Observation to Strategic Infrastructure Development Application:
Glenora Wind Farm (An Coimisiun Pleanala Case Number: 318701)

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Dear Sir / Madam,

We are writing to formally present observations in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development application by **MKO Ltd** for the development of **Glenora Wind Farm** (An Coimisiun Pleanarla **Case reference: PA16.318701.** The proposed location in the town lands of Glenora, Altderg, Keerglen, Ballykinlettragh, Ballycastle, Ballyglass, Killeena, Glencullin and Lugnalettin, Co. Mayo.

The application and observations presented by MKO on Glenora Wind Farm do not stand up to scrutiny and the appeal to An Coimisium Pleanala should be upheld.

Viable location
MKO states it has carried out a robust environmental and ecological constraints analysis to assess if the 15 turbines being placed in a RES unclassified location is suitable for wind turbines. MKO have consulted with consultant hydrologists, ecologists engineers and environmentalists.

However, Failte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority stated in its submission that The *Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo* (in Volume 4 of Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028), indicates that the proposed wind turbines are in 'Landscape Character Area E: North Mayo Mountain Moorland'. The ridgelines / skylines, including Maumakeogh, surrounding the site are highlighted as being 'Vulnerable Features', as are the river / stream corridors (e.g. Bellananaminnan, Sralagagh, Keerglen, Glenulra and Oweninny) surrounding the site (refer to section 3.l(a) and associated mapping in the *Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo).*

The stated policy about areas designated as vulnerable (section 3.l(b) of the *Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo)* is that:
"These areas or features designated as vulnerable represent the principal features which create and sustain the character and distinctiveness of the surrounding landscape. To be considered for permission, development in the environs of these vulnerable areas must be shown not to impinge in any significant way upon its character, integrity or uniformity when viewed from the surroundings. Particular attention should be given to the preservation of the character and distinctiveness of these areas as viewed from scenic routes and the environs of archaeological and historic sites."

Failte Ireland.pdf

Therefore, the location is classified as vulnerable, consisting of vulnerable features including historical sites, archaeology, skylines and ridgelines of adjacent moorland mountains, e.g., Maumakeogh, as well as the river/stream corridors within and surrounding the site. It is not unclassified; Therefore, this argument must be rejected.

Planning Process and Power Imbalance

MKO state that “Furthermore, while local communities may not always have access to consultants to review application documents, public consultation and access to information is a fundamental part of the planning process as enshrined in the Aarhus Convention and the Board is required to have regard to the submissions and observations made on a planning application. The Aarhus Convention is an international agreement that gives people the right to access information about the environment. It promotes public participation in decision-making and provides access to justice on environmental matters. Public consultation provides opportunities for community members to voice their concerns and provide feedback on proposed developments and public bodies, including An Bord Pleanála are required to consider this feedback when making decisions.”

It is true that SSE Renewables, FuturEnergy Ireland and MKO organised a community meeting in Ballycastle Community Hall, on Tuesday 10th December 2024, which was poorly attended. The minutes of the meetings, the issues that concerned the local communities, their level of understanding of the impact of these wind turbines on specific aspects of life and leisure, and the way these issues would be addressed have not been recorded and presented in any publicly available document. Ticking a box, saying you had a meeting, is not community engagement. There was no follow up meeting, no further interaction with the community on a significant level. Many of the local community do not understand what is being planned its implications for them in their home and work environment. We therefore submit that MKO, SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland have not met their remit in relation to public consultations.

Those of us who are putting forward observations before the 23rd of January 2026, were only able to access submissions in online format, from prescribed groups, individual members of the community, and MKO’s responses, within the last 2 to 3 weeks, after requesting they be put online. Prior to this request, individuals would have to go into the planning office of Mayo County Council to access them. People are doing these submissions in their spare time, for free, as they hold down jobs and have families to look after. It puts the community at a major disadvantage, since MKO accessed these submissions immediately after they we submitted and was allowed to extend its submission period to present its response. So, there was a clear bias towards the applicant in relation to availability of data, breaking the Aarhus Convention.

Peat Slippage

Mr Kevin Loftus, in his 2024 submission to this wind farm application, has clearly laid out the history of bog slippages, in the location of the proposed wind farm, as recently as November 2022.
Kevin Loftus.pdf

This event has still to be recorded by the GSI Ireland Data site, even-though it was reported to the organization. However, Feehily, Timoney & Co, who provided a report to Pleanara in relation to the previous application by MKO to build a wind farm on this site (which was refused) stated that the failure (peat slide) occurred in the plane at the base of the peat where it meets bedrock, probably triggered by heavy rain, which contributes to flash floods. The lack of water hydrogauges on Altderg,

Glencullen/Bellanaminnaun and Keerglen/ Ballinglen Rivers of the area to provide live data that can verify is also a local concern, meaning that flash flow data is not recorded and the decrease water levels over the years may be a consequence of afforestation, not lack of rain. Once the trees are cut, the amount of water that enters the rivers will be enormous.

Microsoft Word - P20-312_Rpt_Glenora_Geotechnical & Peat Stability Assessment.docx (p9-11)
Ch. 9 Hydrology and Hydrogeology F - 2023.12.01 - 201120.pdf

Photo 1 A

Photo 1B

Photo 1C

Photo 1 A, B & C: Landslide on peatland in Glenora, planted with coniferous trees, 2022, (Courtesy of Kevin Loftus)

Photo 1 clearly shows a relatively new crop of trees that have been planted. Their rooting is extremely shallow, which leaves the bog areas open to slippage. The slippage stopped due to other trees planted below the slippage. In combination with this shallow rooting, the underlying bedrock is impermeable rock, meta dolerite, so the only way water can flow, in heavy rain periods is down the surface of the hill or through-flow between the shallow root system and shallow peat cover, taking soil and trees with it. Photograph 4 shows a picture of the 1952 slippage straddling Glenora and Keerglen, possible due to peat cutting

Photograph 4: Bog Slippage 1952, Head of Keerglen River

Once deforestation of 116 hectares of land begins, the amount of water flowing these hills will be enormous. The local community has clearly outlined that flooding on the Keerglen/ Ballinglen and Glencullin/Bellanaminnaun Rivers, all of which run into Bunatrahir Bay, occurs and it regularly coincides with tree logging. However, since there are no hydro gauges on any of these rivers, the authorities and wind farm companies can pretend it does not happen.

However, the MKO application Appendix 9-1, clearly states that neither Keerglen, nor Altderg Rivers (also Glencullen River) have hydro gauges and flooding due to impervious bedrock will be an issue. However, due to their using average river speed data, they do not see this as a major problem. They fail to mention the impact of deforestation. They also identify slumps along roadsides

Appendix 9-1 - Flood Risk Assessment Report.pdf (p7)

A case study of a peat slippage event due to the presence of a wind farm clearly explains why building windfarms on peatland, already destabilized by tens of years of afforestation, is a recipe for disaster, that can easily impact SAC and NHA sites surrounding the boundaries of the site and Blacksod and Broadhaven SPA waterways.

Prof. Richard Linsey and Dr. Olivia Bragg of the University of East London, investigated, in some detail, the bog slide at Derrybrien, in Co. Galway, on 16th October 200. The situation was very similar to the proposed wind farm at Glenora.

The case study document explains how forested areas on bogs have a rotation of 10 to 20 years when the canopy closes, Ditches are wider due to reduced water resulting in shrinkage of adjacent peat. Shade intolerant bog species disappear, and the forest floor is covered in pine needles. Fine tree root mats form across furrows and ditches, which do not substantially contribute to tree stability. The closure of the canopy results in rainwater being intercepted at the canopy, before reaching the ground. Therefore, water is further lost to the bog soil due to evapotranspiration from the canopy. During summer months water tables fall below the level of the furrow bottoms, due to tree water uptake. This is the main cause of peat drying and continued peat shrinkage results in subsidence of the ground surface. Reductions in peat height of over ½ meter is common.

