

Objection to the proposed development by Enerco (Maughanaclea Ltd.), of a 14 turbine Windfarm at Maughanaclea, Kealkill, Bantry, Co. Cork - Case reference: PAX04.324165

-David Myler, Bantry, Co. Cork

RE:

An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PAX04.324165

10 year planning permission for Maughanaclea Wind Farm consisting of 14 no. wind turbines, a 110kV substation and 110kV underground cabling connection and associated works

located in Ardrah, Maughanaclea, Ballynamought, Gortloughra, Cousane, Coomclogh, Derragh, Glanycarney, Keenrath, Derrynacaheragh, Shiplough, Coolsnaghtig and other townlands Co. Cork

Maughanaclea Ltd

Introduction

This is an objection on archaeological grounds to the proposed Enerco/ Maughanaclea Ltd windfarm development at Cousane, Kealkil, Ardrah, Coomleigh, Mealagh Valley, etc., Bantry, Co. Cork – known as Maughanaclea Wind Farm. The objection which I will outline below is written in a personal capacity, it arises as a result of my interest in the archaeological heritage of the region. I have no personal interest in any land or property in the area, and I have never previously objected to any planning application, domestic or commercial in any capacity.

My objection is supported by my informed archaeological interest in the area and as author of

- An Archaeological Survey of the Mealagh Valley – David Myler / Mealagh Valley Community Development Association (1998). ISBN 095349280X. Supported by The Heritage Council of Ireland. (Reprinted 2024)
- Walking With Stones, Exploring the Ancient Sites of West Cork – David Myler (2023) ISBN 9781399980098. (Second Edition 2024)

These two books were written as a result of my many years of research and groundwork in local archaeology around West Cork and in particular in the greater Bantry area.

Overview and Body of Objection

It is generally accepted within the field of modern archaeology that our prehistoric sites in the landscape are to be taken and read in the context of, and in relation to their greater surroundings and local landscape. Particularly our Bronze Age sites, of which there are many in the Kealkill, Cousane, Mealagh Valley area. These sites are often seen to be aligned with geographical features, peaks and dips on horizons, and/or with outlying standing stones and other megalithic features. These alignments are often believed to be purposeful and often coincide with calendar events, sunrise/sunset at solstice, equinox, etc. Many of our ancient sites have been fully or partially destroyed, or interfered with, in the intervening centuries and millennia. However, what remains today in some of these elevated sites, such as this proposed windfarm site, is unique and invaluable.

Dating from approximately 2800 bc to 800 bc, Ireland's Bronze Age has left us with Wedge Tombs, Multiple and Five Stone Circles, Radial Cairns, Fulactha Fiadh, Hut sites, Field systems, Standing stones and Stone rows, Boulder Burials, Cairns and other features. In lowland areas, farming practices and 'development' (land clearance/improvement) have resulted in interference to many of these sites. It is on our relatively unspoilt higher ground that many of these sites often remain relatively intact.

Our 1990's field survey of the Mealagh Valley, the groundwork and research for 'An Archaeological Survey of the Mealagh Valley publication (1998), identified and recorded many previously undocumented ancient sites. These included rock art, standing stones and notably a 'Druid's Altar' Wedge Tomb at the Gortnacowly – Ardrah boundary ditch. This site is on elevated ground close to the south boundary of the proposed windfarm. That tomb was damaged by farm machinery in the 1960/70s, but remained identifiable. That discovery became a valuable addition to our national sites database - National Monument Service @ Dept of Housing, Local Govt. and Heritage. ^(note 1) What is established and agreed is that this area of West Cork is notably rich in Bronze Age megalithic sites. The Ardrah Stone row lies just in close proximity, on the south side of the proposed windfarm. The 5 stone circle National Monument complex at Kealkill, just west of the windfarm site, is one of the state's best known and well frequented Bronze Age sites. Each and every one of these sites is unique and they piece together to create a rich archaeological tapestry in the landscape, evidence of the people who lived and died on this western seaboard of Europe, thousands of years ago during Ireland's Bronze Age.

