

22 May 2026

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P75 PC93

An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1, D01 V902  
A chara,

Re: **ACP-324165-26**

**Maughanaclea Wind Farm / Enerco's Application  
to Construct 14 Industrial Wind Turbines on Maughanaclea  
a 110kV substation and 110kV underground cabling connection & associated works**

I am writing to object to the proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm - 324165.

I am not opposed to renewable energy. I understand the need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and transition towards a lower-carbon future. We've taken many steps to reducing our own household impact, including installing solar panels.

However, supporting renewable energy does not mean supporting every renewable energy project in every location.

In my view, Maughanaclea is the wrong location for a development of this scale.

My concerns relate to biodiversity, landscape, archaeology, dark skies, tourism, cumulative impact, and the wider direction of development in West Cork. Above all, I am concerned that we are being asked to accept permanent impacts on an exceptional landscape without sufficient evidence that those impacts have been honestly assessed or adequately justified.

One lesson history repeatedly teaches us is that developments often promoted as progress can later be recognised as mistakes.

Large-scale Sitka spruce plantations were once celebrated as a modern solution. Decades later we better understand the ecological and landscape damage they caused in many parts of Ireland.

The lesson is not that forestry is wrong. It is that the long-term consequences of large-scale interventions in complex natural systems are often poorly understood at the time they are implemented.

I fear we risk making a similar mistake again. Wind energy has an important role in Ireland's future, but industrial-scale wind farms do not belong in every landscape. Maughanaclea is a place of peatland habitats, archaeological significance, wildlife, dark skies, and natural beauty. Once such places are transformed, they cannot easily be restored.

The proposed development on Maughanaclea is not an inevitability. It is a choice. And unlike the mistakes of the past, this is one we still have the opportunity to prevent.

### **ECOLOGY + WILDLIFE**

I have visited the nature reserve on Maughanaclea many times over the years. Anyone who spends time there quickly realises that this is not an empty hillside. It is a living landscape supporting a wide range of wildlife and habitats.

The Coillte nature reserve ON Maughanaclea was established following legal action taken by local conservationist Sioned Jones and today provides an important refuge for wildlife within the area. The photo here shows a pine martin passing through the nature reserve.

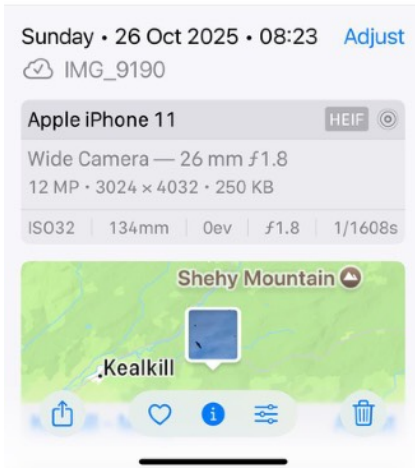


The landscape surrounding Maughanaclea supports a wide range of species including bats, pine marten, Irish hare, birds of prey and many other species associated with upland habitats and woodland edges. Local residents have also documented White-tailed Sea Eagles within the wider area surrounding the proposed development through geo-tagged photographs and observations.

The presence of White-tailed Sea Eagles is of particular concern. This is one of Ireland's most significant conservation success stories and an Annex I species protected under the Birds Directive. Given the scale of the proposed turbines and the wide-ranging movements of these birds, I am not satisfied that the available information is sufficient to properly assess collision risk or cumulative impacts.



Add a Caption



I respectfully urge the Commission to obtain and review any relevant White-tailed Sea Eagle monitoring and GPS tracking data held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service before making a determination on this application. Local residents have already obtained geo-tagged photographs of White-tailed Sea Eagles in the vicinity of Maughanaclea. Given the conservation importance of this species and the photographic evidence already available, I believe it would be prudent to ensure that all relevant ecological information is considered before a decision is reached.

The precautionary principle exists for precisely these situations. Where uncertainty remains regarding potential impacts on protected species, the absence of publicly available information should not be interpreted as evidence that impacts will not occur.

Wildlife does not recognise planning boundaries. Eagles do not confine themselves to individual wind farm sites, nor do bats, pine marten or many other species. The cumulative effect of

multiple wind developments across West Cork must therefore be considered collectively rather than on a project-by-project basis.