Further drying results in the peat tearing apart resulting in cracks. The main line of weakness is in furrows and ditches, usually in deep ditches in the summertime. By this time the natural bogs' upper aerobic decomposing humous and living plant layer has disappeared (acrotelm) and these cracks appear, even in very wet soft peat in the deterioration is hidden by tree root mass and the litter layer. The cracks can be 15 cm wide and extend 70 cm wide. These cracks remain because peat shrinkage is irreversible. These cracks do not extend across the open linear areas in the forest called rides. The water table remains below the cracks in the summer but enters the cracks in winter. Peatland ditches can loss ½ their depth within 15 to 20 years of afforestation due to these cracks draining the ditches. The cracks then act as a drainage system when the crack network has formed beneath on the forest floor. The water table is now controlled by cracks, since dried peat no longer can absorb water. This network of cracks eventually reaches under the roots of the trees growing in the ploughed ridges.

If the peat is shallow (less than 1 m thick) the cracks can reach the substratum within 20 years. The cracks are only in the catotelm layer (dead plant material and anaerobic layer under the acrotelm) which is dense and has lost much of its water. These cracks are not visible at the surface, since the acrotelm layer is now a thick mat of fibrous tree roots providing a strong structure.

The cracks in ditches and furrows have grown so wide, the root and litter mat tear, and the cracks become visible. Even though trees send out an array of tiny roots in all directions in wet unstable bog environments to maximize oxygen uptake and provide stability. But these roots are unable to grow over furrow and ditch cracks. Only those roots that were there before the widening of the cracks can continue growing laterally. This prevents the trees from forming a stable base from roots fanning out in all directions and remains in the ridge lines. It makes mature trees very vulnerable to windthrow from wind directions perpendicular to the ridge direction.

Wind_Farms_and_Blanket_Peat_-_a_report_on_the_Derr.pdf

The complete destruction of the underlying bog layer, due to afforestation, resulted in one of the biggest bog slides recorded in Ireland at Derrybrien bog slide of October 2003 during the construction of 71 wind turbines on bog land planted with commercial forest trees. The bog slide happened outside the boundary of the site. 50,000 fish were killed. Nearly half a square kilometre of bog slide, 2.5 kilometres down the hill during a dry period. When it rained it washed into the spawning salmon river. The sludge engulfed several unoccupied farmhouses and blocked two roads. It eventually reached a lake which was a source of drinking water.

The environmental assessment was found inadequate. The case was referred to by the European Court of Justice. The Irish Government was found guilty of not insisting that the developer, ESB, to carry out an adequate EA in line with EU law. Ireland was fined 5, 250,000 million euros.
The Glenora site is very similar to the Derrybrien Wind Farm. Shallow peat layer, 116 hectares of completely deteriorated peat soil due to the planted of mature commercial trees It has sensitive natural environs surround it, including spawning salmon sites and SAC designated water ways. It also had floating roadways and an impermeable subsoil (meta dolerite) with the possibility of onsite activity reverberating to other areas of the bog land outside the demarcated boundaries.

Derrybrien wind farm fines: European Commission finally settles case with Ireland over 2003 bog slide - Buzz.ie

We note that an Taisce submission, questions the possibility of water quality deteriorating in Owenmore River, since its Altderg & Fiddaundoo tributaries are part of the wind farm site and they are presently considered high quality. Owenmore River flows into Blacksod Bay-Broadhaven SPA-Site Number 4037. There is no clarity in how MKO can prevent the intrusion of peat, debris and pollutants from large vehicles and tree logging from entering this pristine river basin that runs into on the Owenmore River where salmon spawn and are a protected species in Ireland.

Failte explains that: “The proposed Glenora Wind Farm would directly straddle or adjoin c.6.2km of the most isolated section of The Western Way, and proposed road 'upgrades' would directly impact and alter the character of a further 5km of the Way from Glenora to Sralagagh East, which follows a scenic rural track…. The major change that the Proposed Development will bring to the character of this secluded landscape and its tourist assets, including The Western Way, the wider context of the Ceide Fields, the Wild Atlantic Way and the coast, including Downpatrick Head - from where the proposed turbines will be visible and visually discordant…. the proposed turbines are set between 153.Sm (Tl0) to 231.Sm (T22) above ordnance datum (AOD). However, eleven of the turbines are set above the 200m contour and eight of these are above the 220m contour. With an overall height of 180m, these eleven turbines rise to over 380m AOD (with eight to over 400m AOD), which is higher than the surrounding topography……. The proposed wind farm development may contrast with landscape-related policies and objectives NEP 14, NEO 25, NE026, NEO 27 and NEO 28 (as listed in Chapter 14 of the EIAR}. These provisions aim *"to protect, enhance and contribute to the physical, visual and scenic character of County Mayo and to preserve its unique landscape character",* including along scenic routes and in Mayo's coastal areas and lakeshores.”

Failte requests a full and thorough assessment of the impact of the wind farm on the “high quality landscape environment, which is a critical tourism asset and resource underpinning the value and quality of the Wild Atlantic Way, the Ceide Fields and the north Mayo coast, The Western Way and local tourism initiatives.”

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has outlined in its submission that there is a clear danger that there will be a drainage impacts on Inagh Bog Natural Heritage Area in Chapter 9 of the EIAR, due to lowering of the water table, affecting 3 ha, The impact would introduce pollutants and changes in water pH, that could seriously affect the local flora and fauna. No botanical surveys were carried out in this area of Inagh Bog in Ch 6 - Biodiversity. The report fails to characterize the relative sensitivity of this area. It may be the highest quality Blanket Bog in Inagh Bog as outlined in the SITE SYNOPSIS. There is also quaking bog topography, present, which is very sensitive to drainage.

The submission notes that, “any such deterioration or loss of Blanket Bog inside the Inagh Bog NHA, for which this site is designated, may be in material contravention of the following policies and objectives in the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028, **NEP 1, NEO 8, NEP 9, NEP 10.**

The consequences of having meta dolerite rock, as the main bedrock under shallow raised bog soil formation in Glenora is that it is now covered by poorly anchored pine tree species, which is obvious by the amount of tree felling that has occurred throughout these forested areas all over Mayo due to strong winds. We fully agree with An Taisce and Failte, An Pleanala needs to carry out an Appropriate Assessment of all aspects of the EIAS presented An Taisce.pdf Report (P59)

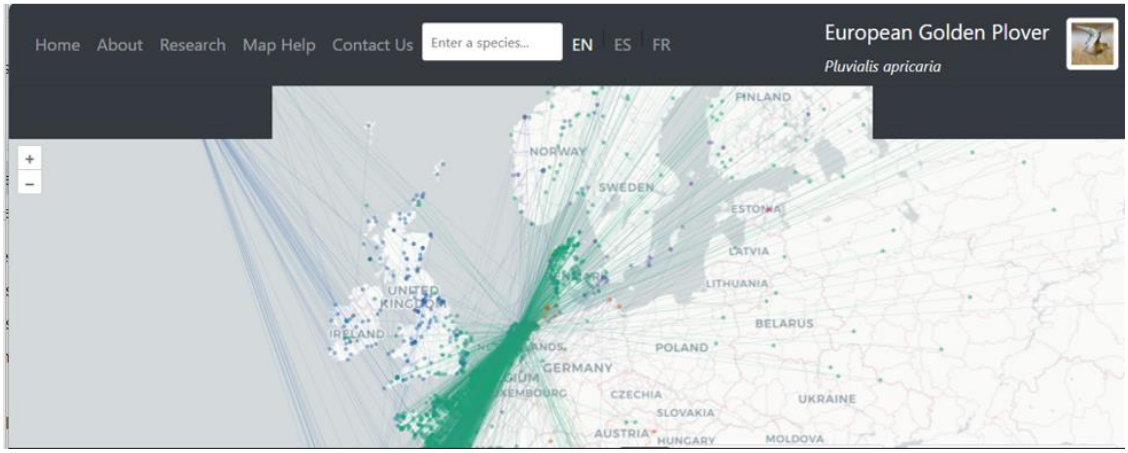
Bird Mortality

The Housing, local Government and Heritage, also highlighted that the Ontology section failed to use the correct methodology in assessing the impact of the wind farm on bird mortality. We have only 150 pairs of breeding Golden Plovers in Ireland. The investigation did not take into consideration the importance of this group but instead lumped them together with the 92,060 wintering birds. The breeding areas have a strong regional aspect. Thus, any impact is significant for such a small group. KMO did not survey outside their site area where this bird is known to have breeding sights.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.pdf

