

Micheàl Quinn & Aphria Coffey  
Moanbaun,  
Athenry,  
Co. Galway.  
H65 N597  
19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Re: Objection to the proposed development of an open cycle gas turbine and generator peaker plant with ancillary equipment at Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy, Athenry Co. Galway by the applicant Bord Gàis Energy Limited.

**Planning Reference: PC07.324113**

To whom it concerns,

Our residence is 1.27km from the proposed site of the Cashla Peaker Plant at Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy, Athenry. Addendum A

We have lived at our residence since 2005, with our 3 young children, we are opposed to the development of the Cashla Peaker Plant for reasons we will set out in this letter.

**Health Impacts of the Gas and Diesel Fired Peaker Plant**

We are extremely concerned about the health impacts of the air pollution of the proposed development given our proximity 1.27km from the site.

Pollutants such as nitrous oxide [NOx] and fine particulate matter [PM2.5 and PM10] are known to have adverse effects on air quality, be an irritant to lungs and overall contribute to long term harm and degradation to health.

The type of system proposed for the site, Gas and Diesel fired Open Cycle Turbine is particularly concerning as they are known to be less than 35% efficient in operation, particularly during start up, producing higher levels of harmful emissions, including nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide and particulate matter.

These pollutants are extremely harmful to human health even at low exposures, increasing the risk of respiratory illness, particularly in vulnerable groups such as children and persons with compromised existing health conditions.

Aphria's mother [Address H65 C970] 1.97km from the proposed Peaker Plant Site suffers from Pulmonary Fibrosis and incurs regular chest infections. She is under the care of consultant Professor Anthony O'Regan whom she has regular visits and chest x-rays. Please find receipt of recent chest x-ray at the Blackrock Health Galway Clinic. Addendum B

**Proximity of the Proposed Peaker Plant Site to Local Schools**

As parents we are extremely concerned about the proximity of the proposed Peaker Plant to Lisheenkyle National School [3.0km] where our youngest daughter attends and Clarin Collage Secondary School [5.8km] where our other two daughters attend.

Both schools have a combined daily attendance of 1500 pupils.

The lack of information provided, and the generalization of the data provide by Board Gàis regarding the health implications is concerning.

## **Environmental Impacts of the Gas and Diesel Fired Peaker Plant**

### *The European Green Deal (As Set Out by the European Commission)*

*The European Green Deal is transforming the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy.*

*Launched by President von der Leyen in 2019, it responds to citizens' urgent call—especially from young people—for climate action. It sets out a plan to transform Europe's economy, energy, transport, and industries for a more sustainable future.*

*It aims to cut emissions by at least 50% by 2030, rising towards 55%, while legally binding the 2050 neutrality goal through the European Climate Law. It pushes forward a clean transition that protects people and planet, is economically sound and socially fair.*

*The Green Deal invests in innovation, clean technology, and green infrastructure while ensuring a just transition for the communities most affected. Thanks to the European Green Deal, Europeans enjoy cleaner air and more energy efficient products and homes. They are also drawing on more renewable energy sources to power their lives.*

*The European Climate Law writes into law the goal set out in the European Green Deal for Europe's economy and society to become climate-neutral by 2050. The law also sets intermediate targets: reducing net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 55% by 2030, and by 90% by 2040, compared to 1990 levels.*

*Climate neutrality by 2050 means achieving net zero GHG emissions for EU Member States as a whole, mainly by cutting emissions, investing in clean technologies, and protecting the environment.*

*The law aims to ensure that all EU policies contribute to this goal and that all sectors of the economy and society play their part.*

*\*\*[Information available on the European Commission Website – Energy, Climate, Environment](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)*  
*[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)*

The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant goes against the European Commission's Climate Law of which Ireland is signed up to and adheres to.

We have serious concerns that the proposed Peaker Plant is locking in Ireland to fossil fuel dependence up to the proposed life span of this Peaker Plant in 2050. This contravenes the European Commissions Law that Europe will become climate neutral by 2050. Also given the most recent events in the Middle East and Iran, Irelands must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for the generation of electricity.

Ireland must focus and developing the country's infrastructure to alternatives to fossil fuels and better solutions for peak demand requirements like battery storage and better alliances with the European energy grid to better allow Ireland to cope with peak demands in electricity.

