

Ciara Hickey
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Slane
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6th August 2026

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

FORMAL OBJECTION LETTER ... RE PLANNING APPLICATION, MUINGMORE, REFERENCE 324387

Dear Sir/Madam

I, Ciara Hickey, formally object to the proposed planning located within the townlands of Muingmore (An Mhoing Mhór), Doolough (Dumha Locha), Tristia (Troiste), Moneynierin (Moing an Iarainn) and Bangor (Baingear) County Mayo, planning reference PAX16.324387 for a development consisting of 13 wind turbines, a 110kV substation, battery energy storage system (BESS) and all associated infrastructure & infrastructure (both temporary & permanent) by RWE.

Effects on local communities

I have strong family connections to immediate family who reside in the area of the proposed development & am very concerned about the effect it would have on the community. Having visited frequently over the years growing up & now as an adult it is a lovely, thriving area, with many people having moved back home since 2020. People enjoy the area because of its tranquillity, scenic views, nature & wildlife. Walking the country roads is often an opportunity for people to catch-up with each other & relax. Locals & tourists alike enjoy the stunning views from the Mount Jubilee Loop Walk (as promoted by Mayo County Council; northmayo.ie; mayotrails.com & many others)

Lack of consultation

There has been no meaningful, honest engagement with my family or the community over the proposed development.

Environmental Impacts

Noise pollution from the turbines & the BESS facility

Light pollution from the BESS compound & aviation lighting on the turbines

Flicker – having seen videos of other properties affected at existing windfarms, I find it alarming & unacceptable that we & other residents in our area would have to endure such a phenomena.

Visual impact not only by the residential properties but the beauty/tourist spots such as Shra Beach, Doolough beach. And further afield from Blacksod, Wild Nephin National Park & Achill amongst many others.

Peat extraction this will be devastating for the wildlife, flora & fauna.

Horses I am also very concerned for the welfare of the wild horses who live in the lands of Muingmore, there has been no mention of them in the EIAR.

Birds the migratory birds which overwinter within the catchment area of the development site at Blacksod Bay.

Blacksod Bay is an area of significant importance, designated as an SAC & an SPA.

Maerl beds the rare pink-purple coralline red seaweeds that take centuries to form, capturing & locking away significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. The maerl beds are protected under annexe V of the EU habitats directive.

Streams small streams run throughout the proposed site & feed into the Blacksod Bay area of the Atlantic Ocean.

Contamination – given the heavy machinery that will be required to complete the works there is an alarmingly high risk of contamination from oil, diesel, chemicals etc, which would impact the peatland, streams, Blacksod Bay & wildlife.

What sort of a future will the area hold for myself & other young people?

Tourism

The area relies heavily on tourism, which in turn provides jobs. Jobs are provided in Geesala, Bangor & Belmullet in the local businesses which are thriving with the influx of tourists the Wild Atlantic Way is attracting. This is currently being expanded on with the assistance of the ***Wild Mayo Destination & Experience development plan for North Mayo & Erris***. This will all be negatively affected if the windfarm development goes ahead, as tourists will not come, the locals will lose their jobs & therefore not have income to spend in the local businesses.

If the views & peacefulness of the area are destroyed, there will be no reason for these tourists to visit. The heavy goods vehicles that will be on the roads will be damaging & disruptive & will have to travel considerable distances to deliver their materials. Many people around the area & tourists alike, enjoy peaceful walks during the day when the roads are quieter, to exercise, relax & unwind, this will not be possible as it would be too dangerous given the volume of traffic which will use these roads to complete the works. I myself look forward to visiting my homeplace, recharging & connecting, both with the community & nature. The area under consideration for this development is totally unsuitable, as stated by the Mayo County Development Plan & I fully agree with them.

I am respectfully asking An Coimisiún Pleanála to please preserve our beautiful area & the whole of Erris by refusing permission to RWE for the planning of this windfarm (reference PAX16.324387).

Thank you for taking time to consider my submission.

Yours faithfully

Ciara Hickey