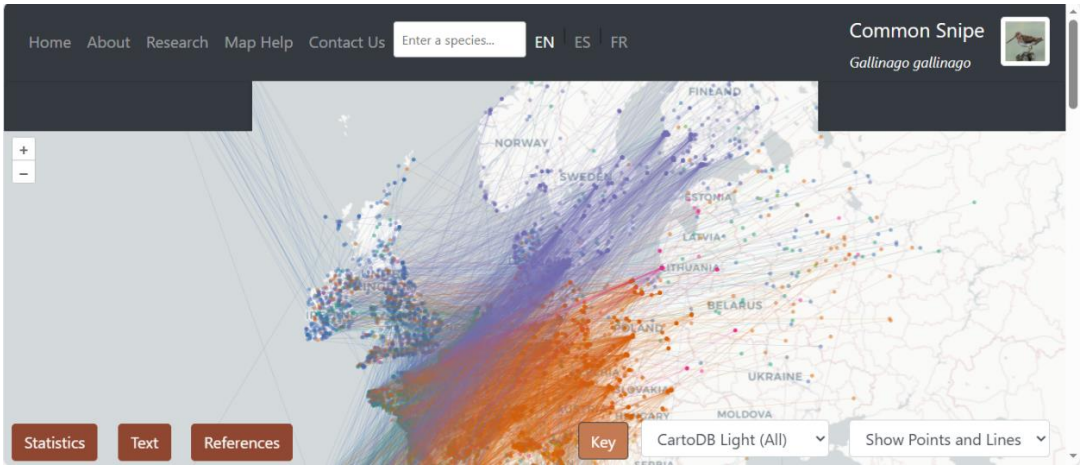
Both the Golden Plover and Snipe are wader birds. The can nest inland, where it is more sheltered after migrating from Iceland and feed in stream, rivers and along the shorelines.

The Golden Plover in Ireland migrates from Iceland to winter in Ireland and can be found breeding in the summer in situations where habitat is conducive, thus making Ireland its home for a year. They are found throughout SAC and SPA sites around North Mayo and beyond.



Photograph 5: Migration pathway of Golden Plover: [Bird Migration Atlas]

The Common Snipe is also a wader and visits Ireland from both Iceland and many EU countries.



Photograph 6: A Migration map of the Common Snipe. [Bird Migration Atlas]

> As winter approaches, the resident snipe in Ireland and Britain are joined by migrants from northern continental Europe, Iceland and the Faroes.
> [Common Snipe – Snipe Conservation Alliance]

> Both species eat worms, beetles and insects.

> How will these and other protected bird species survive in such hostile wind farm environments.

> EirGrid.ie with SONI and SEMO, is connecting 500MV cables between Ballina and Ballaghadereen to be able to export our natural energy from the Mayo. That energy is supposedly coming from the 221 turbines, either already built or are applications with An Coimisiun Pleanala that are included in Table 2.1 from the Baron of Tirawley Wind Farm Application ABP-315864-23 (pre-app ref.) and ABP-320703-24 (pre-app ref.), Chapter 2.

> It is rumoured that 500 more in the pipeline, including Keenagh, Owenboy and Trista Windfarm, and Gortnahurra Windfarm.

The Glenora Windfarm includes the townlands of Glenora, Altderg, Keerglen, Ballykinlettragh, Ballycastle, Ballyglass, Killeena, Glencullin and Lugnalettin, Co. Mayo

The Keerglen Wind Farm will include the townlands of: Keerglen, Ballykinlettragh and Ballinglen Co. Mayo.

The Tirawley wind farms will include locations such as the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower, Barnhill Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelackan Demesne, Castletown, Conaghra, Glebe, Lackanhill, Lecarrowntemple, Lissadrone East and Lissadrone West, Co. Mayo

The Oweninny Phase 3 Wind Farm includes the townlands of Laghtanvack, Croaghaun (also known as Croaghaun West), Moneynieran, Corvoderry, Shanvolahan, Dooleg More, Shranakilly, Bellacorick and Shanvodinnaun, Co. Mayo.

Sheskin South Wind Farm includes the townlands of Sheskin, Tawnaghmore, Kilsallagh, Bellacorrick, Ballyglass East, Co Mayo

Dooley consists of 1 turbine in Dooley More, Co Mayo

This deluge of wind farms will irradicate our local bird life, as well as other flora and fauna

https://www.eirgrid.ie/industry/interconnection

Https://www.eirgrid.ie/news/grid-upgrade-boost-battery-storage-role-power-system

https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sem

https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/NI038715/filing-history

Recent research indicated the clear negative effect of wind turbines on birds

The Fondation Pour La Recherche sur La Biodiversite (FPRB) reported in 2024 the following "Birds are impacted by direct collisions, the modification of their habitats, and noise and light emissions from wind turbines. The most frequently killed species are those whose flight path coincides with the turbines' rotor swept area. They include certain species (threatened or not) with large populations, such as larks (Eremophila alpestris, Alauda arvensis, and Chersophilus duponti), but also protected species, especially migratory birds and raptors. Bird populations are also impacted by the disturbance caused by the construction of wind turbines, displaying pronounced avoidance behaviours depending on the species.

For diurnal raptors, which are mainly affected during their nesting period, their populations are often very small (sometimes only a few dozen nesting pairs): the cumulated impact of collisions with wind turbines further worsens their conservation status.

A French study by the LPO (Bird Protection League) (2017) stressed that:

- 81 % of bird carcasses found belong to protected species or species whose conservation status is of major concern.
- 60 % of bird carcasses found belong to migratory birds.

A Swiss study (Aschwanden et al., 2018) showed that:

- 55 % of fatalities were kinglets (Regulus sp.) and nocturnal migratory birds (due to limited visibility at night or in poor weather conditions).

Two studies in the United States (Smallwood, 2013; Walston et al., 2018) estimated that:

- 573,000 bird deaths each year are due to wind turbines,
- Of which 83,000 are raptors.

Multiple studies have shown that the move to more suitable habitats leads to a reduction in breeding performance in raptors, and thus to a fall in numbers.
Can turbines be perceived as a predator risk and trigger avoidance/escape strategies in species such as Dupont's lark?
Species respond differently to the construction of wind farms: by comparing data from 12 wind farms in the U.K., Pearce-Higgins et al. (2012) found that red grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*), snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and curlew (*Numenius arquata*) densities had decreased."

FRB_The_Impacts_of_Onshore_Wind_Power_on_Biodiversity-_Knowledge_Update.pdf

7 (of many) studies showing wind turbines' adverse impacts on wildlife | Wind Energy Impacts and Issues

Bat Mortality due to Wind Turbines
In the 2024 FPRB's review of the effect of wind turbines on biodiversity, it stated:

"Bats can be killed either by collision or barotrauma (a sudden drop in air pressure in the vicinity of blades in motion). They can also be impacted by the loss and degradation of their habitat and by noise. Many studies have shown that mortality by collision alone could threaten the viability of populations and lead to an increased risk of extinction.

While most studies have focused on bat mortality by collision, very few studies have quantified the loss of habitat use resulting from the potential negative impact of wind turbines.

Differences in the results of the studies we looked at suggest that wind turbines have two contrasting effects: avoidance at the scale of the wind farm, and attraction at the scale of the wind turbine.

Collisions happen because bats may not detect the blades due to the extremely high speed of the rotor (up to 300 km/h at the tip of the blades), they may fly in the rotor swept area during migration or while foraging (well documented), or they may be attracted to wind turbines (see below). The attraction of bats to wind turbines varies depending on the species, the sex and age of the individual, the time of year and the location of the turbines (Reimer et al., 2018).

This attraction may be due to the high number of insects congregating near turbines, attracted by the turbines' colour and the heat they emit (most carcasses of eastern red bats (Lasiurus borealis) and hoary bats (Lasiurus cinereus) had a full stomach indicating that the individuals probably died while foraging).

It may also be due to the presence of potential mates or roosting sites, particularly for tree-bats that perceive turbines as trees (Cryan et al., 2014; Cryan & Barclay, 2009).

