

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Mervyn Corway

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Geesala

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Co.Mayo

04.07.2026

Re: Observation on the Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm**To:**

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Observation on the Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm**Case Reference: PAX16.324387**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a formal observation on the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development and respectfully request that planning permission be refused.

I live in the area and have a strong personal connection to Mount Jubilee and the surrounding landscape. My home has a direct view towards the proposed development, and my entire outlook would be significantly affected by the construction of 13 turbines of approximately 180 metres in height.

This is not an area that I only know from maps or planning documents. I walk through and around the proposed development area most days. I experience the landscape throughout the year, in different seasons, weather conditions and times of day.

I have a huge personal interest in wildlife and regularly observe the birds and animals that live on and travel through these lands. My concerns are based on my own repeated first-hand observations of the area.

Wildlife I have personally observed

The proposed development site is not empty or environmentally unimportant land. It is a living habitat used by a wide variety of birds, bats and mammals.

During my regular walks, I have personally seen:

- Woodcock.
- Common Snipe.
- Wigeon.
- Teal.
- Other migratory birds.
- Hawks and other birds of prey.
- Owls.
- Red deer.

I have seen red deer on these lands many times. These are not isolated sightings. Their repeated presence demonstrates that the area is actively used by larger mammals for feeding, shelter and movement.

I have also seen hawks hunting over the land. Birds of prey depend on wide, open areas and may travel considerable distances while hunting. I am deeply concerned about the effect of enormous moving turbine blades on their feeding and flight routes.

My sightings should be treated as important local ecological evidence. A resident who walks the land throughout the year may observe wildlife activity that could be missed during short, seasonal or daytime ecological surveys.

Woodcock and Snipe

I am particularly concerned about Woodcock and Snipe.

I have personally seen both species in the area. They rely on wet ground, bogland, rough vegetation, marshy areas and relatively undisturbed countryside.

Woodcock and Snipe are birds of conservation concern in Ireland. Their presence demonstrates the ecological value of these lands and the importance of protecting the remaining suitable habitats available to them.

The proposed development would involve peat and vegetation removal, turbine foundations, access roads, hardstanding areas, drainage works, underground cables, construction compounds and other infrastructure.

I am concerned that this could result in:

- Loss of feeding and nesting habitat.
- Fragmentation of the remaining habitat.
- Disturbance during construction.
- Displacement from areas traditionally used by the birds.
- Changes to drainage and wet ground conditions.
- Collision with turbine blades.
- Long-term disturbance from noise, lighting and maintenance activity.

It is not sufficient to wait until the turbines are operational and then monitor whether birds are displaced or killed. The possible effects must be fully understood before permission is granted.

Wigeon, Teal and migratory birds

I have observed Wigeon, Teal and other migratory birds using this area.

These birds move between coastal waters, bays, wetlands, bogland, streams, grassland and inland feeding or resting areas. They do not recognise the boundary lines drawn around a planning application or a protected site.

Their presence raises serious concerns about the ecological connection between the proposed development area and the protected coastal habitats of Blacksod Bay.

The Commission must consider whether the land provides supporting habitat for birds associated with Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven Special Protection Area.

It is not enough to consider only whether a turbine or road is physically located inside the SPA boundary. The assessment must consider birds travelling outside the formal boundary to feed, rest or move between habitats.

Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA

Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven is protected as a Special Protection Area under European nature-conservation law.

Its conservation objectives include protecting important waterbird populations, migratory birds and wetland habitats and avoiding significant disturbance or deterioration of the habitats upon which the birds depend.

I am concerned that birds using the protected bay may also use the inland habitats around Muingmore.

Construction activity, habitat removal, turbine operation, lighting, traffic and changes to drainage could result in disturbance or displacement from areas that form part of the birds' wider ecological network.

The proposed development must therefore be assessed in relation to the movement of birds between Blacksod Bay and surrounding inland habitats.

The applicant must demonstrate, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the development would not adversely affect the integrity of the protected site.

Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC

The Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex is also protected as a Special Area of Conservation.

This protected area contains sensitive coastal and marine habitats, including bays, mudflats, sandflats, reefs and other important habitats.

The proposed development would involve significant construction on peatland, including excavation, roads, foundations, drainage systems, cables, a substation and a battery energy storage system.