### **Environmental Impact Due to the Design of the Proposed Peaker Plant**

The proposed design of the Peaker Plant Stack was reduced by 10m from the initial design. This reduction in height of the stack will emit the exhaust into the atmosphere at a lower level and these emissions will fall to the ground at distances closer to the point of emission.

Our residence is 1.27km and southwest of the proposed site. The prevailing winds in the area are southwest, this will track the emissions from the peaker plant directly in the path of our residence, depositing pollutants.

The surrounding lands around the proposed site are predominantly active farmlands. The emissions from the Peaker Plant will have an adverse effect on these lands and the farm animals that graze and are reared on these lands.

The storage of diesel on the proposed Peaker Plant Site is of serious concern to the farmland and the surrounding townlands. Contamination of these lands in the event an environmental incident could render these lands and the groundwater in the area unusable for generations. We have 65 Acres of land in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Peaker Plant. This land is rented to a local farming family, any contamination of these lands would impact the livelihood of the farming family and our ability to generate revenue from the rental of the lands.

With an average of 225 Days\* of rain in Athenry annually this means that the emissions from the Peaker Plant will fall on our residence and the surrounding townlands of Athenry.

\*Information provided by Met Eireann

### **Need for Precaution Due to Health and Environmental Uncertainties**

There is significant and rational concern regarding the health and environmental uncertainties surrounding the proposed development of the Cashla Peaker Plant. Documented evidence proves that exposure to nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter over a prolonged period has profound negative health and environmental implications for people living in the immediate surroundings. Given that we are 1.27km from the proposed site this is of great concern to our family and our neighbours.

We of particular concern for our children, 11yrs, 13yrs and 16yrs. Studies by the European Environment Agency have proven that prolonged exposure to air pollution is especially harmful to children. Please see [Addendum C](#)

There is no upper limit on the number of hours this Peaker Plant will operate on an annual basis, this is a serious concern. Open gas and diesel turbines by their design operate less than 35% efficiency. It is inadequate to presume minimal risk given the lack of guarantees regarding the operational hours of the open gas and diesel turbine. This uncertainty is unacceptable to us given our proximity to the proposed Peaker Plant.

### **Increase Heavy Traffic and The Location of the Site Entrance**

Our residence is located on the L3103 and 100 meters from the proposed entrance to the Peaker Plant site.

The L3103 is a busy local road, catering to traffic to and from the town of Athenry, school related traffic to Lisheenkyle Nation School, Heavy plant and construction equipment to Coffey Construction Storage Yard and Cashla Quarries, HGV's servicing C&F Tooling, Equestrian transport servicing Galway Equestrian School, Farming equipment and local residential traffic. Overall, the additional traffic that will be added to the L3103 if the proposed peaker plant is built is of serious concern to us. At present Heavy Goods Vehicles that meet in opposing direction of travel must slow/stop and inch past, its is not possible for HGV to pass at a reasonable pace of travel on the L3103.

To service the diesel fuel requirements of the proposed Peaker Plant will add a significant amount of HGV and Vehicular traffic to an already at capacity local road. This is of serious concern to us and the surrounding residents.

This is clearly shown in Board Gàis documentation, Drawing # PEK3-ATK-ZZ01DR-CE-901200. The 'Autotrack for HGV at Entrance' clearly shows evidence that the location of the entrance and the use of the L3103 Local Road is not suitable. [Addendum D.0](#)

#### Location of Entrance to The Proposed Peaker Plant Site

The proposed entrance to the site is 100m from the entrance of our residence, please see [Addendum D.1](#)

We are opposed to the location of the entrance given the proximity to our residence and also the lack of clear line of sight to the entrance for traffic approaching the entrance travelling from Athenry approaching from the east (travelling West).

Heavy Goods Vehicles entering and exiting the site pose a high risk of a road collision, especially when weather conditions are poor and the sun is low in the sky during winter and spring months. Please see [Addendum D.2](#)

Aphria and I oppose any disturbance to our lands in the vicinity and adjacent to the vicinity of the proposed entrance. Please see [Addendum D.3](#)

#### Lack of Alternative Access

It is our understanding that the access to the site on the L3103 is the only access that will be provided. This is of serious concern given the size of development and the proposed storage of large amounts of diesel fuel on the site.

A single point of access to this site poses a concerning risk in the event of a serious accident, i.e., Fire, spillage of fuel and/or other environmental accident.

#### **Emergency Services**

There is insufficient assessment regarding the ability of the Emergency Services, namely the Fire Service to deal with an emergency, Fire or environmental accident on the site.

