

Observation

Edel Thompson

Mount jubilee

Bangor Erris

Ballina

Co Mayo

F26 X2P2

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

Re: Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make an observation on the proposed Muingmore wind Farm.

I was born in Erris, I live here and I am raising my young family here. We returned from Oxfordshire to raise our family here in the countryside of Mount Jubilee in the beautiful area that we call home. There are numerous reasons that we don't feel that this is the right area for these turbines. Some of these are going to directly affect us as a family and also affect the people from this area for numerous reasons.

We have a main road outside our home with a speed limit of 80km/h. We have to walk on this road to access paths that are safe for us to bring our children for a safe walk or cycle. This already proves difficult as it is always busy with the current traffic. The development would involve concrete lorries, stone trucks, cranes, abnormal turbine loads and other heavy vehicles using this access road. The weight and volume of this traffic could cause road damage, subsidence and broken road edges.

The same roads are used every day by residents, school buses, farm vehicles, cyclists, walkers and emergency services. We regularly walk and cycle locally, and would not feel safe sharing these narrow roads with a constant flow of heavy construction traffic.

We have a beautifully scenic area that attracts a large amount of tourism to our quiet area every year. These 180m high turbines are going to cause a visual disturbance in this area. Local hotels, pubs, cafés, restaurants and accommodation providers depend on people choosing to visit Erris. Visitors come here for the scenery, the coast, the wildlife, the walking and cycling routes, and the peace and quiet. The turbines themselves, BESS stations, lighting etc is going to make a huge impact on the landscape.

We have large area of blanket bog in The proposed construction area. Blanket bog is recognised under the EU Habitats Directive as habitat code 7130 It is an important habitat that stores carbon, holds water and supports plants, birds and other wildlife.

The development would require the excavation of peat for turbine foundations, access roads, cable routes, the substation and the battery storage compound. Cutting through the peat and changing the natural drainage could affect a much wider area than the direct footprint of the works. Water could be held back in some places while other parts of the bog could begin to dry out. The final foundation designs, piling methods, drainage details and water protection measures should be available for the public and An Coimisiún Pleanála to examine now. These matters could have a major effect on the bog, water quality and nearby communities.

I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to give serious consideration as to whether this is the appropriate location for wind turbines and BESS stations at the proposed site at Muingmore Wind Farm under case reference PAX16.324387.

Yours faithfully,

Edel Thompson