

Lacken Gardening Group

c/o Nonie Mc Gee

Kilogeary

Carrowmore Lacken

County Mayo

F26 HF97

25/06/2026

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

Submitted on behalf of the Lacken Garden Group

Introduction

The Lacken Garden Group respectfully submits this objection to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm.

Our group is made up of local volunteers who have dedicated many years to improving, protecting and enhancing the natural beauty, biodiversity and environmental quality of Lacken. Through gardening, planting, conservation projects and community initiatives, we have worked to create an attractive, welcoming and environmentally sustainable village for residents and visitors alike.

Our members believe that the proposed industrial-scale wind farm would fundamentally change the landscape that we have invested countless hours preserving. While we recognise the importance of renewable energy, we do not believe that this development is appropriate in this exceptionally sensitive coastal landscape.

Our Commitment to the Environment

The Lacken Garden Group exists to improve—not diminish—the natural environment.

Our members actively contribute to:

- Pollinator-friendly gardens.
- Native tree planting.
- Wildflower meadows.
- Biodiversity enhancement.
- Sustainable gardening practices.
- Habitat creation for birds, bees and butterflies.
- Community planting projects.
- Environmental education.

These gardens are not isolated spaces but form part of a wider ecological network that supports wildlife throughout the area.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report itself acknowledges the sensitivity of habitats surrounding the development, including blanket bog, peatland, hedgerows and habitats supporting protected species.

Introducing an industrial wind farm into this landscape is entirely inconsistent with the environmental stewardship that our community has demonstrated for many years.

Loss of Landscape Character

The proposed turbines, standing approximately **135 metres in height**, would dominate the surrounding landscape.

The gardens maintained by our members have been designed to complement the unique coastal scenery of Lacken rather than compete with it.

Many gardens enjoy uninterrupted views towards the Atlantic coastline, surrounding farmland and rolling countryside.

Those views would instead become dominated by moving industrial structures visible over a considerable distance.

The tranquillity that currently defines our village would be replaced by continual visual movement from rotating turbine blades.

For gardeners, landscape is not simply scenery—it is the very setting in which our work exists.

Biodiversity Concerns

Gardens throughout Lacken provide valuable habitat for wildlife.

Collectively they support:

- Native pollinators.
- Honey bees.
- Butterflies.
- Songbirds.
- Bats.
- Small mammals.
- Native planting.

Members have invested significant time and resources encouraging biodiversity that complements nearby natural habitats.

The proposed development raises concerns regarding:

- Habitat fragmentation.
- Disturbance during construction.
- Loss of hedgerows.
- Forestry removal.
- Impacts on bird species.
- Impacts on bat populations.
- Increased traffic and associated disturbance.

These impacts conflict with the biodiversity enhancement efforts undertaken voluntarily by local residents.

Health and Wellbeing

Gardening is widely recognised as providing significant physical and mental health benefits.

For many members, gardening provides:

- Exercise.
- Stress reduction.
- Mental wellbeing.
- Social interaction.
- Therapeutic activity.
- Opportunities for children to engage with nature.
- Education regarding biodiversity.

The peaceful environment of Lacken is fundamental to these benefits.

The introduction of large-scale turbines would permanently alter this experience through:

- Visual dominance.
- Continuous blade movement.
- Noise.
- Shadow flicker.
- Industrialisation of the surrounding landscape.

These impacts would reduce the enjoyment and restorative value of gardens throughout the area.

Community Pride

The appearance of Lacken reflects decades of voluntary community effort.

Beautiful gardens contribute significantly to:

- Village identity.
- Community pride.
- Local heritage.
- Environmental quality.
- Civic participation.

Visitors frequently comment on the attractive appearance of the village and surrounding countryside.

The Garden Group believes these voluntary efforts deserve protection rather than being overshadowed by industrial infrastructure.

Tourism

Lacken is recognised for its outstanding coastal scenery and peaceful rural environment.

Visitors are attracted by:

- Coastal walks.
- Wild Atlantic scenery.
- Quiet countryside.
- Traditional rural character.
- Local hospitality.
- Attractive gardens and landscaping.

Industrial turbines of this scale would fundamentally alter the visual character that attracts visitors.

This has the potential to negatively affect tourism and the wider local economy.

Planning Considerations

The Garden Group respectfully requests that An Coimisiún Pleanála carefully consider whether this proposal adequately protects:

- Landscape character.
- Visual amenity.
- Biodiversity.
- Community wellbeing.
- Cultural identity.
- Rural heritage.
- Residential amenity.

The cumulative impact of these turbines would permanently transform the environment that our community has worked for generations to protect.

Conclusion

The Lacken Garden Group believes that this proposal is incompatible with the environmental, landscape and community values that define Lacken.

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."

Our members have spent many years planting trees, supporting pollinators, enhancing biodiversity and creating gardens that enrich both the village and the wider landscape.

Those efforts would be undermined by the introduction of an industrial-scale wind farm into one of County Mayo's most scenic coastal environments.

We respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm in order to protect the unique landscape, biodiversity, heritage and community character of Lacken for present and future generations.

Yours faithfully

Nonie Mcgee

Chairperson