

Kathleen Munnelly
Mount Jubilee,

Bangor Erris,

Ballina,

Co. Mayo

01.08.2026

Planning Reference: PAX16.324387

Proposed Development: Muingmore Wind Farm

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm. I do not want permission granted for this development.

I have lived in Mount Jubilee for over 60 years. I raised my children here, watched them grow up and now I see my grandchildren being brought up here too.

This village has been at the centre of our family life for generations. I know the roads, the bog, the monument, the houses and the families. Mount Jubilee has always been a quiet and peaceful place. That is one of the things I value most about living here.

My home is identified as House 31 in the applicant's shadow flicker report. It is approximately 1.5 kilometres from the nearest proposed turbine and about 2.7 kilometres from the proposed Battery Energy Storage System.

Those distances may look reasonable on paper, but this is a very open area. There is little to block sound, light or views. Noise travels across the bog, especially at night, and turbines of this height would be seen from a wide area.

Noise and disturbance

Noise is one of my greatest concerns.

At night, Mount Jubilee is very quiet. There is little traffic and no constant industrial noise. When the weather is calm, sounds can travel from a long distance away.

The proposed turbines could operate during the day and throughout the night whenever there is enough wind. Their noise would not end when the construction work finished.

The application refers to calculated noise levels and limits. Those figures do not tell me what it would be like to lie awake listening to a repeated swishing, pulsing or thumping sound.

As I have gotten older, I do not sleep as deeply as I once did. A repeated noise during the night, even if it is not very loud, can make it difficult to rest properly. I am worried about the effect on my sleep and on the peace I have always known in my own home.

There would also be noise during construction. Heavy trucks, machinery, roadworks, excavation, reversing alarms and activity at the site could continue for a long period. This would not be a few noisy days. Residents could face months or years of disturbance before the turbines even began operating.

The turbines would not be the only source of noise. The BESS and substation would include transformers, inverters, cooling equipment and other machinery. Some of this equipment may run during the night.

The people living here would hear the combined sound. We would not hear each part separately, as it is presented in different reports.

The application does not give me confidence that the quiet nights at my home would be protected.

Shadow flicker at House 31

My home is identified as House 31 in the shadow flicker report. This makes shadow flicker a direct concern for me.

I want to know what it would mean inside my own house. I want to know which windows may be affected, which rooms the shadows may enter, what time of day it may happen and during which months.

A yearly number in a table does not explain what it feels like to have the shadow of moving blades passing through a window and across a room.

The application relies on computer modelling and a future shutdown system. I do not think residents should have to depend on software working correctly for decades to prevent shadow flicker entering their homes.

The final turbine model has not yet been selected. Different blade sizes and turbine heights could change the timing and length of the shadow flicker.

That should have been settled and properly assessed before permission was sought.

I have lived peacefully in my home for many years. I should not have to close curtains or change how I use a room because of shadows caused by turbines outside my control.

Roads and construction traffic

The local roads are a serious concern.

I have used these roads all my life and I know how narrow they are. In several places, two ordinary cars cannot pass at the same time. One driver has to stop, reverse or pull onto the verge until a wider section is reached.

The road edges are soft in places. There are bends, narrow entrances and very little room for walkers or cyclists.

These roads were built for local traffic. They were not built for hundreds of heavy vehicle movements, concrete lorries, stone trucks and abnormal loads carrying turbine blades and tower sections.

Large vehicles need more room to turn and more distance to stop. They also have significant blind spots. When a large truck meets a car, school bus, cyclist or pedestrian on a narrow road, there may be nowhere safe for anyone to move.

Repeated heavy traffic could also damage road edges, culverts and verges. In dry weather, there would be dust. In wet weather, there could be mud, loose stone and damaged road surfaces.

Temporary traffic lights, convoys and delays would become part of everyday life. People would still need to travel to work, bring children to school, attend appointments and visit family.

I enjoy a peaceful way of life. I do not want it replaced by heavy trucks, dust, machinery and constant disruption.

The BESS and substation

I am very concerned about the proposed Battery Energy Storage System.

The BESS would contain a large number of battery containers, inverters and other electrical equipment. It would include fencing, lighting, cooling equipment and machinery. Together with the substation, it would form a large industrial compound.

I live approximately 2.7 kilometres from the proposed BESS. I am worried about fire, smoke, noise, lighting and contaminated water if something went wrong.

Battery fires can be difficult to control and may continue for a long time. They can produce smoke and gases. In an open and windy area like this, smoke could travel towards homes, roads and neighbouring land.

The final battery technology and the complete emergency arrangements have not been settled. Residents should have been told exactly what type of system is proposed, how a fire would be managed and how nearby homes would be warned before permission was sought.

