

Anthony Leneghan & Caroline Martin

Mount Jubilee

Bangor Erris

Ballina

Co.Mayo

01.08.2026

Observation on the Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

To An Coimisiún Pleanála,

We, Anthony Leneghan and Caroline Martin, wish to object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

Our family has lived in this area for many years. We farm the land and keep cattle, sheep, hens and ducks. Caring for the animals and the surrounding environment is a central part of our lives. It shapes our days and connects us closely to the land.

We know the fields, the drains and the bog. We know where the ground is firm and where it becomes soft after rain. We have spent years working in these conditions and have learned to respect how quickly bogland can change.

We are deeply concerned about the amount of peat that would be disturbed to build this development. The turbine foundations, access roads, crane areas, drainage works, substation and battery compound would all require major construction across peatland.

The application identifies areas of blanket bog, including habitat associated with European Annex I code 7130. People in this area have been told for years that bogs must be protected. It is difficult to understand how large-scale excavation and industrial construction across the same type of land can then be described as acceptable.

Bog holds a great deal of water. Digging into it, draining it and placing heavy loads on it can affect how the ground behaves. Parts of the site are also on sloping land. This increases our concern about peat movement and the possibility of a slide.

The planning documents state that the risk can be managed. Our own experience tells us that bog is unpredictable, especially during long periods of rain. A change in drainage can have effects beyond the place where the work takes place.

If peat or silt moves into a drain, it may enter nearby streams. Water from this area connects with the Doolough Stream and the wider catchment leading towards Blacksod Bay.

The Doolough Stream supports fish, including brown trout and European eel. Atlantic salmon are also protected under the EU Habitats Directive. Clean water is vital for fish, otters and the other wildlife that depend on these streams.

Construction would involve exposed peat, loose soil, fuel, oil, stone and heavy machinery. Settlement ponds and management plans may reduce risk, but they do not remove it. A spill, drainage failure or period of intense rainfall could carry pollution downstream.

Blacksod Bay and Broad Haven are protected areas. They include the Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation and the Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven Special Protection Area. These waters support important habitats, fish, birds and marine life.

Pollution entering a small stream can travel through the catchment. The possible effects on Blacksod Bay must be considered from the point where the water first leaves the site. Wildlife is part of our everyday life here. The bog, farmland and streams provide feeding and resting areas for many species. Otters use the watercourses. Twite have been recorded in the wider area, and the return of the corncrake is important to the people of Erris.

We also hear owls at night, their calls carry clearly because the area is so quiet. That quietness is one of our main concerns. The turbines would operate throughout the day and night. The repeated sound of the blades could become very noticeable during still evenings and in the early hours of the morning.

The final turbine model has not been selected. The application presents several possible machines with different blade sizes, power outputs and sound characteristics. It is hard to have confidence in the noise predictions when the exact turbine that may be built remains unknown.

Noise limits written in a report do not explain how the sound will be experienced inside our home. A repeated change in sound can disturb sleep and make it difficult to relax. Once the turbines are operating, we will be left dealing with the result.

Shadow flicker is another concern. The application relies on future turbine shutdown systems to deal with shadow flicker. We as residents would have to depend on computer controls, sensors and continued monitoring. The turbines should have been placed at distances that protect homes from this impact in the first place.

Our home means a great deal to us. We have worked hard for it and expect to feel comfortable and secure there. The possibility of living close to very large turbines, a battery compound and a busy construction route causes real worry.

We have no intention of leaving our home, but we are concerned about what this development could mean for our children in the years ahead. The value of the property matters because it is part of what we hope to pass on to the next generation. We are also worried about whether our children would be able to get planning permission to build near the family home in the future. The developer would not make that decision, but the presence of large turbines, noise zones, shadow flicker areas, the battery station and other infrastructure could affect how a future planning application is considered.

Our children should not find that their choices are limited because an industrial development was allowed to surround the land their family has cared for over many years.

There is no clear protection for residents if the value of their property falls. Families would carry that financial loss themselves.

The local roads are already narrow. Many have bends, soft edges and limited places where vehicles can pass. They are used by local residents, farmers, school buses and people travelling to work.

Farming brings its own road needs. Animals and machinery must sometimes be moved between fields. This takes care and cannot always be done quickly.

The wind farm construction would bring large numbers of stone trucks, concrete lorries, machinery and abnormal loads carrying turbine parts. Meeting one of these vehicles on a narrow road would be frightening, especially where there is no safe place to pull in.

Traffic lights and delivery schedules may control some movements, but the roads themselves would remain narrow. Delays and road restrictions would affect people trying to reach farms, schools, workplaces, medical appointments and local services.

We are also worried about damage to the road foundations and edges. Much of the local road network crosses wet or boggy ground. Repeated heavy loads could lead to cracking, sinking or further damage. These roads are important to the people who live here long after the construction traffic has gone.

The scale of the Battery Energy Storage System is another serious issue. The proposal includes around 120 battery containers and 15 inverter containers within a compound approximately 156 metres long and 99 metres wide.

This would include cooling equipment, electrical systems, lighting, fencing and emergency controls. It would be a large industrial compound located within a rural area.

The final battery supplier and technology have not been confirmed. We are concerned about noise from the cooling systems and inverters. We also want to know how a fire or major fault would be dealt with, particularly where peatland, drains and streams are nearby.

Battery fires can be difficult to control. The application should have contained full details of the chosen system, the fire response arrangements and the treatment of contaminated water. These matters should not be left until after planning permission.

The turbines would change the views across the area. They would stand above the surrounding land and become a major feature in the landscape. We have known these views all our lives. They form part of our connection to the area and our enjoyment of living here.

The monument (old Church) are especially important to our family. They are closely tied to the history of this community and to the generations who lived here before us. Local people know the place, speak about it and feel a strong connection to it.

The development would also affect the night sky. The area currently has very little artificial light. On a clear night, the stars can be seen across the open sky. Aviation warning lights on the turbines would introduce red lights into those views. Lighting from the battery compound and substation would add to the change. Dark skies are one of the special qualities of this part of Mayo. The wider area is closely connected with Mayo Dark Sky Park and is known for its clear night skies. This deserves proper protection.

We are concerned about the full effect of the turbines, traffic, peat excavation, drainage works, battery station, noise and lighting. Local families would experience these impacts together.

Our lives are closely connected to our animals, farm, bog and community. We have cared for the land for many years and want to continue doing so.

The proposed development would bring lasting changes to the place where we live and work. We believe the risks to homes, property values, roads, peatland, streams, wildlife, protected waters, archaeology and the wider landscape are too great.

For these reasons, we believe planning permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm should be refused.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Leneghan

Caroline Martin