On the northern slopes of the Maughanaclea hills there are no less than seven stone circle sites over a distance of a few kilometres, **this includes a 'Four Poster' site in Maughanaclea, within the footprint of the proposed windfarm.** ^(note 2) I believe that such a close proximity of these many stone circle sites, to each other, is unequalled elsewhere in the country. This further supports that this area/site on the Maughanaclea hills is unique and of utmost archaeological significance. Likewise, a concentration of Wedge tomb sites on the slopes of Sheehy, to the north of the Cousane Gap is unique and of substantial archaeological significance. ^(note 3)

Of course, there will be an archaeological impact report accompanying each and every modern windfarm proposal (appendix 14-2 of Maughanaclea Ltd. submission). Welcome developments have been made in recent years in science and technology, which can be employed in surveying landscape for archaeology. Scientific surveys have now the capacity to read and discover hidden features, which may have previously gone unobserved. What these archaeological surveys of sites on elevated ground in the region may show, are hut sites and boundary ditches, field systems of often uncertain antiquity. It is assumed they may date as early as the Bronze Age in many cases, but also from more recent Iron age or medieval dwelling or indeed more recent farming practices. A walking survey or drone aerial photography does not reveal the many still hidden traces of archaeology hidden beneath the heather and bogs. The areas involved in these surveys are vast. I believe the surveying draws on aerial photography and ground observations for the most part. It is only under slow scrutiny of excavation, that many valuable sites are fully considered. Only the stone circle complex at Kealkill has been excavated, in the 1930s, none of the other sites within the reach and remit of this proposal have been excavated.

The ground working and impact involved in the site work of this large windfarm proposal, related infrastructure connecting to grids, the access routes and road building, water drainage, associated site buildings, windmill foundations, storage areas, etc is on a large scale. As such it has potential for major initial and continued impact on the archaeological heritage of the site, destroying an as of yet largely unexplored landscape.

Who funds the Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed windfarm? Is there an element of who pays the piper calls the tune? It is of course in the interest of the developers to have any onsite archaeology considerations neat and tidy and out of the way of business.

Forestry in the second half of the 20th century on many of West Cork's hillsides did uncounted damage to our archaeological heritage. I have personally on several occasions through the years had to advocate for these sites and speak directly to onsite machine operators who were unaware of archaeological features to be protected, as they prepared ground for plantation. Many machine operators have no archaeological training and no onsite archaeological supervision.

Proximity to proposed turbine no.12 and Bronze Age features.

But if I can take just that one site which I mentioned above, the 'Four Poster' at Maughanaclea as an example here. ^(note 4) As stated, this site is on the actual footprint of the windfarm, in close proximity I believe to the mapped turbine no. 12. There are only six known 'Four Poster' sites in the whole nation of Ireland, four of which are in West Cork, and three of those are in this area east of Kealkill. One at Cappaboy on high ground, one in Gortnacowly, Mealagh Valley, a townland which borders the windfarm to the south, and this one at Maughanaclea (near turbine 12). At both Cappaboy and here at Maughanaclea there are associated Bronze Age Radial Stone Enclosures in proximity to the 'Four Posters' (within 100-150 metres). Highlighting the significance of the inter relation of these sites and outlying features in the landscape.

The official listing of this same 4 poster site at Maughanaclea, beside turbine 12, as it appears on the national monument's database (ref- CO106-010), states – ‘Traces of pre-bog fences in the vicinity’. ^(see note 6) This note on the national database is a strong indication, as observed by professional field archaeologists employed by the Dept. of Housing, Local Govt. and Heritage, that there are prehistoric field systems in the immediate area of turbine 12. As of the current time, these prehistoric features, the ‘traces of pre-bog fences in the vicinity’, remain un-surveyed in the highland area within the proposed windfarm, adjacent or on the site of turbine no12. This confirms that there is further prehistoric archaeology remaining unexplored and undocumented on the site of the proposed windfarm. If traces of prehistoric ‘pre-bog’ fences are visible above ground, one can only speculate what remains unnoticed and unobserved underground and out of sight at this time.

Note 5 attached – Showing the Maughanaclea Four Poster location and Radial Cairn superimposed on Enerco Map as submitted in application. **The Four Poster is within approx. only 100 meters east northeast, the Radial Cairn is only 200 meters ENE of turbine and base.** ^(Please see Note 5)

The Appendix 14-2 attached to the Maughanaclea submission, which is a report on Archaeological impact, notes both the Maughanaclea Four poster and Radial Stone Cairn under the same heading of AH155, and gives the distance of 285m from turbine 12. This is purposely misleading and deceptive in my opinion, as perhaps the distance to the further eastern cairn may be 285m, depending on exact siting of windmill (to be confirmed). The report glosses over the nearer distance of the Four poster itself. Also, the site works and windmill bases are huge, so where are these measurements taken from. **Also of major significance is the fact that the archaeological impact report as submitted by Enerco/Maughanaclea Ltd. choses to ignore the mention of the ‘pre-bog fences’ near ‘in the vicinity of’ the Four Poster, which are plainly highlighted on the national database.** ^{(note}

⁶⁾ This requires at the very least, further consideration, clarification and site surveying and investigation at this time for clarification.

