

Case Number PAX16.324387

Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Geesala / Mount Jubilee / Doolough, Co. Mayo

To whom it may concern, An Bord Pleanála,

I wish to formally object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development in the Geesala, Mount Jubilee and Doolough area of Erris, County Mayo.

Case Number PAX16.324387

An Bord Pleanála has refused wind farms on this specific landscape twice, in 2003 and again in 2015. The core finding is consistent both times: the flat, exposed, coastal bogland west of the N59 is uniquely vulnerable to visual intrusion from tall structures. The receiving landscape has not changed. Those findings bind this new application to a very high evidential bar. Furthermore, on 13 July 2026 Mayo County Council formally adopted a Renewable Energy Strategy designating Muingmore as unsuitable for wind energy.

The Sheskin South Wind Farm (18 turbines, 200m tip height) was approved northeast of Bangor Erris in 2024. Any new application must now be assessed against a landscape that has already absorbed a major consented development. The cumulative impact has materially worsened and a fundamentally different proposition to anything assessed in 2015.

North Mayo's grid is demonstrably constrained. SSE Renewables acknowledged it themselves after the Sheskin South approval. Granting further consents into the same grid area creates a queue of stranded assets and a legitimate proper planning objection on infrastructure grounds. The grid cannot support further development

The State has invested heavily in the offshore alternative at this exact location. AMETS — the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site off Annagh Head, Belmullet. This test site has been collecting wave data continuously since 2012, holds a foreshore lease since 2015, received planning permission for its onshore substation in 2017, and is due to connect to the national grid in 2026. Ireland's Atlantic coast averages 35kW per metre of wave front. The State's own Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan identifies 31,100MW of extractable wave energy potential nationally. The Erris Peninsula sits at the heart of that renewable offshore energy resource.

Onshore wind directly prejudices the offshore alternative. Saturating the constrained north Mayo grid with onshore wind crowds out the offshore wave and floating wind technologies that AMETS exists to commercialise. Degrading the protected landscape and grid capacity that the offshore strategy depends on is, in my opinion, in planning terms, contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area because it forecloses a more sustainable long-term pathway that national policy has itself identified and funded.

The State has spent over a decade and tens of millions of euros identifying the Erris Coastline as Ireland's premier offshore renewable energy test and deployment location; approving further onshore wind farms that industrialise the protected landscape, degrade

the Wild Atlantic Way, and congest the only grid connection serving that offshore resource is directly inconsistent with that national strategic investment.

Furthermore, the proposed turbines, would dominate the open bogland and coastal landscape surrounding Geesala, Mount Jubilee, Doolough and Blacksod Bay. This area is recognised for its unspoiled scenery, remoteness, dark skies and cultural landscape. Mount Jubilee is also part of an established cycling and walking trails promoted by Mayo County Council and Fáilte Ireland. From my research, this site location for this proposed development would irreversibly alter the visual amenity of the area and undermine its attractiveness to visitors, walkers, cyclists, photographers, and nature tourism.

The Wild Atlantic Way brand is founded upon natural scenery, tranquillity, heritage, and environmental quality. Erris and the northwest Mayo coast depend heavily on landscape-based tourism on this Wild Atlantic Way. Recent tourism development plans for north Mayo identify the Erris Gaeltacht and surrounding coastal landscape as key assets for sustainable tourism growth.

I am particularly interested in the on-going feasibility study to develop an Irish Language School for adults in the Gaoith Sáile (Geesala) area. The introduction of this large-scale development, associated substations, access roads, excavation works and aviation lighting risks damaging the tourism economy and the reputation of the region as a scenic destination.

The scale of construction required for 13 industrial turbines would necessitate heavy haulage traffic, road widening, excavation, concrete foundations, drainage alteration and significant peatland disturbance. These works could permanently damage the rural character and environmental integrity of the area.

Renewable energy infrastructure must be developed in appropriate locations that minimise environmental and community harm. Alternative locations with lower scenic, tourism and ecological sensitivity should be prioritised. The State's own Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan identifies 31,100MW of extractable wave energy potential nationally and this is a more suitable and sustainable source of the much needed renewable energy source. The Erris Peninsula sits at the heart of that resource. This offshore alternative is a more welcome, more sustainable form of renewable energy and less divisive to rural populations in Geesala, Mount Jubilee and Doolough area of Erris, County Mayo.

