

Tushaline Sahseetharan

From: YTavalanche HD <lukahles@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 7:10 PM
To: SIDS
Subject: ACP-324165-26 — Response to Section 4.3.2 — Lukas Ahles Hello, In reply to your letter of 14 August 2026, I attach my observations on Section 4.3.2 (Nature Conservation) of the applicant's Response to Observations, case reference ACP-324165-26. My orig...

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Honor

You don't often get email from lukahles@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Lukas Ahles

Faraway Place, Ards More, Bantry, Co. Cork, P75 Y895

To An Coimisiún Pleanála,

Case reference: ACP-324165-26 (Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development)

I received the Commission's letter of 14 August 2026 inviting observations on the applicant's Response to Observations of 14 July 2026, and I am replying to Section 4.3.2, Nature Conservation, only. Everything I said in my original objection still stands, including what I said about noise — I am not repeating those points here because the Commission has asked us to keep to this one section.

I grew up in this valley and I listed in my first letter the wildlife I have known all my life here: the swallows that come back to our house every summer, the birds of prey overhead, the bats, the hares, the frogs and newts in the boggy ground on Maughanaclea. I want to make two points about how Section 4.3.2 deals — or does not deal — with that life.

The first is about displacement. The applicant's Nature Conservation response treats the question mainly as one of collisions: will a bird fly into a blade or won't it. But the published Irish evidence

says the bigger effect is quieter than that. Fernández-Bellon, Wilson, Irwin and O'Halloran (2019, Conservation Biology 33(2), 413–422, doi: 10.1111/cobi.13239) surveyed twelve wind farm sites and twelve control sites in Irish uplands — the same kind of ground as Maughanaclea — and found bird densities were lower at the wind farms, with the effects on open-habitat species related to the size of the wind farm rather than the distance to the nearest turbine. Their conclusion was that wind farm effects on birds may operate at a landscape scale. That study was done in this country, on habitat like ours, and it is not referenced anywhere in the applicant's Section 4.3.2. The birds I grew up watching don't have to be struck to be lost from the valley; they can simply be pushed out of it, and the applicant has not engaged with the Irish study that shows exactly that. The second is about the night. The Response to Observations confirms at page 34 that the applicant has agreed to the Department of Defence condition: fixed red obstacle lights of at least 2,000 candela on all fourteen turbines, burning all night, every night, permanently. Dreenacreenig West across the valley will carry the same lights on its three turbines. Between the two, both ridgelines of a genuinely dark valley will be lit red from dusk to dawn for decades. And yet the entire bird assessment behind Section 4.3.2 was done in daylight. Nobody has gathered a single night of flight data. The bats I mentioned in my first letter, the owls we hear, the birds that move through this valley at night — none of them appear in the assessment at all. NatureScot's published information note on aviation obstruction lighting and birds identifies attraction to light (phototaxis) as the principal concern with exactly this kind of lighting, and the applicant does not mention it.

I am not writing to ask for another survey. The point is what these failures show: an applicant proposing to light a dark valley permanently without one night of data, and answering the Irish displacement evidence by ignoring it, has demonstrated that its conclusions on nature conservation cannot be trusted — and no improved study would make this the right place for fourteen turbines. The birds I grew up with should not be an afterthought in someone's tables. I ask the Commission to refuse permission for this development. Please acknowledge receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely,

Lukas Ahles

Faraway Place, Ards More, Bantry, Co. Cork, P75 Y895

