

Julia Flatley

Mossbrook, Claremorris, Co. Mayo

Aug 30th 2026

The Secretary, An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902

Re: Observation on Case Reference VA16.324429 — Proposed 110kV Substation, Loop-In Grid Connection and Associated Infrastructure at Cloonbaul, Co. Mayo (Applicant: Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Limited)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to lodge this observation objecting to the above-referenced Strategic Infrastructure Development application, made under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The €50 accompanies this submission. I am a landowner and farmer with long-standing family ties in Knockaunakill, and have direct knowledge of the land, its wildlife and its history.

I object to the grant of permission on the following grounds, taken individually and cumulatively:

1. Unlawful splitting of a single project. This substation exists to connect the Cunlaghfadda Wind Farm (Ref. P26/60398, refused by Mayo County Council on 13/07/2026, now under appeal) to the grid. A third connected project, a Battery Energy Storage System with fire-water tanks and an 18m lightning mast, has since been announced for the same site at Cloonbaul. Article 2(1) and Annex III of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EU) require the cumulative effects of connected projects to be assessed together, and Ireland was found in breach of this requirement in *Commission v Ireland* (C-392/96). This application should be decided together with the wind farm and BESS, as one project.

2. Impact of daily life and farming practices. I have farmed this land for years with my husband and extended family. We have always worked around the ring forts and fairy forts on our land rather than clear them. Walking animals along local roads between fields in Knockaunakill, Mossbrook, Kilbride and Harefield is normal, ongoing farming practice, which the scale of construction traffic here would make difficult if not impossible for the build's duration and potentially future into the future.

3. Landscape and heritage precedent. Mayo County Council's refusal of the connected wind farm (P26/60398) found this site lies within Landscape Sensitivity Policy Area 4 of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022–2028, on a designated scenic route with a protected view, and that development here would undermine the setting of Mayo Abbey. A permanent 110kV substation compound introduces the same industrial impact into the same sensitive landscape, and its capacity to host further infrastructure, as the BESS confirms, compounds that impact.

4. Ecology. We farm this land, including land rented close to the site, and have watched these birds for decades, wintering swans and plover on the wetter fields, Curlew calling on the bog in spring. This development would disrupt both our farming enterprise and the habitat it depends on. We take stewardship of the local wildlife as a serious responsibility - but one we continuously uphold and enjoy the outcomes of - changing of the season bringing new wildlife and changes. This project (together the their other applications) is an immediate impact on our years of work, it disregards this effort and work and risks future generations enjoying the same responsibility and privilege.

5. Water, drainage and karst. Foundations, hardstanding, cable trenches and drainage works risk altering surface water runoff and creating pollution pathways to groundwater in this karst landscape, contrary to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). We have witnessed this at first hand: local road L-55362 becomes difficult to pass in heavy rain, and the enclosed map marks three locations known to flood near the local farm buildings, the fields toward Kilbride, and near the Monaghan Bros premises. The swallow holes serving these fields cannot cope with heavy rainfall as it is; further hard standing and altered drainage would add to that burden. Our farmers in the areas, this causes daily impact and challenges to our work, we cannot allow this project to continue and risk increasing this as an acceptable byproduct of progress.

6. Noise, lighting and fire risk. Transformer noise, permanent security lighting and the fire and emergency-response profile of high-voltage infrastructure would affect a dark, quiet rural area. The applicant's own subsequent BESS announcement, with fire-water tanks and an 18m lightning mast at the same site, means these effects should be assessed cumulatively, project by project. We have raised connemara ponies (a

protected species) in the local area for more than 25 years - I am worried as to the welfare of these and our cattle herd with this light pollution and unnatural elements in the local environment.

7. Need for complete information. The unresolved archaeological status of the recorded enclosure should not be deferred to conditions attached to a grant. An Coimisiún Pleanála needs sufficient information, including proper survey results, to decide whether this site is suitable before any permission is granted, consistent with the precautionary principle in Article 191(2) TFEU.

For these reasons I request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for this development, or require the applicant to submit further information addressing each point above, including a combined assessment of the wind farm, this substation and the BESS as one project, before any decision is made.

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