

FIA CHOILLE TEO

Trading as Wildwood Balsamics

Lissadrone House

Lissadrone East

Carrowmore, Lacken

Co. Mayo

F26 HH52

24 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

Submission and Objection by Fia Choille Teo

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Director and major shareholder of Fia Choille Teo, trading as Wildwood Balsamics, an artisan food producer based at Lissadrone House, Lissadrone East, Lacken, County Mayo.

I respectfully submit this objection to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm and request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for this development.

Our objection is founded upon the unacceptable impacts the proposal would have on our internationally recognised food business, the unique natural environment upon which it depends, the biodiversity of the area, the historic landscape surrounding Lissadrone House, the health and welfare of those working at the premises and the cumulative industrialisation of one of North Mayo's most distinctive rural landscapes.

Wildwood Balsamics – An Internationally Recognised Rural Enterprise

Wildwood Balsamics was established in 2013 with the ambition of producing premium balsamic vinegars using entirely natural ingredients sourced from the unique landscape of North Mayo.

Over the past thirteen years our company has become internationally recognised for producing artisan food of exceptional quality. Our products have received numerous Irish and international awards, including two Great Taste Three-Star Awards. Out of approximately 18,000 entries submitted annually from across Europe, only around 200 products receive the highest Three-Star Award, with just fifty subsequently shortlisted for the prestigious Golden Fork Awards. Wildwood Balsamics has achieved this distinction twice.

Our products have been presented by the Irish Government to visiting Presidents of the United States, served at the State Banquet hosted in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, featured in Irish Embassies and selected by Michelin-starred chefs throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The success of our business has been built entirely upon the exceptional quality of the landscape in which we operate.

Terroir – The Foundation of Our Business

The defining characteristic of our products is terroir.

Just as great wines and cheeses derive their character from the land in which they are produced, our balsamics depend upon the interaction between Atlantic salt-laden air, acidic soils, local geology, rainfall, biodiversity and generations of traditional land management.

Our ingredients are not commercially cultivated crops. They are carefully harvested by hand from wild habitats throughout the surrounding townlands including Carrowmore, Lissadrone West, Glebe, Castlелackan Demesne, Beltra and Keellogues Upper.

These ingredients include wild blackberries, elderberries, fraughan berries, elderflower, wild heather blossom and wild fuchsia.

These habitats have evolved naturally over centuries and cannot simply be recreated elsewhere. Their quality and ecological integrity are fundamental to the products we produce.

The Environmental Impact Assessment completely fails to consider businesses whose products rely upon harvesting wild botanical species from the surrounding landscape.

Impact upon Wild Habitats and Biodiversity

The proposed development involves large-scale forestry clearance, extensive excavation, permanent turbine foundations, crane hardstands, access roads, spoil deposition areas, a major Battery Energy Storage System, substation infrastructure and associated drainage works.

Collectively these works represent the industrialisation of an extensive area of countryside that currently supports a rich mosaic of woodland, hedgerows, wetlands, peatland and semi-natural habitats.

While the EIAR assesses individual ecological receptors, it does not assess the cumulative impact that habitat fragmentation, forestry loss, dust deposition, changes in drainage, disturbance of pollinating insects and long-term operational activity may have on businesses such as ours that depend directly upon healthy wild ecosystems.

The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the habitats from which we sustainably harvest our ingredients will remain unchanged throughout the proposed thirty-five-year operational life of the development.

Emerging Environmental Risks

The planning application introduces a number of potential environmental risks that have not been adequately assessed.

Modern wind turbine blades are manufactured from composite materials including epoxy resins, glass fibres and carbon fibres. International scientific research has identified blade erosion as a potential source of microscopic composite particles and microplastics released over the operational lifetime of wind turbines. While scientific understanding continues to develop, the applicant has undertaken no assessment of whether blade erosion could affect surrounding vegetation, soils, wild food sources or sensitive habitats.

Similarly, the proposal includes a substantial Battery Energy Storage System together with transformers, lubricants, hydraulic systems, fuels and electrical equipment. Although accidental releases may be infrequent, the consequences of contamination of soils, springs, streams or habitats over a thirty-five-year operational period have not been comprehensively assessed.

As a food producer whose products rely entirely upon harvesting wild plants from the surrounding landscape, these matters are of direct commercial concern. The applicant has not demonstrated that the environmental quality upon which our products depend can be maintained throughout the lifetime of the project.

The precautionary principle requires that where scientific uncertainty exists regarding potentially irreversible environmental effects, permission should not be granted until those risks have been properly investigated and assessed.

Worker Health, Safety and Welfare

Our harvesting season extends over approximately ten months of each year.

During this period I work outdoors for prolonged periods beneath and alongside the proposed turbine locations and infrastructure. Wildwood Balsamics also hosts WOOFING volunteers from across Europe who assist in harvesting and processing our products.

The applicant has failed to consider the occupational effects of prolonged exposure to turbine noise, shadow flicker, amplitude modulation and visual disturbance upon those working outdoors for extended periods throughout the year.

The health and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers and visitors has not been adequately considered.

Failure to Consult

Despite the proximity of turbines AT07, AT08, AT09 and AT10 to our business operations, the applicant made no attempt to contact either myself or Fia Choille Teo during preparation of the application.

Wildwood Balsamics operates from an established HSE-registered food production premises that has been producing internationally recognised products since 2013.

No representative of the applicant visited the premises, sought to understand our operations or attempted to assess the implications the development may have for our business.

This represents a significant omission in the applicant's consultation process.

Heritage and Historic Landscape

Lissadrone House has a long agricultural and social history dating back to at least 1645 and has employed people on the land for generations.

The property occupies an important position within the historic landscape and is enclosed by traditional stone boundary walls that contribute significantly to its historic character.

The surrounding landscape is defined by traditional field boundaries, mature hedgerows, native woodland and extensive views towards the Atlantic coast.

The introduction of industrial-scale turbines, battery storage infrastructure and associated engineering works would permanently alter the historic setting of Lissadrone House and fundamentally change the character of the landscape in which our business operates.

Construction traffic also creates a risk of damage to historic stone boundary walls and other heritage features associated with the property.

Economic Impact

Wildwood Balsamics represents exactly the type of innovative indigenous rural enterprise that national and local planning policy seeks to encourage.

Our success has been achieved through sustainable use of local natural resources while protecting biodiversity and promoting the environmental reputation of North Mayo.

The planning application fails to consider the potential economic consequences for businesses whose commercial success depends upon maintaining the environmental integrity, biodiversity and international reputation of this landscape.

The applicant has not demonstrated that the industrialisation of the area will not adversely affect the long-term sustainability of our business.

Conclusion

The proposed Tirawley Wind Farm would fundamentally alter the environmental conditions upon which Wildwood Balsamics has built its international reputation.

The applicant has failed to properly assess the impact of this development upon specialist food production, wild harvesting, biodiversity, habitat quality, worker welfare, rural enterprise, heritage and the historic landscape surrounding Lissadrone House.

Furthermore, the application fails to address emerging environmental concerns relating to blade erosion, microplastic deposition, cumulative contamination risks and the long-term protection of the unique terroir upon which our internationally recognised products depend.

For all of these reasons, and having regard to the serious concerns raised in relation to biodiversity, landscape, water quality, heritage, noise, public health and cumulative impacts throughout the wider planning application, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses planning permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm.

We particularly object to the proposed development in the vicinity of turbines AT07, AT08, AT09 and AT10 due to their direct impact upon our business operations, our workers and the unique landscape from which our products are sourced.

Yours faithfully,

Fionntán Gogarty

Director

Fia Choille Teo

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