In Germany, bat fatalities were estimated at over 250,000 individuals per year (FRB, 2017). ® A study in the United States estimates that 888,000 bats die each year at wind energy sites (Smallwood, 2013).

Multiple studies show that mortality is higher at the end of the summer and in the autumn, coinciding with bat migrations. Species most likely to collide with wind turbines are those that use echolocation adapted to open (the genera Lasiurus, Lasionycteris, Pipistrellus, Vespertilio, Eptesicus and Chalinolobus). Perimyotis, Nyctalus. Avoidance of the lights and noise emitted by turbines, could greatly affect European bat species by reducing habitat availability (Barré et al., 2018). Thus, 2,400 km of hedgerows could be lost to bats, according to land surveys in Bretagne and Pays de Loire (FRB, 2017). Most species of bats are impacted within 1,000 m of wind turbines, including gleaners and other species that are not generally considered collision prone (Barré et al., 2018).

The barrier effect of large wind farms causes habitat loss, constrains daily commuting routes and disconnects potential feeding and roosting sites (Roeleke et al., 2016).

Published after the FRB review, the study by Leroux et al. (2023) on the effects of wind turbine size, density and average rotation speed on European bats suggests that high turbine densities and large rotor sizes should be avoided, and turbines should be placed as far away as possible from optimal habitats such as forest edges, and not between these optimal habitats and the source of the prevailing winds.

Noise from construction activity can harm the hearing of certain species that regularly use passive listening for foraging (greater mouse-eared bats or long-eared bats), thus impacting their search for food (DREAL, 2017). Comparative studies on wind farms have established that turbines could be even more harmful to bats than birds (Cryan & Barclay, 2009; Smallwood, 2013).

Other Aquatic Species at Site, Ch 6.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage had highlighted the Golden Plover as just one example of the fauna in decline in Ireland Another species that is in decline and Atlantic Salmon.

The KMO Biodiversity Ch 6. Identifies salmon in the Owenboy river and Keerglen river. Irish Fisheries report on Ballinglen river identifies salmon of local Importance (Higher Value) in terms of their aquatic ecology due to the presence of species and or habitats of higher conservation value.

The Atlantic Salmon was identified on 6 sites, the European eel in 8 sites and young otters in 2 sites. The Western River Basin District, Fisheries, Ireland (WRBD), 2023, recorded brown trout, Atlantic Salmon, and European Eels. Brown trout in Ballinglen, Keerglen, Clydagh and Glenedagh Rivers. Brown trout was the most abundant fish in the river at 72%, salmon was 25% and European eel as 2.3%.

Atlantic Salmon is on the Red List of endangered species with a decline of 25% throughout the world. This is due to a multitude of threats to the species which have led to reported declines in the global population size over the last three generations, a period of 15 years. One of those

threats is Wind Farm Construction on Keerglen River. Most salmon found were less than a year old, so have just spawned that year. These rivers are spawning sites for salmon.

https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/2023-03/ballinglen_2021.pdf

A Water Way formed Between Clydagh River and Lacken Bay salt marches (SAC and SPA site)

To the East of Keerglen is the Killala Bay/Moy SAC/SPA Report.

Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service

The report states that, “Killala Bay/Moy Estuary Special Protection Area is a large site spanning Counties Mayo and Sligo. It comprises the inner part of Killala Bay, and the estuary of the River Moy which flows into the sea via a long and narrow, funnel-shaped channel that is c. 7 km wide at its outer limit. The site also includes Lacken Bay and Rathfran Bay; estuaries of the Cloonalaghan and Cloonaghmore rivers respectively.”

The shorelines and salt marshes are awash with nature, including the Common Snipe, Golden Plover, and European Salmon. Since both Snipe and Golden Plover are waders, it would be natural for them to find their way to these shorelines and enjoy rich selection of insects, worms, etc. The European Salmon also swim up Cloonalaghan and Cloonaghmore rivers and are renowned for Salmon fishing.

On reviewing the rivers and streams around Keerglen we have identified that there is an aquatic link between the site where ABO want to build this Wind Farm and the salt marshes South of Lacken Bay. (See Map Below) I walked the path of the river from Clydagh River to where the Annagh Mor Channel meets the Cairn River.

The Clydagh River, South of the Keerglen River, flows into Anagh More River. This river connects to a manmade water channel on Annagh More Bog, that flows into Carn River. This River then flows into Cloonalaghan River to the Foghill Salt Marshes. This means that the Kilala/Moy SAC/SPA are intrinsically linked to the Keerglen Site. Birds including waders, seeds and pollen could easily move between sites and salmon are swimming up to Keerglen and Ballinglen Rivers, as well as Clydagh River.

We continued up towards the Carn River to find the mouth of Annagh Mor man-made channel, that feeds into Annagh Mor River and we found it at co-ordinates 54.24150° N, 9.34363° W. It meets the Annagh Mor River around coordinates 54.23819° N, 9.35396° W. Many man-made channels flow down from this hill and Annagh Beg Hill which ends up in the Ballinglen River. This means there is a waterway connecting Ballinglen and its tributaries, including the locally known Pollaphuca River (in the Glenamoy SAC complex - Aghoo, due to the presence of Saxifraga hirculus). So Keerglen and Clydagh Rivers meeting up with Annagh Mor waterways.

The Annagh Mor Channel meets the Carn River that flows towards the Cloonalaghan River and then flows into the sea at the SAC/SPA area at Lacken salt Marshes in RathLacken/ Foghill. These rivers are essentially biodiversity water corridors in the local areas and the catchments within SAC and SPA areas such as the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA.

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004036.pdf

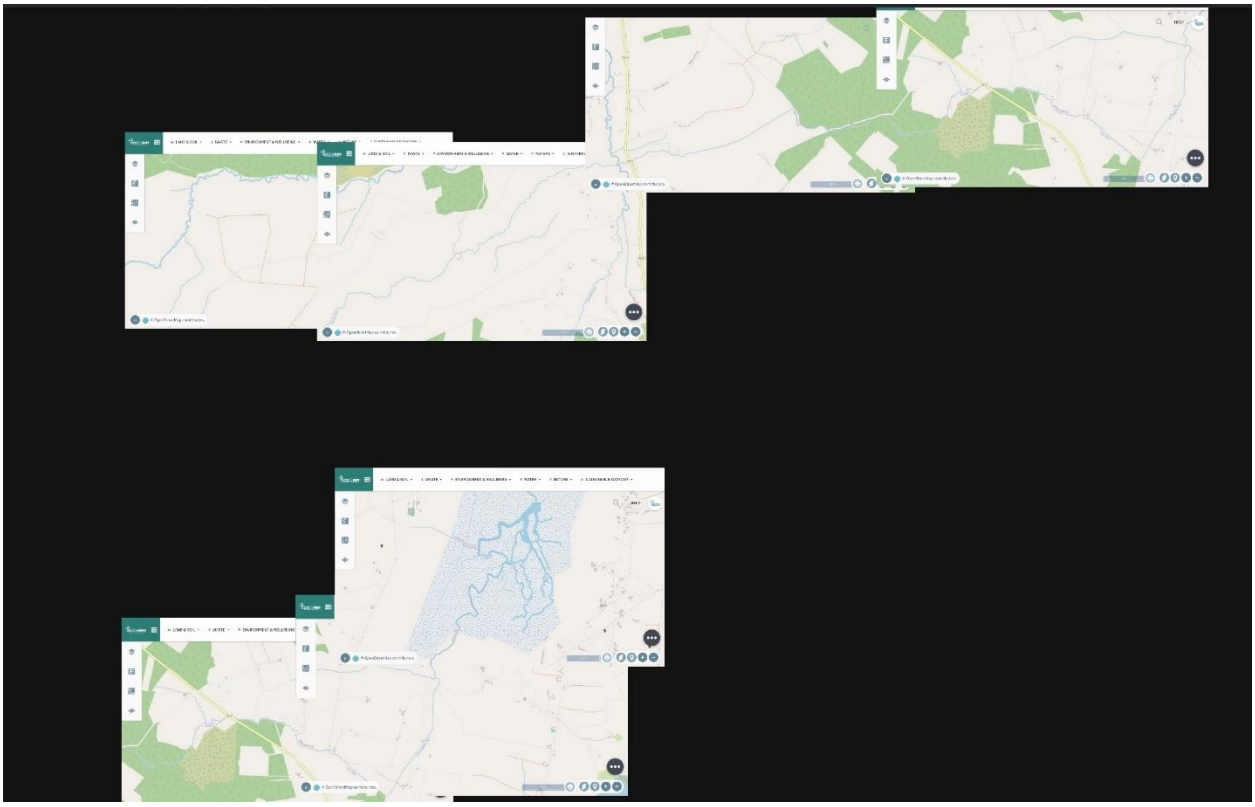
This includes Lacken and Kilcummin heads SAC/SPA.

