

Kay Goonan
Mount Jubilee
Bangor Erris
County Mayo
09/07/2026

The Secretary

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Formal Submission/Observation on the Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please accept this letter as my formal observation and objection to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm under case reference PAX16.324387.

My name is Kay Goonan, and I have lived in Mount Jubilee all my life. This area is not simply where I live. It is my home, my history and a huge part of who I am.

I have my own house here, and I also restored the old Mount Jubilee schoolhouse. After Covid, I started the schoolhouse as a volunteer-led, non-profit community project to help stop social isolation and bring people together again. I put a great deal of time, work and love into bringing this important building back to life. I restored it for education, social inclusion, community activities and the preservation of our local culture and heritage.

I hold activities in the schoolhouse and welcome people who want to learn about the history, traditions and natural environment of this area. I show visitors the heritage of Mount Jubilee and explain how the landscape, the bog, the farms, the old buildings and the people are all connected.

I am deeply opposed to this development because I believe it would cause permanent damage to our beautiful land, our bog, our heritage and our way of life.

The importance of the bog

The bog is extremely important to me, both personally and through the educational work I do. I have held classes where we have made paper from bog materials. Through this work, I try to show people that the bog is not empty, wasted or unproductive land. It is alive with history, culture, wildlife and natural value.

Our bog has taken thousands of years to form. It stores carbon and acts as an important natural carbon sink. It holds water, supports wildlife and forms part of the wider environmental system of this area.

It is also a massive part of our culture. Generations of local families have lived beside it, worked on it and depended on it. People gathered berries known locally as "moonogs" from the bog and used bog plants and other natural materials in traditional cures. This knowledge formed part of everyday life and passed from one generation to the next. Our stories, traditions and memories are tied to the bog.

Once deep peat has been disturbed, drained or removed, it cannot simply be returned to the condition it was in before. The damage could continue long after the construction work has ended.

The bog is not just ground on which to place turbines. It is an important environmental, educational and cultural resource. It deserves to be protected.

Noise in an exceptionally quiet area

At night, Mount Jubilee can be almost completely silent. That silence is one of the most precious things about living here.

There is very little background noise to hide or mask an industrial sound. In an open bogland landscape, noise can carry over long distances, particularly at night and during certain weather conditions.

We should not be expected to accept recurring turbine noise, blade swish, electrical plant noise or cooling equipment noise in an area that is presently so peaceful.

Noise that might appear acceptable in a calculation or computer model could be very different when experienced repeatedly at night, when people are trying to sleep and there are no other sounds to cover it.

Once the development is built, local people will have to live with its effects for decades. They will not be able to switch it off or escape from it. The possible effects on sleep, wellbeing, concentration and people's enjoyment of their homes must be taken seriously.

Shadow flicker and vulnerable people

I am also deeply concerned about shadow flicker.

Repeated moving shadows passing across windows, walls and rooms could be very distressing. People should be able to sit peacefully in their homes without rotating shadows repeatedly moving through their kitchens, bedrooms or living rooms.

The effects could be particularly serious for vulnerable people, including elderly residents, people with dementia, people with sensory difficulties and anyone who becomes confused, anxious or distressed by sudden changes in light and movement.

For a person living with dementia, their home and familiar surroundings can be essential to their sense of safety. Repeated flashes or moving shadows inside a familiar room could cause confusion and distress.

The assessment should not treat every house as if everyone living there has the same level of health, mobility or ability to cope. The needs of vulnerable residents must be considered properly.

The Battery Energy Storage System

I am also worried about the proposed battery storage compound.

It would bring more noise, lighting and industrial equipment into a quiet rural area. I am particularly concerned about the risk of fire and how emergency services would deal with it in such a remote location.

Any water or chemicals used during a fire could spread into the bog, drains, streams or nearby land. The application should have clearly explained how this would be prevented.

This is too serious to leave until after planning permission is granted.

Narrow roads, farming and public safety

The roads around Mount Jubilee are narrow and, in places, weak and unsuitable for a constant flow of heavy construction traffic.

These are local rural roads used every day by residents, walkers, farmers, school traffic and people moving livestock. They were not designed for repeated movements by large lorries, abnormal loads, cranes and heavy construction vehicles.

Farmers must continue to move cattle and sheep, access fields, transport feed and carry out their daily work. How will people safely move livestock along these roads when large construction vehicles are passing?

How will local people safely walk on roads where there are few footpaths, passing places or safe areas to step aside? What will happen when a walker, cyclist, child, tractor or herd of cattle meets a large construction vehicle on a narrow stretch of road?

Our church, crannogs and cultural heritage

Mount Jubilee and the wider area have a very strong connection to our heritage.

Our old church is celebrating its 200th anniversary. It is an important part of the identity and history of this community. There are also crannogs, archaeological remains and other historic features throughout this wider landscape.

These places should not be treated as isolated dots on a map. Their surroundings and landscape setting are part of their meaning and importance.

A crannog, old church or historic building cannot be properly appreciated if the landscape around it is dominated by turbines reaching approximately 180 metres into the sky.

Our heritage belongs not only to those of us who live here today but also to future generations. We have a responsibility to protect it and pass it on.

Recording or photographing a site before construction does not protect its setting. Once the historic landscape has been industrialised, that change cannot be undone.

Dark skies and views towards Ballycroy

Our dark skies are another precious part of this area.

I have hosted nights at the old schoolhouse where people came together to look at the stars and learn about the night sky. On a clear night, the darkness, silence and open views towards Ballycroy are unforgettable.

These events bring people together and allow both adults and children to experience something that is becoming increasingly rare: a naturally dark sky without industrial lighting.

The lights could be visible across a wide area and towards Ballycroy. Their effect would not end at the site boundary.

Dark skies are important for wildlife, education, tourism, culture and people's wellbeing. They allow us to see the stars, appreciate the landscape and feel connected to nature.

Once this darkness has been lost, it will be extremely difficult to restore.

Birds and wildlife

I have a strong interest in the wildlife around Mount Jubilee and I like to bird watch. This area supports and is connected to protected and vulnerable bird species. Particular concern should be given to birds such as **Merlin, Golden Plover, Curlew, Snipe, Kestrel, Twite, Swans, Corncrake, owls and other wild birds** that use the bog, fields, wet ground and wider coastal area.

Birds and their habitats must be treated seriously under the **EU Birds Directive** and Irish wildlife law. Species such as **Merlin and Golden Plover** are especially important and should be assessed with great care.

The proposed turbines create risks of collision, displacement and disturbance. Construction works, drainage, lighting, noise and traffic would also disturb habitats used by birds, bats and other wildlife.

A permanent change to our home and our wildlife

Mount Jubilee has shaped my entire life. I restored the old schoolhouse because I believed this place, its people and its stories were worth preserving.

I have spent years sharing the history and natural environment of this area with other people. It is heartbreaking to think that, after all that work, the landscape around us could now be permanently industrialised.

The bog, the silence, the dark skies, the farms, the narrow roads, the old church, the crannogs and the old schoolhouse are all connected. Together, they create the character and identity of Mount Jubilee.

I deeply love this area. I care about the people living here today and about what will be left for future generations.

Please do not destroy the place I have spent my life loving, protecting and sharing with others.

For all of the reasons set out in this observation, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm, substation and Battery Energy Storage System under case reference PAX16.324387.

Yours faithfully,

Kay Goonan