

Sender of Observation: Maria Lynch

Maughanaclea

Kealkill

Bantry,

Co. Cork

Date: 03/05/2026

To: The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Subject Matter: Objection to Proposed Wind Turbine Development in Maughanaclea Area

File: 324165

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to formally object, in the strongest possible terms, to the proposed erection of wind turbines in the Maughanaclea area, where I live.

The following reasons, considerations and arguments on which this submission/observation are based are outlined below:

1. Proximity to My Home

My house may be located as close as 500 metres from the nearest turbine T07. That is shocking.

2. Risk to Water Supply

I rely on a deep well located on the substation side of my house. The well currently provides perfectly pure water. Excavation for the substation and road works bordering my land could negatively affect water quality which is deeply concerning to me.

3. Noise Impact

I am very concerned about the constant noise that will come from the turbines. This is even more of a concern to me because of the proximity of my house and farm to the nearest turbine T07. I understand that, because noise can travel and amplify in hilly terrain such as the area where my house is located, noise from the turbines is likely to be louder. This is particularly concerning at night, when it may disturb my household's sleep.

4. Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker from the wind turbines will cause frequent, intrusive changes in light inside my home, leading to discomfort, distraction, and a negative impact on me. The ongoing flickering will be so hard to tolerate and so annoying, and I can't keep curtains closed all day.

5. Light Pollution

As turbines are required to have flashing red, medium-intensity aviation lights, these would be visible at night and would disrupt both our sleep and our enjoyment of the natural night sky. As I look out my bedroom window on a fine night, there is no light pollution, and I can see a fabulous moon and a myriad of stars. You can't put a price on that.

6. Impact on My Land

There are plans to construct a 594 sq. metre substation at the top of my land. My house is situated the very nearest to the proposed substation. This represents a significant disruption to my property. The excavation works and associated road construction will interfere with natural drainage in my land.

7. Impact on Wildlife and Natural Habitat

There is a wildlife reserve near the proposed substation supporting protected species including bats, squirrels, birds, insects, bees, butterflies and other mammals. The reserve covers approximately 3.5 acres, is enclosed by a 6-foot deer fence, surrounded by native

trees, and includes a natural watercourse. This habitat has taken many decades to establish, is extremely valuable, and is too precious to be disturbed.

8. Agricultural and Safety Concerns

Adequate fencing and protection will be required to ensure livestock safety.

9. Impact on Scenic Landscape

In the planning application, section 5.3.2.3 *“Proposed Project Tourism Impact Assessment (p5-28)”* states in its final paragraph *“Finally, it is not considered that the Proposed Project will have a limited impact on 1. no. scenic route identified in the area: the S29–R585 Kealkill and Cousane Gap. Due to the modest length of the route, low level of tourism in the area and the lack of evidence that wind farms are perceived as negatives by tourists, the impact on the tourism value of the route is considered not to be significant. The TIA concludes that the Proposed Project as described will not have any significant negative impact on tourism in the area nor on the value of tourism.”*

My response to the above: I strongly contest TIA’s conclusion above.

Where is the evidence underpinning the TIA’s *“lack of evidence that wind farms are perceived as negatives by tourists”*. What research did TIA do?

The Maughanaclee area is one of high scenic and natural beauty with unspoiled surroundings and photographer’s paradise. The installation of turbines would significantly damage the visual character of the area and negatively impact tourism.

The well-known singer Seán Ó Sé often remarked that the view when coming over the Cousane Gap is the finest in Ireland. What a horror it would be for the local residents having their landscape permanently negatively impacted by this extensive development and for tourists, having travelled up the Cousane Gap, to be confronted with turbines dominating these beautiful hills. This proposal would fundamentally change the character of a uniquely beautiful area. NO WAY. NO WAY.

In conclusion and having regard to the matters outlined above, it is clear that the proposed development would result in significant adverse impacts on residential

amenity, water quality, ecological integrity, landscape character, and the overall quality of life of those living in the vicinity.

In particular, the proximity of the turbines to my dwelling, the risks posed to a private water supply, the likely disturbance to a long-established wildlife habitat, and the cumulative impacts of noise, light pollution and shadow flicker give rise to serious and well-founded concerns.

It is my submission that the proposed development fails to adequately protect the environmental sensitivities and existing residential amenities of the area and does not represent an appropriate or sustainable form of development at this location.

In these circumstances, I respectfully request that the Planning Authority refuse permission for the proposed development in the interests of proper planning, sufficient research and sustainable development.

Yours faithfully,

Maria Lynch

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