https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000516

Since the Glenamoy Bog complex SAC now includes part of the Ballinglen and Killerduff River catchment area, these connecting biodiversity corridors should be prioritized, since two river basins are connected providing water corridors between the Blacksod-Broadhaven Catchment and the Moy-Killala Bay Catchment.
Management Catchment - Blacksod-Broadhaven
Management Catchment - Moy & Killala Bay

This is particularly important for wading birds, that both fly, and wade, up, and down waterways (SAC site code: 000500) https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000500.

All the areas of land between Glenamoy and Killala Bay must undergo an **Appropriate Assessment** by An Bord Pleanarla to officially determine this connection, to consider establishing all the North Coast of Mayo a SAC/SPA/NHA site due to its rich flora, fauna, natural heritage, and historical and cultural material sites. Migrating birds would be flying straight into 500 wind turbines to reach their winder home. Bats would be decimated, leakages of toxins, sediment and disruption of salmon spawning grounds would be completely detrimental while releasing major levels of captured CO_2 into the atmosphere during site construction, regardless of the peat storage area.



Photograph 7: Connecting rivers and channel between Clydagh River and Cloonalaghan River.

A simple statement of determination without reasons is not sufficient. ”OPR Practice Note PN01 “In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, we has made a determination following significant research that an Appropriate Assessment for Glenora proposed Wind Farm is required ,as the project is directly connected with, or necessary to the management of the sites as European sites and as it can be concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European sites listed above. This determination is based on the distance of sensitive qualifying species from the emergency works (Gloden Plover, Snipe, Atlantic Salmon and Natterer's Bat), the timing of the works throughout the years of construction, including salmon spawning season, and the winter bird season.

Article 6(3) EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC states: “6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.” (Presentation Title Slide – NPWS-Appropriate Assessment, Scott, P. 8th March 2024).“

“Determination of Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), as transposed into Irish legislation by the Natura 2000 Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (Section 177U) for Variation XY.

Under Planning and Development Regulations 2021or Birds and Habitats Regulation, a local authority (LA) must carry out AA screening for any plans or projects which are statutory functions of the LA. In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, we has made a determination that An Bord Pleanala must carry out an Appropriate Assessment Screening of the proposed Glenora Wind Farm, in association with the Keerglen, Sherskin and Tirawley proposed wind farms as these project sites are directly connected with and necessary to the management of the following Natura 2000 sits, on the basis of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European sites listed above. Our determination is based on the distance of sensitive qualifying species from emergency work:

1. The site is being built along Keerglen River , over Altderg River and major road developments and drainage works are included within, over and alongside rivers containing spawning Atlantic salmon (On the red list of species protected in Ireland), brown trout, sea trout, and European eel ballinglen_2021.pdf.

2. The North of Mayo should be viewed as a continuous network corridor connecting all Natura sites due to the flight paths of protected migrating birds, and the aquatic connectivity of Keerglen and to the Killala/Moy SAC/SPA Sites. A major number of Wind Turbines fall within this area of land. As highlighted in the document, mortality of birds and bats has been greatly underestimated over the years to allow the building of wind turbines. The EU legislation needs to be enforced to protect biodiversity

3. A major Heritage site, The Ceide Fields complex has been neglected and left to the vagaries of a private company, with undersoil stone walls from 6 thousand years ago allowed to be taken under the control of imperial companies that only understand profit not heritage. As the beautifully written submission from Teresa Fagan explains. (Teresa Fagan.pdf), on behalf of Lacken Ballycastle Protection Group.

I would just like to mention in relation to the submission, by Teresa, that the Ceide Fields Complex extends all along the north coast of North Mayo. The reason why archaeologists like Greta Byrne have not investigated the hills south of the Ceide Fields is due to lack of resources.

https://researchrepository.ucd.ie/server/api/core/bitstreams/e7ce20d0-c659-4283-bdf2-b7b8b51d4d35/content

Photograph 8 clearly shows that the ancient dwellings and farms were concentrated on hills, not in the valleys

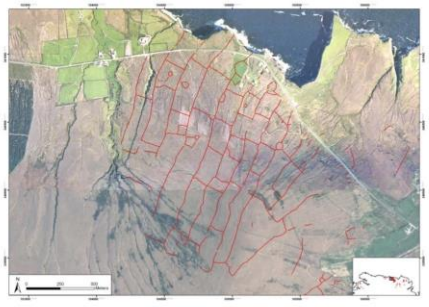


Figure 2: sub-peat walls at the Céide Fields Visitor Centre.

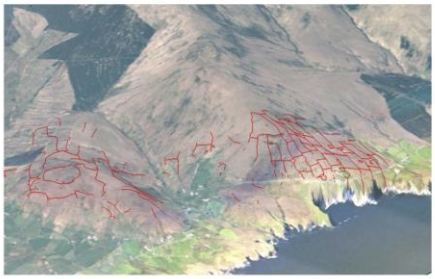
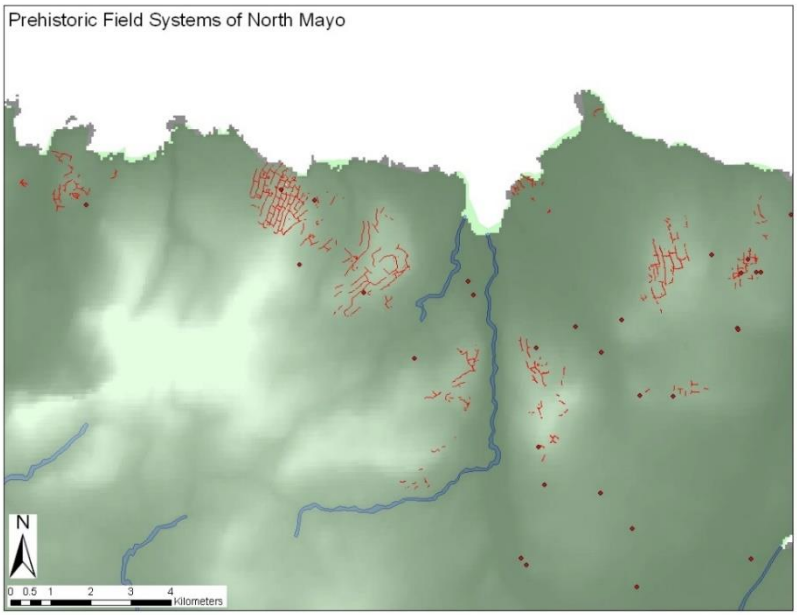


Figure 3: 3D model, with 2x vertical exaggeration, showing Ballyknock (left) and

Photograph 8: 3D model of part of the Ceide Field Complex.

Some excavation occurred along a segment of Keerglen/ Ballinglen River and the buried ancient walls and other monuments and burial grounds were exposed. See Photgraph 9



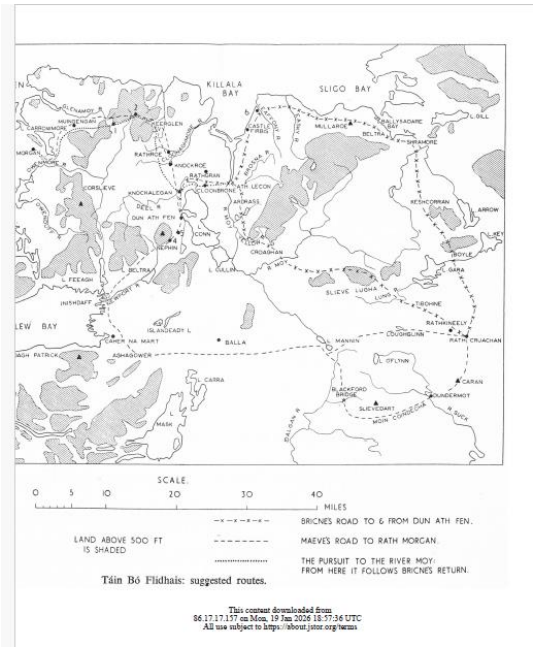
Photograph 9: The Full Extent of Prehistoric Field walls in North Mayo. Keerglen/Ballinglen area circled in blue.