There is also the question of firefighting water. If water used during an emergency became contaminated, it would have to be fully contained. It could not be allowed to enter the surrounding drains, peatland or watercourses.

The BESS would also bring permanent lighting and operational noise into an area that is now quiet and dark.

This is not a minor part of the development. It is a large industrial installation and should have been assessed as such.

The views and dark skies

I have looked out at these views for most of my life.

I watched my children grow up here, and now I watch my grandchildren growing up with the same bog, hills and open sky around them. These views are part of our family life.

The proposed turbines would be approximately 180 metres high. They would stand far above every house, tree and building in the area. They would change the views from Mount Jubilee completely.

This would not be a small change. Thirteen turbines of this size would dominate the landscape for decades.

The night sky matters too.

On a clear night, we can see the stars properly because there is very little artificial light. The darkness is part of the peace of living here.

The turbines may need red aviation warning lights. These lights would be placed high above the landscape and could be visible every night.

The turbines would not disappear when it became dark. Their lights would mark them out across a landscape that is now quiet and dark.

Mount Jubilee is also part of the wider setting around Ballycroy and Mayo Dark Sky Park. The dark skies of this part of Mayo are something worth protecting.

Peatlands, birds and water

The development would involve major work on peatland.

People living here know what this ground is like. It is wet, soft and easily affected by drainage. It cannot be treated like ordinary firm ground.

The project would require new roads, turbine foundations, crane areas, drainage works and the excavation and storage of large amounts of peat.

Once peat is cut, drained or covered with stone, it cannot simply be returned to the way it was before. Changing the flow of water in one place can affect a much wider area. One part of the bog may dry out while another receives more runoff.

Peat stores carbon, holds water and supports wildlife.

Corncrakes and many other birds are part of this area. Their calls and their presence are part of the countryside people here know. They depend on quiet habitats, feeding areas and safe places to breed.

Construction traffic, excavation, lighting and noise would disturb those habitats. New roads and drainage works could also divide areas that birds and other wildlife currently use.

The effect would not be limited to the exact footprint of a turbine or road.

Water from the proposed site moves through the wider drainage system connected to the Doolough Stream and Blacksod Bay.

If disturbed peat, silt, oil, fuel or concrete-contaminated water enters a drain, it can move into the stream and continue downstream.

Blacksod Bay is protected because of its important habitats, fish, birds and wildlife. It should not be placed at risk by pollution from a large construction site further inland.

The application relies on silt fencing, settlement ponds and drainage controls. These measures may reduce risk, but they can block, overflow or fail.

Heavy rain and saturated ground are normal in this area. The application should have shown clearly how the controls would work through long periods of rainfall and what would happen if something failed.

Once peat or pollution enters moving water, it cannot easily be taken back out.

The monument and the history of Mount Jubilee

The monument at Mount Jubilee means a great deal to local people.

It is part of the history of the village and part of the story of the families who lived here before us. People connect it with faith, family memories and past generations.

It is not simply an archaeological feature marked on a map.

The setting around the monument matters. The bog, the open land and the views around it are all part of how people know and experience the place.

The monument could remain physically untouched but still lose much of its character if the surrounding area became dominated by large turbines, new roads, construction traffic and industrial equipment.

Once that setting is changed, it cannot be restored.

The wider area also contains archaeological remains. Work on deep peat may uncover features that have not previously been visible. This makes proper assessment before construction even more important.

The history of Mount Jubilee should not be treated as an obstacle to work around. It is part of what gives the village its identity.

The value of my home

I am also worried about the value of my property.

My home means far more to me than money. It is where I raised my children, where our family memories were made and where my grandchildren now spend time.

But its financial value still matters. It represents years of work and security for my family. It is also something I hope will remain for the next generation.

Noise, shadow flicker, aviation lights, construction traffic and the BESS could all reduce the value of homes in this area.

People should not see the value of their homes fall because a major industrial development has been built close to them.

I have spent most of my life building a home and family life in Mount Jubilee. I do not believe that should be put at risk without clear and convincing evidence that residents will not suffer a financial loss.

Conclusion

I have lived in Mount Jubilee for over 60 years. I raised my children here and now I see my grandchildren being brought up here.

I want them to grow up knowing the same peaceful village, quiet roads, familiar views, dark skies and strong sense of community that our family has always known.

I do not want Mount Jubilee changed into a place of large turbines, red aviation lights, heavy construction traffic, noise, dust and industrial compounds.

The people living here would carry the effects long after the construction workers had left.

I do not want permission granted for this development. I believe it would cause lasting harm to Mount Jubilee, the people who live here and the place our families have called home for generations.

Permission should be refused.

Yours faithfully, Kathleen Munnelly