A balanced climate policy must protect both renewable energy goals and Ireland's unique natural heritage

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that planning permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm be refused.

Best regards,
Joseph Clowry
M.A., B.A.(Mod.) Nat. Sciences, H.D.E.

Uimhir Cáis PAX16.324387
Feirm Ghaithe Mhuing Mhór Bheartaithe
Ghath Sáile / Cnoc an Jubile / Dubhloch, Co. Mhaigh Eo

Cé acu a mbaineann sé seo leis, An Bord Pleanála,

Is mian liom agóid a dhéanamh go foirmiúil i gcoinne fhorbairt Fheirm Ghaithe Mhuing Mhór bheartaithe i limistéar Ghath Sáile, Chnoc an Jubile agus an Dubhloch Iorrais, Contae Mhaigh Eo. Uimhir Cáis PAX16.324387

D’hiadaigh An Bord Pleanála feirmeacha gaithe ar an tírdhreach sonrach seo faoi dhó — in 2003 agus arís in 2015. Tá an phríomhthátal comhsheasmhach an dá uair: tá an bógach chósta cothrom, nocht, siar ón N59 an-leochaileach go háirithe d’fhís-suaitheadh ó struchtúir aerdhíonta arda. Níl an tírdhreach faighte athraithe. Ceanglaíonn an cinneadh sin an t-iaratas nua seo le barra fianaise an-ard. Thairis sin, an 13 Iúil 2026 ghlac Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo go foirmiúil le Straitéis Fuinnimh In-athnuaite a d’ainmnigh Muing Mhór mar Mhíchuí do fuinneamh gaoithe.

Ceadaíodh Feirm Ghaithe Sheiscinn Theas (18 tuirbín, 200m airde rinn) siar o thuaidh de Bheann A chois Iorrais in 2024. Ní mór iaratas nua ar bith a mheas anois i gcoinne tírdhreach a ghlac forbairt mhór cheadaithe cheana féin. Tá an tionchar carnach níos measa go hábhartha agus moladh go bunúsach difriúil le rud ar bith a measadh in 2015.

Tá eangach Thuaisceart Mhaigh Eo srianta go follasach — d’admhaigh SSE Renewables é i ndiaidh cheadú Sheiscinn Theas. Cruthaíonn deonú ceadanna breise isteach sa limistéar eangaí céanna scuaine sócmhainní sáinnithe agus agóid phleanála dlisteanach chuí ar ghasúir bhonneagair. Ní féidir leis an eangach tacaíocht a thabhairt d’fhorbairt bhreise. Tá infheistíocht mhór déanta ag an Stát san rogha amach ón gcósta ag an suíomh seo go díreach. AMETS — Suíomh Tástála Fuinnimh Muirí an Atlantaigh amach ó Cheann na hAnnaithe, Béal an Mhuirthead — tá sé ag bailiú sonraí tonnta go leanúnach ó 2012, tá léas foreshore aige ó 2015, fuair sé cead pleanála dá fhotrealamh intíre in 2017, agus tá sé le ceangal leis an eangach náisiúnta in 2026. Is é meánchósta Atlantach na hÉireann ná 35kW in aghaidh an mhéadair de thosa tonnta. Sonraíonn Plean Forbartha Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta an Stáit féin 31,100MW d’acmhainneacht fuinnimh tonnta inbhainte go náisiúnta. Tá Leithinis Iorrais suite i gcroílár an acmhainn sin.

Déanann gaoth intíre dochar díreach don rogha amach ón gcósta. Cuireann sáithiú eangach Thuaisceart Mhaigh Eo srianta le gaoth intíre brú ar na teicneolaíochtaí tonnta amach ón gcósta agus gaoithe ar snámh a bhfuil AMETS ann lena gtráchtáil. Tá díghrádú an tírdhreacha cosanta agus an acmhainn eangaí a mbraithfidh an straitéis amach ón gcósta air, i dtéarmaí pleanála, contrártha le pleanáil chuí agus forbairt inbhuanaithe an limistéir — toisc go n-eisiann sé cosán níos inbhuanaithe san fhadtéarma a d’aithin agus a mhaoinigh an beartas náisiúnta é féin.