I am concerned about the possible movement of peat sediment, polluted runoff, fuel, construction materials or other contaminants through drains, streams and watercourses towards Blacksod Bay.

Changes to peatland drainage and hydrology could also have long-term effects on downstream water quality.

The Commission must be fully satisfied that there is no risk to the protected habitats and species of Blacksod Bay from sediment, pollution, drainage alterations or cumulative environmental effects.

Owls and birds of prey

I am extremely concerned about the impact on owls and birds of prey.

I have personally seen hawks using these lands. I am also concerned about protected owl species, including the Barn Owl and Long-eared Owl.

Barn Owls and Long-eared Owls are largely active during the evening and at night. Their use of the area could easily be missed if surveys were mainly conducted during daylight hours.

Owls depend on quiet areas of open countryside, rough grassland, bogland, forestry edges and farmland for hunting. They may fly at low and variable heights while following prey.

The development would introduce enormous rotating turbine blades into these hunting and movement areas. It would also bring construction activity, traffic, noise, vegetation clearance and artificial lighting.

I request that the Commission examine whether:

- Adequate nocturnal owl surveys were undertaken.
- Surveys covered all relevant seasons.
- Hunting and flight routes were properly identified.
- Collision risks were fully assessed.
- The effects of artificial lighting were examined.
- The loss of feeding habitat and prey was considered.
- Cumulative effects from other wind developments were assessed.

The absence of a confirmed nest during a limited survey does not mean that owls or birds of prey do not regularly use the area.

Leisler's bat and other bats

I am also deeply concerned about the effect on Leisler's bat and other bat species.

Leisler's bat is a protected species and is particularly relevant to wind farm developments because it is a high-flying bat that may travel and forage at heights where it could encounter turbine blades.

All Irish bat species and their roosts are protected under national and European law.

Bats require more than just roosting places. They need safe feeding areas, commuting routes, dark corridors, watercourses, sheltered vegetation edges and connected habitats.

The proposed turbines, roads, compounds and lighting could interfere with these routes and habitats.

I am concerned about:

- Collision with turbine blades.
- Barotrauma caused by pressure changes near rotating blades.
- Loss of feeding habitat.
- Disturbance of commuting routes.
- Artificial lighting at turbines, the substation and BESS.

- Activity during suitable weather conditions.
- Seasonal changes in bat activity.
- Cumulative effects from other turbines in the wider area.

Monitoring bat fatalities after the wind farm becomes operational is not an adequate substitute for preventing harm.

Any turbine curtailment necessary to protect bats must be established, independently verified and legally enforceable before permission is granted.

Red deer and other mammals

I have seen red deer on the proposed development lands many times.

Their regular presence demonstrates that the site forms part of a wider habitat and movement area for mammals.

The construction of roads, turbine foundations, compounds, fencing and other infrastructure could divide habitats and interfere with established movement routes.

Construction traffic, blasting, machinery, noise and lighting could also displace deer from the area. This could force them towards public roads, farmland or residential areas, increasing the risk of road collisions and conflict.

The assessment should properly identify deer movement routes and consider the effects of both temporary construction disturbance and permanent habitat fragmentation.

A short walkover survey immediately before construction would not provide an adequate understanding of how deer use this landscape throughout the year.

Habitat loss and fragmentation

The proposal involves far more than 13 turbine towers.

It would include access roads, turbine foundations, large hardstanding areas, drainage works, cables, compounds, a substation, a battery energy storage system and other associated infrastructure.

Each part of the development would contribute to the loss or fragmentation of habitat.

Wildlife may avoid a much wider area than the physical construction footprint because of noise, moving blades, increased human activity, traffic and artificial lighting.

The combined effect could reduce the availability of suitable habitat for birds, bats and mammals throughout the wider area.

I am concerned that the development could turn a connected rural wildlife habitat into a divided industrial landscape.

Effect on my home and view

My home has a direct view towards the proposed development.

The turbines would become dominant features within my principal outlook. At approximately 180 metres in height, they would be enormous moving industrial structures.

My present view is of an open rural landscape, peatland, sky and natural countryside. This view is an important part of my home and my quality of life.

The proposed development would permanently alter that view through:

- The scale and height of the turbines.
- The constant movement of the blades.
- Access roads and hardstanding areas.
- The substation and BESS compound.
- Artificial lighting.
- Red aviation warning lights at night.