The proposed diesel storage on site is circa 6 million litres. In the event of a fire where the diesel is stored, the Fire Services from Athenry, Galway City, Loughrea and Mountbellew would not be able to contain this fire, and it would be deemed a burn-out ..... the fire service will not risk their members getting seriously hurt or killed trying to extinguish a fire of this magnitude.

Events at Xerotech, Claregalway, Co. Galway in September 2022, where a fire at a battery manufacturer, show precedent that the Fire Services were not equipped, prepared or trained for a major fire event.

3 Members of the Athenry Fire Service remain on long term illness as a result of the fire at Xerotech. Athenry Fire service is operating at 65% personnel staffing at present.

#### **Proposed Peaker Plant Will De-Value Our Land and Properties**

Our residence and 65 Acres of farmland is 1.27km from the proposed Peaker Plant Site and 100m from the proposed entrance to peaker plant site. The proximity of the site itself and the entrance to the site will have a negative effect on the value of our residence, land and holdings.

## Conclusion

We are objecting to the proposed development of an open cycle gas turbine and generator peaker plant with ancillary equipment at Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy, Athenry Co. Galway by the applicant Bord Gàis Energy Limited, on the grounds set out above and in the accompanying addendums. In summary:

- Health implications of the gas and diesel fired open fired turbine. Pollutants such as nitrous oxide [NOx] and fine particulate matter [PM2.5 and PM10] are known to have adverse effects on air quality, be an irritant to lungs and overall contribute to long term harm and degradation to health.
- Lack of clear, accessible and effective communication from Board Gàis regarding the health implications of the proposed development.
- Environmental impacts on the surrounding areas and townlands adjacent to the proposed site.
- Increased vehicular traffic, especially Heavy Goods Vehicles on the L3103.
- Location of the proposed site entrance is not suitable on the L3103.
- Concerns regarding the ability of the Emergency Services, namely the Fire Service, to deal with a major incident on the site.
- Due to the proximity of the site, our residence, land and holding will devalue as a result of the development.

Yours Sincerely



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Micheal Quinn



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Aphria Coffey

Addendum A

M. Quinn & A. Coffey Residence Distance from Proposed Board Gàis Peaker Plant




Addendum B

Olive Coffey, Aphria Quinn's Mother, Receipt of X-Ray For Pulmonary Fibrosis

Ref: Profession Anthony O'Regan

**Receipt of Payment**

 **BLACKROCK HEALTH**  
GALWAY CLINIC

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Olive Coffey  
Castlewood House  
Moanbaun  
Athenry  
Co Galway

Received From:

Olive Coffey Castlewood House Moanbaun Athenry, Co Galway	Receipt Date Amount:	08/04/2026 120.00
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Payment Applied to:

Account #	Name	Comment	Payment Amount
GC0002020033	Olive Coffey	XRAY CHEST - PAID WITH THANKS	120.00

Blackrock Health  
Galway Clinic  
Doughiska  
Galway  
091 785000

**Addendum C - Source** - <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/air-pollution-and-childrens-health>

### **Children and Air Pollution, Understanding the Problem**

Protecting children's health is frequently cited as a key objective in major policies on climate and the environment such as the zero pollution action plan (European Commission, 2020). Though most children across EEA member countries are healthy (Eurostat, 2019; WHO, 2023), there are reasons for concern regarding environmental risks to their health. Children and adolescents are more susceptible than adults to most adverse environmental factors; in some cases they may be more exposed than adults too (Valent et al., 2004); and they can do little to change the situation or protect themselves. That is especially true for air pollution, the largest environmental risk for children in Europe.

There are many factors that make children and adolescents especially vulnerable to air pollution. Children's breathing rates are higher than those of adults and they also take in more air per kilogram of body weight. Their acquired dose of pollution is elevated since they breathe faster and are often more physically active (Osborne et al., 2021). Moreover, children inhale a larger fraction of air through their mouths than adults. Due to this increased oral breathing, pollution penetrates deep into the lower respiratory tract, which is more permeable (US EPA, 2019). Children's bodies and organs, including their lungs, are also still in development (Chen et al., 2015), which further increases risk. Furthermore, children's developing immune systems are weaker than those of adults, strengthening the effects of pollution (WHO, 2018). Figure 1 illustrates key characteristics of children's and adolescents' vulnerability and exposure to air pollution.

