

Ardrah , Mealagh Valley

Bantry

Co. Cork P75 WR26

Ireland

Honor Caird Marren

Executive Officer

Strategic Development Infrastructure Department

An Coimisiún Pleanála 64, Marlborough Street Dublin 1.

D01 V902

14/09/2026

Council: Cork County Council.

Applicant: Maughanaclea Ltd: Enerco Energy Ltd, A member of the Craydel Group. Company Directors/Subscribers: Michael Murnane. David Murnane.

Agents: MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants., Galway.

Re: 10 year Planning permission for Maughanaclea Wind Farm consisting of 14 no. Wind Turbines, a 110vK substation and 110VvK underground cabling connection and associated works located in Ardrah, Maughanaclea, Ballynamought, Gortloughra, Cousane, Coomclogh, Derragh, Glanycarney, Keenrath, Derrynacaheragh, Shiplough, Coolsnaghtig, Mallabracka, Derrylahan, Derreens, Demesne, Dunmanway North, Milleenanannig, and Ballyhalwick, Co. Cork. The surrounding area includes operating windfarms, such as Grousemount, 3.7km to north of Site, and Shehy More, 5.5km southeast of Site, and proposed sites, Curraglass, Gortloughra and Derreenacrinnig, which are currently in the planning process with ACP.

A Chara

We have been invited to make a submission relating to the response to observations from MKO, the consultants who prepared a response dated 25/05/2026 on behalf of the applicant Maughanaclea Ltd: Re section 4.3.2 Nature Conservation. Your letter advises that any of our comments only relate to the contents of MKO's response to section 4.3.2.

We respectfully note that in spite of multiple letters from local residents as to bird species sighted and an ecologist's report from Dr Will O'Connor fellow of the Royal society of Biology, an independent planners report covering Ornithology from Hazel McCathy BA, MSc, MRUP, as well as two letters from the department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and a letter from the DAU (07.04.2025) MKO have provided a very limited analysis of nature conservation at the proposed wind farm site.

A precis of MKO's analysis appears to be that farming practices and local commercial forestry have been and are far more damaging to local wildlife particularly the birdlife, than the development of a semi-industrial zone comprising 14 Wind turbines of a height far higher than any seen before in this area.

MKO's argument is not valid, multiple bird species including very rare and protected species Hen Harriers and Sparrow Hawks have been sighted regularly on this site. Multiple other bird species also abound in this area, Choughs, Peregrine Falcon, Snipe, Eagles, Kestrels, Red Grouse, Swifts, House Martins, Wagtails, clearly these birds would not be in this area, if they were negatively impacted by local farming practices and the existing low level of local commercial forestry.

It is also not correct for MKO to suggest that the proposed site is primarily forested. A quick glance at a Google satellite image of the proposed Windfarm site shows that to be untrue. MKO's argument that birds can fly, so they can move elsewhere is simplistic in the extreme. There are many other wind farms being proposed/ planning agreed in the area, so where can the birds go?

Multiple bird species clearly are comfortable in the proposed wind farm area as it is. They have established breeding grounds over many years, they can feed, feel safe and they enjoy the lack of artificial light, human interference, development and the quiet. We have flocks of House Martins, Swallows and Wagtails who have returned every year for over 20 years to our property in Ardrah (part of the proposed wind farm) to breed. We have never heard such a volume of the dawn chorus as we do in Ardrah.

This wind farm development should it go ahead will be extremely destructive to local bird species and other wild animals like foxes, badgers, hares and deer both in the construction and wind energy production stage. It will destroy food sources/ breeding areas and put bird and other wildlife under huge stress through unfamiliar noise, heavy goods vehicles, lighting and a vastly changed, non-wildlife friendly terrain. Birds are not only at risk from flying into a turbine blade, which seems to be the key point of MKO's argument. It is the destruction of their familiar habitat that puts birds most at risk.

If this project goes ahead, we will have created a semi -industrial zone, not the type of area famed for its birdlife or other wild life (except possibly rats).

The Corncrake used to be very common bird in Ireland. It is now virtually extinct. If the habitat for a bird species is removed, it is not easy for them to adapt and there is a very high risk that bird species will die away.

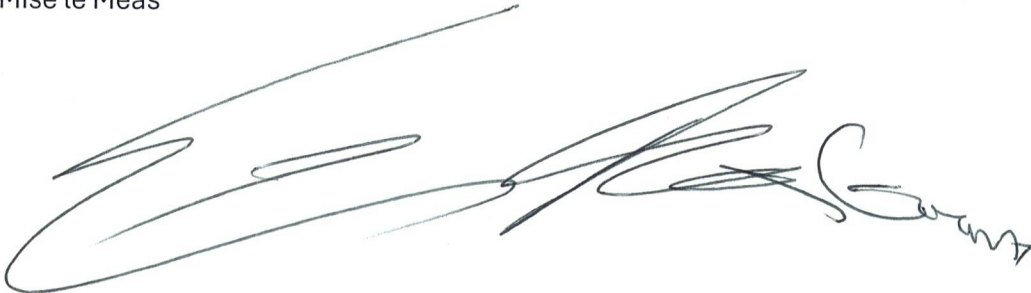
It is also worth noting that while farming and forestry practices can and are evolving over time to be more environmentally conscious, this isn't true of proposed wind farm developments, which are getting bigger and bigger and more environmentally destructive. As well as making misleading environmental comments, we also note that MKO have also made no proposals at all as to how the proposed wind farm area could ever be returned to its original state in the future once the wind turbines are decommissioned.

It is correct that there is some local forestry on the proposed site, however like the blanket bog also on the upland site, which absorbs significant rainfall, preventing flooding and landslides, conifers serve a similar purpose, creating a positive impact on nature conservation. The dense conifer year round needles, bark and twigs catch between 25% and 45% of rainfall and allow it to evaporate back into the air, lessening the impact of storms, heavy rain, water runoff and flooding

Conclusion

The proposed Wind farm will have vast turbines of dimensions never seen before in this country, so accurately assessing the extent of the damage to nature conservation is impossible. What we can assume, bearing in mind that MKO have made no suggestions for mitigation, instead concentrating their energies on pointing a finger at other sectors, is that the damage to nature conservation by this proposed project will be huge and unprecedented.

Mise le Meas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive and Teresa Evans', with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.

Clive and Teresa Evans