

Matthew Keane
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Carrowmore Lacken
Ballina
County Mayo
F26P8E2
24/06/2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Ref; Objection Submission on Case Number PAX16.324258

Tirawley Wind Farm Consisting of 16 Wind Turbines, a permanent 110Kv Substation, underground cable and grid connection and ancillary development in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower, Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlackleen Demesne and various other surrounding townlands.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing with grave concern to formally oppose the development of the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm as described above.

I wish specifically to make a submission regarding the assessment of my home, identified as **H211** within the EIAR for the proposed wind energy development.

My home is located approximately:

- **1.64 km from turbine AT15**
- **1.87 km from turbine AT16**

While my house is not the closest home assessed within the EIAR, I am very concerned about the cumulative impact of multiple turbines surrounding my home and the resulting effect on our daily lives.

Zero Public Consultation

There was zero local public consultation, and I am particularly offended to hear that the Developer claims to have spoken to the community. If it did, it was NOT an inclusive consultation. There was no representation made to myself or my eight nearby neighbours. There was no direct or indirect communication.

On the contrary, the first we heard of this was fearful whispering through our small community, after a very poorly publicised meeting took place in a totally unrepresentative town called Ballina, a 40-minute drive away.

This feels very unfair, unethical, and immoral.

Operational Noise

I note that my home **H211** has been included within the operational noise assessment as a residential receptor.

This demonstrates that the applicant recognises that operational turbine noise has the potential to affect my home.

I am concerned that the assessment relies primarily on predicted modelling and does not fully reflect the long-term experience of residents living in a normally very quiet rural environment.

I believe particular consideration should be given to:

- cumulative noise from multiple turbines operating simultaneously
- night-time impacts when background noise levels are lowest
- changing wind directions and atmospheric conditions
- amplitude modulation and fluctuating turbine noise characteristics
- the overall change from the existing rural sound environment

While compliance with numerical limits may be predicted, such compliance does not necessarily ensure the protection of my home and family.

I would also like to note that the model of turbine proposed by the developer is capable of producing electricity up to 23m/s, however, the developer has only calculated up to a wind speed of 9m/s. This is a very significant difference and therefore, the data given is not representative of the potential noise impact.

Shadow Flicker

My home, **H211**, has been excluded from detailed shadow flicker assessment, I request clarification regarding the basis for that exclusion and confirmation that no shadow flicker impact can occur at the dwelling.

Where turbine control and shutdown systems are proposed under Section 15.2.9.3 of the EIAR, these measures should be available to protect all potentially affected dwellings and not only those included within the detailed modelling area.

The Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019) indicate that modern turbine technology can prevent shadow flicker impacts and support a zero-shadow-flicker approach at sensitive residential homes.

No explanation seems to be available to explain the 1.1km “inclusion area” for shadow flicker consideration; in absence of this I can only presume that this is random with no scientific reasoning.

Cumulative Residential Amenity Impact

My principal concern relates to the cumulative effect of the turbines located less than 2km from my home.

The combined impact of:

- turbine noise
- visual presence
- continuous blade movement
- aviation lighting where applicable
- and the industrialisation of the surrounding rural landscape

should all be considered together rather than in isolation.

The assessment of any home should take account not only of compliance with individual technical standards but also of the overall effect on those living permanently within the area.

Life Savings, Our Homes and Our Futures

We know from the experience of our near neighbours in Bellacorick that the constant humming noise, and shadow flicker experienced by them has completely ruined their lives. They live in constant stress and fear. Their property values are totally diminished. They cannot get mortgages or remortgage their properties to raise finance. They cannot sell their properties, and should anyone want to build close to turbines on family land they cannot get planning permission.

Many of my neighbours and indeed family have had to fight, sometimes for years, to build small homes on family land. Simple domestic dwellings must and do adhere to very strict planning regulations to get planning permission in our beautiful landscape yet it would seem that the same set of rules simply do not apply for this large developer who is seeking permission from you to completely industrialise an important and peaceful rural habitat.

Special Protection Area (SPA): Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA Site Code 004036

Killala Bay/Moy Estuary is a “Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest.”

“Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA is of high ornithological importance as it supports eight species that have populations of national importance.”

The proposed Wind Farm is adjacent to Site Code 004036. I fear that the proximity of the Windfarm may have an adverse impact on the SPA.

I would like to see a report from the Windfarm Developer detailing in precise terms what measures will be taken to protect this site and allow for the National Parks & Wildlife Service objectives:

“Objective 1: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the non-breeding waterbird Special Conservation Interest species listed for Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA.”

“Objective 2: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.”

Doubts Over Energy End User

It is unclear if the energy will even go to the National Grid to support the Government’s net zero targets! In one document the developer cites three end users: a Hydrogen Plant, a Data Centre, and the Grid.

Palmerstown Bridge and Related Frail Infrastructure

For anyone living in the Ballycastle and Lacken areas, Palmerstown Bridge is a key access point. The bridge is over two hundred years old and has not been properly surveyed. We have been informed that at the height of construction up to 11,000 wagons will need to pass over the bridge. This will cause massive stress and physical constraints on the bridge and the rest of our rural infrastructure. It will also be a massive inconvenience for people trying to get to school at St Patrick’s College at Lacken Cross, and indeed for anyone trying to drive to work or to go about their daily business.

Environmental Concerns

This development poses significant and irreversible risks to the local environment, and biodiversity: critical habitats for protected species, and substantial other habitats will be removed, and ruined (in terms of approximately four kms of hedgerow). There are significant shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Report, and again, this alone should justify a refusal of the development.

Wild Mayo Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP)

May 1st saw the public launch of the Mayo DEDP for Wild Mayo as an adventure and outdoor activity hub. Tourism Ireland, Mayo CC, the Minister for Social Protection and Rural Development Dara Calleary, the Minister for Small Businesses and retail, Alan Dillon and Senator Mary Duffy all gathered at the Ballinglen Art Foundation in Ballycastle to celebrate this momentous occasion.

The highlight of the Wild Mayo development plan is the coastal pathway stretching from the Ceide Fields to Downpatrick Head where Dun Briste is located. Dun Briste is an official discovery point on the Wild Atlantic Way, and this pathway is set to cover a total of fifteen kilometres. A budget has been set and awarded to ensure that this pathway, including twelve bridges will act as a **global** point of tourism and is seen as the crown jewel of the Wild Mayo DEDP.

Why then, would An Coimisiún Pleanála directly undermine another government agency’s fiscal and strategic planning by granting planning permission for Tirawley Wind Farm? The construction disruption, the damage to an already frail infrastructure and the visual impact totally threatens the existence, let alone the success of the Wild Mayo plan.

A plan designed to position the destination of North Mayo as wild and unspoilt. A plan designed to extend the tourism season, thereby “bringing real value to the towns and villages as vibrant hubs, that encourage dwell time, exploration and year-round use.” A plan that celebrates the environment and the heritage of the area. A plan designed to increase business and the livelihoods of all in the area. **The construction of the windfarm decimates the Wild Mayo DEDP.**

Site Suitability and Landscape Impact

The area includes sensitive landscapes, visible from the Wild Atlantic Way and other designated scenic routes, which would be adversely affected by the proposed wind farm. The visual intrusion on the unique coastal and rural landscape is unacceptable and contrary to the policies outlined in the Mayo County Development Plan regarding landscape protection and visual amenities.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm. Thank you for taking time to read my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Keane

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Keane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.