### **How Does Air Pollution Affect Children?**

Children are affected by ambient air pollutants from the womb through to adulthood. Every year in EEA member and collaborating countries, air pollution is estimated to cause over 1,200 deaths and the loss of over 110,000 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs, a measure of the burden of disease caused by a risk factor) among those aged under 18 (GBD Collaborative Network, 2020). These deaths, along with a significant burden from non-fatal diseases, are caused by air pollution through a variety of mechanisms and health outcomes, which are explored below.

Before birth, ambient air pollution increases the risk of babies being smaller during pregnancy (a condition known as 'small for gestational age', or SGA) (Pun et al., 2021; Health Effects Institute, 2022; Nyadanu et al., 2022), having a low birth weight (Yang et al., 2020; Ghosh et al., 2021) as well as having an increased risk of pre-term birth (US EPA, 2020; Nyadanu et al., 2022; Yu et al., 2022). All of these can increase the risk of different health problems later in life.

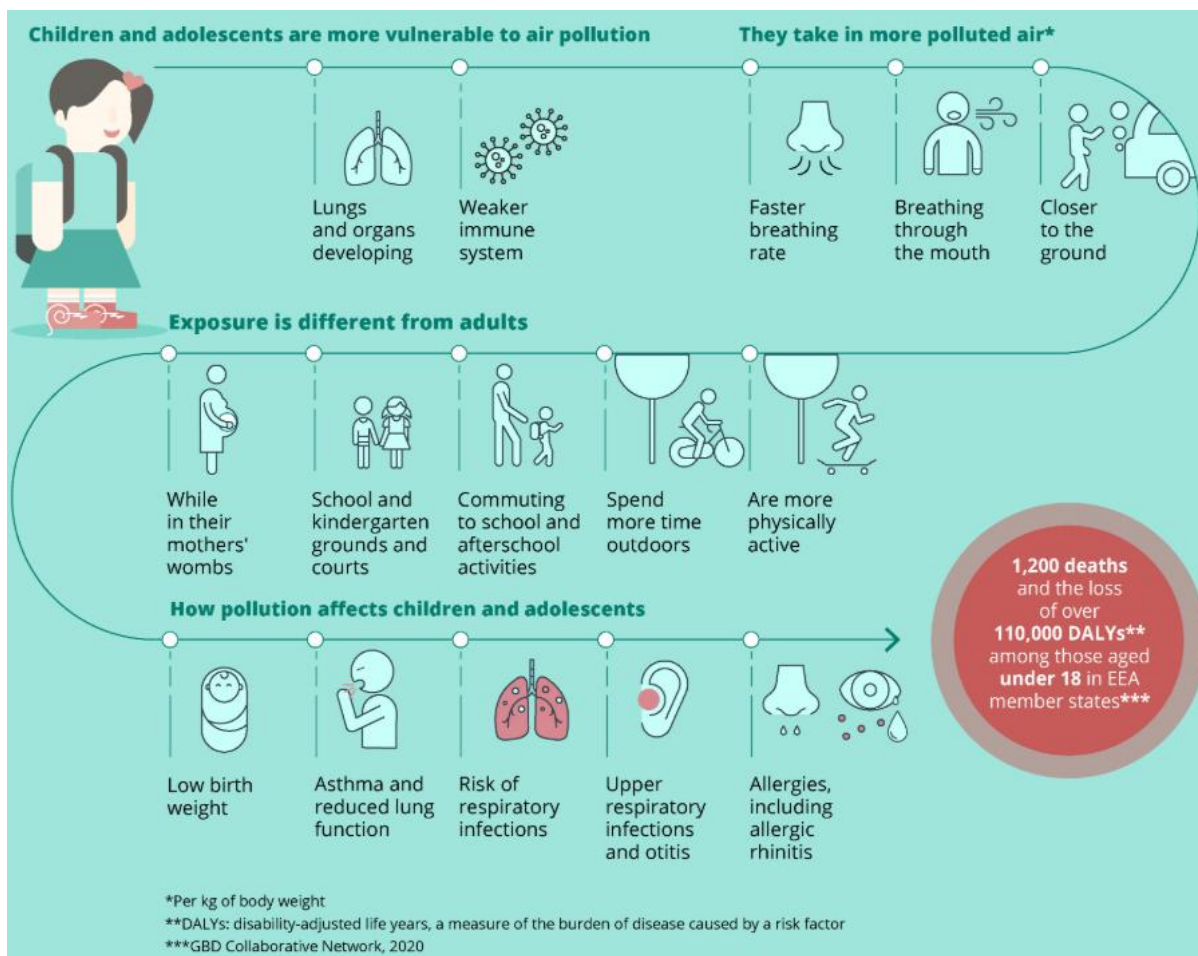
Though the evidence is less clear, particulate matter has also been linked to an increased risk of spontaneous abortion and still births (Grippio et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2021; Zhu et al., 2022). Despite solid epidemiological data, the biological mechanisms are not fully understood for most of the pre-natal risks of air pollution.