The same Maughanaclea Ltd submitted report Appendix 14-2 shows concerning proximity to many other archaeological sites in this proposal-

For ex: (from appendix 14-2 Assessments of impacts on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource- Maughanaclea Ltd. proposal)

AH55- Ballymought-Hut site and multiple Field Boundaries just 278m SW of turbineT06

AH56 to AH62 inclusive Ballymought, Coomclogh, Gortluachra – Standing stones, Hut sites, Ancient Field systems, All within 200m of proposed turbines .

AH58- Hut sites and Field systems **‘Crossed by proposed new road’**

AH62- Gortloughra- Standing Stone only 184m south of Turbine 01

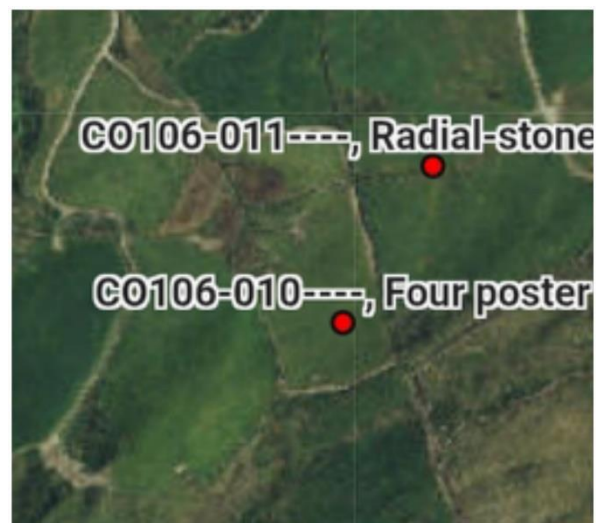
AH66- Gortloughra- Hut sites and ancient field boundaries only 311m NE of Turbine 01

Significant Mapping Error on Maughanaclea Ltd ‘Cultural Heritage Assessment’ and Windfarm Proposal

The 70-page Cultural Heritage Assessment, which is the part of the windfarm submission which relates to Archaeological impact, is a large document which states professional expertise and assumes authority. The depth of resources involved in the compilation of the report are evident. That assumed authority is somewhat undermined by a glaring mapping inaccuracy of the location of the Four Poster in relation to Turbine NO12.

As shown here in the mapping and arial photography detail below- Maughanaclea Ltd have inaccurately located the four poster in their application, to a distance of perhaps 3x three times greater than it actually is.

Top image (right) is from the Historic Environment Viewer, Dept. Of Housing, Heritage and Local Govt. It shows the locations of the Four poster and Radial Stone Circle at Maughanaclea.



Bottom image is a detail from the Maughanaclea Ltd. Cultural Heritage Assessment mapping, **SHOWING ERROR**

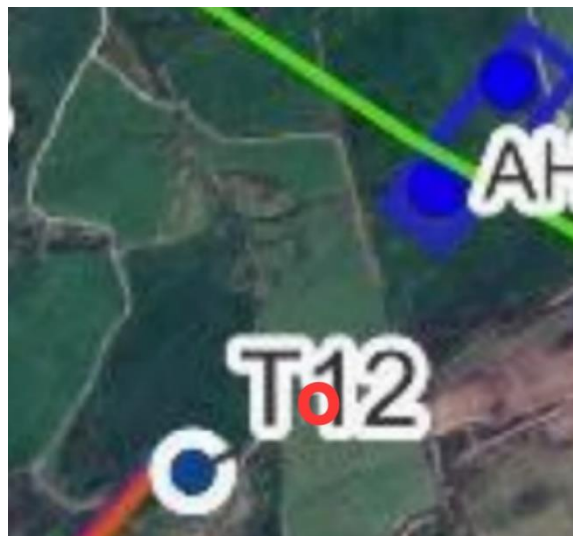
The blue dot (AH-155) nearest to the proposed no.12 turbine is the **mis mapped** Four Poster site, **moved into the next field to the northeast**. The Radial Stone Cairn moved further away again.



