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Chairperson
Lacken Hill Cemetery Committee
C/o Beltra
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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, Castlelacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Graveyard Committee Submission Proposed Tirawley Windfarm

Objection on Heritage, Cultural, Community and Cemetery Impact Grounds

Failure to Properly Identify and Assess the Active Graveyard

The planning documentation fails to acknowledge or assess the presence of an active cemetery within the receiving environment. This omission represents a significant deficiency in the baseline assessment of community, cultural and social infrastructure. Lacken Hill cemetery is a regularly used place of burial, remembrance and visitation and should have been specifically assessed in relation to visual impact, landscape character, cultural heritage and community wellbeing.

Respect for the Deceased and Bereaved Families

The proposed development would fundamentally alter the solemn and peaceful setting of the cemetery. Visitors attending funerals, anniversaries and family visits would do so in the shadow of industrial-scale wind turbines measuring 135 metres in height. The intrusion of these structures into a place that is dedicated to remembrance and reflection is considered wholly inappropriate and deeply insensitive.

Visual Dominance of 7 Turbines

Lacken Hill cemetery currently enjoys a tranquil coastal rural setting that reflects the cultural traditions and landscape character of Lacken. The proposed turbines situated on an elevated site would tower over Lacken Hill cemetery and become the defining visual element of the environment. Rather than visitors experiencing a place of peace and remembrance, their view would be dominated by rotating industrial structures visible from throughout the burial grounds.

Cultural Heritage and Community Identity

The cemetery represents an irreplaceable element of Lacken's cultural heritage. It contains generations of local families and serves as a tangible connection between past, present and future generations. The significance of Lacken Hill cemetery extends beyond its physical boundaries and forms part of the cultural identity of the wider community. The proposed industrialisation of its setting would diminish the heritage value and cultural importance of this sacred place.

Impact on Funeral Services

Funerals are among the most significant events in community life. The presence of large rotating turbines overlooking funeral ceremonies would detract from the dignity, solemnity and respectful atmosphere traditionally associated with burial services. Lacken Hill Graveyard Committee would have significant concerns regarding

- Noise
- Visual distraction
- Shadow Flicker
- Loss of dignity

Cumulative Impact on Both Graveyards

The area contains both a historic cemetery and a modern active burial ground. Together these sites represent centuries of local history, genealogy and cultural heritage. The cumulative impact of 7 turbines overlooking both burial grounds has not been adequately assessed by the applicant.

Tourism, Genealogy and Returning Diaspora

Lacken Hill cemetery is frequently visited by descendants of former residents who return to the area to reconnect with their family history and heritage. The industrialisation of the surrounding landscape would detract from the authentic cultural experience that forms an important part of Lacken's heritage tourism offering.

Landscape Character

The proposed development would transform a peaceful coastal and rural landscape into one characterised by large-scale industrial infrastructure. Such a change is incompatible with the established character and setting of the cemetery.

Deficiency in Cultural Heritage Assessment

The applicant has failed to properly identify, assess and evaluate the impact of the proposed development on Lacken Hill cemetery and associated cultural heritage assets. Consequently, ACP cannot be satisfied that the likely significant effects on cultural heritage, community amenity and landscape character have been adequately assessed.

Conclusion

The Graveyard Committee strongly objects to the proposed Tirawley Windfarm. The development would place 7 industrial-scale turbines on elevated ground overlooking a cemetery that serves as a place of burial, remembrance, reflection and cultural significance for the people of Lacken and the wider area. The committee is particularly concerned that the active cemetery appears to have been omitted from the planning assessment despite being an important and regularly used community facility. The proposal would permanently alter the setting of both the historic and active graveyards, undermine the dignity of funeral services, diminish the experience of visitors and families paying respects to loved ones, and erode an important element of the area's cultural heritage.

The committee respectfully requests that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development due to its unacceptable impacts on cultural heritage, landscape character, community wellbeing and the sanctity of places dedicated to the remembrance of the deceased.

Yours faithfully

Ann Forde
Chairperson
Lacken Hill Cemetery Committee