

Re: Planning Reference ACP-324165-26

Maughanaclea Wind Farm / Enerco's Application to Construct 14 Industrial Wind Turbines on Maughanaclea

14 May 2026

Coleen Dilley
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Ards More
Bantry, Cork
P75Y895

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1, D01 V902

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm, Ref: ACP-324165-26.

I have lived in the Mealagh Valley for many years and deeply value the peace, natural beauty, and quiet rhythm of life that this area provides. While I support renewable energy in principle, I do not believe that Maughanaclea is an appropriate location for an industrial wind development of this scale.

One of the greatest treasures of this valley is its wildlife and sense of stillness. Over the years we have shared this landscape with swallows returning each spring, birds of prey circling over the hills, red squirrels in Quentin's woods, frogs calling after rain, and wildlife moving quietly through the hedgerows and uplands. These are not rare experiences here – they are part of everyday life in the Mealagh Valley and part of what makes this place so special.

There is also clear evidence from local wildlife observations and monitoring within the wider Maughanaclea area¹ that the surrounding uplands support sensitive species including pine marten, Irish hare, and Annex I bird species identified within the EIAR itself.² I am deeply concerned that the Environmental Impact Assessment underestimates the ecological sensitivity of this landscape and the cumulative impact³ that large-scale

¹ See Sioned Jones's submission for a comprehensive look at the wildlife captured on camera in the Coillte nature reserve Maughanaclea, including photos of pine martin, red squirrel, hare, etc.

² EIAR Chapter 6 Biodiversity & Ecology; EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC Article 4(1)

³ Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 13.6.3 – provides a specific requirement to consider the cumulative impacts of both existing and proposed wind energy developments.

industrial development would have on habitats, wildlife corridors, and the wider natural environment.

The EIAR itself acknowledges a “Permanent, significant residual effect” on upland blanket bog habitat.⁴ Peatlands are not empty wasteland – they are functioning ecosystems, biodiversity habitats, hydrological systems, and important carbon stores.

I am also concerned about the impact the turbines would have on the tranquillity and character of the valley. The proposed structures are enormous in scale and would permanently alter the landscape, replacing quiet mountain ridgelines and dark skies with industrial infrastructure and aviation lighting.

The Cork County Development Plan emphasises the importance of protecting ridgelines, skylines, High Landscape Value areas, and the cumulative impact of wind energy developments.⁵ The Mealagh Valley falls within Landscape Character Type 15a: Ridged and Peaked Uplands, identified as an area of High Landscape Value and High Landscape Sensitivity within the Development Plan.

At this stage of life, peace, safety, and connection to nature are especially important to me. I worry not only about noise and disruption during construction, but also about the long-term loss of the calm and natural environment that has defined this valley for generations.

The cumulative impact of multiple wind developments across West Cork is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. I fear that little by little, the wildness, beauty, & biodiversity of these upland landscapes will be permanently lost.

Finally, I do not believe local residents have been adequately listened to throughout this process. Communities like ours are precious, but also fragile, and once places like this are fundamentally changed & industrialised, they cannot easily be restored.

While I support renewable energy, I believe biodiversity, landscape, dark skies, and rural communities must also be protected.

For these reasons and more, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development.

Sincere Regards,

Coleen Dilley

⁴ EIAR Chapter 6, Table 6-24)

⁵ Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, Section 13.6)