(from fig 14.6 -page 17- cultural heritage assessment Maughanaclea Application)

So, the stated distance of 285 Metres between Turbine 12 and the Four Poster, which is given throughout the application, is far from accurate. The real distance is in fact much less, I would estimate perhaps 100 metres. Again, I do not have exact information regarding what part of the windmill or base the distances to features is measured from.

I have highlighted here in the image on the right, with a red circle, the actual location of the four poster site. It sits very much in the shadow of the proposed turbine 12. It also highlights the mapping inaccuracy in the actual windfarm proposal. (location blue dot)



To propose to build a wind turbine and base within approx. 100m of such a rare example of a variation on a Bronze Age Stone Circle is beyond inappropriate and is in my considered view in the zone of ludicrous and archaeologically criminal. That the two Four Posters east of Kealkill, here at Maughanaclea and at Cappaboy, have associated Radial Cairns in proximity of 100-200 metres, shows that the footprint of these Bronze Age complexes is much wider than the features that remain visible today. Scientific surveying and possible excavation are the only ways to further investigate this.

For everything that the Maughanaclea Ltd. Cultural Heritage Assessment says, and it has plenty to say, the following line on page 47 – section 14.3.12 speaks loudest.

Quote:

Field Inspection Proposed Project Site Inspection Summary.

The site inspection was carried out by Jonny Small and Johnnie Gallacher on 25th–27th February 2025. Weather conditions were mixed, with clear skies and heavy showers.

That two individuals over two short, wet, dark February days conducted the ‘Field Inspection’ of this vast site is really very poor and unacceptable. It pays no respect to the unique cultural heritage value of this site. These two days of field inspection even included assessment, by drive-by, of the 15km+ grid connection to Dunmanway town.

For the most part this whole submission is a subjective assessment based on existing records and maps, conducted in an office environment.

This mapping error which I have highlighted is a fact, any further investigation will back this up. Where it leaves the planning application is to be decided. The Four Poster cannot be moved, it is where it is, and where it has been for approaching 4000 years. The proposed wind turbine could feasibly be moved further from the archaeological site. But then that would be a huge consideration considering that the whole application is based on the proposed locations.

In an age where archaeological science has access to Drone survey, LIDAR, Ground Penetrating Radar, Electrical Resistivity Survey, Extensive field surveys and of course Archaeological Excavations, there is sadly no suggestion of any of this for the proposed windfarm? A quick gesture of a symbolic drop by and an office/classroom exercise, wrapped up and padded out nicely, is what is being presented as a Cultural Heritage assessment. There is much made in the report of the considered 'low impact' of the windfarm to many more distant archaeological sites, which is a smokescreen and dilution of the fact that it is being proposed to build an industrial windfarm on this unique invaluable ancient landscape here in the Maughanaclea hills.

Further discoveries and sites

As recently as April 2025 I have identified and reported an unrecorded Bronze Age Wedge Tomb at Coomanore South, Mealagh Valley. This has been reported to the National Monuments Service and is under process of being registered on their database, subject to NMS team survey. There is no chance that all of the archaeology of the high ground in these valleys is complete, fully observed or recorded.

The Radial Stone Enclosure at the Cappaboy site, east of Kealkill, near the Cappaboy Four Poster, is almost entirely covered and overgrown with boggy vegetation and could easily be missed or overlooked. This typical boggy vegetation growth on these areas of higher ground highlights the possibility of further significant new archaeological finds existing in these areas.

In addition to any prehistoric or Bronze Age sites, there is also a rich heritage of later archaeological and historical sites and features to be considered on this same landscape. There are cairns of stone, livestock enclosures, old trackways, butter roads, bridle tracks, poteen still sites, massrocks and funeral paths on these hills. Many 'coulach' sites, houses and dwellings which are dated to a more recent past, than required to be put on the archaeological database, but which often date several hundred years into our history. For example – Massrock at Coomleigh, which has been removed from the database as location 'was unknown', now recently rediscovered on a field trip, I have reported it to the relevant Dept., and it is pending update on the national database.^(note 7) Or the 'Soldier's Grave' in Ardrah in proximity to the windfarm.^(note 8)

The National School's folklore survey of the 1930s is a great resource which includes many references and stories relating to local history and also refers to archaeological sites. In note 9, below, I have listed extracts of some of many stories taken from Maughanaclea National School, which the school children gathered from their older relations in this locality, almost 100 years ago. These extracts highlight once again the varied sites in this area, many of which remain to be rediscovered in today's landscape, cairns, roadways, a battlefield, forts and stones.^(note 9)

One of the extracts below refers to a Cill (or Cillíneagh), a children's burial ground. These sites were commonly found in every other townland through the nation. Many unbaptised

children and famine dead were interred in there Cillíní. The locations of these sites, often located in enclosures and corners of fields, has been often forgotten. As recently as 2022, I reported a forgotten Cillíneagh to the National Monuments Service for inclusion on the database. Now listed, the location of the burial site near Kealkill was identified to me by a local landowner during field work surveying. The site of the Cill referred to in the extract below (note 9 – ‘Baile na mBocht’) remains unidentified within the Maughanaclea area.

