

JAMES KELLY
64 Cederwood Road,
Glasnevin,
Dublin 11
D11 YR44
kellyjamesF5@gmail.com
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.

While I currently reside in Dublin, I was born and raised in Castletown, Carrowmore, Lacken, and my connection to this area extends back generations. The house in which I grew up, and which was my parents' family home, remains in our family and is now occupied by my nephew. This dwelling is located in close proximity to proposed Turbine AT015 and will be directly affected should permission be granted for the development.

Although I no longer live permanently in Lacken, it remains my home place. I return regularly, maintain close family connections in the area and retain a strong interest in its future. My concerns relate not only to the impact on nearby residents, including my nephew, but also to the long-term effects of this proposal on the landscape, heritage, tourism value and cultural identity of North Mayo.

Family and Community Connection

Like many families in Lacken, my roots in the area extend far beyond ownership of a family home. My connection to North Mayo is tied to the land, the community and the generations of people who lived and worked there before me.

The landscape surrounding Castletown and Lacken formed the backdrop to family life, farming, community activities and local traditions for generations. The boglands, fields, coastline and open countryside are not simply features of the landscape; they are an integral part of the area's history and identity.

The proposed development would introduce large-scale industrial infrastructure into an environment that has remained largely rural for generations. For those living near the proposed turbines, including my nephew, the character of the area would be fundamentally altered.

Heritage, the Céide Fields and Stewardship of the Landscape

One of my principal concerns is the long-term impact of this proposal on the heritage landscape of North Mayo.

As someone who grew up in Castletown and spent my life connected to this area, I understand that the value of North Mayo extends far beyond its scenic beauty. This is a landscape shaped by thousands of years of human activity and is recognised nationally and internationally for its archaeological, cultural and environmental significance.

At the heart of this heritage is the Céide Fields, one of the most important archaeological landscapes in Ireland and one of the most extensive Neolithic field systems in the world. The significance of the Céide Fields is not confined to the archaeological remains themselves. Much of its value derives from the wider landscape setting in which it exists – the blanket bog, open uplands, dramatic Atlantic coastline and the sense of continuity between the ancient landscape and the landscape we experience today.

The proposed development must therefore be considered not only in terms of individual turbines, but in the context of the wider cultural landscape of North Mayo.

The planning assessment must also have regard to Article 3 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, which requires an assessment of direct, indirect and cumulative effects on population, human health, biodiversity, land, landscape and cultural heritage. In my view, insufficient weight has been given to the cumulative impact of this proposal on the wider cultural landscape of North Mayo and the setting within which the Céide Fields is experienced.

The boglands surrounding the Céide Fields have protected and preserved thousands of years of history. These same boglands have been part of the lives of local families for generations and remain one of the defining features of the area. They contribute to the unique character of North Mayo and help create a landscape that is unlike any other in Ireland.

Previous generations acted as custodians of this landscape. They respected its heritage and understood that its value extended beyond their own lifetimes. As a result, we have inherited a landscape that retains much of its historic character and authenticity.

I believe that our generation has a similar responsibility. We have a duty of care to protect the natural and cultural inheritance that has been passed down to us and to ensure that future generations are afforded the same opportunity to experience and appreciate this landscape.

Ireland is a signatory to the European Landscape Convention, which recognises landscapes as an essential component of people's surroundings, cultural heritage and quality of life. The Convention requires public authorities to recognise the value of landscapes in decision-making processes. The North Mayo landscape represents an exceptional combination of natural, archaeological and cultural assets that contribute to its distinctive character and identity. I believe that this obligation requires a particularly cautious approach when considering proposals that would introduce industrial-scale infrastructure into such sensitive landscapes.

While renewable energy development is important, it should not come at the expense of landscapes that are of exceptional cultural, archaeological and heritage value. Once large-scale industrial infrastructure is introduced into such a landscape, the change is permanent and the character of the area is fundamentally altered.

In my view, insufficient weight has been given to the importance of the wider North Mayo cultural landscape, including the setting of the Céide Fields, and to the responsibility we have to preserve this unique heritage for future generations.

Impact on Landscape Character

The landscape around Lacken and Castletown is valued because of its openness, wild character, blanket bogs, coastal setting and expansive views.

The proposed turbines would become dominant man-made features within this landscape. Their scale, movement and aviation lighting would introduce a level of visual intrusion that would fundamentally change the character of the area.

