

Phil and Catherine Bowtell
Killogeary
Carrowmore Lacken
Ballina
Co. Mayo
F26 D9F5
10th June 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Objection Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Planning permission for the construction of Tirawley Windfarm, consisting of 16 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, Caslrlacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing as residents of the area (living within 1.5-1.9km) to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project, submitted by Constant Energy Limited, to formally lodge our objection to this Strategic Infrastructure Development application.

This development poses significant and irreversible risks to the local environment, biodiversity and in particular, local residents. The proposal threatens critical habitats for protected species such as the Hen Harrier, involves substantial habitat removal including over 4 km of hedgerow, and raises serious concerns regarding visual impact, traffic disruption, and inadequate community consultation.

These issues, coupled with shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, justify a refusal of permission for this project.

Having engaged with the community consultation materials and reviewing the public information available, we wish to raise the following concerns:

Negative Impact on Residential Property

Of immediate concern, our home, located in Killogeary, Carrowmore Lacken [F26 D9F5], has been given the receptor ID of H194 in the Developers Report, and is located within 1.5-1.9km of 4 x proposed 135m wind turbines [AT07, AT08, AT09 and AT10] and is predicted to

be a receptor of noise. The visual impact, noise pollution, and potential shadow flicker effects will significantly disrupt our home, residential area and quality of life. There is also a genuine concern about the likely devaluation of property prices due to proximity to large-scale industrial turbines. (Reference: Appendix 1.6 Community Engagement Report, Pages 7-13)

Site Suitability and Landscape Impact

The location has been described as scattered and not suitable for a development of this scale. The area includes sensitive landscapes, and other designated scenic routes, which would be adversely affected by this 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. (Reference: Mayo County Council submission, EIAR Chapter 17 - Traffic and Transport, Pages 9-10; Planning Statement, Pages 69-71).

The local area is of outstanding natural beauty, and as part of the Wild Atlantic Way, the area around Lacken and Lacken Strand is often used worldwide in promoting this part of Co. Mayo and Ireland. This proposed development, and the installation of 16 (135m high) wind turbines, will be seen for miles, across counties Mayo, Sligo and Donegal and change the local landscape beyond recognition.

Noise from Construction and Operational Phases

Living in close proximity to the proposed windfarm project and located adjacent to one of the main access roads to the site, we are deeply concerned about the continual disturbance from construction noise and future ongoing turbine operation noise.

Increased Traffic and Road Damage During Construction

The construction phase will bring significant disruption to the local road network due to the delivery of abnormal loads and turbine components. Many of the roads that will be used for access are small rural roads, and in some cases, single lane. Heavy machinery and plant equipment will both damage roads, and drastically increase traffic, impact local traffic flow and road safety.

The scale of this impact has not been adequately mitigated in the proposal. (Reference: EIAR Chapter 17 - Traffic and Transport, Pages 6-10; Appendix 1.6 Community Engagement Report, Pages 11-12).

Insufficient Community Consultation and Information

Public consultation was inadequate and poorly advertised, limiting any community input. As previously detailed, we live 1.5-1.9km, directly below 4 proposed wind turbines, and received no notifications or communications from Constant Energy Limited regarding the development.

Fragmented and Scattered Turbine Layout

The proposed turbine locations are too scattered, affecting multiple communities unevenly.

Inadequate Archaeological and Heritage Assessment

We have concerns over impacts on local archaeological sites and protected structures such as Palmerstown Bridge (which is only single lane, the main access point for local residents, and would be heavily used for construction access) and Lacken Gazebo.

Risk to Human Health and Wellbeing

Potential adverse health effects due to noise, shadow flicker and other disturbances.

Lack of Clear Decommissioning Plan

There is no plan concerning post-operations, including the removal of turbines, supporting services and restoration of the sites.

Insufficient Mitigation of Environmental Impacts

Strong concerns that mitigation measures proposed are vague or not guaranteed.

Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact and Strategic Considerations

The project overlaps with areas where other developments are planned or existing, increasing cumulative environmental, visual, and infrastructural pressures. The scale and height of modern turbines, as noted by Mayo County Council, raise questions about the suitability of this site compared to previous assessments. (Reference: Mayo County Council submission, EIAR Chapter 17, Pages 9-10)

Impact on Tourism and Local Amenities

This development may deter tourists and drastically affect recreational areas, walking and horse-riding routes etc.

Lack of Transparency on Grid Connections and Infrastructure

Details concerning the grid connection and associated infrastructure are unclear, raising serious concerns about additional environmental impacts.

Concerns Regarding Fire Safety of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Concerns around the potential fire risks associated with the battery storage units, and the ability to tackle any such fire, or emergency situation etc.

Potential Impact on Local Farming and Agriculture

Disruption to family farms, potential loss of productive land, and the risk from heavy machinery.

Increased Electromagnetic Interference

Possible interference with telecommunications and other local infrastructure.

Lack of Meaningful Community Benefit or Dividend

Whilst acknowledging the need for renewable energy and some regional economic benefits, the socio-economic impact on sustainable family farms and local amenities is concerning. The proposed community benefit package remains vague and unconvincing. (Reference: Appendix 1.6 Community Engagement Report, Pages 7-14)

Importantly, we can see no tangible benefits to the either us or the local community. Ireland is reported to have the highest electricity prices in Europe [RTE News Online and Independent.ie - 7th May 2026], and we will see no reduction in our utility bills etc., from this development.

In conclusion, we respectfully submit that the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project is not appropriate for this location due to the significant negative impacts on residential amenity, local landscape, ecology, infrastructure, and the community. We urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

We thank you for considering our submission.

Your faithfully,

Phil and Catherine Bowtell

References:

2006-Wind-Energy-Development-1pdf (pp. 22, 25, 60, 97-98)

Draft-revised-wind-energy-development-guidelines-december-2019 (pp.2, 33, 60, 144-156)

ABP-315864-23 – 1st Meeting Record (pp. 4, 7, 9)

ACP Direction Report (pp. 1, 5, 10)

Pre Planning Inspectors Report (pp. 13, 18, 24)

Appendix 1.6 – Public Consultation Responses (multiple pages)

Appendix 2.1. CEMP – Emergency Response Plan (p.20)

