

Niamh Hickey

From: Yvonne Jackson <Yvonne.Jackson@failteireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 22 June 2026 17:18
To: SIDS
Subject: Fáilte Ireland Submission-Case Ref PAX16.324258
Attachments: Case Ref PAX16.324258 Fáilte Ireland Submission.pdf

Categories: Niamh

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Dear Secretary,

Fáilte Ireland would like to take the opportunity to make a submission to Case Ref **PAX16.324258** Re: The proposed development consists of up to 16 no. wind turbines (Tirawley Wind Farm), including a 110kV sub-station on site, an energy storage system in the form of a battery array located within container units and all associated infrastructure

The attached submission has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority.

I would be grateful if you could send a reply email acknowledging receipt of submission.

Regards,

Yvonne

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An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

22nd June 2026

ACP. Ref.: PAX16.324258

Applicant: Constant Energy Limited

Re: Submission in relation to Section 37E (REDIII) application for Tirawley Wind Farm comprising:

A 10 year planning permission for the erection of 16 wind turbines; diameter 117m, hub height 76.5m, tip height of 135m; A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); Change of use of a vacant residential dwelling to a permanent operations compound; 80m meteorological mast; 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation; 1 no. control building; all associated underground electrical and communications cabling; ancillary forestry felling; and associated site development works in northeast County Mayo.

To whom it may concern,

This submission has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority, in response to an application for the erection of 16 wind turbines with an overall ground to tip height of 135m and associated wind farm infrastructure development. The Site is located c.14.5 km northwest of Ballina Town, c.5.2 km northwest of the village of Killala and c.4 km east of Ballycastle in northeast Co. Mayo. The Wind Farm site, which has an anticipated output of 68.8MW has a total area of c.108.06 hectares.

A 10-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire Wind Farm is being sought.

An EIAR and NIS has been submitted with the application.

1.0 Introduction

As a prescribed body in the planning process, one of the main objectives of Fáilte Ireland is to advocate for the protection of key tourism assets and amenities. The Irish landscape is one of the primary assets for tourism in the country and has been the cornerstone of international tourism marketing campaigns for decades. International visitors to Ireland consistently rate scenery as an important reason for their trip. Therefore, as the Irish landscape is one of the primary reasons for visiting the country, it is essential that the quality, character and distinctiveness of this valuable resource is protected.

Equally Fáilte Ireland recognises the importance of developing the State's renewable energy sector. In this regard Fáilte Ireland has been supportive of and contributes to the preparation and adoption of the Wind & Renewable Energy Strategies for counties across the Country. These Strategies have provided invaluable guidance to Applicants, Shareholders and Planning Authorities alike in identifying potential sites and in assessing the potential for development of appropriately located renewable energy infrastructure. Within the hierarchy of plans, these Strategies have ensured that the development of renewable energy infrastructure, such as wind farms, is plan-led and can be located to avoid, or minimise disproportionate negative impacts on other land uses, including tourism-related uses and the receiving environment.

2.0 Mayo Tourism

In 2024 Mayo welcomed over 212,000 overseas visitors who in turn generated €138m in revenue with an average stay of 5.6 nights. 809,000 domestic visitors visited Mayo in 2024 generating €222m in revenue with an average stay of 2.9 nights. As highlighted in the Mayo County Development Plan the tourism sector is the largest indigenous industry in the county and provides income and employment to all areas of the county, including urban, rural and coastal. Mayo has a lot to offer as a tourism destination and has great potential to further develop its tourism industry as a key economic sector for the county.

Fáilte Ireland prepares and implements a Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for each destination. A DEDP sets out the challenges and opportunities for tourism in a destination and presents an action plan for the sustainable development of tourism over 5 years.

The Wild Mayo Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) was launched in May 2026 and is a five-year plan that sets out a strategic framework to position North Mayo as a world class destination for wilderness, culture, and immersive outdoor experiences. The plan highlights the region's dramatic coastlines, rugged boglands, vibrant communities, and deep-rooted heritage - anchored by the Irish language as a core cultural asset. Wild Mayo DEDP seeks to inspire creativity and exploration through authentic storytelling, well developed trails, and meaningful engagement



with landscape and tradition. The plan aligns with the with the National Tourism Policy Statement and the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Strategy (2023-2027) and focuses on strengthening existing attractions, creating new year-round experiences, and developing towns and villages as lively, well serviced visitor hubs. Key objectives include celebrating North Mayo's natural and cultural legacy, advancing sustainable and slow tourism models, and elevating the Gaeltacht as a cornerstone of identity. The plan also prioritises enhanced tourism infrastructure and services to meet the needs of visitors and local communities.



