hiking trails. We urge the planning authority to consider the potential irreversible damage to the natural beauty, safety, and overall experience that the wind turbines would impose on this cherished community resource. We advocate for a thorough reassessment of the proposed windfarm's location and scale to ensure the preservation of the 12 O'Clock Hills for future generations. **12 O'Clock Hills Recreational & Heritage Project Committee Members:** Patsy Neville Chairman, John Lenihan Vice-Chairman, Gerard Grace Secretary, Antoine Devitt Treasurer, Maureen Cleary PRO, John Lyons, Ger McErlain, Noel Gallagher, Joe Hyde, Olive Liddane, Clare McMahon and John Power.

Signed:

_____ Gerard Grace _____ Gerard Grace, Secretary of 12 O'Clock Hills
Recreational & Heritage Committee