After birth, ambient air pollution increases the risk of several types of adverse health outcomes for children and adolescents. For example, it increases the risk of respiratory infections in children, including acute lower respiratory infections, pneumonia, upper respiratory infections and otitis media (ear infections) (Mehta et al., 2013; Nhung et al., 2017; Bowatte et al., 2018; King et al., 2018; Låg et al., 2020; Lee et al., 2020; Health Effects Institute, 2022; Ziou et al., 2022). Short-term exposure to air pollution may also exacerbate allergies, including allergic rhinitis (runny nose), eczema and conjunctivitis (itchy eyes) in children (US EPA, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020).

Children’s lung function and lung development are also affected by ambient air pollution, especially by ozone and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the short term, and by fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in the long term. This effect can be seen both in healthy children and also in children with asthma, which can be exacerbated by pollution (US EPA, 2010, 2017, 2019, 2020; WHO, 2018, 2021a; Garcia et al., 2021; Holm and Balme, 2022).

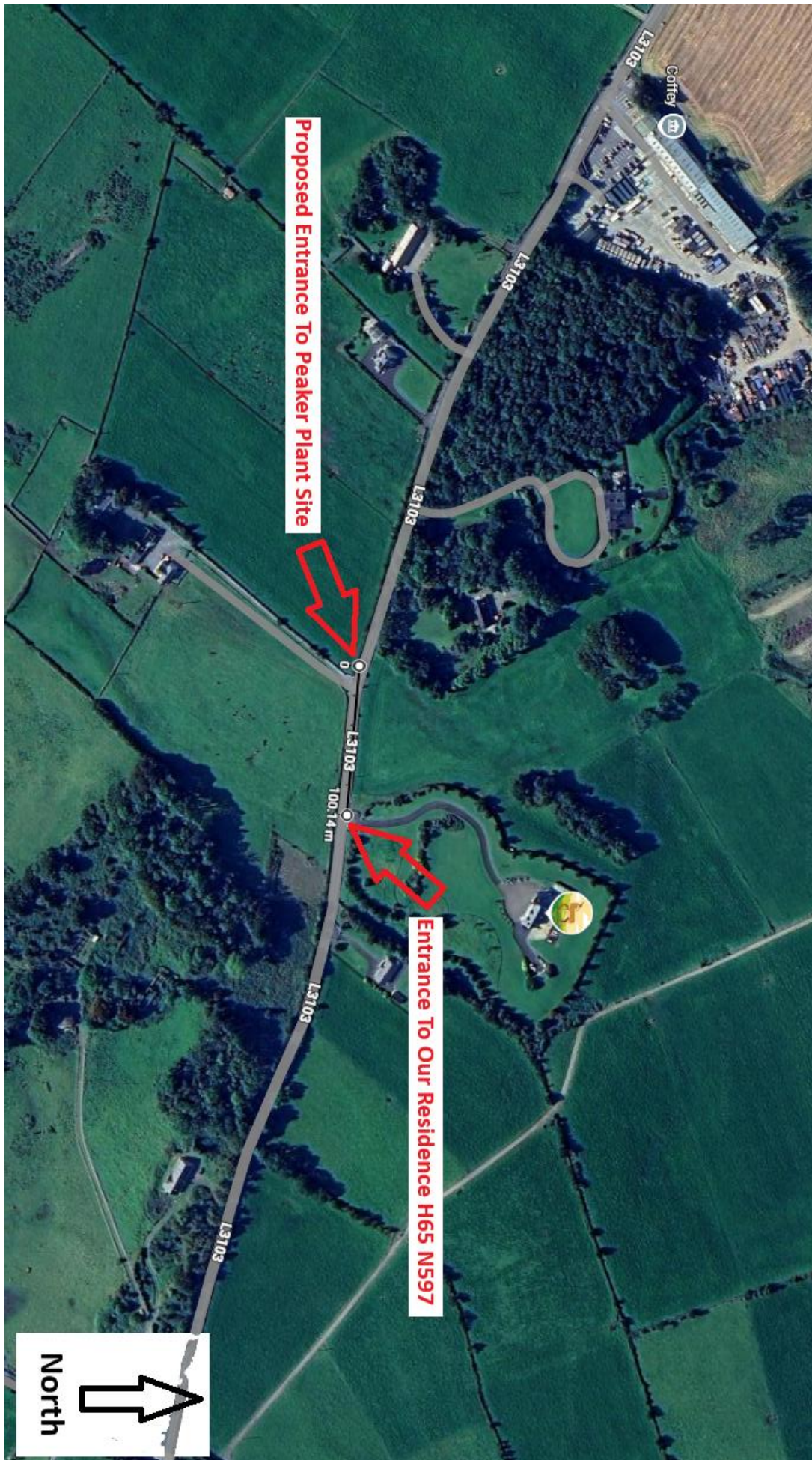
Asthma affects over 9% of children in the EU (Selroos et al., 2015), placing a large burden on children, their families and societies. The risk of developing asthma itself and asthma-like symptoms is clearly linked to long-term exposure to air pollution (US EPA, 2010, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020; Zu et al., 2018; Låg et al., 2020; Yan et al., 2020; Bettioli et al., 2021; Han et al., 2021; Health Effects Institute, 2022). This has been observed both in epidemiological studies and in the laboratory, where the mechanisms for this effect have been studied and confirmed. Asthma symptoms can range from mild to very severe, even life-threatening. Exposure to short term increases in air pollution increases the risk of asthma hospitalisation and emergency department visits for children (Mustafić et al., 2012; Lim et al., 2016; US EPA, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020; Huang et al., 2021; Zheng et al., 2021; Health Effects Institute, 2022).

