

Name: _____ Sarah Sheridan _____

Address: _____ Mayo Abbey, Claremorris, Co Mayo _____

Date: _____ 30.08.26 _____

An Coimisiun Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Observation on the proposed Cloonbaul 110 kV substation and grid connection

ACP Case: VA16.324429 | Applicant: Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I ask the Commission to recognise the ecological function of the land affected by the substation and grid connection.

The applicant's bat report identifies improved agricultural grassland, wet grassland, wet heath, hedgerows, scrub, conifer plantation, treelines and recolonising ground along the proposed grid connection. This mixture provides drainage, habitat connectivity, shelter and foraging opportunities even where individual areas receive a lower habitat rating.

Hardstanding, trenching, altered drainage and permanent management would replace or fragment those functions. The decision should be based on how the habitat network works as a whole, not on labels that make each component appear expendable.

I object because the proposed grid connection crosses a landscape used by bats for movement and foraging.

The applicant assesses hedgerows, treelines, scrub and plantation edges within the grid-connection site as having moderate suitability for commuting and foraging bats because they provide connectivity, structure and shelter. Cabling, access works, clearance and lighting can interrupt those linear routes even if no roost tree is removed.

The assessment must show the precise vegetation loss, lighting spill and long-term management of every crossing. The cumulative effects with the wider wind farm and BESS cannot be ignored. Avoidance through a less sensitive route is preferable to uncertain reinstatement.

My concern is the cumulative effect of the substation and grid connection on the wider network of Marsh Fritillary habitat.

Marsh Fritillary breeding depends on Devil's-bit Scabious within a shifting mosaic of suitable wet grassland. Changes in drainage, grazing access, vegetation management, trenching or construction traffic can affect habitat beyond an individual mapped larval web.

The substation must therefore be assessed with the wind farm and proposed BESS, including indirect hydrological effects and the loss of connectivity between habitat patches. Where a protected species depends on a sensitive network, avoidance should come before engineering mitigation.

Substation construction requires delivery of transformers, electrical plant, concrete, stone and other heavy materials. The same roads carry residents, school traffic, farm machinery, walkers and cyclists.

Width, bends, verges, bridge capacity, visibility, passing places and emergency access are material safety issues.

The possibility of overlapping wind farm and BESS construction must be included rather than assessing each scheme against an empty-road baseline. Without a complete cumulative traffic plan, permission should be refused.

I also objected to the proposed site as it is full of historical importance, see link below to survey conducted on proposed site, refer to sections on Cloonbaul <https://www.mayo.ie/getmedia/27fff356-ce8e-4492-8651-c6791750f81f/The-Mayo-Abbey-Archaeological-Survey.pdf> this will show the importance of the site and by putting a substation or any type of building on this would destroy that history for every.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Sheridan