



CHARLIE FLANAGAN TD

Laois/Offaly Constituency

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15 July 2021

Forward Planning Section,
Offaly County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
Charleville Road,
Tullamore,
Co Offaly

RE: MA443 & MA436 Offaly County Council

Dear Officer,

I write in relation to Leamonaghan Bog Area 5 and its inclusion in the County Development Plan as an area open to consideration for wind energy.

I would ask that consideration to the removal of this area is given when finalising the plan due to the following reasons.

- 1) **Environmental and heritage impact on the ecological landscape of the bog:** Wildlife such as the hen harrier, Whooper swans, Meadow pipit, a Red-listed species along with various Amber listed species including kestrel, sparrowhawk, snipe, skylark, stonechat and linnets have been recorded in Leamonaghan Bog. The Bog is also home to much flora and fauna and is an area of vast biodiversity. Any disturbance to this area would be detrimental to the natural habitats found on the bog.
- 2) **Visual impact on the Monastic settlement:** Studies have shown that Leamonaghan was an important centre of Christian worship throughout the Middle Ages. Recently the Sli Mor ancient pilgrim path from Ballycumber which runs through the bog in Leamonaghan onto Clonmacnoise was listed in the Irish Examiners 2021 top 20 walk trails, and is considered to be a mini Camino Route.

I would appreciate if the above could be taken into consideration when deliberating on the final County Development Plan for Offaly.

Best wishes,

Yours Sincerely,

CHARLIE FLANAGAN TD



FINE GAEL