

SUBMISSION / OBSERVATION TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

Case Reference: VA16.324429

Proposed Development: 110 kV Onsite Electrical Substation, Loop-In Grid Connection and Associated Infrastructure and Works

Location: Cloonbaul, County Mayo

Applicant: Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Limited

Submitted by: Benny Browne Mossbrooke Claremorris Co. Mayo

31st August 2026

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a formal submission/observation in relation to Case Reference VA16.324429 and to object to the proposed 110 kV electrical substation, loop-in grid connection, and associated infrastructure at Cloonbaul, County Mayo.

My Connection to the Area

I have lived in and known this rural area for many years. I know the land, the roads, and the local conditions, including how water behaves during periods of heavy rainfall and the history of fires in the surrounding countryside.

My grown-up family live in the area. I also have land which I have always hoped might give members of my family the opportunity to build homes close to us in the future. That possibility is important to me. I am concerned that the introduction of major permanent electrical infrastructure, together with other energy developments proposed for this locality, could fundamentally alter the character and future residential attractiveness of this area.

Flooding, Drainage and Local Knowledge

One of my principal concerns is flooding and drainage. My concern comes from familiarity with the land and the local road network rather than from a map alone. I have seen how wet conditions and heavy rainfall affect this area over the years.

I respectfully ask the Commission to examine whether the proposed development, including ground works, drainage, hardstanding and associated infrastructure, could alter existing drainage patterns or increase difficulties during severe rainfall.

Local knowledge should be given proper weight when assessing a development of this scale in a rural landscape where residents have observed conditions over many years.

Fire and Emergency Access

I am also familiar with fires occurring in the wider area over the years. For that reason, I believe emergency planning, access, and the ability of emergency services to reach and safely manage an incident involving major electrical infrastructure require careful consideration.

The rural road network and the effects of flooding can themselves affect access. I ask that these matters be considered together rather than separately.

Residential Amenity and Future Family Homes

This is an established rural community, not an industrial estate. Homes, farms, and family land surround the proposed development.

I am concerned about construction activity, traffic and operational noise associated with a permanent 110 kV substation and about the overall change in the character of the area.

I am particularly concerned about what the increasing concentration of major infrastructure could mean for the future use of family land. I had hoped that my family might one day be able to build near us and continue living in this community. Planning decisions made now will shape whether the next generation sees this area as somewhere they can make their homes.

Cumulative Impact

I do not believe the proposed substation should be considered only as an isolated structure. The seven-turbine Cunalghfadda Wind Farm is also before An Coimisiún Pleanála following Mayo County Council's refusal, and a Battery Energy Storage System is proposed in the same wider locality and before Mayo County Council Reference 2660653.

For those of us who live here, the concern is the combined effect on the countryside, roads, residential amenities, landscape, and future of the community.

Conclusion

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála give full consideration to the existing rural community, local flooding and drainage conditions, emergency access, residential amenity, the future use of family land and the cumulative impact of the infrastructure proposed for this locality. I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission.

For these reasons, I object to the proposed development under Case Reference VA16.324429.

Yours faithfully,

Benny Browne

Date: 31st August 2026