

Margaret and Harry Kerrigan

Doolough

Geesala
County Mayo

F26 X6W4

13.07.2026

The Secretary

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Observation / Objection to the Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Proposed Development: 13 wind turbines, 110kV substation, Battery Energy Storage System and associated works at Muingmore, Doolough, Tristia, Moneynierin and Bangor, County Mayo.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are Margaret and Harry Kerrigan from Doolough, and we wish to make this observation objecting to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

We have lived in Doolough for many years and reared our family here. This is our home, our land, our view and the place our family is connected to. Our sons and their families will also be living close to these proposed turbines, and we are very concerned about what this development would mean for them and for future generations.

The proposed turbines, substation, Battery Energy Storage System, access roads and construction works would have a serious impact on Doolough. We believe this development is unacceptable in this location and should be refused.

1. Impact on our family and future generations

Our family has a future in this area. Our sons and their families will be beside these turbines if this development is allowed.

We are concerned about the effect on their health, sleep, peace and quality of life. Noise, shadow flicker, turbine lighting, construction traffic and the visual impact of turbines approximately 180 metres high would change the character of the area completely.

We are also worried about land value and the ability of the next generation to build homes here. If turbines are permitted close to family land, will our children or grandchildren later be refused planning because of noise, shadow flicker, setback distances or visual impact from the wind farm?

It would be unfair if a developer is allowed to build large turbines in the area, but local families are later restricted from building homes on their own land.

The value of family land and homes is also a major concern. Land in a rural area is not just financial value. It is security, inheritance, farming, family future and the possibility that the next generation can stay near home.

2. Visual impact from our home and Doolough

The visual impact on our home and on Doolough would be severe. We live in an open rural landscape where the views, skyline and sense of space are a major part of the character of the area.

Turbines of approximately 180 metres high would not blend into this landscape. They would dominate it. The effect would be seen from homes, local roads, farmland and places where families have lived for generations.

Doolough has beautiful views. These views are part of why people love living here. They should not be permanently changed by turbines, access tracks, hardstands, a substation, a Battery Energy Storage System and industrial lighting.

This would not be a small change to the view. It would be a permanent industrial feature in a quiet rural area. We ask the Commission to give proper weight to the effect on residential amenity, landscape character and the everyday lives of people living in Doolough.

3. Health, noise and quality of life

Doolough is a quiet rural area, especially at night. We are concerned about the effect of turbine noise, low-frequency sound, blade swish and general disturbance from a development of this scale.

Noise that may be described in a report as being within limits can feel very different when it is heard from a family home, especially at night.

We are also concerned about stress and worry for local families. People should not have to live with constant concern about noise, flicker, lights, traffic and loss of peace in their own homes.

The 110kV substation and Battery Energy Storage System also need to be considered for noise. Transformers, inverters, cooling systems and other electrical equipment can add to the overall noise impact.

4. Peatland, blanket bog and carbon storage

The bogland around Doolough is not suitable for this scale of development.

This is peatland and blanket bog. It stores carbon, holds water and supports wildlife.

Blanket bog is recognised under **Annex I habitat type 7130** of the **EU Habitats Directive**, with active blanket bog being a priority habitat.

Peat is not normal ground. It can move, crack, drain, dry out or become unstable. Excavating peat for turbine bases, roads, hardstands, cabling, the substation and the Battery Energy Storage System could cause long-term damage.

We are very concerned about:

- peat excavation;
- drainage and changes to water flow;
- release of stored carbon;
- risk of bog movement or bog slide;
- damage to protected blanket bog habitat;
- and loss of an important carbon sink.

This bog has taken thousands of years to form. Once disturbed, it cannot simply be put back the way it was.

5. Doolough Stream, water and Blacksod Bay

Water is a major concern for us.

The Doolough Stream and the local drainage system are connected to the wider water environment. Construction on peatland creates risks from silt, peat particles, concrete runoff, fuel spills, chemicals, drainage changes and dirty water entering streams.

We are very concerned about the possible effect on **Doolough Stream** and on waters connected to **Blacksod Bay**.

Blacksod Bay is a protected and sensitive area. The nearby European sites, including **Blacksod Bay / Broad Haven SPA** and **Mullet / Blacksod Bay SAC**, must be protected.

Under **Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive**, permission should only be granted where there is scientific certainty that the project will not adversely affect protected European sites. If there is reasonable scientific doubt, permission should be refused.

We do not believe a development of this scale on peatland, with drainage works and construction close to sensitive water systems, is acceptable.

6. Birds and wildlife

We have a strong interest in the wildlife around Doolough. This area is alive with birds and animals, and we see wildlife as part of everyday life here.

The area supports or is connected to protected and vulnerable bird species. Particular concern should be given to birds such as **Merlin, Golden Plover, Curlew, Snipe, Kestrel, Twite, 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.

This is not only about the turbine bases. The whole development — roads, cabling, hardstands, substation, Battery Energy Storage System and lighting — would affect the wider habitat.

7. Heritage and the character of Doolough

Doolough and the surrounding area have a strong connection to local heritage, old settlement, farming, bogland, archaeology and community history.

The old roads, bog, fields, streams, historic sites, views and townlands are all part of the heritage of the place. The setting matters.

Large turbines, industrial lighting, a substation and Battery Energy Storage System would permanently alter the setting and character of Doolough.

Once the landscape is changed in this way, it cannot be restored.

8. Narrow roads and construction traffic

The roads in Doolough are narrow rural roads. They are used by local families, farmers, school traffic, walkers, tractors and livestock.

They are not suitable for years of heavy construction traffic, abnormal loads, cranes, concrete lorries and machinery.

There are no proper footpaths or safe passing areas in many places, which makes heavy construction traffic even more concerning.

We are concerned about:

- road damage;
- delays and disruption;
- danger to walkers and local traffic;
- difficulty moving livestock;
- damage to road edges, drains and bridges;
- and emergency access during construction.

It is not enough to say traffic will be managed. Local people will have to live with the disruption every day.

Proper independent road surveys and structural assessments should be required before any decision is made, not after permission is granted.

9. Lights and dark skies

Doolough has beautiful dark skies. On clear nights, the darkness is part of the peace and character of this area.

The turbines would require aviation warning lights because of their height. There would also be lighting from the substation, Battery Energy Storage System and security areas.

These lights would affect the night-time landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of our homes. Industrial lighting would be visible across a wide rural area and would damage the dark-sky character of Doolough and the wider area.

Dark skies are part of what makes this area special, and they should be protected.

10. Substation and Battery Energy Storage System

This application is not only for turbines. It also includes a **110kV substation** and **Battery Energy Storage System**.

These are major industrial elements. We are concerned about noise, lighting, fencing, transformers, inverters, cooling equipment, fire risk, emergency access and contaminated runoff in the event of an incident.

The BESS and substation should not be treated as minor parts of the project. They add to the overall industrial impact and risk.

These matters should be fully assessed before any decision is made. They should not be left to be dealt with later by condition.

11. Request to refuse permission

For the reasons set out above, we respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

The scale of the proposal is unacceptable in this location.

We strongly object to the proposed turbines, 110kV substation, Battery Energy Storage System and all associated works, and we ask that planning permission be refused.

Regards

Margaret & Harry Kerrigan