

Teresa O'Mahony  
Maughanaclea, Kealkill, Co. Cork P75 Y504,  
Property H049,  
16th May 2026

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

Re: Objection to the proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm

ACP Reference: PAX04.324165

To the Planning Authority,

I am writing to formally submit my strongest possible objection to the proposed Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development.

I am a resident and local farmer living at the property identified in the developer's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) as H049. I am deeply distressed by the sheer scale of this project, which involves dropping fourteen massive 169-metre-tall industrial turbines, with 133-metre rotor diameters, directly into our quiet rural and agricultural landscape.

If this project is granted permission, it will completely destroy my family's quality of life. My husband Michael and I have 4 children, aged 17, 8, 6 and 3. While this will prevent us from sleeping in our own home, subject us to intolerable light flicker, and cause severe, ongoing distress to my herd of cows. This application must be refused for the following reasons.

1. Severe noise nuisance and the inability to sleep with open windows: the developer attempts to dismiss our concerns by claiming that the noise from these huge turbines will be "not significant". This is factually incorrect and completely ignores the reality of living next to a wind farm. I live in a peaceful rural area where the background noise is extremely low. In the spring and summer, my children adore being woken up by the birds as we sleep with the bedroom windows open. If these 169-metre turbines are built, that

fundamental comfort will be stolen from us and will only be a memory of times past for my family.

To predict the noise, the developer used the Nordex N133 turbine in their computer models, claiming it has a maximum sound power level of 104.5 decibels. However, an independent acoustic expert, Dick Bowdler, has reviewed their data and found that the true maximum noise output for this turbine is actually between 106 and 107.5 decibels. Because the developer has artificially underestimated the noise from the start, the loud mechanical thumping hitting my home will be significantly worse than they admit.

While normal high-frequency sounds are blocked by the walls of a house, low-frequency drone easily penetrates indoors. If I attempt to sleep with my windows open, the problem will be entirely magnified, as the constant mechanical swoosh and thumping will drown out all natural sounds, making sleep impossible.

## 2. Outdated guidelines and ignoring WHO health limits:

The developer justifies the noise levels by claiming they scrape by the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines (WEDG), which allow for daytime noise up to 45 decibels. These 2006 guidelines are 18 years out of date and do not protect human health.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) issued clear environmental noise guidelines in 2018, explicitly warning that wind turbine noise should be kept below 45 dB Lden, which translates to a downwind noise level of roughly 37 decibels (LA90) on the ground,. The WHO states that noise above this level causes 10% of people to become "highly annoyed" and suffer from adverse health and sleep impacts.

## 3. High Court Precedent (Byrne and Moorhead v. ABO Energy):

The devastating reality of living near wind turbines was recently proven in the Irish High Court case Byrne and Moorhead v. ABO Energy. In that case, a family living little over 1,000 metres away from a wind farm had their lives ruined by the constant, unpredictable "whomping" noise and low-frequency hum. The court found that this constant thumping caused extreme sleep disturbance, making it impossible to relax or even read a book in peace.

The judge in that case ordered a permanent shutdown of the offending turbines, ruling that just because a wind farm has planning permission does not give the developer the right to create an intolerable noise nuisance that destroys a family's sleep. The turbines in that court case were only 125 metres tall. The proposed Maughanaclea turbines are vastly larger and more powerful at 169 metres tall. My house is located just 1,050 metres from turbine T07, these turbines will be bigger and louder. If this project goes ahead, my family and I will inevitably suffer the exact same severe sleep deprivation and nuisance, leaving the developer open to similar legal liabilities.

#### 4. Highly intrusive shadow flicker (light flicker):

My home, H049, is located directly within the developer's 1,330-metre shadow flicker study area. Shadow flicker is a highly disorienting indoor phenomenon that occurs when the massive 133 metre spinning blades interrupt the sunlight, casting moving, strobe-like shadows into the rooms of a home.

The developer is attempting to exploit a loophole in the outdated 2006 guidelines, which suggests that residents should tolerate up to 30 minutes of this flashing light per day, or 30 hours a year. This is completely unacceptable. The government's 2019 Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines mandate that "no existing dwelling or other affected property will experience shadow flicker as a result of the wind energy development".

My 8 year old niece comes to visit and stay with us regularly, she has double cortex syndrome which is a very rare syndrome and unfortunately means she has epilepsy and has seizures regularly. If this development goes ahead I will no longer be able to have her visit or stay with us as the possibility of the flicker inducing seizures is too much of a risk to take. This is unfair to do to my niece, my children and myself. Why take this small bit of joy away from her and us just to line the pockets of the developer who undoubtedly does not have any wind turbines surrounding his home dwelling.