Conclusion

Archaeological impact of a windfarm may be a small part of an industrial planning consideration, but I firmly believe that as I have outlined here, that on archaeological consideration alone, this project should be refused any go ahead.

The proposed development of a windfarm at this site is undoubtedly archaeologically damaging. As I have outlined above, these hills and valleys hold and display a unique and invaluable richness of prehistoric heritage, a tapestry of archaeological sites of national and international importance. It is there for us now and should be preserved, as is, safely and intact for future generations. Technology and science will continue to evolve allowing for greater and clearer exploration in time, increasing our understanding and interpretation of the landscape and our ancient heritage. **For the Maughanaclea hills to be impacted with this proposed windfarm, would be in my considered opinion, comparable to building a windfarm across the Ceide Fields.**

The proposed development would have a major impact on the known archaeology of the site. It would also damage or destroy any ‘yet to be discovered’ archaeology. My own experience and field surveying shows me, that there are many more sites to yet discover.

The mapping error highlighted in this observation throws further doubt on the suitability of the site, and in particular turbine 12.

That such a blatant mis mapping has been submitted, presumably unnoticed, with this proposal would not give you confidence regarding the archaeological consideration taken by Maughanaclea Ltd in their proposal.

I trust that as outlined here the archaeological impact of the Windfarm is enough to refuse permission of the proposed windfarm.

This is stand alone, however, considering the mapping error- There needs to be an explanation, a rethink, a further extensive surveying, a reapplication perhaps, on this issue alone.

– David Myler,

6 Riverway, Ballylickey, Bantry, Co.Cork

'Many of the cut-away bogs have revealed areas of pre-bog stone walls, enclosures and hut sites...'

'The wide distribution of wedge tombs on the hillsides suggests settlements in these areas based on upland pasturage in the Early Bronze Age'.

- Extracts from The Prehistoric Archaeology of the Beara Peninsula. Cornelius J. Murphy (2014)

Notes:

Note 1.

Ardrah Wedge Tomb - National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey of Ireland

CO106-062---- : Megalithic tomb - wedge tomb : ARDRAH (Bantry By.),GORTNACOWLY

Description: On the SW-facing slopes of the Maughanaclea Hills in an area of boggy upland. The tomb is located in a hollow between two natural rises to the W and E and is incorporated in the townland boundary separating Ardrah from Gortnacowley. Two overlapping slabs (H 1.2m), aligned ENE-WSW, lean slightly to the S and represent the S side of the gallery (L 2.8m) which, together with the backstone, appear to be the only stones in their original positions. The stones forming the N gallery side were displaced when a drain was dug along this side of the boundary c. 30 years ago (local info.). Two prostrate slabs lying in the gallery area W of the backstone probably represent the remains of the N side. A prostrate slab (2.1m x 1.5m; T 0.15m) lying c. 1m to the SE of the tomb is probably the displaced roofstone. Outside the SW corner of the gallery, a slab leaning to the E may be a displaced façade stone; a second stone, with its W end stuck in the ground, leans against the former. A slab (2.1m x 0.5m; T 0.2m) lying in the bottom of the drain 4m W of the tomb may be a displaced part of the structure. A cairn (CO106-085---) is located 190m to the SW.

The above description is derived from 'The Archaeological Inventory of County Cork. Volume 5' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2009).

Date of upload: 22 December 2009

Six-Inch First edition: NULL

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated

Note 2.

There are only six of these identified 'Four Poster' sites in Ireland, four of which are in West Cork. They also occur in the north of England and in Scotland. These megalithic sites date from Ireland's Bronze Age and are thought to be a variation of stone circle sites and complexes. They can be described as four standing stones, set in a rectangular or trapezium form. Of West Cork's four identified sites, three occur within a few kilometres of each other near Kealkill, northeast of Bantry. The fourth is at Lettergorman, several kilometres south of Dunmanway town. They all can be taken within the context of the surrounding landscape and occur in proximity to outlier stones. Two of the four sites are found within proximity to radial stone enclosures.