I am concerned that the cumulative effect of this proposal, when considered alongside other existing and proposed energy infrastructure in North Mayo, would contribute to the gradual industrialisation of a landscape that is currently renowned for its natural beauty and cultural significance.

Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires planning authorities to promote the protection of landscape character, scenic views, archaeological heritage and amenities. The Mayo County Development Plan similarly recognises the importance of protecting sensitive landscapes and tourism assets. I respectfully submit that the scale of the proposed turbines and their visibility across a wide area would be inconsistent with these objectives and would undermine the special landscape qualities that define North Mayo.

The planning system must consider whether some landscapes are simply too sensitive and too important to absorb development of this scale without losing the qualities that make them special.

Tourism, the Céide Fields and the North Mayo Visitor Experience

Tourism plays an important role in the economy of North Mayo and is closely linked to the quality, authenticity and character of the landscape.

Visitors are drawn to this area because it offers something increasingly rare – an unspoilt landscape where archaeology, heritage, nature and scenery combine to create a distinctive sense of place. The attractions of North Mayo extend far beyond individual sites and viewpoints. Rather, it is the experience of travelling through and engaging with the wider landscape that makes the area so special.

The Céide Fields, Downpatrick Head and the Wild Atlantic Way are among the most important tourism assets in County Mayo. However, the appeal of these attractions cannot be separated from their surroundings. The open blanket bogs, expansive views, rugged Atlantic coastline and relatively undeveloped landscape form an essential part of the visitor experience.

The Céide Fields in particular derive much of their significance from their landscape context. Visitors come not only to see the archaeological remains themselves, but to experience a landscape that has retained a visible connection with its ancient past. The relationship between the Neolithic field systems, the blanket bog that preserved them, and the wider North Mayo landscape is what makes the site unique both nationally and internationally.

The National Monuments Acts 1930–2014 recognise the importance of protecting Ireland's archaeological heritage and its setting. While the archaeological remains themselves may remain physically unaffected, the wider cultural landscape that contributes so greatly to their significance would be permanently changed by the introduction of industrial-scale infrastructure.

I am concerned that the Environmental Impact Assessment has focused primarily on direct impacts and has not afforded sufficient weight to the impact on the wider setting and appreciation of this nationally important heritage landscape.

Tourism depends on maintaining the qualities that attract people to an area in the first place. North Mayo has built a reputation based on its heritage, scenery, natural beauty and sense of remoteness. These qualities represent a valuable economic and cultural resource that should not be underestimated.

I am also concerned about the cumulative effect of energy infrastructure across the wider region. While any individual development may be assessed on its own merits, visitors experience the landscape as a whole. The gradual introduction of large-scale industrial structures into the North Mayo countryside risks changing perceptions of the area and contributing to the erosion of the landscape character upon which much of the local tourism industry depends.

In my view, insufficient weight has been given to the relationship between tourism, heritage and landscape quality. The same landscape that supports the tourism economy today is the

landscape that has preserved the story of the Céide Fields for thousands of years. Protecting that landscape is not only an environmental consideration but also an investment in the future cultural and economic wellbeing of North Mayo.

For these reasons, I believe the potential impacts of the proposed development on tourism, visitor experience and the wider setting of the Céide Fields should be afforded significant weight in the determination of this application.

Conclusion

In my view, the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm would have a significant adverse effect on the character of the North Mayo landscape, the setting of one of Ireland's most important archaeological and cultural landscapes, and the residential amenity of nearby properties, including my family's home located close to Turbine AT015. The proposal would also contribute to the cumulative industrialisation of a landscape that derives much of its value from its openness, historic continuity and strong connection with the Céide Fields, the Wild Atlantic Way and the wider heritage of North Mayo.

The landscapes and boglands of North Mayo are part of a shared inheritance that has been protected by generations of local people. We have a responsibility to safeguard that inheritance for those who come after us.

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

In reaching its determination, I ask the Board to have particular regard to its obligations under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the National Monuments Acts 1930–2014, the European Landscape Convention, and the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

The North Mayo landscape is a cultural, archaeological and environmental resource of exceptional importance. Once its character is fundamentally altered, the loss cannot readily be reversed. In those circumstances, I respectfully submit that the precautionary principle should apply and that permission should be refused.

Yours faithfully,

James Kelly