

James Jackson
Lissadrone
Carrowmore Lacken
County Mayo
F26 EC97
jamesbradyjackson@gmail.com
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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, Castlелacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a local who recently returned from Australia, currently renting locally and with plans to build a permanent home on family land in the Tirawley area, Co. Mayo. I raise serious concerns about the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project as currently designed.

We live on an elevated site 300ft above sea level and are sited very close to forestry where some of the planned turbines are going. How will we be protected from fire? The turbines are planned for an elevation of up to 500ft above sea level towering over our home. What happens if there is a landslide as the turbines will be sited on bog, can the developer guarantee our safety in this regard?

The proposal involves 16 large wind turbines with a blade tip height of 135m, located within close proximity to my family home and neighbouring properties, including family lands where I intend to build in the future. While the applicant states that an appropriate buffer distance is maintained from inhabited dwellings, there are properties significantly closer to certain turbines, including dwellings under the developer's control that are currently unoccupied. This raises concerns regarding the precedent being set for residential proximity to turbines and the potential impacts of noise, shadow flicker, and visual intrusion on future residents, including myself.

Furthermore, the scale and dispersed layout of the turbines may adversely affect the residential amenity and enjoyment of family lands, particularly within this rural, low-density housing area. The permanent alteration of the landscape may reduce the attractiveness of the area for housing and undermine long-term aspirations for sustainable rural development.

Visual and Landscape Impact on Sensitive Areas

The proposed development is situated within a landscape characterised by peat bogs, agricultural land, and commercial forestry, and is located near scenic routes and the Wild Atlantic Way. Concerns have previously been raised regarding the visual impact of turbines in this area, particularly where they are located outside preferred wind energy zones and within sensitive coastal and upland landscapes.

The height and scale of the turbines are substantial. Although efforts have been made to mitigate visual impacts through turbine selection and siting, the dispersed layout does not reflect the more compact and clustered arrangements generally considered preferable for wind farm developments. This may result in an overly industrialised appearance that is incompatible with the area's natural character, cultural heritage, and tourism value, while negatively affecting local quality of life.

Environmental and Ecological Concerns

The project requires the clear-felling of a significant area of commercial forestry, with associated risks to peatland stability, hydrology, and water quality. While mitigation measures are proposed, disturbance of peat soils and drainage pathways may increase the risk of sediment release and water pollution, potentially affecting sensitive habitats and designated conservation sites downstream.

Given the ecological sensitivity of the surrounding peatlands and the hydrological connections to protected European sites, I am concerned that the cumulative effects of this development, together with other nearby wind energy projects, could result in long-term degradation of biodiversity and water quality, contrary to the principles of sustainable development.

Infrastructure and Traffic Impacts

The transportation and installation of large turbine components will require upgrades to local roads and access points, including road widening and vegetation removal. These works have the potential to disrupt local traffic, place additional strain on rural road infrastructure, and create ongoing maintenance requirements.

Given the rural nature of the area and the limited capacity of existing roads, the volume of construction-related traffic could have significant adverse impacts on local residents, including safety concerns, inconvenience, and loss of amenity during extended construction periods.

Policy and Planning Considerations

While the applicant argues that the development supports national renewable energy objectives, local planning policies have expressed reservations regarding the suitability of lands outside preferred wind energy areas for large-scale turbine developments.

The turbines proposed outside designated preferred areas appear to be at odds with local planning guidance and landscape sensitivity considerations. In addition, the fixed design approach and reliance on very large turbine models reduce flexibility to respond to future planning requirements, technological developments, and community concerns.

Community Engagement and Social Acceptability

I note that concerns have been raised locally regarding the suitability of this location for a development of this scale. As a local resident with long-standing family ties to the area and a future interest in living and building here, I do not believe that community concerns relating to visual impact, environmental risk, and disruption have been adequately addressed.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the proposed development be carefully reconsidered, taking full account of its potential impacts on local residents, the landscape, the environment, and the long-term sustainability of the area.

Tourism cumulative impact

I am concerned about the cumulative impact the Tirawley wind farm will have on tourism in not only the Lacken Area but also in Ballycastle. Recently the Glenora wind farm has been approved by An Coimisiún Pleanála for 22 turbines. The coast road from Lacken to Ballycastle is an extremely important part of the Wild Atlantic Way and is an extremely important economic asset to the area. The cumulative effect that Tirawley, Glenora, Keerglen and potentially Clydagh Wind Farms will have on tourism in the area cannot be ignored. The communities involved have worked extremely hard over the years to promote the areas, and the recently launched Failte Ireland and Mayo County Council tourism plan for the area is a significant boost for the area. This cumulative wind energy development that is planned for the north west coast of Mayo is eroding the future that our communities can have. The Lacken Ballycastle coastline is impressively historic with the Céide fields complex and Downpatrick Head, the future that residents could have will become negligible if ACP do not consider fully the cumulative impact of all projects in the area. I do not believe that the applicant has fully considered all the cumulative effects.