It is likely that there are (or were) ancient stone walls, and other burial areas on the Keerglen and Glenora Hills. But the forestry plantation may have disturbed them. It is now government policy to not replant commercial forests on bogland. Instead ,the focus is on restoring the bogland to its former glory. It would be a very worth-while project to work with the local community to restore this area to bogland, while providing funding for archaeologists to investigate the area in some detail.

An Tain Bo Flidhais

Another significant reason why we feel advocating for the North of Mayo to be one continuous natural Heritage Site is because it is the trail Queen Maive took when she intended to steal Flidhais's white cow. See Photograph 10a.

The route passes right through the proposed wind farm site. See close up section in Photograph 10b.



Photograph 10a: Map of Tain Bo Flidhais suggested route.

Photo 10b: Close up of area where Queen Maive is thought to have moved from Altderg to Keerglen.

Glen Cruach was named after the heap of heads which the Gamanrad made there (Cruach na Cenn): "thus the Gamanrad acted on their march, they carried with them the heads of all the men of Ireland whom they slew, leaving their bodies behind, until they reached the Glen in which the men of Ireland camped . . . they made a heap of the men of Ireland's heads there. . . ."

This place seemed to me to be one of the key points of the story, which should have been somewhere along the old track from Erris to the Lagan; and an old man in Srahlaghy told me that he knew the place and that it was in Altderg. It seemed improbable, but the place is there and well known to the inhabitants of the lonely glens of Altderg.

The old pony track from Glenamoy went via Glencalry, Srahlaghy and Glenagh, crossing over a hill into the Oweninny valley in Muinganierin; then following down one of the little streams flowing into the Altderg River (which forms the head waters of the Oweninny) nearly to the new bridge across it, on the road from Garranard to Altderg. It goes up the west bank of the river from here for about a mile; here a small stream joins the river from the east bank, this runs in a little valley known as Cron na gCeann, the hollow of heads, and is the Glen Cruach of the story.

The track follows up this stream for nearly a mile, here the stream turns sharply north-east, and the main track going into the Lagan follows up this and crosses into Glencullen running right down the valley and

into Ballycastle. The southerly track, which Maeve followed, branches off south-east and follows on into Keerglen and keeping on the north bank of the river follows it down into the upper Lagan, joining the main Ballycastle to Crossmolina road.

On the north side of Cron na gCeann or Glen Cruach are two "Sheeans". The westerly of these is Sheean beg, an insignificant mound; but the other, Sheean mor, appears to be a man-made mound, or tumulus, overlooking the head of the glen, about quarter of a mile from the point where the track divides. This ought to be Cruach na Cenn.

From here the army continued down the Keerglen river, and would have turned south, probably along the hills running parallel to the Ballycastle to Crossmolina road, and to the west of the Ballinglen river through Glenedagh Eighter. This may be Sleibe Find, though the name is unknown now; in Muiredach's lay that he made after recapturing the Maol, he names this "Sleib fidaig Finn . . . Boinne was slain . . . on the slope of the woody hill of Finn". They camped at Glen da Aran, which is unknown also; as is also the meaning of the word Aran.

Photograph 11: Section where the author speaks about the march through Altderg and Keerglen from: The Routes Described in the Story Called Táin Bó Flidhais (Continued) Author(s): R. B. Aldridge Source: The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland , 1962, Vol. 92, No. 1 (1962), pp. 21-39 Published by: Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland Stable URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/25509452

Sruth Legain lies on the next day's march to Tulaig na Dala, where the two columns met and joined up again before marching on up the Keerglen and into Erris. This would have been around Glenedagh Eighter, or Clydagh; the columns would have crossed the Ballinglen River, which must be considered as Sruth Legain. In the story the river is called after

Legain who was killed there; but the Ballinglen River runs through the centre of "The Lagan", which comprises Dunfeeny, Kilfian and part of Moygawnagh Parishes, and it would have been known as the Lagan River at the time the story was committed to writing.

The army moved westward up Glen Cainner, which must be the Keerglen River (Westropp looked for Glen Cainner in the hills north-west of Ellagh). Cainner was buried beside the river, perhaps in Dun Draighin; called the "Dragon's Grave" in the six-inch survey maps. The Dun stands on the south bank of the river, and was used as a Lisheen burying place formerly: there was reputed to be a "Giant's Grave" covered with huge flags in it, and a passage from the river bank running into the Dun; but these are not to be seen now. A mile higher up the Glen on the north side of the river is Skahaghnashee, a Fairy thorn tree known to the owner of the land as Sgeach na h-oinseacha, the thorn tree of the female fool (compare this with Cruach na h-oinseacha, in Maeve's route to Dun Atha Fen). One of these two places may be the supposed site of Cainner's grave.

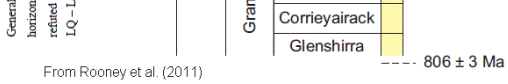
The route up Keerglen follows the ancient track from the southern end of the Lagan into Erris; this was in use in the last century for pony traffic across the mountains into Glenamoy, and would have been the obvious route for Maeve to take. There was no direct road into Erris from Crossmolina and Ballina till comparatively modern times; at the time of the story the whole of the large expanse of country west of Crossmolina to Bangor must have been under forest and swamp, and quite impassable for an army and chariots to cross.

The route followed through Altderg, Muinganierin, Glenagh, and into Glen Calraide (Glencalry) where Calraide fell, and down Glen Mughaidhe, the Glenamoy River valley. Glenamoy used to take in the whole of the river valley, of which Glencalry was a part, which may explain why Glenamoy is mentioned in the story as being reached before Glencalry. It seems probable that the route kept to the high ground south of the river, and crossed the Munhin River at the southern end of Loch Carrowmore and into Rath Morgan.

Photograph 12: Describes where Queen Maive's daughter Cainner, (Glen Cainner) was killed in battle and buried near Keerglen River, possibly in Dun Draighin. Information from The Routes Described in the Story Called Táin Bó Flidhais Author(s): R. B. Aldridge Source: The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland , 1961, Vol. 91, No. 1 (1961), pp. 117-127 Published by: Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland Stable URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/25509420

Legends Are Here !!: Táin Bó Flidhais

Ancient geological structures under the forests of Glenora



From Rooney et al. (2011)

The rock formation underneath the forested area in Glenora is considered to be from the period when the Dalradian super group of rock structures were formed.