Ambient air pollution may also be linked to other types of health problems in children. For example, there is growing evidence that air pollution affects children’s brain development, contributes to cognitive impairment, and that it may play a role in the development of some types of Autistic Spectrum Disorders (US EPA, 2015, 2019, 2020; Dutheil et al., 2021; Health Effects Institute, 2022; Lin et al., 2022). Some studies have also observed a link between traffic-related air pollution, with benzene playing a key role, and leukaemia in children (Orsini et al., 2012; Filippini et al., 2019; Wei et al., 2021).



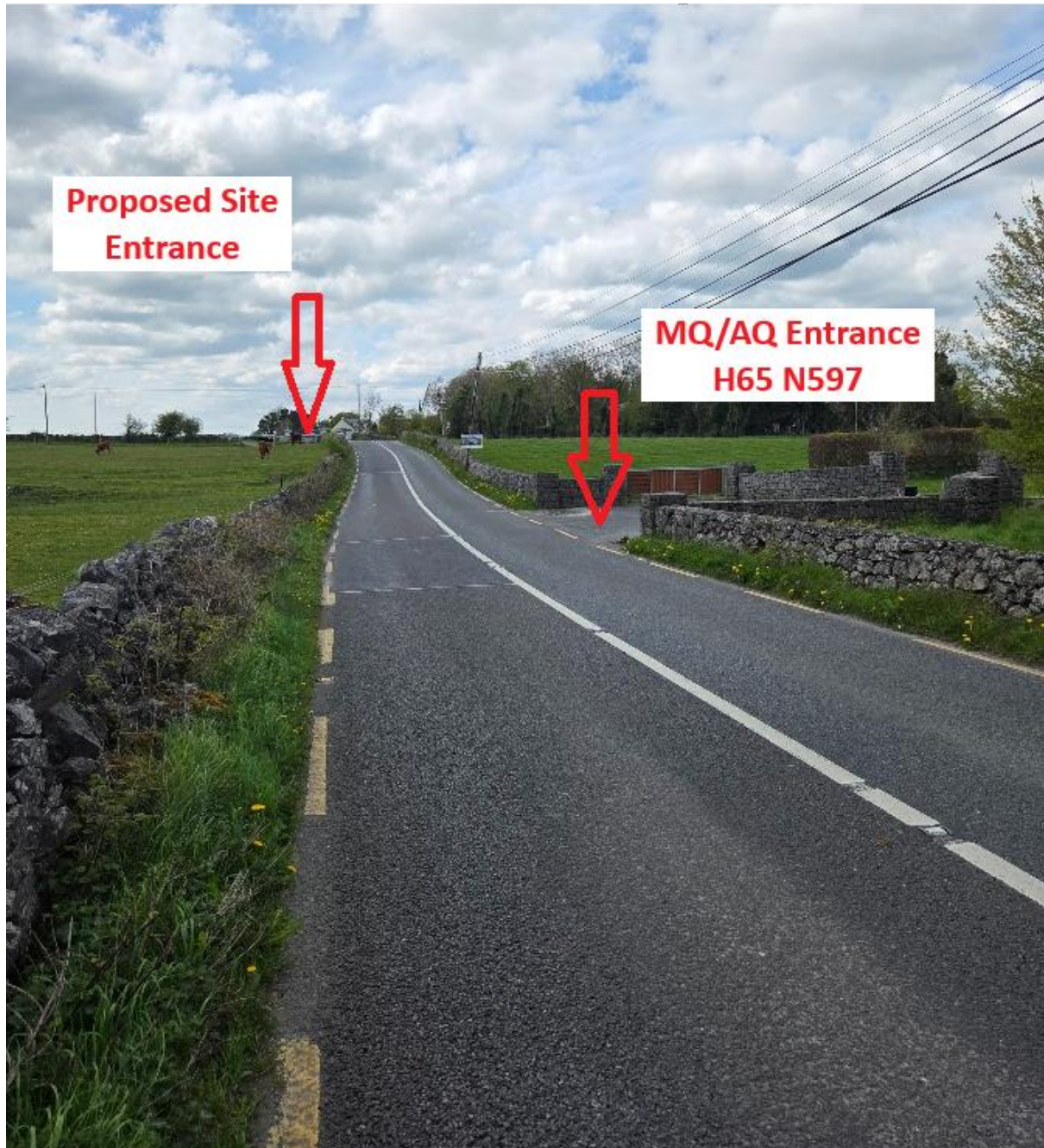


Addendum D.1 – Proposed Site Entrance Relevant To Micheal & Aphria Quinn Residence Entrance



Addendum D.2

Site entrance approach from Athenry (East) , travelling West.



Site entrance approach from Athenry (East) , travelling West.

Low sun, poor visibility



Addendum D.3

Micheàl Quinn & Aphria Coffey,  
Moanbaun (Pullnagroagh)  
Athenry  
Co. Galway  
H65 N597  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

We, Formally and unequivocally withhold consent for any works, access, alteration, removal, cutting, trimming, excavation, installation, construction activity, fencing, or any other interference whatsoever on, under, or affecting our land, our boundary walls, our entrance pillars, our trees and vegetation, our agricultural structures, our private water supply, or any part of our property at Moanbaun, Athenry, Co. Galway.

This refusal of consent applies to Bord Gáis Energy Limited, their contractors, sub-contractors, agents, and any party acting on their behalf. No element of this development may proceed on, adjacent to, or through our land or property without our prior written consent. I have not given any such consent, and I do not intend to do so.