Key Destination Catalyst Projects Relevant to This Submission include;

- The Ceide Coast

A 15 km world class coastal trail that links two key attractors – at one end, the award-winning Céide Fields Neolithic Site and Visitor Centre, and at the other end, Downpatrick Head, a Signature Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way.

- The Western Way and North Mayo Trails Network

Advancing the development of The Western Way and connected trails across North Mayo to establish the region as a premier destination for world-class hiking and cycling.

- Killala Town

Support key projects and the community in developing Killala's identity as a destination to encourage visitors to stop, explore and stay.



3.0 Tourism Context of the Proposed Development

The Site is located between the villages of Killala and c.2.4 km east of Ballycastle, c.14.5 km northwest of Ballina Town in northeast County Mayo. The open, exposed and elevated landscape rises west from the coastal landscape of Killala Bay.

The Site comprises part of the wider scenic coastal landscape which runs north along the western side of Killala Bay, south of Downpatrick Head and west towards the Céide Fields. The internationally promoted **Wild Atlantic Way (WAW)** follows the R314 from Killala to Ballycastle through this coastal landscape, and through the centre of the proposed wind farm site. This section of the WAW links the **Discovery Points** of Ballina Quay, Killala Quay, Lackan Strand, Downpatrick Head and Ceide Fields. These Discovery Points are all located close to the proposed wind farm, and Downpatrick Head, which is one of only 15 **Signature Discovery Points** on the entire WAW is directly north of the site.

The proposed wind farm is within 10km of the following four WAW Discovery Points:

- Killala (6.0km southeast);
- Lackan Strand (1.5km east);
- Downpatrick Head (5km north) – one of 15 Signature Discovery Points;
- Céide (10km northwest)

In addition, the following tourist assets and attractions - some of which are within the wind farm site are all within 10km of the proposed wind farm:

- The Western Way - The Ballycastle to Ballina section of passes through the site of the proposed windfarm
- The Ceide Coast Path - A 15 km world class coastal trail that links two key attractors – at one end, the award-winning Céide Fields Neolithic Site and Visitor Centre, and at the other end, Downpatrick Head, a Signature Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Moyne Friary (9.5km southeast);
- Rathfran Priory (3.5km east);
- Bunatrahir Bay (4km north);
- Ballycastle Beach (5km west);
- Muingelly (8km northwest);
- Lacken Trails / Green Loop – extends into the site of the proposed windfarm
- Rathlacken Court Tomb Trail – extends into the site of the proposed windfarm
- Kilcummin Loop Walks (2.5km east)
- Sheskin – Lugnalettin – Sralagagh Forest Recreation Site (6.5km west)

Likewise, the promoted Tír Sáile (Sculpture Trail), includes the following sites close to the site:

- The Intercommunications Park (Killala)
- Tonnta na mBlianta (Kilcummin Pier)



- Tearmann na Gaoithe (Lacken Bay)
- Echo of Nawascape (Lacken Bay)
- The Crossing (Downpatrick Head)
- Battling Forces (Downpatrick Head)
- Court Henge (Ballycastle Cottages)
- The Wind Trees (Ballycastle/Belderg Road)

The Céide Fields Visitors Centre, a significant tourist destination, lies c.10km west / northwest of the wind farm site. While the land slopes north towards the spectacular coast, the 6,000-year-old Neolithic stone-wall field system, dwelling areas and megalithic tombs, extend southwards over hundreds of acres of the uplands, which today are covered by a natural blanket bog with its own unique vegetation and wildlife.

A 32km section of The Western Way runs from Ballycastle to Ballina. Approximately 12km of this amenity, recreational and tourist route is dominated by the presence existing / permitted wind farms / turbines at Bellacorrick / Oweninny / Sheskin. The remaining c.20km of the Way passes through a rural and isolated landscape, including the site where, with the exception of coniferous plantations, upland peatland landscapes drained by streams and lakes and natural processes prevail.