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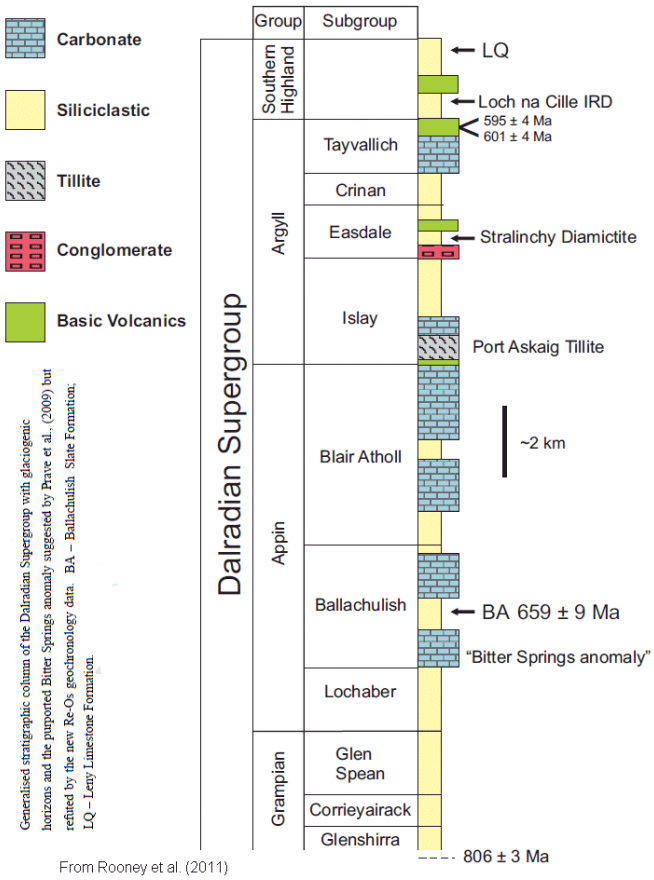


From Rooney et al. (2011)

Photograph 13: Stratigraphic column of the Dalradian Super Groups with

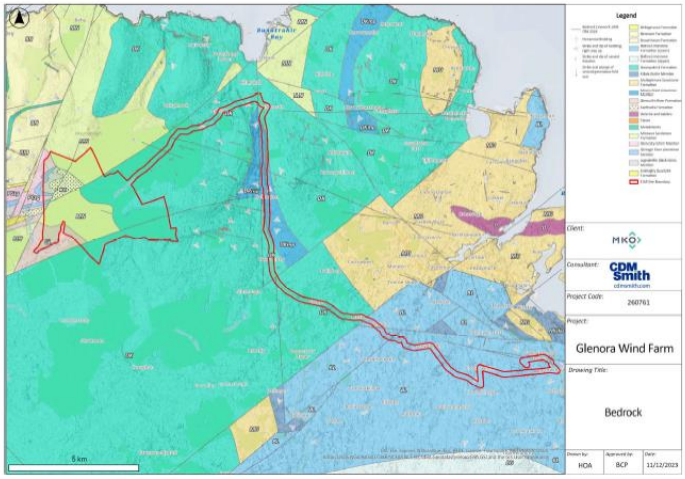
Metadolerite (dolerite, an igneous rock similar to basalt, that has been metamorphosed) was formed 700 million years ago

Metadolerite intrusions were emplaced into the Dalradian schists as dykes (near to sub-vertical intrusions that cut across pre-existing rocks).

Belderg Harbour has been identified as a NHA site due to these Dalradian geological formation forming the harbour backdrop. The geology report states “These rocks are part of the Dalradian Supergroup of Ireland and Scotland, a metasedimentary succession deposited on the eastern margin of the ancient continent of Laurentia. Caledonian metadolerite intrusions are also present at the site.”

Mayo – County Geological Site Report

The rock was identified on KMO geology map aspart of the in Chapter 9, Hydrology and Hydrogeology, P.40. See Photograph 14.



Photograph 15: Metadolerite, as the green aqua-colour on map as representing about ½ the bedrock of the Wind farm.

Due to its exceptionally hard nature, wind farm companies like it because it reduces costs by at least 20%. However, it may be necessary to use excessive force to drill into it, and pits formed here will result in the company possibly using some blast mechanism to cut it out. This again will increase the likelihood of causing peat slippage. Once the trees go, there will be no soakage in this area. This will result in runoff from the wind farm into sensitive SAC habitats.

Ch. 9 Hydrology and Hydrogeology F - 2023.12.01 - 201120.pdf
Microsoft Word - P20-312_Rpt_Glenora_Peat & Spoil Management Plan.docx

However, the revealing of this large vein of rock indicates that the Dalradian rock runs from Connemara, right through the centre of North Mayo, to Donegal and onto Scotland. It was the beginning of the formation of the Atlantic Ocean.

Mayo – County Geological Site Report

If it is decided to not allow the wind farm to be built, and bog regeneration is planned, as well as investigating evidence of our first farmers settling in Glenora, it could also be the centre of geological investigations, mapping the path of the Dalradian Super Group throughout North Mayo.

Dark Skies

If you look at Photograph 16, you will see Ballycroy visitor's centre. Ballycroy is renowned for having one of the best Dark Sky nights in the world. It greatly increases the numbers of visitors, visiting there. But Glenora, and most of North Mayo is the same, except for small town areas. There is no reason why Failte could not develop a similar tourist industry in the North of Mayo.

However, The Department of Defence has stated in its submission that "All turbines should be illuminated by Type C, Mediun intensity, obstacle light with minimum output of 2,000 candela, to be

visible in all directions of azimuth and to be operated H24/7 days a week” The light emitting would be in the near infrared.

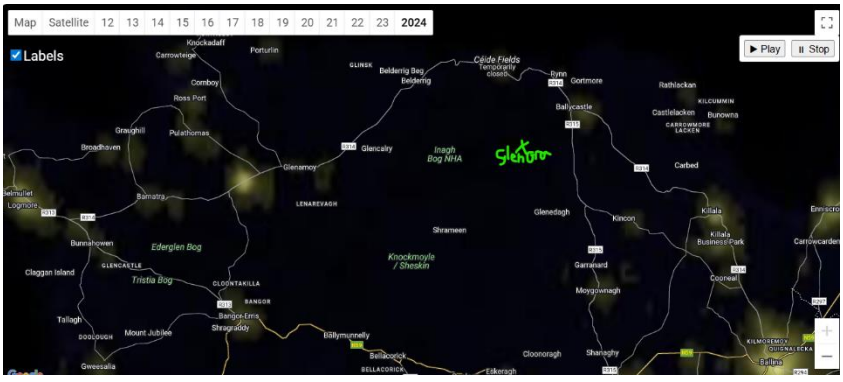
From a human health and safety point of view, of course this is necessary. However, the impact on the plant and animal life can be enormous and it will be the end of our dark nights if we have wind turbines with infra -ed lights littering our natural environment

But light at night disrupts flora and fauna’s natural circadian rhythm, resulting in it affecting all aspects of their lives, such as foraging, breeding, life expectancy. This represents another aspect of constructing a wind farm in a highly sensitive environmental area.

Department of Defence.pdf

Exposure to Artificial Light at Night and the Consequences for Flora, Fauna, and Ecosystems

16a.



16b

Photograph 16 a and b: Dark Skys over Mayo Be shows Glenora.

Blue Marble Navigator - Night Lights

This is not protecting our heritage or future generations, but the think ends of the wedge of allowing international private companies to run our precious historical sites.

You will not be surprised to realise that a large majority of North Mayo's citizens completely reject the building of these monstrosities for all the scientific and legal reasons set out above and outlined in the following paragraphs below. An Pleanala must consider these wind farms from a cumulative perspective, rather than examining applications on a single boundary outline

Legislation

MKO goes on to argue that "A**n Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was prepared and submitted with the application** for the Proposed Development (provided in Section 4 of the Natura Impact Statement). Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). A screening for appropriate assessment of proposed development must be carried out by **the competent authority** to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with another project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a proposed development, is required if it cannot be excluded, based on objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other projects, will have a significant effect on a European site. The current project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site. Consequently, the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment Screening process. A competent authority can grant planning permission only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site. An NIS has been submitted with the application to assist the competent authority with its Appropriate Assessment process."

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement

We assess that consultants who carried out the assessment, regardless of how competent or knowledgeable in their field of study, are working on behalf of the company applying to establish windfarms. KMO cannot be considered an independent actor, since their end goal is to have Future Energy and SSE build the wind farm. The company will apply pressure to ensure mitigating approaches are extensive, but whether they will work or, even be implemented cannot be assessed, because once they have the planning permission, they community or the authorities seem to have little control on how these companies behave toward our natural and historic environment.

As stated by KMO in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement Report, "McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. (MKO) was appointed to prepare an Appropriate Assessment screening and a Natura Impact Statement to allow the competent authority (An Bord Pleanála) to conduct an Appropriate Assessment under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-(as amended) of a proposed wind energy development and all associated infrastructure located at Glenora and adjacent townlands, County Mayo."

