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23rd May 2026

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

A Chara

Maughanaclea Wind Farm Objection submission

Wind Farm of 14 wind turbines with an overall ground to blade tip height of 169 m

Rotor Diameter 82 m and hub height 78.3 m

Grid connection to Ballylickey (10.75 km O'H line and 3.3 km U/G cable)

Planning Application 25/5826

We object for the following reasons:

Point 1. Natural Beauty and Scenic Value of the landscape contradicting the Cork County Development Plan.

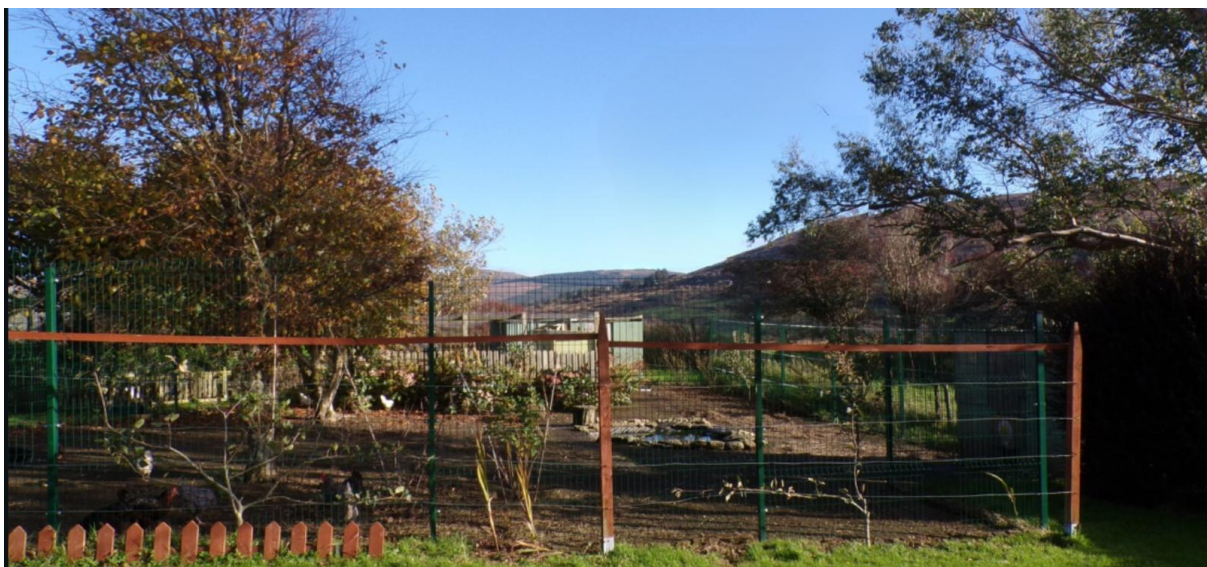
An APB inspector already recommended refusal of planning for a wind turbine project on this site in 2012. This was long before the current County Cork development plan was written. To grant planning permission to this project now would contradict many of the objectives in the current development plan, including landscape issues and protecting the skyline.

Protecting skylines and ridgelines is of relevance, the proposed site is on the ridgeline between the Mealagh and Kealkill valleys and the currently planned wind turbines are much higher than the ones described in the application of 2012. These proposed wind turbines would ruin the skyline view around significant areas of the valleys for residents and tourists. The Mealagh Valley is an extremely scenic area with both the landscapes of the hillsides and lower areas mostly unchanged in the last centuries. This unspoiled scenery is extremely precious and also attracts tourists. Tourists will not come here to see windfarms!

Inhabitants of the valleys would see turbines on both sides while at home and travelling along local roads. This would change the living area from open countryside to a more industrial landscape. 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. Our home would be located between the two wind farms.

The EIAR does not properly assess this combined visual impact.

All 3 Dereenacrinnig turbines can be seen clearly from our garden.



Current view from our garden



View with the approved Dereenacrinnig turbines

The Maughanaclea turbines will not all be seen from our garden, but turbines 14 – 7 will be visible. We will be surrounded by turbines!

Some pictures that show how the scenery will change, taken from a friend's place and the Sheeps Head Way

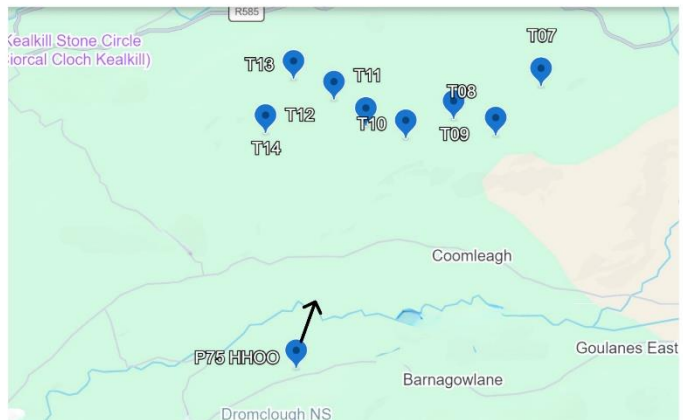
Private Residence, Mealagh Valley, Glencreagh, P75 HH00
(For illustration purposes only)



Coordinates:
51 degree 53'14"N 9 degree 20'11"W

Distance to nearest turbine:
T14 2454m

Method note: This view is based on the exact GPS location and height of the viewpoint. Turbines are shown to scale using their published dimensions and placed according to the site layout. Distances to turbines are measured from these positions.



