

An Coimisiún Pleanála

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Mary Josephine Moss

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27.06.2026

CASE REFERENCE: 324387

Observation on Muingmore Wind Farm

Planning Case Number: 324387

Re: Proposed development of Muingmore Wind Farm — 13 wind turbines, 110kV substation, battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure, townlands of Muingmore, Doolough, Tristia, Moneynerin and Bangor, County Mayo. Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited.

A Chara,

I wish to submit the following observation in respect of the above-named planning application, in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) on the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

This area is my home. It is not just a site on a planning map. It is part of a wonderful rural community, a place where people live, work, walk, raise families, care for nature and look out for one another. The landscape, wildlife, peatlands, birds and quiet character of this

area are part of what makes our community special. I feel very strongly that it should be protected for the people who live here now and for future generations.

My main concern is the impact this development would have on the environment, wildlife, birds, peatlands and the wider landscape. I run a re-wilding project and I am very passionate about protecting nature, animals, birds, habitats, bogland, water quality and the ground itself. This area is not empty land. It is a living landscape, full of wildlife, natural beauty and environmental value.

I feel very strongly that this landscape is amazing and should be protected, not industrialised. The peatlands in this area are extremely important. Peatlands store carbon, hold water, support wildlife and form part of the natural character of Erris. Disturbing peat through turbine bases, access roads, drainage, cabling, crane hardstands, construction compounds and heavy construction traffic could cause serious and long-term damage. Once peatland is damaged, it is very difficult to restore.

I wish to specifically raise concern about protected sites in the wider area, including **Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA, site code 004037, Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC, site code 000470, and Tristia Bog NHA, site code 001566.**

Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA is an internationally important Special Protection Area for birds and wetland habitats. I am concerned that any runoff, sediment, peat disturbance, drainage changes or pollution from the construction or operation of this development could have impacts beyond the turbine locations themselves. Water, bogland, drains, streams, bird movement and habitat links do not stop at a red line on a planning map.

Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC is also of major importance, with protected coastal habitats, machair, mudflats, sandflats, shallow bays, reefs, fens and otter among its protected interests. These habitats and species are highly sensitive and should not be put at risk by peat disturbance, construction pollution, sediment runoff, road works, drainage works or cumulative environmental pressure from this project.

I am also very concerned about **Tristia Bog NHA, site code 001566**, which is designated for peatlands. The presence of a Natural Heritage Area for peatlands in the wider area shows how environmentally sensitive this landscape is. The proposed wind farm is in a bogland

and peatland landscape, and I do not believe enough weight has been given to the real value of this ground.

I am especially concerned about the impact this development could have on birds and protected bird habitats. I want to specifically raise the importance of the **twite**. The twite is a very important bird for this part of the west of Ireland. It is not a common bird that can simply move elsewhere without consequence. It is a species of conservation concern and is associated with the kind of coastal, open, natural and semi-natural landscapes found in Erris and north Mayo. These are exactly the types of landscapes that should be protected and restored, not disturbed by major industrial development.

As someone involved in rewilding, I believe birds like the twite show the real value of this area. They depend on suitable habitat, quiet ground, natural vegetation, seed sources, coastal farmland, bogland edges and undisturbed areas. Any loss, fragmentation or disturbance of this type of habitat should be treated seriously.

I am also concerned that **corncrake** is mentioned in the project reports. Corncrake is one of Ireland's most iconic and vulnerable birds. If there is any possibility of corncrake using or moving through this wider area, the precautionary approach should apply. We should be supporting the recovery of species like corncrake, not putting them under further pressure from construction, noise, disturbance, habitat change and long-term industrialisation of the landscape.

I also wish to raise the protected bird interests of **Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA, site code 004037**. This SPA is designated for important bird species and wetland/waterbird interests, including Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Sandwich Tern and Wetland and Waterbirds.

These birds and habitats are part of a wider connected environment. Birds do not recognise planning boundaries. They move across bogland, coastal ground, farmland, wetland, feeding areas, roosting areas and flight paths. I do not believe the wider impact on bird movement, disturbance, habitat loss and cumulative pressure has been properly addressed.

I also have serious concerns about shadow flicker and noise from the turbines. These are not small issues for people living in, travelling through or spending time in this area. Shadow flicker can be very disturbing, and turbine noise can affect people's peace, enjoyment of their homes and quality of life. This is a quiet rural area, and the introduction of large turbines, moving blades, mechanical noise and possible night-time lighting would completely change the character of the place.

The construction phase is also a major concern for me. This would not be a small or short-term project. It would involve heavy machinery, large turbine deliveries, excavation, road works, concrete, stone, drainage works, noise, dust and disruption over a long period of time. I use the Bangor Road a lot, and any major construction traffic or disruption on this road would be a huge issue. The Bangor Road is an important route for local people, workers, families, school runs, appointments and everyday life. It is not acceptable that local people could be left dealing with delays, safety concerns, heavy goods vehicles and disruption because of this development.

This development would bring major construction, excavation, road works, drainage works, noise, lighting and long-term industrial infrastructure into a sensitive rural and natural landscape. In my view, the environmental and community risks have not been properly answered from the point of view of someone who cares deeply about rewilding, wildlife recovery, protected sites, peatlands, birds, road safety and protection of the land.

I ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to give proper weight to the value of this landscape, the peatlands, the birds, the animals, the protected sites, the wider Blacksod Bay environment and the everyday lives of people who live in and use this area.

For these reasons, I object to the proposed development and ask that permission be refused.

Kind Regards,

Mary Jo Moss

Date 27.06.2026