Photomontages cannot fully show what it would be like to live with moving turbines every day.

They cannot adequately represent changing weather, visibility, blade movement, views from different rooms, views from my garden or the full night-time effect of aviation lighting.

This is not simply a view that I occasionally pass. It is the view from my home.

The permanent industrialisation of my outlook should be treated as a serious residential and landscape impact.

Shadow flicker

I am extremely concerned about shadow flicker affecting my home and other homes in the area.

Shadow flicker can occur when rotating turbine blades pass between the sun and a home, creating repeated flashes or moving shadows through windows and across rooms.

This could interfere with ordinary daily life, including reading, watching television, resting, working at home and using indoor or outdoor areas.

Residents should not be expected to close curtains or blinds to protect themselves from shadow flicker. People have a right to natural daylight and the normal enjoyment of their own homes.

Any shadow-flicker control system must:

- Operate automatically.
- Prevent flicker before it enters a home.
- Be independently monitored and verified.
- Cover all affected windows, rooms and outdoor areas.
- Remain operational throughout the lifetime of the wind farm.
- Result in immediate turbine shutdown if the system fails.

Residents should not have to experience repeated shadow flicker and then make complaints before action is taken.

Noise pollution

The area is currently quiet and rural, particularly during the evening and at night when background noise levels are naturally low.

The turbines would introduce a new and continuing source of aerodynamic and mechanical noise.

I am concerned about:

- Night-time noise.
- Repetitive swishing or thumping sounds.
- Tonal noise.
- Amplitude modulation.
- Low-frequency noise.
- Sleep disturbance.
- The ability to open my windows.
- The use and enjoyment of my garden.
- Combined noise from the turbines, substation and BESS.

A noise level that appears acceptable as a numerical average may still be highly intrusive in a quiet rural home.

Noise should be assessed under different wind directions, wind speeds and weather conditions. It should also be assessed during the quietest night-time periods.

The developer should not have sole responsibility for investigating noise complaints. Any monitoring and complaints system must be independent, transparent and capable of resulting in immediate curtailment or turbine shutdown.

Lighting and the dark night landscape

The area currently has a dark and peaceful night environment.

Red aviation lights on turbines of this height would be visible over a wide area and would permanently alter the night-time landscape.

Lighting at the BESS, substation and other infrastructure could add further disturbance.

Artificial lighting may also affect nocturnal wildlife, including owls and bats.

The effect of lighting must be assessed from actual homes, roads, walking areas and wildlife habitats. It is not sufficient to state that lighting is required for aviation safety without also assessing its effect on residents, dark skies and wildlife.

Combined and cumulative effects

The effects of this development must not be considered separately.

I could experience:

- The visual presence of the turbines every day.
- Shadow flicker at certain times.
- Turbine noise during the day and night.
- Red aviation lighting after dark.
- Construction traffic and disturbance.
- Changes to the wildlife and landscape that I regularly enjoy.

Wildlife could experience habitat loss, drainage changes, displacement, construction disturbance, operational noise, artificial lighting and collision risks.

The combined effect could be much greater than each individual effect considered in isolation.

The cumulative effect of existing, permitted and proposed wind-energy developments in the wider region must also be fully assessed.

Birds and bats may encounter several wind developments during migration, feeding or ordinary movement through the landscape.

Conclusion

I live in this area. I walk the proposed development lands most days. I have personally observed the variety of birds and animals using this landscape.

My sightings include Woodcock, Snipe, Wigeon, Teal, other migratory birds, hawks, owls and red deer. I am also deeply concerned about Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl and Leisler's bat.

My home and my full view would be directly and permanently affected by the proposed turbines.

I am not satisfied that the development can proceed without unacceptable effects on:

- Birds and migratory waterbirds.
- Owls and birds of prey.
- Bats, including Leisler's bat.
- Red deer and other mammals.
- Peatland and wetland habitats.
- Blacksod Bay and its protected habitats and species.
- My home and residential amenity.
- My view and the surrounding landscape.
- The peace and quiet of the area.
- The dark night-time environment.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

I ask that the planning inspector carry out a detailed site inspection and give proper weight to the first-hand observations of people who live in and regularly walk through this landscape.

Yours faithfully,

Mervyn Corway