

18th May 2026

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Planning Application Reference: **PAX04.324165**

Applicant: **Maughanaclea Ltd / Enerco**

Development: **Maughanaclea Wind Farm (14 turbines and associated infrastructure)**

Location: **Ardrah, Maughanaclea, Ballynamought, Gortloughra, Cousane, Coomclogh, Derragh, Glanycarney, Keenrath, Derrynacaheragh, Shiplough, Coolsnaghtig and other townlands Co. Cork**

Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Esther O’Hehir and I wish to object to the proposed wind farm development at Maughanaclea.

Although I now live in Ballylickey, I was born and reared in Maughanaclea in 1938 and I still have a very strong connection to the area and to the people living there. I emigrated to America for many years before returning home to Ireland, but Maughanaclea has always remained part of who I am. My family roots are there and I know the hills, roads and landscape from childhood.

I am now a great-great grandmother and it honestly saddens me to think of what is being proposed for this beautiful part of West Cork.

The scale of these turbines is hard to comprehend. At 169 metres high they would dominate the landscape for miles around. I have seen wind turbines in County Clare located close to homes and I found them awful to look at and oppressive in the landscape. They completely changed the feeling of the area around them. I never imagined I would see something similar proposed for the hills around Maughanaclea.

I do not believe this development belongs in this landscape.

The area around Maughanaclea and Kealkill is one of the most scenic and peaceful parts of West Cork. The open hills, bogland, streams and quiet rural roads are part of what makes it special. It still has a sense of calm and natural beauty that is becoming harder and harder to find nowadays.

Even from Ballylickey there is concern about the visual impact these turbines would have on the surrounding landscape and hills. I understand photomontages have been prepared showing how visible the turbines could become from surrounding areas. Once these structures are built there is no hiding them. They would become a permanent feature of the skyline for generations.

I have attached a photograph as Appendix 1 showing a visual representation of how the proposed turbines could appear from the Ballylickey area along the Wild Atlantic Way corridor, approximately 8km from the proposed development. In my opinion, this demonstrates the very large scale and visibility of the turbines within the wider West Cork landscape and the effect they could have on the scenic character of the area.

I am also deeply concerned for the people living near the proposed turbines. Many families have lived there for generations and chose to remain because of the peace, quiet and rural character of the area. I cannot imagine the stress of facing 14 enormous turbines surrounding your home and landscape for the rest of your life.

While reports may say impacts can be controlled, I do not believe paperwork and computer models can properly reflect the lived reality for people who must wake up and live beside these structures every day and night for decades.

I am particularly worried about:

- the industrialisation of an unspoilt rural landscape;
- the effect on nearby homes and families;
- noise and shadow flicker;
- the loss of dark skies because of aviation lighting;
- impacts on wildlife and birds;
- and the growing spread of large wind farms across West Cork.

I am also concerned about the effect construction would have on the hills, peatland and local watercourses. This is a sensitive landscape and once damaged it cannot easily be restored.

West Cork is famous for its scenery, peace and natural beauty. People come here from all over the world because it still feels different from heavily developed areas elsewhere. I believe developments like this risk slowly destroying the very thing that makes this part of Ireland special.

I do not believe every landscape is suitable for a development of this scale. In my opinion this proposal is far too large and far too visually intrusive for this sensitive area.

For all of these reasons, I ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Maughanaclea wind farm development.

Yours faithfully

Esther O'Hehir
Tig na Mara
Ballylickey
Co. Cork

Appendix 1 – Ballylickey View

This image shows how dominant turbines of this scale could appear in the landscape even from the Ballylickey area, about 8 kilometres away from the proposed site. In my opinion, it demonstrates the wider visual impact these turbines could have on the scenic West Cork landscape and Wild Atlantic Way approach.