The developer's own EIAR acknowledges a permanent significant residual effect on upland blanket bog habitat.<sup>1</sup> Peatlands are among Ireland's most important carbon stores and support unique ecological communities. I do not believe the long-term environmental consequences of these losses have been adequately justified.

## **NOISE, WATER, & RESIDENTIAL AMENITY**

I also have reservations regarding the adequacy of the assessment of impacts on residential amenity, particularly in relation to noise and groundwater.

The Mealah Valley is a quiet rural environment characterised by very low background noise levels, particularly at night. Sound frequently travels considerable distances across the valley and can often be heard from locations that would appear surprisingly remote on a map. Local residents are well aware of these acoustic characteristics through everyday experience.

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<sup>1</sup> EIAR Chapter 6, Table 6-24

For this reason, I am concerned that the assessment may not adequately reflect how turbine noise would actually be experienced within the valley. The development is located within a complex glacially-carved landscape of ridges, slopes and enclosed valleys rather than flat terrain. Research has shown that topography can influence the propagation of wind turbine noise and that sound behaviour in valleys and hilly terrain can differ significantly from standard assumptions.<sup>2</sup>

I am also concerned that only a single Noise Monitoring Location (NML4) was placed within the Mealagh Valley despite the size of the valley and the variation in local topography. I am not satisfied that a single monitoring position can adequately represent background noise conditions throughout the valley as a whole.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, the assessment relies heavily on averaged noise data. Averaging can mask short-duration peaks and periods of exceptionally low background noise, both of which are particularly relevant in quiet rural environments. A change that appears modest when averaged over time may nevertheless be clearly perceptible and intrusive to nearby residents.<sup>4</sup>

I am also concerned about potential impacts on groundwater and private water supplies. Like many rural households, we depend upon a private well for our drinking water. Clean and reliable water is not simply a convenience; it is essential to everyday life.

The hydrological assessment acknowledges that information regarding private wells within the area is incomplete. Despite recommendations from statutory consultees, no comprehensive survey of private wells appears to have been undertaken.<sup>5</sup>

The proposed development involves substantial excavation, road construction, turbine foundations, drainage works and peatland disturbance within a sensitive upland catchment. The area is characterised by peaty soils, high rainfall and numerous watercourses. Local experience has already demonstrated the vulnerability of water quality in this wider landscape during periods of heavy rainfall and elevated turbidity.

While mitigation measures are proposed, I am not satisfied that the assessment has demonstrated with sufficient certainty that groundwater flows, private wells and downstream water quality will remain unaffected throughout construction and operation. Once contamination or disruption of a

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<sup>2</sup> Van Renterghem, D., “Effects of Sound Propagation in Complex Terrain on the Noise Impact of Wind Turbines”, Renewable Energy, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> EIAR Chapter 12 Noise and Vibration; NML4 Monitoring Location Assessment

<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region, 2018

<sup>5</sup> EIAR Chapter 9 Hydrology and Hydrogeology; HSE consultation response

private water supply occurs, the consequences for affected households can be significant and difficult to remedy.

I am particularly concerned that baseline testing of private wells has not been undertaken. Without comprehensive baseline information, it may be difficult to identify, measure or resolve impacts should problems arise in the future. The developer should, at a minimum, take a sample of every well downstream from the proposed development as well as the Kealkill town water supply.

Finally, as with landscape, ecology and tourism, cumulative effects must be considered. Residents experience the combined effects of development rather than individual impacts in isolation. Noise, traffic, groundwater disturbance, visual change and construction activity together influence residential amenity and quality of life.

For these reasons I am not satisfied that the likely impacts on residential amenity, noise and groundwater have been adequately assessed and I respectfully request that the Commission apply the precautionary principle when considering these aspects of the application.

### **LANDSCAPE + DARK SKIES**

One of the reasons we chose to make our home in West Cork was because places like Maughanaclea still exist.



This landscape is increasingly rare. It is a place where you can stand on a mountain ridge and see little evidence of modern development. A place where silence still exists. A place where wildlife

thrives, archaeological monuments remain embedded within the landscape that gave them meaning, and where darkness still falls at night.

The mountains surrounding the Mealagh Valley are not empty spaces waiting to be developed. They are one of the defining features of this area, part of the identity of West Cork itself. The hills are valued by local residents, walkers, photographers, cyclists, pilgrims following St. Finbarr's Way, visitors exploring the Sheep's Head peninsula, and countless people seeking the increasingly rare experience of a landscape that still feels wild.

