

**Orla Loughney**  
Kilcummin  
Carrowmore Lacken  
County Mayo  
F26 HD61  
orla.loughney@gmail.com  
22nd 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 formally object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development by Constant Energy Limited.

I am a resident of Kilcummin and wish to submit this observation regarding the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development. While I recognise the importance of renewable energy and Ireland's climate objectives, I have serious concerns about the potential impacts this development may have on the local community, particularly in relation to transport, education, tourism, cultural heritage, and residential amenity.

Our community is deeply connected to the landscape, history, culture and tourism economy of the Lacken and Kilcummin area. We believe that this development would cause significant and irreversible harm to one of Ireland's most important coastal landscapes and would

fundamentally alter the character of a community that has worked tirelessly for generations to preserve and promote its natural and cultural heritage.

The following concerns are based on information contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Planning Statement, Natura Impact Statement (NIS), and associated project documentation.

## **1. Impact on Travel and Transport**

### **Construction Traffic and Road Safety**

The construction phase of the proposed development will involve substantial abnormal load movements and heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic along local and regional roads, including the delivery route from Ballina to the wind farm site and internal site access roads.

According to the project documentation, turbine component deliveries will require accommodation works, temporary removal of road signage, road widening, and modifications at various locations along the transport route. These works have the potential to cause significant disruption to residents living in Kilcummin and surrounding areas.

The local road network is rural in nature, with many roads narrow and unsuitable for sustained use by large construction vehicles. Increased traffic volumes during the construction period are likely to result in:

- Traffic congestion and delays for local residents.
- Increased road safety risks for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and agricultural vehicles.
- Difficulties accessing essential services and healthcare facilities.
- Additional wear and deterioration of local roads.
- Potential delays for emergency service vehicles.

For residents who rely on these roads daily for work, education, and community activities, the disruption during the construction phase could be considerable.

### **Long-Term Transport Considerations**

Although operational traffic associated with the wind farm is expected to be relatively low once construction is complete, the significant impacts during the construction period cannot be overlooked. There is also concern regarding cumulative traffic impacts when considered alongside existing and proposed renewable energy developments within the wider region.

## **2. Impact on Education**

The proposed development may also adversely affect educational access for children and young people living in Kilcummin.

Many students rely on local roads for school transport services, private transport, walking, and cycling. Increased construction traffic and associated roadworks could:

- Increase school journey times.
- Create additional safety risks for school buses and students.
- Result in temporary diversions and road closures.
- Affect attendance and punctuality.

Importantly, there appears to be limited consideration within the submitted documentation of the specific impacts on educational access and school transport arrangements. This represents a significant gap in assessing the wider social effects of the project on local communities.

### **3. Impact on Tourism and the Local Economy**

#### **Visual Impact on a Sensitive Coastal Landscape**

Kilcummin is located within a highly valued coastal landscape close to internationally recognised tourism destinations, including the Wild Atlantic Way, Ballycastle, Downpatrick Head, and the Céide Coast.

The planning documentation acknowledges the sensitivity of the surrounding landscape and identifies areas with High and High/Medium landscape sensitivity. The proposed turbines, with blade tip heights of approximately 135 metres, would represent prominent industrial structures visible across extensive areas of the landscape.

Given their scale and visibility, there is concern that the turbines would significantly alter the character of the area and diminish the quality of the natural coastal views that attract visitors to North Mayo.

#### **Economic Consequences for Tourism**

Tourism plays a vital role in supporting employment and local businesses throughout the region. Visitors are drawn to the area because of its scenic beauty, archaeological heritage, unspoiled coastal environment, and cultural significance.

The introduction of large-scale industrial infrastructure into this landscape may negatively affect visitor perceptions and reduce the attractiveness of the area as a tourism destination.

Project documentation acknowledges the potential for negative tourism effects during construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning. Any reduction in visitor numbers could have wider economic consequences for local businesses, including:

- Accommodation providers.