Sheeps Head Way East - main route

For illustration purposes only



Coordinates:

51 degree 43'04"N 9 degree 20'31"W

Distance to nearest turbine:

T14 2805m

Method note: This view is based on the exact GPS location and height of the viewpoint. Turbines are shown to scale using their published dimensions and placed according to the site layout. Distances to turbines are measured from these positions.



Sheeps Head Way East - Mullaghmesha Loop

For illustration purposes only



Viewpoint coordinates: 51 degree 42'45"N 9 degree 17'51"W

Distance to nearest turbines:

T08 3355m (Maughanaclea), T01 - 674m (Dereenacrinnig)

Method note: This view is based on the exact GPS location and height of the viewpoint. Turbines are shown to scale using their published dimensions and placed according to the site layout. Distances to turbines are measured from these positions.

This proves that the scenic views of that rural, mostly untouched, valley will be ruined.

The current County Cork Development Plan 2022-2028 states the following:

GI 14-9 Landscape

- Protect the visual and scenic amenities of County Cork's built and natural environment.
- Landscape issues will be an important factor in all land-use proposals, ensuring that a pro-active view of development is undertaken whilst protecting the environment and heritage in line with the principle of sustainability.
- Ensure that new development meets high standards of siting and design.
- Protect skylines and ridgelines from development.
- Discourage proposals necessitating the removal of extensive amounts of trees, hedgerows and historic walls and other distinctive features.

That project is obviously against the above-mentioned plan.

Point 2. Loss of property value, Cumulative effect of surrounding Wind Farms.

We bought our property in a rural, scenic area with lovely views around – exactly what we would call a typical beautiful Irish spot. We moved here and spent a lot of money to improve our home, e.g. with solar panels and a big storage system, insulation and replacing older windows to get a better thermal insulation.

With an industrial windfarm on either side of the valley this impression will be destroyed. The **Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm** that will be set up on the opposite side of the valley and the **Maughanaclea Wind Farm** on our side will cause a significantly lower price when selling the property. The cumulative effect will be seen clearly and make it difficult to find a buyer. We talked to an estate agent about this and got that confirmed.

Point 3. Water supply by a private well, water quality

We get our water from a 70 m deep well with an attached filtering system. Building a Wind Farm on the ridge will have an impact on our water.

Other residents in the valley continue to rely on shallow wells fed by surface water.

Construction of this project would involve replacing large areas of upland bog that currently acts as a water store with large areas of impermeable concrete. This would reduce the water holding capacity of these upland areas and would therefore increase the likelihood of downstream flooding in both river valleys. The massive concrete base of the turbines in combination with the compacting of the soil will lead to changes in our water supply.

The quality of the water will get worse because of missing filtration.

Our property will have a higher risk of flooding because less water will be held back. The following pictures show the situation now when we have heavy rain. Water

running down the road to our property, then going down the driveway, flooding the lawns and nearly reaching the house.



We expect even more flooding as shown in the pictures (taken when there was heavy rain). The flood will then reach the house.

Point 4. The Mealagh Valley and surrounding area heritage

Mealagh Valley and surrounding area contains one of the richest clusters of prehistoric monuments in Ireland - confirmed by the developer's own EIAR.

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 Pleanála, 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 an 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.

Point 5. Dark Sky Community accreditation

The Mealagh Valley community is actively pursuing Dark Sky Community accreditation from DarkSky International - which would be one of just a handful in Ireland. A formal committee has been established and the application is at an advanced stage. Amber Harrison, Dark Sky Places Programme Manager at DarkSky International, has been in direct correspondence with The Mealagh Valley Dark Skies Committee since October 2025. Cork County Council's Roads Management division held an active meeting with The Mealagh Valley Dark Skies Committee on the lighting policy, with follow-up correspondence dated 8 May 2026 - just 17 days before the deadline for observations on this planning application. Deputy Christopher O'Sullivan TD, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, engaged personally with the project and subsequently provided a formal written Letter of Support describing the Committee's approach as "innovative and forward-thinking" and stating that Dark Sky Park accreditation would be "a very positive addition to the region".

The red lights on the turbines – especially in that very dark environment will be clearly visible and will totally spoil the Dark Sky experience. We must make use of the existing lack of light pollution in the area. This should be preserved and would be damaged by this project.

For these reasons, we believe this development would cause unacceptable harm to the landscape, environment, residential amenity and community of the area and should be refused.

We are depending on you An Bord Pleanála to protect our heritage and environment, not only for us, but also for those to come.

Mise le Meas

Michael Heep and Anna Droste-Heep