The hills surrounding the Mealagh Valley feel large because they dominate the horizon. They give the valley its sense of place and provide a constant reminder of the wild landscape that surrounds us.

Maughanaclea rises approximately 320 metres above the valley floor in the upper Mealagh. Each proposed turbine would stand approximately 169 metres tall — taller than the Great Pyramid of Giza - and more than half the height of the mountain itself above the valley floor.

The result is that the eye would no longer be drawn primarily to the mountain. Instead it would be drawn to a line of moving industrial structures projecting high above the ridgeline. The mountain would become the pedestal upon which the turbines stand.

That is not a minor visual change. It is a fundamental alteration of the character and scale of the landscape.

Their scale alone would fundamentally alter the character of these mountains. What is currently experienced as a natural ridgeline would become dominated by industrial infrastructure visible across a vast area of West Cork.<sup>6</sup>

What concerns me most is not simply the visibility of a single development but the precedent it sets. Once one ridgeline is industrialised, it becomes easier to justify the next step, and then the next. Gradually, the character of an entire region can be transformed without any single project appearing responsible for the overall change.

The Cork County Development Plan requires cumulative impacts to be considered precisely because landscapes are experienced as a whole rather than as a series of separate planning applications.<sup>7</sup>

Dark skies form an important part of that landscape.

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<sup>6</sup> EIAR Chapter 3 – Project Description, Turbine Dimensions

<sup>7</sup> Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028, Section 13.6.3 Cumulative Impacts

Some of my favourite memories as a father involve sitting outside with my daughter on clear nights watching the stars overhead. My wife is a photographer & filmmaker whose work frequently focuses on astrophotography and night-sky time-lapse photography. These experiences are only possible because the Mealagh Valley remains one of the darkest places in Ireland.

In written correspondence dated 25 June 2025, Brian Espey, Chairperson of Dark Sky Ireland, described the Mealagh Valley as having a "near-pristine environment, close to the conditions in Kerry Dark Sky Reserve and Mayo Dark Sky Park – Ireland's internationally accredited dark sky areas."<sup>8</sup>

The valley is currently pursuing Dark Sky Community status and, if successful, would become the first Dark Sky Community in Ireland. The proposed development would effectively make that ambition impossible through the introduction of 28 aviation warning lights distributed across the ridgeline.



Research has demonstrated that turbine aviation lights can appear brighter than Venus, the brightest planet visible in the night sky, at distances of up to approximately 4 kilometres and brighter than Sirius, the brightest star visible from Earth, at distances of up to approximately 10 kilometres. The authors concluded that the night-time visual range of wind farms may be considerably greater than their daytime visibility and should be properly considered within environmental impact assessments.<sup>9</sup>

The loss of dark skies is not simply an aesthetic concern. Artificial lighting affects wildlife behaviour, particularly birds, bats and nocturnal species. It diminishes opportunities for astronomy, photography, tourism and recreation. Most importantly, it removes something that cannot easily be recreated elsewhere: genuine darkness.

Once dark skies are lost, they are rarely regained.

For these reasons I believe the landscape and dark-sky impacts of this proposal have been significantly underestimated and that the cumulative consequences for the character of the Maughanaclea Hills have not been adequately assessed.

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<sup>8</sup> Brian Espey, Chairperson, Dark Sky Ireland, Written Correspondence to our neighbours in the Mealagh Valley, 25 June 2025

<sup>9</sup> Barra & Lima, Quantifying the visual impact of wind farm lights on the nocturnal landscape 2024. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022407324003108>

## ARCHAEOLOGY, HERITAGE & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

My concerns extend beyond ecology and landscape to the cultural heritage of Maughanaclea and the wider Mealagh Valley.

One of the things I value most about this part of West Cork is the sense that it has not only been shaped by nature, but also by generations of people who lived, farmed, travelled and left their mark upon the landscape. The mountains are not simply scenery. They are part of a cultural landscape that connects present-day communities to thousands of years of human history.

The developer's own Environmental Impact Assessment confirms that this is an area of exceptional archaeological significance. The Cultural Heritage assessment identifies eleven recorded archaeological sites within the wind farm site itself and a further 210 archaeological sites within five kilometres of the proposed turbines. Six National Monuments are located within ten kilometres of the development.<sup>10</sup>

The archaeological importance of the wider Mealagh Valley has long been recognised. David Myler's *Archaeological Survey of the Mealagh Valley* documented approximately ninety archaeological sites throughout the valley, many of which were first formally recorded through that survey.<sup>11</sup> The survey also acknowledged the potential for additional archaeological features to remain undiscovered beneath forestry, peatland and upland vegetation.