Walking with Stones – D. Myler 2023. Page 95.

Note 3.

Giant's Graves and the Flagstone of the Silver, Inchigeelagh

There are remarkably no less than seven recorded megalithic tomb sites over an area of approximately 1.5km on the high north facing slopes of Sheehy mountain. These Bronze Age tomb sites are accessed from the high road, which connects Inchigeelagh to the east and Kealkill to the west.

Beginning from the east, the first site is the only one of the seven which no longer has any visible remains of the tomb. The 1st edition of the local Ordnance Survey Mapping of the 1840s recorded a 'Giant's Grave.' A sidenote on the mapping described two parallel 6ft. flags of 2ft. in height, no covering stone. It was most likely a wedge tomb, possibly a cist burial site. It is not noted on the later editions of the map and there is no longer any surface trace.



The second tomb, is also mapped as 'Giant's Grave' (*image left*). It is in the next field to the west of the previous site. Both are in the townland of Carrignamuck - *the rock of the pigs*. This tomb is in a ruinous condition and is located on an overgrown mound, just a short distance south of the small lake at Carrignamuck. The rear of the tomb is built into the remains of a field ditch and some of the side walling of the tomb remains evident today, in addition to a transverse stone

centrally and low within the chamber.



Cornaire wedge tomb

On higher ground above the road is a third wedge tomb, in the townland of Cornaire, south of the previous two sites. The capstones at Cornaire are now displaced but double side walling and front and rear stones are evident and show the extent of the tomb.

The tomb is shown on historic Osi map as 'Gallauns'. Cornaire translates as '*round hill of the shepherd*' and this ground remains very much sheep country in today's landscape, high ground and closely cropped grazing.

'Walking With Stones' D. Myler – published 2023

Note 4.