It is noted that Tourism and Recreation Policy TR11 of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out:

"To promote Mayo as a premier walking / cycling destination in the Country and support the further development of walking routes and trails within the county and the integration and linkage of these with other existing / proposed routes and trails both within and outside of County Mayo, in accordance with national walking strategy guidance and in conjunction with the Tourism Section of Mayo County Council, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant stakeholders. Opportunities to enhance ecological connectivity should be integrated as part of any linking of routes to strengthen and support green infrastructure."

The significance of this area of this part of North Mayo as a major tourist asset and resource was expressed to the applicant / applicant's team by means of a consultation response provided by Fáilte Ireland in December 2025. This is acknowledged in Table 5.4 of Chapter 5 of the EIAR, which notes the following from the Fáilte Ireland response:

"In response to the scoping request we would like to bring to your attention the following;

North Mayo is a destination that truly embodies the 'wildness' of the Wild Atlantic Way. Here, the visitor will find the world's oldest known agricultural field system with its stone walled boundaries that lay buried underneath the wild boglands for centuries at the award winning Céide Fields Neolithic Site and Visitor Centre. The ecclesiastical heritage of the Early and Middle Ages encompassing the Monasteries of the Moy; the maritime heritage and the



pivotal role of Blacksod Lighthouse in the history of World War 2; the traditions of the Gaeltacht also are key elements of the cultural heritage offering.

Key tourism assets in the vicinity of the proposed development include;

- * Céide Fields*
- * Downpatrick head Signature Discovery Point*
- * Western Way Walking Trail*

The county has the most extensive network of recreational trails and greenways for walking, hiking and cycling in Ireland. In North Mayo, it is the trails network that offers the key potential to building a strong positioning for wild adventure. The development of the Céide Coast experience will raise the profile of North Mayo considerably in international and national markets. This initiative has been granted Part 8 planning approval and initial funding to begin the development of the trails. It will provide a new opportunity to access a series of key geological sites, including the Glenurla Valley Waterfall, the Polladarky Blow Hole, the Léam Giant Stepping Stones, the Doonfeeney Sea Arch, and Ballynacashlan Castle ruins.

This project focuses on creating a 15 km world class coastal trail that links two key attractors – at one end, the award-winning Céide Fields Neolithic site and Visitor Centre, and at the other end, Downpatrick Head, a Signature Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way. The strategic location of Ballycastle as a service centre and the significance of this project in drawing new attention to the northern stretch of the county's coastline will play an important role in supporting the strategic objectives of the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy.

Furthermore, it is also a priority to continue to progress the strategic development of Western Way within North Mayo...<http://thewesternway.ie/>"

The ***Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo*** (in Volume 4 of Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028), indicates that the proposed wind turbines are located in Landscape Character Area (LCA) D: 'North Coast Plateaux', which is described (Section 2.5.1 of the *Landscape Appraisal*) as follows:

This is a thin strip of often steeply sloping terrain, which has a combination of pasture and moorland on its planar seaward slopes above sea cliffs and abrupt gullies. This unit has an abrupt coastline in comparison to the other coastal units. The unit and coastline runs east-west and provides vistas of the sea to the north.

The **Critical Landscape Factors** for the LCA (Section 2.5.4 of the *Landscape Appraisal*) include:

Elevated Coastal Vistas



The R314 skirts the mild, upper seaward slopes in an east-west direction. Due to the uncomplicated straight arrangement of this coast, and the elevated road level, stunning vistas of a considerable distance along the coastline are available.

The main concern for natural linear features such as coastlines and ridgelines is to avoid penetration by development that will interrupt and reduce the integrity of such elements.

Smooth Terrain

Smooth terrain, as is characteristic of this unit, allows vistas over long distances against a planar surface without breaking up fore and middle ground. In such terrain, distances can appear shorter and development closer or larger. As a result, development can have a disproportionate visual impact in such terrain, due to an inherent inability to be absorbed, physically or visually.

Low Vegetation

Low vegetation as represented in this unit by moorland and bog type grasses has similar characteristics to smooth terrain in landscape terms, and the two are often interrelated due to soil attributes. Grassland vegetation is generally uniform in appearance, failing to break up vistas, and allowing long distance visibility. This inability to absorb development identifies low vegetation as a critical landscape factor.