The cultural significance of Maughanaclea is also reflected in the Dúchas Schools Collection, which records Butter Roads, burial grounds, ringforts, standing stones and places associated with local memory and folklore throughout Maughanaclea and the surrounding townlands.<sup>12</sup> These records remind us that this landscape has been lived in, travelled through and valued for generations. It is not an empty upland awaiting development, but a place where archaeology, folklore and landscape are inseparable.

I am particularly concerned about the impact of the proposed turbines on the setting of archaeological monuments. Heritage is not simply about avoiding direct physical damage to a monument. The landscape surrounding a monument is often part of its significance. The

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<sup>10</sup> EIAR Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage, Archaeological Study Area and Baseline Assessment Sections, March 2026

<sup>11</sup> David Myler, *An Archaeological Survey of the Mealagh Valley*, Mealagh Valley Community Development Association, 1998

<sup>12</sup> Dúchas Schools Collection, Maughanaclea National School Records, Titles 37, 41, 44, 46 and 79, <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4811628/4803841>

relationship between standing stones, ancient routeways, hilltops, valleys and distant views can be as important as the monument itself.<sup>13</sup>

For this reason I was struck by an apparent inconsistency within the developer's own Cultural Heritage assessment. On one hand, the EIAR acknowledges that residual effects on the setting of archaeological and cultural heritage sites will remain because impacts on setting cannot be mitigated.<sup>14</sup> Yet elsewhere the same chapter concludes that there will be no significant negative operational effects on archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resources.<sup>15</sup>

As a lay person, I find those two conclusions difficult to reconcile. If impacts on the setting of archaeological sites remain and cannot be mitigated<sup>16</sup>, it is not clear how those same impacts can simultaneously be considered insignificant.

The Kealkill Stone Circle complex provides a particularly important example. The monument is protected by Preservation Order PO 69/1938 and is recognised as one of the most important archaeological landscapes in West Cork. The developer's own assessment acknowledges that visual impacts on its setting cannot be mitigated.<sup>17</sup>

Archaeological landscapes are an irreplaceable resource. Once their setting is fundamentally altered, that loss cannot be reversed. Future generations can choose where to build renewable energy infrastructure. They cannot recreate a prehistoric cultural landscape once it has been industrialised.<sup>18</sup>

For these reasons I do not believe the archaeological and cultural heritage impacts of the proposed development have been adequately assessed or justified.

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<sup>13</sup> The Heritage Council, Guidance on Setting and Cultural Heritage; ICOMOS, Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, 2011

<sup>14</sup> EIAR Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage, Section 14.7 Conclusion, p.14-69

<sup>15</sup> EIAR Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage, Section 14.7 Conclusion, p.14-69

<sup>16</sup> EIAR Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage, Section 14.4.5 Residual Effects, p.14-67

<sup>17</sup> National Monuments Service Preservation Order PO 69/1938; EIAR Chapter 14 Cultural Heritage, Assessment of Effects on Heritage Settings

<sup>18</sup> Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention), 2005, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/faro-convention>

## **TOURISM, RECREATION, & SENSE OF PLACE**

The qualities that make Maughanaclea valuable are not only ecological or archaeological. They are also economic and social.

People do not travel to West Cork to experience industrial infrastructure. They come for the landscapes, the quiet roads, the walking trails, the dark skies, the heritage, the wildlife and the feeling of remoteness that still survives in places like the Mealagh Valley.

The proposed development sits within the wider Wild Atlantic Way region, one of Ireland's flagship tourism initiatives, and within an area covered by Fáilte Ireland's West Cork Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan. These strategies recognise that West Cork's natural landscapes, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation opportunities are among its greatest assets.<sup>19</sup>

As someone who spends time in these hills, I know first-hand that their value is not limited to designated viewpoints or mapped tourist attractions. People walk the roads, climb the ridges, follow St. Finbarr's Way, explore the Sheep's Head peninsula and simply spend time in these landscapes because they offer something increasingly rare: peace, beauty and a genuine connection with nature.

