



Outlook

Fw: case reference ACP-324165-26

From SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>

Date Mon 9/14/2026 9:02 AM

To Honor Caird Marren <honor.cairdmarren@pleanala.ie>

 1 attachment (94 KB)

Observation to section 4.3.2 N.Edmondson.pdf;

From: Natasha Edmondson <natashaedmondsonstudio@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 3:14 PM

To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>

Subject: case reference ACP-324165-26

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Dear Honor Caird Marren

Please find attached my observation to section 4.3.2 Nature in relation to the stated case Maughanaclea wind farm.

Please acknowledge receipt of my submission by email or letter.

Kind Regards

Natasha Edmondson

Natasha Edmondson
Carriganass, Kealkill
Bantry
West Cork

Dear Honor Caird Marren

Re :Case Number ACP-324165-26

I am writing in response to the letter I received inviting observations on the developers response to section 4.3.2 Nature Conservation.

My observations are as follows.

In the proposed area for development a wide variety of birds have been recorded inhabiting the area or near by. Many of these birds are red listed species which we have a duty to conserve and protect.

Protecting our wildlife and encouraging wildlife diversity is of extreme importance for the planet. I use the analogy of our gut microbiome - the more good bacteria we have in there the healthier we are, however the less variety we have the more likely we are to get sick or become ill. Its the same with the planet, the more variety and species we have the more balanced our ecosystems are which in turn support the planet and help **prevent** climate change. The link below provides information by the UN on the importance of biodiversity in helping prevent climate change.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity>

Our planet needs to be in balance for it to thrive, when it thrives, we thrive. The proposed site is currently used by numerous species of birds and other wildlife such as the red squirrel and pine Martin which have been documented in the area and are also red listed. The proposed Maughanaclea wind farm poses a huge threat to the biodiversity in our local area. In numerous sections of the EIAR they state that they have prescribed mitigation in place to protect these delicate areas of land that will be damaged by the construction of this wind far. The dictionary defines the word mitigate as "the act of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something bad or harmful." This proposed project is harmful to the sensitive ecology of the area with the developer siting too many mitigation practices for the landscape.

In relation to the White Tailed Sea Eagle. We have a pair nesting not so far away in Glengarriff, they are a treasure to have in our area.

These incredible birds were reintroduced in Ireland having been hunted to near extinction in the 1900's. There are now 10 breeding pairs in Ireland, one of which are in Glengarriff. White tailed sea eagles have been spotted flying in the area of the proposed wind farm on numerous occasions by local residents. I believe this was documented in the observation of Sean Worboys. The fact that the eagles are seen in the area means there is a possibility that in the future they would use the area more if it is safe to do so. However if the

proposed wind farm were to go ahead this may put the birds off altogether, or causing them harm.

Glengarriff nature reserve note that among the threats to these birds are death by wind turbines. There have already been recorded deaths of white tailed sea eagles by wind turbines as the DAU have noted in their application. (SID-CK-2026-011, 25 May 2026), a huge 19% of fatalities have been from wind turbines, that's 1/5 of a population of red listed bird in Ireland as birds of conservation concern 2020-2026 by birdwatch Ireland- to sum up Wind Turbines are responsible for 19% of a species of bird that we are trying to protect and reintroduce into Ireland. As the height of the proposed turbines at Maughanaclea are so high at 169 meters with a rotary span of 133meters , I feel there is reason for concern here, these birds are so rare here in Ireland that any human risk to them must be omitted. MKO only undertook surveys at certain times during their assessment, the importance of local knowledge and accounts are far more accurate as we are in the area on a daily basis.

In their observation the DAU (SID-CK-2026-011, 25 May2026) also note that Eagles, when soaring, may even be slightly attracted to fly within the rotor-swept zone of turbines, "possibly induced by the extra wind energy created by the turbulence".

"Other causes of human-induced mortality have included shooting and collision with wind turbines." <https://www.glengarriffnaturereserve.ie/white-tailed-sea-eagle-facts>"

Other Red Listed Birds and concerns

Here I again refer to the DAU'S submission (SID-CK-2026-011, 25 May2026) where they note concerns for other red listed birds The Snipe and Breeding Woodcock among them risking loss of habitat and displacement of these endangered species.

"Common Snipe is a Red-listed listed species with regard to breeding and wintering populations and was recorded during breeding. The development could potentially result in the loss of breeding and foraging habitat through displacement effects. *Pearce Higgins et al. (2009) found a 50% reduction in breeding density of common snipe within 500 metres of turbines.* In addition, the same issues also occur in terms of in combination effects and cumulative impacts as outlined for Hen Harriers, golden plover etc. in that for example data is not provided in terms of habitat displacement and loss etc. regarding how the overall density of wind farm projects in the area is affecting the amount of similar habitat."

"Concerning the breeding woodcock, it should be noted that studies regarding wind farm effects have reported a decrease in abundance, which may have been due to the barrier effect of the turbines and acoustic effects interfering with display flights and mating, with potential displacement effect in the 250–500 metres distance band (roding activity)."

The developer responded stating that the proposed site lay outside of any breeding habitats for these birds however they do not consider the displacement of the birds and this is highly important to consider.

Confusion around information given

I also note discrepancies in the EIAR in relation to overall impacts of the proposed development.

The neighbouring farm of Dreenacreenig West was omitted when it came to cumulative assessments in the original EIAR yet it is mentioned in response to these observations. How can you not include Dreenacreenig west in the EIAR and then suddenly refer to it in this observation? It seems convenient for the developer but not accurate and is inconsistent in the provision of information regarding protection of the environment and wildlife in the area.

Effects of light from the turbines on nocturnal life

There is also the concern of light pollution from the 14 2,000 calendula lights that would be on 24/7 in the area. There have been no studies of how these lights would impact nocturnal wildlife in the area including birds. It is plausible that birds would be put off the area, displaced or even disorientated during flight in certain weather conditions, there have been no assessments of this by the developer

I request that further detailed assessments be made to fully ensure no risk to the death, displacement or destruction of wildlife species in the area or loss of habitat including a nocturnal study of wildlife at the site recording full year round activity.

I ask kindly for acknowledgement of receipt of my response.

Kind Regards
Natasha Edmondson