In terms of **Scenic Evaluation**, the coastal landscape to the west and north of the site, including Ross Beach, Castlemagee Bay & Beach, Carrowmore Beach and Lacken Strand, Downpatrick Head, and Ballycastle Beach is highlighted as '**Vulnerable Features**', as are the corridors of Cloonaghmore River, Heathfield River and Ballinglen River around the site and the elevated summits / ridges / slopes of Carrowmore / Doonaboda (c.180m) and Aghaleague (c.129m) / Barnhill Upper (c.132m) within the site and Knockaghaleague (c.291m) to the west of the site.

The eastern reaches of upland landscape of the Maumakeogh Mountains, which includes the neolithic farming complex of the **Céide Fields**, is located c.5km west of the wind farm, (refer to Section 3.1(a) and associated mapping in the *Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo*).

In terms of **Scenic Routes and Protected Views**, the coastal route from Ballycastle via Gortmore, Muingreevagh, Carrowcor, Rathlacken to Castlilacken immediately north and west of the wind farm is identified as a Scenic Route, while the section of the R314 around Killala Bay southeast of the wind farm is identified as a Scenic Route with Protected Views.

In terms of **Landscape Policy**, the stated policy with regard to areas designated as vulnerable (section 3.1(b) of the *Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo*) is that:



"These areas or features designated as vulnerable represent the principal features which create and sustain the character and distinctiveness of the surrounding landscape. To be considered for permission, development in the environs of these vulnerable areas must be shown not to impinge in any significant way upon its character, integrity or uniformity when viewed from the surroundings. Particular attention should be given to the preservation of the character and distinctiveness of these areas as viewed from scenic routes and the environs of archaeological and historic sites."

Part of the site is also located within the 'Slopes >10%' landscape, which are '**Areas Designated as Sensitive**' (refer to section 3.2(d) and associated mapping in the *Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo*).

In terms of **Principle Policy Areas**, the proposed wind farm is located in **Policy Area 1 – 'Montaine Coastal Zone'**, which is described (Section 4.1.1. of the *Landscape Appraisal*) as follows:

This area is visually distinct in County Mayo landscape terms as it incorporates, in a relatively small area, two dramatic landscape attributes being a steep and rugged shoreline and mountains rising immediately above. These elements make it a desirable setting for visitors and also particularly sensitive to inappropriate development.

The relevant landscape and visual policy considerations include:

Policy 3

Encourage development that will not have a disproportionate effect on the existing character of the coastal environment in terms of location, design, and visual prominence.

Policy 4

Consider development that does not significantly interfere or detract from scenic coastal vistas, as identified in the Development Plan, when viewed from areas of the public realm.

Policy 5

Encourage development that will not interrupt or penetrate distinct linear sections of primary ridge lines and coastlines when viewed from areas of the public realm.

Policy 6

Preserve any areas that have not been subject to recent or prior development and have retained a dominantly undisturbed coastal character.

Policy 7



Consider development on steep slopes, ensuring that it will not have a disproportionate or dominating visual impact on the surrounding environment as seen from areas of the public realm.

Section 5 **The Development Impact - Landscape Sensitivity Matrix** of the Landscape Appraisal notes that wind farms in Policy Area 1 have:

"High potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character. Having regard to the intrinsic physical and visual characteristics of the landscape area, it is unlikely that such impacts can be reduced to a widely acceptable level."

The **Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo** (in Volume 4 of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028), identifies 'Priority Areas', 'Tier 1 Areas (large and clustered wind farms)' and 'Tier 2 Areas', where wind farm developments are preferred (Priority & Tier 1), or are 'open for consideration' (Tier 2).

The proposed Tirawley Wind Farm site is not located within or adjacent to a Priority Area for wind farm development.

4.0 Review of Assessment of Tourism in the EIAR submitted with the Application

An EIAR has been submitted with the proposed development. Tourism, and impact on tourism, is addressed in Chapter 5: Population and Human Health and also referenced in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Impact, of the EIAR.

It is considered that the existing tourism context is for the most part appropriately addressed at Section 5.3.5 of the EIAR, with reference to the key and most significant assets, features and initiatives, including the 'Céide Coast experience' initiative. Greater acknowledgment of tourism interaction / relationship with the rich heritage of the cultural landscape of this area – as fittingly described in Chapter 14: Cultural Heritage and specifically in section 14.3 should have been included.