Those qualities are not only valued by visitors; they have become the foundation of local businesses. One example is Wild Hideaways, Ireland's first Dark Sky tourism venue, which has built its reputation around the exceptional darkness, tranquillity and natural beauty of the Mealagh Valley. Visitors travel from Ireland and abroad specifically to experience the stars, the silence and the sense of escape that this landscape provides.

My wife regularly works with Wild Hideaways as a photographer and filmmaker. Through that work I have seen first-hand why people choose to visit this area. They are not coming to look at industrial infrastructure. They come because places like the Mealagh Valley still offer something increasingly difficult to find elsewhere: genuine darkness, quiet surroundings, wildlife, natural beauty and a feeling of remoteness from the pressures of modern life.

I am particularly concerned that tourism businesses whose success depends upon peace, quiet and natural surroundings have not been adequately considered within the assessment process. The developer's own noise assessment notes that noise limits should apply to areas frequently used for relaxation or activities for which a quiet environment is highly desirable. Yet businesses and

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<sup>19</sup> Fáilte Ireland, Wild Atlantic Way Strategy; West Cork Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan <https://www.failteireland.ie/Development-menu-item/regional-development-strategies/WAW-Regional-Development-Strategy.aspx>

locations whose value depends upon tranquillity appear to have received little specific consideration within the assessment.<sup>20</sup>

The developer's Tourism Impact Assessment appears to place significant weight on broad regional tourism statistics while paying insufficient attention to the specific qualities that attract visitors to this particular part of West Cork. It is difficult to reconcile the conclusion that tourism impacts will be insignificant with the fact that the assessment itself identifies numerous tourism assets in the immediate area, including the Sheep's Head Way, St. Finbarr's Way, scenic routes, archaeological monuments and local tourism businesses.<sup>21</sup>

I am also concerned that the assessment focuses primarily on whether tourists will continue visiting West Cork in general, rather than whether individual landscapes and tourism businesses may be adversely affected. A visitor choosing between destinations may still come to Ireland, or even to West Cork, while choosing to avoid a landscape that has become industrialised. Those local impacts can be significant even where broader tourism statistics remain unchanged.

The cumulative effect of multiple wind developments across the region is especially important in this regard. Visitors experience West Cork as a connected landscape rather than as a series of individual planning applications. A single development may be presented as having a limited impact in isolation, but the gradual industrialisation of mountain ridgelines across the region risks eroding the very qualities that make West Cork distinctive in the first place.<sup>22</sup>

Perhaps most importantly, landscapes like the Mealagh Valley & Maughanaclea possess value beyond what can easily be measured in visitor numbers or economic reports. They contribute to people's sense of place, identity and belonging. They provide opportunities for recreation, reflection and connection with the natural world. Those benefits are real, even if they cannot always be expressed in financial terms.

For these reasons, I do not believe the tourism, recreational and cultural value of this landscape has been adequately reflected within the assessment of the proposed development.

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<sup>20</sup> EIAR Chapter 12 Noise & Vibration, Section 12.3.2.4.6, Wind Energy Guidelines for Planning Authorities; Appendix 12-1 Glossary definition of Noise Sensitive Location

<sup>21</sup> EIAR Chapter 5 Population and Human Health / Tourism Impact Assessment, Section 5.3.2

<sup>22</sup> Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028, Section 13.6.3 – Cumulative Impacts

## RENEWABLE ENERGY, CURTAILMENT AND THE DIRECTION OF DEVELOPMENT IN WEST CORK

I wish to reiterate that my objection is not an objection to renewable energy.

Ireland must continue to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and increase the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources. The consequences of climate change are real and require meaningful action. I strongly support that transition.

What I question is whether projects such as Maughanaclea represent the most responsible way of achieving it.

Like many households in West Cork, we have invested in renewable energy ourselves. Our home is equipped with solar panels and for much of the year we generate more electricity than we consume, exporting surplus power back to the grid. The experience has only strengthened my belief that renewable energy can and should play a central role in Ireland's future.

However, renewable energy policy must also be environmentally responsible, socially sustainable and strategically planned. It cannot simply become a justification for industrialising increasingly sensitive landscapes & fragile ecosystems without properly examining alternatives or wider consequences.

One issue that concerns me is the growing disconnect between the stated environmental rationale for developments such as this and the realities of Ireland's energy system. Ireland already experiences significant levels of wind-energy curtailment, where renewable electricity is available but cannot be used because of limitations elsewhere in the system. In 2025, the wind dispatch-down rate in the Republic of Ireland was 11.3%, meaning more than one in ten megawatt-hours of available wind energy was not used.<sup>23</sup> At the same time, national electricity demand continues to rise rapidly due to the expansion of large-scale data centres.