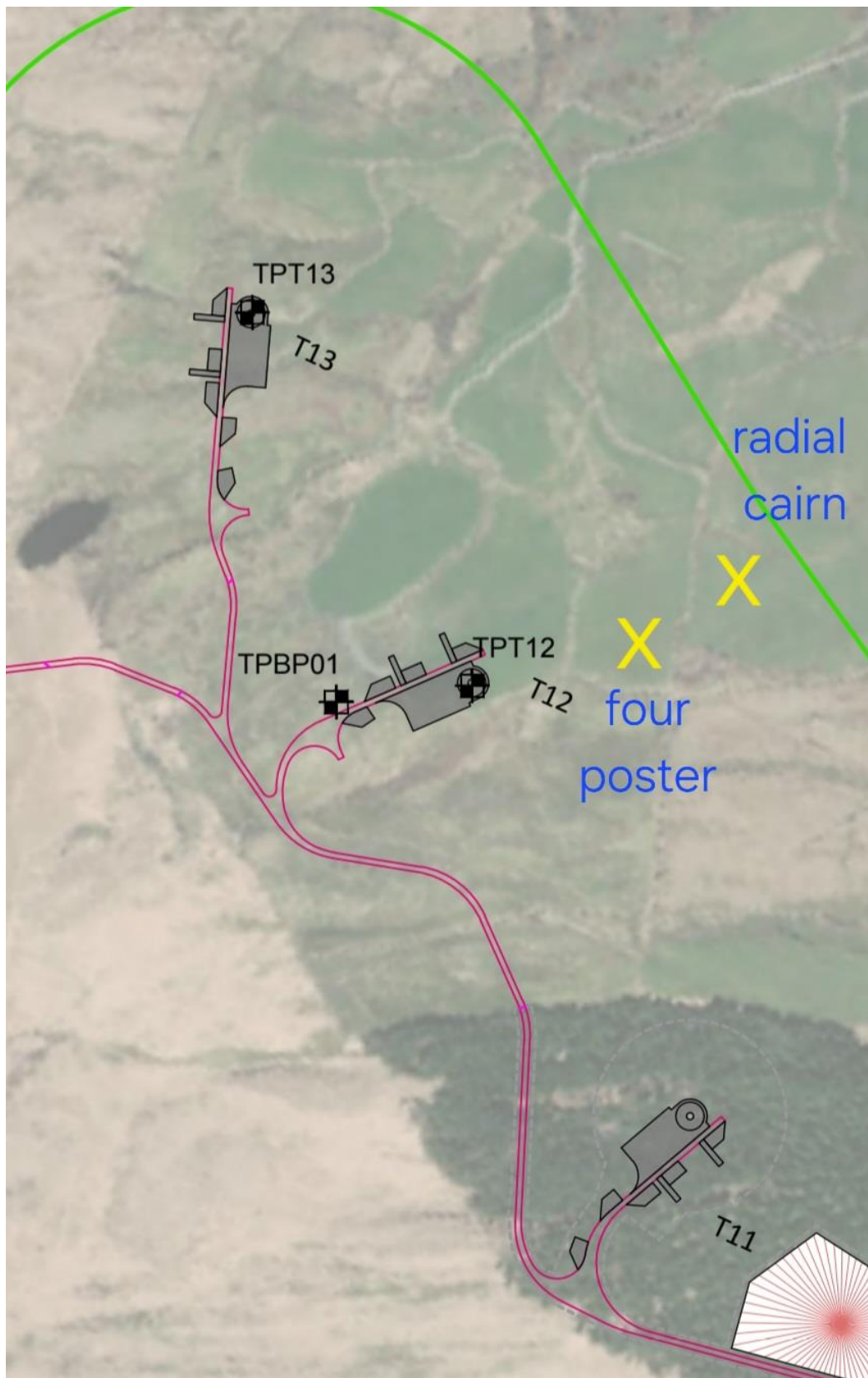
Maughanaclea Four Poster, Kealkill



This four poster at Maughanaclea is only one kilometre north of the previous Gortnacowly four poster site, but on the north facing side of the same Maughanaclea hills. It is shown as a stone circle of the historical OSi map of the area. There is a radial stone enclosure within 100 metres, NE of the four poster. Again, as in both the Lettergorman and Gortnacowly four poster sites, only three stones now remain at this Maughanaclea site. The setting of these stones suggests that it was originally a four poster type arrangement. The largest northeastern stone at Maughanaclea has split and the two parts of the stone stand immediately adjacent to each other. The site commands a commanding view over the Ouvane river valley and Kealkill area below.

‘Walking With Stones’ D. Myler (2023)– page 97.

Note 5.



Sites of Maughanaclea Four Poster and Radial Cairn in relation to proposed Turbine 12. Yellow X marks the actual positions, (not the mis mapped position)

Note 6.



(1 of 1)



CO106-010---- : Four poster : MAUGHANACLEA

Description: On bog-covered N-facing slope near W end of Maughanaclea hills. Setting of three stones suggestive of four-poster arrangement. NE stone, the largest, is split into two pieces and is 1.2m L, 0.8m T and 1.55m H. In line with this and 2.1m to SW is a stone 0.7m L, 0.6m T and 1.2m H. Third stone stands 1.75m SE of first and is 0.55m L, 0.35m T and 0.7m H. **Traces of pre-bog fences in the vicinity;** radial-stone enclosure (CO106-011---) 90m to NE. (O Nualláin 1984b, no.3)

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Cork. Volume 1: West Cork' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1992). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

Date of upload/revision: 14 January 2009

Six-Inch First edition: NULL

Six-Inch Latest edition: Not indicated

ITM Coordinates: 508230 , 555755

Latitude and Longitude: 51.746608 , -9.329013

...

National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey of Ireland

Note 7.

50 COOMLEAGH EAST
CÚM AN tSAGAIRT MASS ROCK
11152, 05424

Not on S.M.R.
O.S. Sheet No. 106
Altitude of 900-1000 ft.

In a south facing valley high above the road below is Cúm an tSagairt Massrock. Mass was celebrated here in penal times. This large rock has a row of six candle holes on the top of it.

According to local tradition, a priest was killed in the vicinity of the rock sometime in the early to mid 18th century at a time when there was a price on a priest's head. A beacon light was lit at the river crossing far below to signal to the priest. It is thought that a party of yeomanry came from Dunmanway to capture the priest. He is said to be buried in an area of about 1 perch, fenced with standing stones, somewhere near the mass rock.

There is a small stone stile behind the rock to the north-west where confessions were heard. On the way up to the mass rock was a small hut where the priest used to sleep.



Coomleigh East - Cúm an tSagairt Massrock

An Archaeological Survey of The Mealagh Valley – D. Myler (1998) Page 75.

Note 8.