Please see maps and folio details.

Yours Sincerely,



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Micheàl Quinn



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Aphria Coffey

# Land Registry

County Galway

Folio 70287F

## Register of Ownership of Freehold Land

### Part 1(A) - The Property

Note: Unless a note to the contrary appears, neither the description of land in the register nor its identification by reference to the Registry Map is conclusive as to boundaries or extent

For parts transferred see Part 1(B)

No.	Description	Official Notes
1	A plot of ground being part of the Townland of MOANBAUN and Barony of ATHENRY containing 4.3000 Hectares shown as Plan(s) ASPJY edged RED on the Registry Map (OS MAP Ref(s) 84/9).	From Folio GY5649

1 There is appurtenant to the said lands of Moanbaun the right of grazing on eight acres and one rood coloured brown on the Office Maps .

Land Cert Issued: No

Page 1 of 5

Collection No.:

Land Registry

County Galway

Folio 70287F

Part 1(B) - Property  
Parts Transferred

No.	Prop No:	Instrument:	Date:	Area (Hectares):	Plan:	Folio No:

# Land Registry

County Galway

Folio 70287F

## Part 2 - Ownership

Title ABSOLUTE

No.	The devolution of the property is subject to the provisions of Part II of the Succession Act, 1965		
<del>1</del>	<del>22 JUL 2003</del> <del>B2003GR007232Q</del>	<del>APHRIA COPPEY of Castlewood House, Moanbaun, Athenry, County Galway is full owner.</del>	
		Cancelled	D2009LR053786U 13-MAR-2009
2	13-MAR-2009 D2009LR053786U	APHRIA COPPEY of Moanbaun, Athenry, County Galway and MICHAEL QUINN of Moanbaun, Athenry, County Galway are full owners.	