The result is that rural communities are increasingly being asked to accommodate industrial-scale energy infrastructure while many of the underlying structural challenges within the electricity system remain unresolved.

I am also concerned by the lack



<sup>23</sup> What Is Curtailment? Ireland's Bigg  
<https://climatejargonbuster.ie/kb/cur>

of meaningful community ownership within the proposed development. The Cork County Development Plan recognises the importance of community participation and ownership in renewable energy projects. Yet developments such as Maughanaclea remain overwhelmingly structured around private commercial ownership, with local communities largely expected to absorb the environmental and visual impacts while having little influence over decision-making and little long-term stake in the project itself.<sup>24</sup>

There is a significant difference between communities helping to shape and benefit from the energy transition and communities being expected to accept the industrialisation of their local landscape in the name of national policy.

County Cork & County Kerry are highly saturated - hosting the highest concentrations of onshore wind generation in Ireland.

The cumulative contribution made by communities across the south-west should not be ignored when considering proposals for further large-scale developments. A genuinely strategic approach to renewable energy would consider not only where wind resources exist, but also where landscapes, biodiversity, cultural heritage and community interests can best accommodate development.

The question before the Commission is therefore not whether renewable energy is needed. It is whether this particular development, in this particular location, represents an appropriate balance between climate objectives and the protection of the environmental, cultural and social assets that make places like Maughanaclea unique.

In my view, that balance has not been achieved.

## **COMMUNITY & FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Perhaps what concerns me most about this proposal is not any single impact considered in isolation, but what it represents collectively.

The Mealagh Valley is not simply a collection of habitats, archaeological monuments, scenic viewpoints or tourism assets. It is a living community and a place that people care deeply about. It is somewhere families raise children, where neighbours know one another, where people walk the same roads their parents and grandparents walked before them, and where a strong connection still exists between people and the landscape around them.

Over the course of this application I have watched the proposal create anxiety, disagreement and division within a community that has always valued cooperation and neighbourliness. That alone

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<sup>24</sup> Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028, Section 13.7.4: Community Ownership of Wind Energy Projects

should give pause. Developments described as sustainable should strengthen communities, not fracture them.

What is often missing from planning documents is an acknowledgement that places possess value beyond what can be measured in megawatts, economic output or technical assessments. The experience of standing on a mountain ridge, watching a White-tailed Sea Eagle soar overhead, walking an ancient route through the landscape, hearing curlews call across open ground, or sitting beneath a truly dark sky with your child looking up at the stars are all part of the richness of life in rural Ireland.

Those experiences matter.

They shape our sense of place, our wellbeing and our connection to the natural world. They are also increasingly rare.

One of my favourite memories as a father is sitting outside on clear nights with my daughter, watching the stars emerge above the hills here in the Mealagh Valley. In those moments it is possible to appreciate just how special this landscape is. The darkness, the silence, the bats overhead, and the scale of the surrounding mountains create something that cannot easily be replaced once lost.

I often think about the decisions previous generations made regarding the Irish landscape. Many were made with good intentions. Large-scale Sitka spruce plantations were promoted as progress and as a solution to pressing national needs. Decades later we better understand the ecological, hydrological and landscape consequences of those decisions and continue to deal with their legacy.

I believe future generations may look back on the industrialisation of these sensitive upland landscapes in a similar way. Not because renewable energy was the wrong objective, but because insufficient care was taken in deciding where and how that objective should be pursued.

Maughanaclea is not an empty mountain. It is a place of wildlife, peatland, archaeology, dark skies, memory and community. It contributes to the character of West Cork in ways that cannot easily be quantified but are nonetheless real and important.

Renewable energy infrastructure can be built in many places. Ancient landscapes cannot be recreated once altered. Dark skies cannot easily be restored once lost. Archaeological settings cannot be reconstructed once transformed. Ecological networks cannot simply be reassembled after fragmentation.

For all of the reasons outlined above, I respectfully submit that the proposed development would result in unacceptable impacts on biodiversity, landscape character, cultural heritage, dark skies,

tourism and community amenity, and that those impacts have not been adequately justified or assessed within the application before the Commission.

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm development.

Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur mbreithniú.

Yours sincerely,

Markus Husmann