I would also like to note that the chances of inducing an epileptic event whilst travelling the R585 is a possibility. This could incur a dangerous accident resulting in many a death. This road is very heavily trafficked, as there is a huge quantity of freight coming to and from Castletownbere port. The road is not equipped for the traffic at present not to mention if this project was to get the go ahead. Not only is the infrastructure inadequate but to add the transport of turbines and all that is

needed for them to get to the functioning phase is nothing short of a liability and an enormous risk to every user of the R585.

I completely object to any level of strobe lighting being forced into my living room or bedroom. Even if the developer promises to use sensors to turn the turbines off, these systems are reactive and prone to failure, meaning my family will still be used as test subjects for their flashing shadows before the blades finally grind to a halt. I demand and am well within my right and my family's right that the 2019 standard of zero shadow flicker be upheld.

5. Severe distress caused to my cows, horses and agricultural livelihood as a farmer, my land and livestock are a fundamental part of my income and livelihood. The current land-use of this area is predominantly agricultural pasture. Despite this, the developer has shown a total disregard for the welfare of the livestock that graze in the valleys directly beneath their proposed 169-metre-tall industrial machines.

Cows are highly sensitive to sudden visual changes and unfamiliar, low-frequency noises. The impact of the wind farm on my herd will be two-fold:

- Shadow flicker in the fields: the strobe-lighting effect of shadow flicker does not just hit the windows of my house; it sweeps across the open fields and farm buildings,. Having the massive, fast-moving shadows of 133-metre rotor blades rapidly crossing their grazing pasture will easily startle, confuse, and stress my animals.
- Acoustic stress and vibration: cattle and horses are highly attuned to ground vibrations and low-frequency noise. The heavy construction phase, which includes excavators, dump trucks, and the blasting of rock at four different borrow pits (quarries), would create a terrifying acoustic environment for livestock. Once operational, the constant, low-frequency mechanical droning and "whoomping" of the turbines will replace the quiet rural environment the cows are accustomed to.

Constant acoustic stress and sudden visual disturbances are well-known to impact the feeding habits, temperament, and overall welfare of cattle, which can directly lead to a drop in milk yields and poor herd health. The developer is treating our agricultural landscape as empty space, completely ignoring that it is a working

environment where animal welfare is paramount. Threatening a farmer's livelihood through the severe disruption of their livestock is entirely unacceptable.

Overwhelming visual impediment and destruction of ridgelines beyond the noise and light flicker, the sheer visual dominance of these 169-metre-tall turbines is entirely unacceptable. The developer's own landscape and visual impact assessment admits that the visual envelope for this project is predominantly confined to the local valleys, including the Mealagh valley to the south where my property is located. The Cork County Development Plan explicitly states under Objective GL 14-9 that planners must "Protect skylines and ridgelines from development". This will break my skyline right across my house. Erecting massive, industrial towers on the elevated ridges directly surrounding our homes in Maughanaclea is a blatant violation of this local planning rule. Furthermore, the developer's own reports concede that for residential receptors in close proximity to the wind farm, the magnitude of visual change will be "Substantial" and the resulting visual impacts will be "Significant". They are attempting to transform a scenic, agricultural landscape into a towering industrial power plant, which will permanently destroy the visual amenity of my property and completely overwhelm the local skyline.

From my house I can see the Grousemount Windfarm to the north and on my journey home from Kealkill along the R585 I can see the Shehymore Windfarm. I do not understand how this beautiful area of West Cork is allowed to be saturated with more wind farms. It is incomprehensible and if I'm honest a mortal sin to do this to the people of West Cork, and those who have gone before us will be rolling



in their grave if this is to go ahead on their beloved land.

**View from my land, first ridge is where T01 to T06 would be:**

Conclusion the proposed Maughanaclea wind farm is an invasive, excessively scaled industrial project that is completely unsuited for this quiet rural valley. The developer has used underestimated acoustic data to hide the fact that they will be subjecting local families to sleep-destroying, low-frequency noise that breaches modern World Health Organisation safety limits.

As a resident of H049, I refuse to be subjected to strobe-like shadow flicker in my home, I refuse to be forced to keep my windows firmly shut all summer just to drown out the thumping of 169-metre blades, and I refuse to have the welfare of my livestock compromised by an alien industrial development. This project will cause a catastrophic and significant negative impact on our residential amenity, our health, and our agricultural livelihoods.

I strongly urge the Planning Authority to recognise the severe, unmitigated flaws in this application and refuse permission for this development.

Yours faithfully,  
Teresa O'Mahony