Chait an Stát os cionn deich mbliana agus deich milliún euro ag sainiú cósta Iorrais mar phríomhshuíomh tástála agus imlonnaithe fuinnimh in-athnuaite amach ón gcósta na

hÉireann; tá ceadú feirmeacha gaithe intíre breise a dhéanann tionsclaíocht ar an tírdhreach cosanta, a dhíghrádaíonn Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin, agus a phlódú an t-aon nasc eangaí amháin a fhreastalaíonn ar an acmhainn amach ón gcósta sin contrártha go díreach leis an infheistíocht straitéiseach náisiúnta sin.

Thairis sin, bheadh na tuirbíní molta i gceannas ar an mbógach oscailte agus ar an tírdhreach chósta a thimpennaíonn Gaoth Sáile, Cnoc an Jubile, an Dubhloch agus Cuan an Fhóid Duibh. Aithnítear an limistéar seo as a radharcra gan scrios, a iargúltacht, a spéire dorcha agus a dhlúth-thírdhreach cultúrtha. Is cuid d'fhéar-rian rothaíochta agus siúil bunaithe é Cnoc an Jubile freisin a chuireann Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo agus Fáilte Ireland chun cinn. Ó mo thaighde féin, d'athródh suíomh an tsuímh seo don fhorbairt bheartaithe seo áiseacht amhairc an limistéir go do-aisiompaithe agus chuirfeadh sé lagú ar a tharraingteacht do theachtairí, do shiúlóirí, do rothaithe, do ghrianghrafadóirí, agus d'turasóireacht dúlra. [\[1\]](#) Tá branda Shlí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin bunaithe ar radharcra nádúrtha, ar shuaimhneas, ar oidhreacht, agus ar cháilíocht comhshaoil. Braitheann lorras agus cósta iarthuaisceart Mhaigh Eo go mór ar thurasóireacht atá bunaithe ar thírdhreach ar an Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin seo. Sainaíonn pleananna forbartha turasóireachta le déanaí do Thuaisceart Mhaigh Eo Gaeltacht Iorrais agus an tírdhreach chósta máguaird mar shócmhainní lárnacha d'fhás turasóireachta inbhuanaithe.

Tá suim ar leith agam sa staidéar indéantachta atá ar siúl chun Scoil Ghaeilge d'aosaigh a fhorbairt i limistéar Ghaoth Sáile. Cuireann tabhairt isteach na forbairt ar scála mór seo, fotrealamh gaolmhar, bóithre rochtana, oibreacha tochailte agus soilsiú eitlíochta baol damáiste ar an eacnamaíocht turasóireachta agus ar chlú an réigiúin mar cheann scríbe radharcúil.

Bheadh gá le trácht trom iompair, le leathnú bóithre, le tochailt, le bunsraitheanna coincréite, le hathrú draenála agus le suaiteacht shuntasach móna ag scála na tógála a theastaíonn do 13 tuirbín tionsclaíoch. D'fhéadfadh na hoibreacha seo damáiste buan a dhéanamh do charachtar tuaithe agus d'ionracas comhshaoil an limistéir.

Ní mór bonneagar fuinnimh in-athnuaite a fhorbairt i suíomhanna iomchuí a laghdaíonn dochar comhshaoil agus pobail. Ba cheart tús áite a thabhairt do shuíomhanna malartacha a bhfuil íogaireacht radharcúil, turasóireachta agus éiceolaíochta níos ísle acu. Ar deireadh, sainaíonn Plean Forbartha Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta an Stáit féin 31,100MW d'acmhainneacht fuinnimh tonnta inbhainte go náisiúnta. Tá Leithinis Iorrais suite i gcoirlár an acmhainn sin. Is rogha níos fáilte, níos inbhuanaithe í an rogha amach ón gcósta seo de fuinneamh in-athnuaite agus níos lú deighilteach do phobail tuaithe i limistéar Ghaoth Sáile, Chnoc an Jubile agus an Dubhloch Iorrais, Contae Mhaigh Eo.

Caithfidh beartas aeráide cothrom cosaint a thabhairt do spriocanna fuinnimh in-athnuaite agus d'oidhreacht nádúrtha uathúil na hÉireann araon.

Ar na cúiseanna a leagtar amach thuas, iarraim go humhal ort go ndiúltófaí cead pleanála d'Fheirm Ghaithe Mhuing Mhór bheartaithe.

Le gach dea-mhéin,

Joseph Clowry

M.A., B.A.(Mod.) Nat. Sciences, H.D.E.