

Caelan Doris,
CastleLacken,
Ballina,
County Mayo
F26 W5X9
25th June 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Objection to the Proposed Tirawley Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure

Development Objection Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Planning permission for the construction of Tirawley Windfarm consisting of 16 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, 110kV underground cable and grid connection, and ancillary development in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower & Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a submission objecting to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development.

I was born and raised in Lacken, County Mayo, and my family home is identified within the application as **Receptor H113**. According to the applicant's own documentation, five of the proposed turbines would be located at distances of approximately one kilometre from our family home.

While my professional commitments now bring me throughout Ireland and internationally, Lacken remains my home place. It is where I grew up, where my family continues to live, and where I return whenever possible. My connection to this area extends far beyond property ownership. It is rooted in family, community, heritage, landscape and identity.

My concerns relate not only to the impact on my family's home and the surrounding landscape, but also to the wider consequences of this proposal for the heritage, reputation and tourism value of North Mayo.

Family Connection to Lacken

Lacken has shaped who I am.

The landscape, coastline, boglands and community in which I grew up are inseparable from my identity and are qualities that I continue to value and speak about publicly.

Like many families who have lived in this part of Mayo for generations, my family's connection to the area is based on a deep appreciation of the land, its history and its people. The quality of life enjoyed by residents comes in large part from the area's natural beauty, open landscape and strong sense of place.

The proposed development would introduce large-scale industrial infrastructure into a landscape that has remained predominantly rural and undeveloped for generations. The introduction of multiple turbines within close proximity of my family home would fundamentally alter the character of the area that my family and many others call home.

Heritage and Cultural Landscape of North Mayo

One of my principal concerns is the effect this development would have on the wider heritage landscape of North Mayo.

The area surrounding Lacken is internationally recognised for its archaeological, historical and environmental significance. The Céide Fields, the Wild Atlantic coastline, the blanket bog landscape and the area's rich cultural heritage combine to create a place that is unique not only within Ireland but internationally.

The significance of the Céide Fields extends far beyond the archaeological remains themselves. The surrounding landscape forms an essential part of the visitor experience and contributes directly to the site's cultural and historical importance.

What makes this part of Mayo special is the fact that visitors can still experience an ancient landscape that retains much of its historic character. The relationship between the blanket bog, the coastline, traditional farming landscapes and archaeological heritage creates a sense of continuity that is increasingly rare.

The proposed turbines, together with associated infrastructure, would become dominant features within this landscape. In my view, insufficient weight has been given to the cumulative effect that developments of this scale can have on the appreciation of heritage landscapes and their wider setting.

Previous generations protected and preserved this area, allowing us to enjoy and benefit from its heritage today. I believe we have a responsibility to show the same level of stewardship for future generations.

Tourism and the International Profile of North Mayo

I am also concerned about the potential impact of this development on tourism and the long-term reputation of North Mayo as a visitor destination.

Throughout my sporting career I have had the opportunity to meet people from across Ireland and from around the world. Many of those people become interested in North Mayo through conversations about where I am from and what makes the area special.

Over the years I have welcomed visitors, teammates, friends and international guests to Lacken and the wider North Mayo area. The landscape, coastline, heritage and unique character of the region consistently leave a lasting impression on those who visit.

People are drawn here because of its authenticity. They come to experience the Atlantic coastline, the open boglands, the heritage of the Céide Fields, the Wild Atlantic Way, and a landscape that remains relatively untouched by large-scale industrial development.

Tourism in North Mayo is built upon these qualities.

The value of the area does not lie in a single attraction or viewpoint. Rather, it lies in the overall experience of the landscape. Visitors experience the region as a whole, and it is the combination of scenery, heritage, history and sense of remoteness that creates its appeal.

I believe there is a genuine risk that the cumulative industrialisation of the landscape could undermine qualities that have helped establish North Mayo as one of Ireland's most distinctive tourism destinations.

Landscape Character and Visual Impact

The appeal of Lacken is closely linked to its open and expansive landscape.

The proposed turbines would be among the largest structures in the area and would be visible across a wide part of the surrounding countryside. Their scale, movement and associated aviation lighting would introduce prominent man-made features into a landscape currently defined by natural landforms, blanket bog and coastal views.

Particularly concerning is the fact that five turbines are proposed within approximately one kilometre of Receptor H113.

While the Environmental Impact Assessment may assess these effects through technical methodologies, I believe it is equally important to recognise the real-world experience of residents and visitors who value the area for its scenery and undeveloped character.

The cumulative impact of existing, approved and proposed wind energy developments across North Mayo also requires careful consideration. While individual projects may appear acceptable when viewed in isolation, the public experiences the landscape as a whole.

It is this cumulative effect that concerns many people with strong connections to the area.

Responsibility to Future Generations

The decisions made today will shape the landscape inherited by future generations.

The landscape of North Mayo is part of a shared inheritance. It has cultural, archaeological, environmental and community value that extends far beyond the immediate planning application.

Renewable energy is important and has an essential role to play in Ireland's future. However, I do not believe that every location is suitable for industrial-scale development.

Particular care should be exercised where proposals have the potential to affect landscapes of exceptional heritage, tourism and cultural significance.

Once these landscapes are fundamentally altered, the changes cannot easily be reversed.

Conclusion

As someone who was born and raised in Lacken, whose family home is identified as Receptor H113, and who continues to actively promote the area to people across Ireland and internationally, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact of the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm on the character, heritage and tourism value of North Mayo.

I believe insufficient weight has been given to the area's unique cultural landscape, the importance of preserving the setting of the Céide Fields and the wider North Mayo heritage corridor, and the contribution that landscape quality makes to tourism and community identity.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure Development.

The landscapes of Lacken and North Mayo represent an irreplaceable cultural and environmental asset. We have inherited them because previous generations protected them. I believe we have a responsibility to ensure that future generations have the same opportunity.

Yours faithfully,

Caelan Doris

CastleLacken, County Mayo