An Coimisiun Pleanala has a track record of relying on AAS reports from wind farm companies, to decide whether to allow a wind farm to be built. If an issue arises, it just requests the company to go back, employ another consultant, to tell the board what it wants to

hear. This, while larger numbers of community activists are staying up at night, writing submissions, to try and end the never-ending tide of wind turbines in their unique homeland. They must then pay before the report is considered. Most of the consultants go to see the sites, then use desktop research to complete their report. This is not proper investigative analysis of the impact of wind farms on unique local communities and their unique natural environment. It has become a 'turning the handle' exercise, losing any cognizance of the reality of these decisions on ordinary people, every day of their lives.

Pleanala's Legal Obligations

The observation from Peter Sweetman & Associates, on behalf of Wild Ireland Defense, has clearly stated that An Pleanala has three distinct set of legal tasks.

1. Planning Acts
2. The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive
3. The Assessment under the Habitats Directive

The Habitat Directive links into the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 which has the preserving and restoring biodiversity as one of the EU's top priorities. Under this directive Sweetman states that it is An Pleanala that is responsible for,

1. Screen the development under Article 6(3)
2. Decide as required under article 6(3)

A legal case has already been won and the outcome placed in law, stating that if there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on the site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment. There is no need to establish such an effect, but to determine that there may be such an effect. The information provided by the applicant must be complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of works proposed on the protected site concerned (See Peter Sweetman.pdf).

It is time for An Coimisiun Pleanala to fully engage with each and every aspect of assessing an application and employ (not having them on contract) independent engineers, ecologists, environmental scientists, hydrologists, archaeologists and social scientists to carry out field work to an academic standard to inform future scientists of the necessary steps to take to protect environs, while developing renewable energy pathways that do not wreak havoc on a particular location, and reverse the quite possible future reality of ripping out its sense of community by dividing the community in to pro- and anti- wind farms. There are many other routes to generate renewable energy. This will be discussed later.

Community Benefit Fund

KMO is keen to showcase its Community Benefit Fund', It states, "In the instance that the project is not successful in a RESS auction, SSE and FEI can commit that it will deliver 2 Euro per mw/h for the first 15 years, in line with Govt policy under RESS. In both instances, there

will be an extensive community consultation process to understand the needs of the community. This will involve in-person consultation events, school visits, and questionnaires, we will also request that people register interest to join the community committee who will oversee and have responsibility for the allocation of the funds”

Here we see a company, not an engineering consultancy company from Galway, promising, on behalf of SSE and FEI, the local community 2 Euros per mw/h for the first 15 years, should the proposed development not succeed at RESS. SSE and Future Energy Ireland are the companies behind the wind farm in Glenora.

Future Energy is a joint venture between Coillte and ESB to take advantage of the renewable energy industry in Ireland, by collaborating with international companies who have the specialisms to build and maintain wind farms. Coillte owns 7% of commercial /recreational forests in Ireland.

ESB’s profits for the first half of 2025 was EBITDA
(Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization, a way of directly comparing profits of each company) of €907 million and underlying operating profit of €424 million, after tax, €313 million, up 142 Million on same period in 2024. Coillte profit margins are much smaller. It achieved EBITDA of €62 million in 2024, 4.4 million of this was paid to shareholders.

SSE PLC is a big British international player, Sir John Mansoni is the Chair. The company made £2,138.2 million (2.14 B) in profits before tax. After tax, this came to 1 841.8 million (1.84 B) This was equivalent to 13.9% tax.

RTE reported in November that “The average wholesale price of electricity in October fell to €100.70 per megawatt-hour (MWh), down from €123.45 per MWh during the same month last year” Future Energy Ireland and SSE are offering a reduction of €2 per MWh hr, over 15 years. This is just a drop in the ocean when you consider the population size of Ballycastle, Beldergmore and Kilfian West electoral division areas that will be affected by the wind farm because they have a total population of approx. 844 (2022 census).

On average, there are 2.74 members in a household in Co Mayo, Ireland. An Irish household uses 7 MW of electricity each year. Dividing 2.74 into 844 leaves the wind farm providing 308.03 households, with €4,312.42 (7 MWh/yr x €2 = 14 x 308.03) in total, to be divided amongst them. This means that each household gets €14 extra per year, i.e., €1.17 per month.

Do these companies think that the local community is willing to throw away its rich natural heritage and unique biodiversity environs for the sake of €2.86 per month? If information was presented to the local community in this fashion, you would have been asked to leave the locality immediately.

Galway firm MKO plans 10% revenue boost after hitting 225 staff | Business Post

ESB Interim Financial Report For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

Coillte-2024-Annual-Report.pdf

SSE announces Full Year 2024/25 financial results | SSE

Interactive Data Visualisations | CSO Ireland

36% of electricity provided by wind farms in October

Of course, the cash strapped Mayo County Council is hoping to rely on contributions per megawatt of electricity produced by the wind farm. It is expected to produce 158 MW per year. Therefore, Mayo County Council will receive €1,580,000, €10,000 per MW per year, €1.58 million. It is in its financial interest to allow this wind farm to go ahead. A further €1.58 million will be secured from the wind farm company for supposed community benefit contributions, which will be squirreled away to fill the Mayo council's coffers (p43 of Executive Report from Mayo County Council).

The Glenora wind farm companies will be happy to hand over €2.66 million to a council that has a budget of €219.6 million, with a €6.1 million increase this year alone. The SACs, SPAs and NHAs that are within a 15-mile radius of this wind farm and the other 3 being considered (Keerglen, Shesken, Tirawley) will do irreversible damage. €2.66 million per year to our council from this and other wind farms will be no compensation.

Planning application submitted for 158MW Glenora Wind Farm | SSE Renewables

Executive Report from Mayo County Council.pdf

Mayo chief executive seeks approval for €219.6m. budget | Connaught Telegraph

We propose that An Pleanala takes a breathe and reconsiders its approach to developing wind energy. Instead of hanging all your colours to the mast of wind turbines, diversify.

1. Fully restore the raised bogland to it previous glory and prevent further tree plantations of these sensitive bog areas.
2. Ban hunting in forests and SHA/SPA areas completely to protect bird and animal life.
3. Develop tourism.
4. Further investigations into Queen Maeve's route to Westport and her daughter's burial place.
5. Develop Glenora as a dark night trail.
6. Seek to designate from Connemara to Belderrig an NHA sight due to ancient geological bedrock and possibly outcrops of Metadolerite/dolerite present on the hills of Baile Mhic Con Leitreach and surrounding areas.Mayo
7. Advocate to designate the whole area of North Mayo as a NHA site.

8. Develop educational and tourist trails to this area as part of the Wild Atlantic Way.
9. Our natural heritage should not be sacrificed due to pressure to produce electricity. We will be long gone when we should have handed over our beautiful landscape in good shape to future generations, who will hopefully appreciate it more than our political leaders have. There are many other forms of electricity production including offshore hydroelectricity. We are an Island. They should be thoroughly investigated and implemented with the local community on your side.

We leave you with a poem from Seamus Heaney when he came to visit the Ceide Fields

Belderg

'They just keep turning up
And were thought of as foreign'-
One-eyed and benign,
They lie about his house,
Quernstones out of a bog.
To lift the lid of the peat
And find this pupil dreaming
Of neolithic wheat!
When he stripped off blanket bog
The soft-piled centuries
Fell open like a glib;
There were the first plough-marks,
The stone-age fields, the tomb
Corbelled, turfed and chambered,
Floored with dry turf-coomb.
A landscape fossilized,
Its stone wall patternings
Repeated before our eyes
In the stone walls of Mayo.
Before I turned to go
He talked about persistence,
A congruence of lives,
How stubbed and cleared of stones,
His home accrued growth rings
Of iron, flint and bronze.
So I talked of Mossbawn,
A bogland name 'but Moss'?,
He crossed my old home's music
With older strains of Norse.
I'd told how its foundation
Was mutable as sound

And how I could derive
A forked root from that ground,
Make bawn an English fort,
A planter's walled-in mound.
Or else find sanctuary
And think of it as Irish,
Persistent if outworn.
'But the Norse ring on your tree?'
I passed through the eye of the quern,
Grist to an ancient mill,
And in my mind's eye saw,
A world-tree of balanced stones,
Querns piles like vertebrae,
The marrow crushed to grounds.

The End