The proposed development represents a direct threat to the tourism economy upon which many businesses and community initiatives depend.

The North Mayo coast is recognised nationally and internationally for its unspoilt scenery, archaeological significance and unique visitor experience. The area forms an important part of the Wild Atlantic Way and contains some of the most significant heritage and landscape resources in Ireland.

Tourism within the area is not dependent upon industrial development but rather upon the preservation of the natural landscape, coastal scenery, tranquility and cultural heritage that attract visitors from across Ireland and abroad.

Visitors come to experience:

- The Céide Fields cultural landscape.
- Downpatrick Head.
- The Wild Atlantic Way.
- The North Mayo coastal scenery.
- The Western Way and local walking routes, the Blue, Green & Red loops.
- Local heritage sites and monuments - The Lacken Gazebo.
- The area's dark skies and natural tranquillity.
- Historic locations associated with General Humbert's 1798 landing and campaign.

The introduction of sixteen turbines reaching approximately 135 metres in height, together with aviation lighting, a large BESS facility and a major substation, would industrialise a landscape that is currently marketed and valued precisely because it remains largely undeveloped.

The Environmental Impact Assessment acknowledges significant visual impacts from numerous viewpoints. These impacts will not be experienced solely by residents but also by visitors using scenic roads, walking routes and tourism facilities throughout the area.

The Protected Western Way National Waymarked Trail passes through the wider landscape and visitors using this route will experience the turbines at close range. The quality of this walking experience will be significantly diminished.

The cumulative effect of existing, permitted and proposed wind energy developments throughout North Mayo must also be considered. The gradual industrialisation of the Mayo landscape threatens the long-term viability of tourism across the wider region.

The Lacken Gazebo is a Folly, one of the most unusual protected structures in Ireland which can be viewed from Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal and all over Mayo. It is formed from a double arch of rough stones. It is situated on the summit of Lacken Hill to the rear of Castle Lacken: seat of the Palmer family from the sixteenth century. This was constructed during the latter part of the eighteenth century by either Sir Roger or Sir John Palmer. This structure is located 300m from the nearest turbine AT16, how can this historical monument be protected in light of the planned development?

The Tirawley Wind Farm proposal faces significant challenges regarding compliance with local renewable energy zoning policies, potential adverse effects on sensitive natural and cultural heritage environments, impacts on landscape and visual amenity, and local infrastructure. The presence of turbines outside designated areas, proximity to protected landscapes and structures, and community opposition grounded in environmental and visual concerns present strong grounds for refusal of planning permission.

Impact on Local Residential Amenity and Future Homebuilding

The turbines proposed outside designated preferred areas appear to be at odds with local planning guidance and landscape sensitivity considerations. In addition, the fixed design approach and reliance on very large turbine models reduce flexibility to respond to future planning requirements, technological developments, and community concerns.

If this development were to be approved, I would not get planning permission to build a house leading to the depopulation and fragmentation of our rural landscape and the survival of our communities.

Community Engagement and Social Acceptability

I note that concerns have been raised locally regarding the suitability of this location for a development of this scale. As a local resident with long-standing family ties to the area and a future interest in living and building here, I do not believe that community concerns relating to visual impact, environmental risk, and disruption have been adequately addressed.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the proposed development be carefully reconsidered, taking full account of its potential impacts on local residents, the landscape, the environment, and the long-term sustainability of the area.

The proposal must engage more comprehensively with local stakeholders, including those intending to establish homes and livelihoods in the vicinity, to ensure that the development does not undermine community cohesion or quality of life.

While the imperative for renewable energy development is clear, the Tirawley Wind Farm proposal raises significant concerns relating to residential amenity, landscape and visual impact, ecological integrity, infrastructure capacity, and compliance with local planning frameworks. As a graduate returning from abroad aiming to establish roots locally, I urge the planning authority to critically assess these issues and require substantial redesign or relocation of the project to ensure a sustainable balance between energy needs and community, environmental, and landscape protection.

I wish to adopt and support the detailed submission made by the Lacken Ballycastle Community Landscape Protection Group in relation to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development (PAX16.324258). In particular, I endorse the concerns raised regarding cumulative wind farm development across North Mayo, impacts on the Céide Fields cultural landscape, effects on tourism and recreation, biodiversity impacts, inadequacies in community consultation, and the assessment of the Battery Energy Storage System. While I do not repeat those detailed arguments in full, I request that they be considered as forming part of this submission.

In conclusion, I respectfully submit that the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project is not appropriate for this location due to the significant negative impacts on residential amenity, local landscape, ecology, infrastructure, and the community. I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse

permission for this development in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

James Jackson