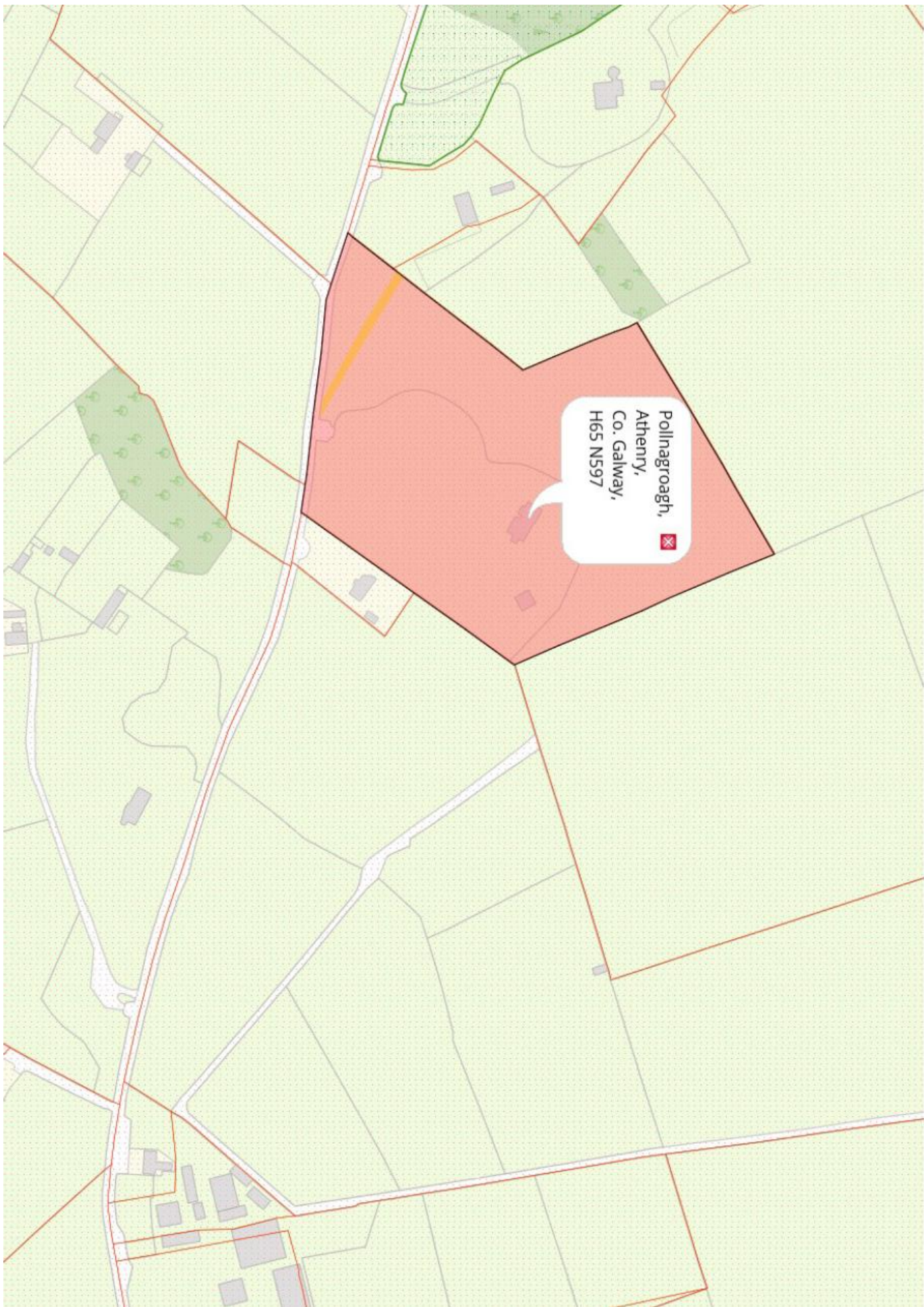
Land Registry

County Galway

Folio 70287F

D2009LR053786U

undivided shares, the owner's share at any time being the proportion that the debt owing to the owner secured by the charge bears to the total debt owing to the owners in common secured by the charge.



Pollnagroagh,  
Atheny,  
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H65 N597