

**Mary Minihane and  
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**Glencreagh,**

**Bantry,  
Co. Cork,  
P75 D934.**

**24<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**4490282**

**Mary Minihane: 089-**

**SID Planning  
An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902**

**Planning Application Reference Number: ACP-324165-26**

**Applicant: Maughanaclea Ltd aka Enerco**

**Description of Development: Construction of 14 Industrial  
Wind Turbines Maughanaclea**

**Location: Maughanaclea, County Cork**

**To the planning secretary,**

**I refer to the above planning application and wish to make the  
following objection in relation to the proposed development.**

**I wish to object to the proposed development based on a  
number of reasons that speak to the lack of suitability of the  
area.**

**Views and Housing Prices: The current views would be  
irreparably damaged by the introduction of wind turbines as  
seen in other areas where they have been introduced. The  
introduction of wind turbines in this area will have a serious  
effect on housing prices. As a homeowner in the area this will  
greatly reduce the value of our house as the wind turbines can  
be clearly seen from our property. This will have a big impact**

on our finances as the value of our house will be extremely reduced by the introduction of industrial sized wind turbines. It has affected people trying to sell their homes in the past.

**Destruction of wildlife –** There are many animals, insects and birds found in this area. The introduction of massive wind turbines will disturb and destroy the habitats of these creatures. Birds and bats can also be hit by the massive blades leading to more destruction and death.

**Destruction of nature – mountain ridges –** This area has beautiful mountain ridges which will be destroyed by the introduction of these turbines.

**Affects to health –** There have been many links to wind turbines, particularly an industrial sized windfarm being linked to adverse health effects to people. See link attached: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3653647/>. This study shows the increased impact the sound made can have on people's sleep. This leads to stress and anxiety which negatively impacts mental health. The fact we would be surrounded by two industrial sized wind-farms would have an adverse effect on mental health. I suffer from high blood pressure and the stress of being surrounded by industrial sized wind farms may have a serious effect on my health going forward which is a major concern of mine.

### **Residential Amenity in the Mealagh Valley**

#### **No proper assessment of combined impacts**

Many homes in the Mealagh Valley would be located between two wind farms—Maughanaclea on one ridge and the approved Dereenacrinnig turbines on the opposite ridge. This affects homes along the L-4718 and L-4717 roads.

The EIAR does not properly assess the combined impact of both wind farms on noise or quality of life.

**Noise pollution -** This area is a peaceful, rural area. The addition of these industrial sized wind turbines would cause great disturbance to us as we are living near them. As noted above the lack of sleep due to noise would be a big issue and noise would also impact the enjoyment of the area.

Noise from turbines on higher ground can travel further, especially at night and in quiet rural areas.

With turbines on both sides, noise could come from different directions or at the same time.

**This could reduce peace and quiet and leave us with no quiet side.**

**The complex hilly terrain has not been properly accounted for in the noise assessment.**

**Concern about night-time noise, low-frequency noise, and amplitude modulation.**

**Background noise was measured far from the quietest spots for example, B&Bs.**

**Construction-phase rock breaking will echo across the valley for 18–24 months which will be very noisy.**

**We ask that a full assessment is carried out, including:**

- **Combined noise effects from both sites**
- **Impact on nearby homes**
- **Effects on daily life and sleep, especially at night**

**This should be done before any decision is made.**

## **2. Impact on the landscape**

**Industrial sized wind turbines on both sides of the valley would make us feel surrounded. We would see industrial sized wind turbines on both sides while at home and travelling along local roads.**

**This would change our peaceful, rural living area from open countryside to a highly industrialized landscape.**

**The EIAR does not properly assess this combined visual impact.**

**I ask for updated visual images and a clearer assessment of what people will actually see.**

**Risk of landslides –The addition of wind turbines on this land would be extremely dangerous to the people living in the surrounding areas. There is proof of unstable or unsuitable land causing landslides in the past – Derrybrien Windfarm and the Meenbog Windfarm.**

**The risk of the landslides also contributes to a risk of water contamination in the area.**

## **Downgrading of landscape 15a**

**We object to the EIAR's assessment of this landscape, which we believe significantly undervalues its importance and sensitivity.**

**The Cork County Development Plan clearly classifies this area as having High Landscape Value and High Landscape Sensitivity. However, the EIAR reduces both to "Medium"**

without giving a clear or convincing reason. Instead, it relies on planning labels like “Open to Consideration” for wind energy, which do not reflect the actual quality of the landscape and should not be used to downgrade it.

The EIAR itself highlights key features such as wide scenic views, remoteness, and a strong sense of wildness — all signs of a high-value upland landscape. Yet these are then downplayed because the land is used for farming and forestry.

In Ireland, working landscapes like this can still be highly scenic and sensitive, so this reasoning is not convincing.

The report also takes too narrow a view of recreational value by focusing on land ownership. In reality, the area contributes to public enjoyment through nearby walking, cycling, and scenic routes that depend on the surrounding landscape.

It also underestimates how sensitive the area is to change.

Large industrial sized wind turbines placed uphill and on exposed ridges would be highly visible and out of place in such an open, remote landscape.

There is also a clear mismatch between describing the area as “Mountain Moorland” meaning remote and relatively unspoilt — and then rating it as only medium value.

#### Conclusion

Overall, the EIAR:

- moves away from the Development Plan without proper justification
- downplays important landscape qualities
- and underestimates how sensitive this area is

For these reasons, the “Medium” rating is not convincing.

#### Request

We ask the planning authority to:

- give this assessment limited weight, and
- require a more thorough and transparent reassessment before deciding.

The area where these industrial sized wind turbines will be placed falls under the Fáilte Ireland West Cork Coast Destination and Experience Development. These will seriously impact the tourism of the area and many local businesses will suffer such as Wild Hideaways. There will also be a loss of walking/hiking appeal of the area for example the Mealagh Valley Loop. The appeal of this area and these locations for tourists are the peaceful, rural surroundings which would be ruined by the introduction of these wind turbines. The Mealagh Valley is a scenic and culturally important landscape, with ringforts, standing stones

and early settlement sites highlighted as part of the Sheep's Head Way. It is valued not just by residents, but by walkers and visitors for its peace, heritage and unspoilt character. This sensitivity has already been recognised by An Coimisiun Pleanala, which refused a wind farm in the same valley - the Ardrah Wind Farm - because it would seriously damage the visual character of the area and lead to unacceptable cumulative impact.

This effect is made worse by the fact that turbines 7-14 of the proposed Maughanaclea wind farm, together with the recently approved Dereenacrinnig development on the opposite ridge, would place large turbines on both sides of the valley. This would enclose the valley in industrial-scale structures, making them unavoidable in views from homes, roads and walking routes. This would result in the industrialisation of a highly sensitive rural valley, and that level of change is not acceptable in this location. I would therefore ask to refuse permission to protect the residential amenity, scenic quality, and cultural value of the area.

I was born and raised in this valley and I have spent most of my life here and I have raised my family here where they have attended the local school. They have loved and appreciated the beauty of the area. I am devastated at the thought that this will be totally destroyed by the industrial sized wind farms both of which are overlooking our home.

On the basis of the above, I trust my concerns will be taken into consideration prior to a decision being reached on this planning application.

Mise le Meas,



Mary Minihane.  
Liam Minihane