- Restaurants and cafés.
- Local pub Bessie's.
- Retail businesses.
- Heritage attractions.
- Outdoor recreation and tourism services.

#### **4. Impact on Cultural Heritage and Landscape Character**

The wider area contains a rich concentration of archaeological monuments, historic landscapes, and protected structures which form an important part of North Mayo's identity and tourism offering.

Sites of particular significance include:

- The Rathfran archaeological complex.
- The Lackan Gazebo folly.
- Numerous recorded monuments and heritage assets throughout the region.

#### **Kilcummin Loop Walks**

Starting near Kilcummin Harbour, these waymarked routes offer some of the finest coastal walking in the area:

- Green Loop: approximately 4.7 km
- Blue Loop: approximately 8 -11 km
- Red Loop: approximately 10 km

The routes combine coastal views, quiet roads, farmland, beaches, archaeological sites, and views across Killala Bay.

While direct physical impacts may be avoided, the visual presence of large turbines within the setting of these heritage assets has the potential to diminish their character, context, and visitor experience.

The cumulative effect of introducing large industrial structures into an area valued for its historic and archaeological significance should be carefully considered.

It would industrialize one of North Mayo's most scenic coastal landscapes.

The turbines could dominate parts of the skyline from Kilcummin, Lacken, and surrounding viewpoints.

The area's tourism appeal is linked to its wild, natural character, and that character would be diminished.

## **5. Impact on Residential Amenity**

### **Noise and Shadow Flicker**

Although mitigation measures are proposed, including shadow flicker management systems, concerns remain regarding the potential impacts on nearby residents.

The development documentation identifies dwellings located relatively close to proposed turbine locations. While compliance with planning guidelines may be claimed, residents remain concerned about:

- Continuous turbine noise.
- Low-frequency and amplitude modulation effects.
- Shadow flicker impacts.
- Disturbance to sleep and quality of life.

### **Visual Dominance and Wellbeing**

For residents whose homes directly face the proposed turbines, the visual impact will be permanent.

The scale, height, and movement of turbine blades may create an overbearing presence within the landscape and fundamentally alter the character of the local environment. Such changes have the potential to negatively affect residential amenity, wellbeing, and enjoyment of property.

Many residents also fear that proximity to large wind turbines may negatively influence property values and reduce the attractiveness of the area as a place to live.

## **6. Concerns Regarding Planning Policy and Site Suitability**

Documentation prepared during the pre-planning process indicates that Mayo County Council expressed concerns regarding the visual sensitivity of the site and the appropriateness of turbine locations, particularly where turbines extend beyond preferred development areas.

These concerns reinforce the view that the proposed development may not represent the most suitable location for a wind energy project of this scale.

A development of this magnitude should only proceed where it can be demonstrated that adverse impacts on communities, landscapes, heritage assets, and tourism resources have been fully avoided or minimised.

Based on the information provided within the project documentation, I respectfully submit the following grounds for objection:

The construction phase will generate significant traffic disruption, safety risks, and delays on local roads serving Kilcummin and neighbouring communities.

Increased construction traffic and roadworks may adversely affect school transport and educational access.

The visual impact of turbines on a highly sensitive coastal landscape threatens the tourism appeal of the area and may negatively affect local businesses.

The development risks undermining the setting and amenity of important archaeological and cultural heritage assets.

Noise, shadow flicker, and visual dominance may adversely affect residential amenity, quality of life, and community wellbeing.

Existing concerns expressed regarding landscape sensitivity and site suitability indicate that the development may conflict with local planning objectives.

While renewable energy development is important, it must be balanced against the protection of local communities, landscapes, heritage resources, and economic activity.

In its current form, the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm raises significant concerns for residents of Kilcummin. The cumulative impacts on transport, education, tourism, cultural heritage, and residential amenity warrant careful reconsideration of the proposal.

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.

I respectfully request that the decision-making authority give full consideration to these concerns and require either substantial redesign of the project or refusal of those elements that would result in unacceptable impacts on the Kilcummin community.

Yours faithfully

Orla Loughney