39 ARDRAH
SOLDIER'S GRAVE
10820, 05465

Not on S.M.R.
O.S. Sheet No. 106
Altitude of 800-900 ft.

West of the following Ardrah wedge tomb and near to the previous circle of stones there is a small cairn and upright stone, which marks what is locally known as 'The Soldier's Grave'. Little is known about this site, but several cairns and burial sites in the area are associated with soldiers. The following account is from a study made by the Irish Folklore Commission, University College, Dublin and concerns a similar feature several miles NE of Ardrah.

"On the north side of the mountain overlooking Gort Luacra is a mound of stones known as the Soldier's Grave or Benjamin Scott's Grave. An old bridle path runs near the mound marking the grave. People never passed the mound without placing a stone on it. Benjamin Scott is supposed to have been an English Soldier who was killed, or found dead and was buried on the side of the mountain. Tradition has it that papers found in his pocket gave his name as Benjamin Scott from (or for) the West Indies."



Ardrah - Soldier's Grave

An Archaeological Survey of The Meallagh Valley – D. Myler (1998) Page 60.

Note 9.

Ráthanna agus Liosanna

There are 1/2 doz liosanna in the school district. In fact there is a fine lios about 40 yds from the school yard. There are three liosanna in the townland of Maughanaclea, and three in the townland of Glouneycarney. Usually they can be seen from one another and are built in all cases on high ground. They are round in shape - surrounded by a dry dyke. There is quite a large hole in the centre of the Fort near the school.

Seanchas Stairiúil

"There was a battle Fought over 150 years ago in a field in Coosane between the English and the Irish - (possibly during 1798). A man named John Fitzgerald was killed there. He was buried the evening of the battle on the spot where he fell. - "Cnocán an tSaighdiúra"

Seaniarsmaí

There is a large gollán quite close to Coosane Gap. It is about 10 yds north of Public Road. No information about it. There are no marks on it - must be very old.

There is another Gollán in the townland of Maughanaclea. It is right in the centre of a level slíabh; about 1/4 mile due west of school. No mark on it. No information about it

There are two Golláns close together about 1 mile west of the school. No marks on them. No information etc.

There is one on the top of a hill (Coomclough) about 1 mile east of this school. No marks. No information

N.B. All these are approx. 4 feet in height - But No 1 (above) is almost 7 feet in height.

Cloc Chearcail

There is a low circle of stones about 1 foot in height in the townland of Coosane, in a farm owned by Michael Reardon. That spot (Cearcail) is called "Cnocán an tSaighdiúra". It is said that a Soldier is buried there. He got killed in a battle fought near the place in a field called still "Páircín na Fola"

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Carn Cloc

There is a carn cloc quite close to the School. A man named Jack Dillon was returning from Court in Bantry. He had been beaten in a law case with a Neighbour of his (Jerry Moynihan.) A boreen leads up to his house from the public road near school. This boreen is exactly the first boreen west of this school. It is about 1 mile in length. When walking by the horse's head up this boreen Jack Dillon R.I.P.

fell dead. There is now a heap of small stones at the spot. People throw a stone when passing it. The man died there about 9 years ago.

There are possible very old 'Carn de Mion Cloca' in this district - as that custom is rigidly observed yet - but they cannot be traced.

Baile na mBocht

Local tradition also says that in the townland of "Baile na mBocht" quite near to school - that several children died of hunger. That they were buried without coffins in the local Cills. (There are two Cills - one about 1 mile east of the school in the townland of Coosane and the other 1 mile west of the school in the townland of Maughanaclea. It seems pretty certain from local tradition that all the children that died in Coosane were buried in the Cill in that townland whilst the dead children of Maughanaclea were buried in the Cill at Maughanaclea. There is no Cill however in "Baile na mBocht"

It is also quite clear from local tradition and also from names of field and ruins that the population of this district prior to the Famine was considerably greater than it since was.

Bóithre an Cheantair

A VERY OLD road runs through the district (now disused) and connected Bantry with Cork - it ran just as the 'crow flies' between Cork and Bantry. The remains of the Road are quite visible yet and are time and again pointed out by old people - This road was used by the 'Carmen' i.e. men who took firkins of butter to Cork in olden times - it took a whole complete day to perform the journey - about 60 miles. This journey was 'done' in the common cart & horse. Nobody seems to know when the old road was made.

The extracts above are taken from – Macha na gClaidhe (Maughanaclea National School), Kealkill – Role no. 16086, Dúchas, The Schools' Collection , National Folklore Collection (1930s)

