



Outlook

ACP-324165-26 – Further Submission – Markus Husmann

From Markus Husmann <markushusmann@me.com>

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To SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>

 1 attachment (57 KB)

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A Chara,

Please find attached my further submission in relation to Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development, case reference ACP-324165-26, in response to the Commission's letter of 14 August 2026 concerning Section 4.3.2 (Nature Conservation) of the applicant's Response to Observations.

I would be very grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Le meas,

Markus Husmann

Further Submission – ACP-324165-26

Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development Response to Section 4.3.2 – Nature Conservation

A Chara,

I am writing in response to the Commission's letter dated 14 August 2026 regarding Section 4.3.2 of the Applicant's Response to Observations.

Having read the applicant's response, I remain concerned that the cumulative effects of wind energy development on bird species using the wider upland landscape have not been adequately addressed.

The Development Applications Unit specifically raised concern regarding White-tailed Eagles recorded near the proposed development, including documented turbine fatalities in Cork and Kerry. The applicant's response states that only two White-tailed Eagles were observed during its three-year survey period and that neither flight occurred within 500 metres of a proposed turbine. As no flights occurred within the proposed wind farm site, a collision-risk estimate could not be calculated. (*Applicant's Response to Observations, Section 4.3.2.1, pp. 34–35; Development Applications Unit submission SID-CK-2026-011, 25 May 2026.*)

I do not believe that the absence of recorded flights through the turbine area during finite survey periods demonstrates that White-tailed Eagles will not use this airspace during the decades in which the wind farm would operate. This is particularly relevant given the documented turbine death of an adult female White-tailed Eagle at Grousemount in 2025, approximately 5 km north of the proposed development. (*Development Applications Unit submission SID-CK-2026-011, 25 May 2026.*)

The applicant's own cumulative assessment acknowledges that wind energy and associated infrastructure is considered a high-importance pressure/threat for White-tailed Eagle, and that upland open habitats are valuable to the species. It also identifies numerous wind energy developments occupying these upland habitats, including Dreenacreenig West and Gortloughra. (*Applicant's Response to Observations, Section 4.3.2.3, White-tailed Eagle, pp. 39–40.*)

This is the issue that concerns me most. Birds do not experience Maughanaclea, Dreenacreenig and neighbouring wind farms as separate planning applications. They experience one landscape. Even where the predicted effect of each individual development is considered low, the progressive occupation of neighbouring upland habitats by turbines may result in cumulative collision risk, displacement and barrier effects that are greater than those apparent when each project is considered separately.

I am also concerned that the Department of Defence has requested permanent 2,000-candela aviation obstacle lighting on all turbines, while the ornithological assessment contains no corresponding nocturnal flight-activity dataset. (*Applicant's Response to Observations, Section 4.2, p. 34.*)

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Commission to take a precautionary approach and satisfy itself that the cumulative effects on White-tailed Eagle and other protected bird species have been adequately assessed before determining the application.

Le meas,

Markus Husmann
Coomleagh East
Mealagh Valley Bantry