The impact of the proposed development on tourism is set out at Section 5.4.5 of Chapter 15 of the EIAR.

Despite acknowledging the nature and significance of the tourism baseline, the assessment of potential actual impacts on tourism is discounted to the inclusion of statements (in section 5.4.5) such as:

"Development has been designed to maintain appropriate separation distances from these core heritage hubs, ensuring the integrity of the regional tourism brand"



Such statements are generic and high level and fail to address the major change that the Proposed Development will bring to the character of this secluded landscape and its tourist assets, including The Western Way, the wider context of the Céide Fields, the Wild Atlantic Way and the coast, including the Signature Discovery Point of Downpatrick Head – from where the proposed turbines will be visible and visually discordant.

We do not accept that the sole finding of the impact of the proposed development on tourism (in section 5.4.5) is that

“By maintaining an appropriate separation from signature discovery points and protecting access to geological and cultural landmarks, the Proposed Development is designed to coexist with the character of the region and support the strategic ‘Céide Coast’ objectives. The upgrading of existing public roads within the Wind Farm Site will provide improved, more durable surfaces and better drainage, enhancing the quality of the trail for recreational users.”

It is notable that in Section 14.4.4 of Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage, the assessment of operational impacts records significant impacts on the cultural landscape setting that is a clear key pillar of the tourism environment – stating that (often in contradiction to the assessment in Chapter 12 Landscape and Visual) that:

There are a number of archaeological monuments and designated architectural structures located in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site which retain sensitive landscape setting characteristics. These include Carn House (RPS 187), Carn archaeological complex (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-), Castlclackan folly (Lackan Gazebo) (RPS 016), cairn sites MA014-002005- and MA014-002006-, Rathlackan archaeological complex and amenity area including court tomb MA007-016006-, wedge tomb at Rathfrankpark (National Monument 633), stone circle at Rathfrank (National Monument 389), Rathfrank Abbey (National Monument 269).

Lackan Gazebo (RPS 016) has been assessed by the Landscape and Visual Amenity specialist (Chapter 12, VP36) as a substantial-moderate residual significance of effect and, although the intensity of the built environment will increase by virtue of the Proposed Development, this will not occur within the principal viewing aspects of the monument to the north and east.

Lackan Gazebo (RPS 016) is located 293 m southeast of AT16. This landscape folly forms part of the original estate lands associated with the now ruinous Castlclackan House (RPS 188) located near the low-lying shoreline just under 1 km to the southeast of the folly. The siting of the folly within the landscape was deliberate with the concept of ‘being seen and to see’ a likely objective of its original construction. It sits at the eastern edge of an elevated boggy ridge at a height of c. 110 m OD (Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.18). Key vistas to and from this



structure are at the northeast, east and southeast, with long-distance views towards Lackan Bay forming a striking aspect.

Intervisibility across the landscape with Castlелackan House to the southeast remains intact (Appendix 14.1 Plate 14.17). The Proposed Development (northern array of AT15 and AT16 and associated access tracks) is located approx. 300 m to the northwest of Lackan Gazebo, and is likely to be visible from same, together with partial views of the remaining turbine layout within the Proposed Development further west and south (see Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity assessment, VP36, AP36a and VP36b). However, the primary vistas to and from Castlелackan House and Lackan Bay, as experienced from the folly will not be affected. This is considered a long-term indirect impact of high magnitude on a high value receptor resulting in a Significant significance of indirect effect on its landscape setting.

In addition, to the cultural heritage receptors located in close proximity to the Proposed Development there are sensitive receptors located within 10 km of the Site that have VPs produced for purposes of the LVIA chapter (Chapter 12) and which have been used to assess levels of magnitude impact on these high value receptors:

- Céide Fields (see VP4), Chapter 12
- Rathlackan archaeological complex (see VP8 Local Road at Knockboha near same)
- Rathfran Abbey (see VP25 Templemurray Graveyard (MA015-031001-, immediately east of same)

In Section 14.9 of Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage, the summary of the assessment notes:

“There is predicted indirect Significant effect at operational stage on Carn House (RPS 187) and an archaeological complex subject to a Preservation Order (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-) in Carn townland, at Rathfran Abbey (National Monument Ref. 269) and at Castlелackan folly (Lacken Gazebo RPS016)”

These sites, although without any known astronomical alignments inherent to their design layout, are located at prominent elevated or riverine positions within the landscape. There are no mitigation measures to ameliorate these indirect operational stage effects on setting,

And at Section 14.10 Statement of Significance, that:

“There is predicted indirect Significant effect at operational stage at Carn House and Carn archaeological complex, Rathfran Abbey and Lackan Gazebo (Table 14.17). It is acknowledged that this indirect significant effect on landscape setting is reversible at decommissioning stage of the Proposed Development.”



Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual is similarly structured, with the baseline being well described but with the assessment of landscape and visual impacts (including on tourist assets) being basic and high-level – and importantly over reliant on the assessment of impacts based on a singular photomontage location, rather than on the dynamic and holistic cultural, natural and visual environment that the resident and tourist experiences. This leads to an inadequate assessment of impacts and a notable under-representation of major changes and significant effects for the landscape and the tourism resource.

By way of example, the application includes a Photomontage (wirescape) of the proposed development taken from the Céide Fields Visitors Centre (No. VP4). The image shows that the proposed turbines will not be visible from the visitor's centre as the development is screened by the intervening rising topography. However, the assessment does not address visibility from the wider context of the proposed development from the Céide Fields.

Even more notable is the manner in which the impact of the proposed development on 'Lacken Gazebo' – a protected structure (Viewpoint VP36) is considered in Chapter 12 Landscape and Visual and in Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage. Despite its clear landmark and cultural significance 'Lacken Gazebo' it is not acknowledged in the tourism baseline or in the impact assessment in Chapter 5. In Chapter 12, while the assessment is focused on the views from the Gazebo –like the Photomontage, it is poorly selected, curtailed and limited. By contrast, in Chapter 14 the assessment is balanced and considers both the view to and from the protected structured, stating at Section 14.4.4 that:

"Lacken Gazebo (RPS 016) is located 293 m southeast of AT16. This landscape folly forms part of the original estate lands associated with the now ruinous Castlelackan House (RPS 188) located near the low-lying shoreline just under 1 km to the southeast of the folly. The siting of the folly within the landscape was deliberate with the concept of 'being seen and to see' a likely objective of its original construction. It sits at the eastern edge of an elevated boggy ridge at a height of c. 110 m OD (Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.18). Key vistas to and from this structure are at the northeast, east and southeast, with long-distance views towards Lackan Bay forming a striking aspect."

5.0 Conclusion

Fáilte Ireland would have significant concerns in relation to the potential impact of the Proposed Tirawley Wind Farm on the local and wider tourism resource – a resource of acknowledged significance.

We believe that the site is not suitable for wind farm development. This is highlighted in the number of landscape sensitivities identified in the *Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo* and general



**Fáilte
Ireland**

**Turasóireacht Náisiúnta
An tÚdara Eorbartha**
National Tourism
Development Authority

unsuitability of the land for wind farms as identified in the *Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo*.

It is clear that the EIAR for the proposed development has not provided an appropriate or suitably detailed assessment of the significant impacts that the proposed wind farm development will have on tourist assets and resources of international, national, regional and local significance.

Furthermore, we believe that the proposed wind farm development would be in direct conflict with the Strategic Aim for Tourism Development as expressed in Section 2.3 of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028:

"To develop Mayo as a leading tourism destination through continued sustainable expansion of the tourism sector, with a focus on creating high-quality visitor services and the continued development and enhancement of visitor attractions and activities, capitalising on our natural and cultural heritage assets, whilst safeguarding these resources for future generations."

In addition, we are of the opinion that the proposed development would be in direct conflict with virtually all of the sustainable tourism-related policies and objectives of Chapter 5: Tourism and Recreation in the Mayo County Development Plan, and with the initiatives of Fáilte Ireland, Ireland's National Tourism Development Authority, for North Mayo and the wider region.

Therefore, we would ask that An Coimisiún Pleanála in their assessment gives full and adequate consideration to the likely significant impacts that Tirawley Wind Farm would have on the high quality cultural, natural and landscape environment, which is critical to the tourism resource underpinning the value and quality of the Wild Atlantic Way and Downpatrick Head – a Signature Discovery Point, the Céide Fields, The Western Way and local tourism initiatives and the north Mayo Coast.

Yours Sincerely,

Shane Dineen

Environment & Planning Manager