



Board Direction

Ref: 03.235373

A copy of this direction is to issue with the order

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 30th September 2010.

In relation to the impact of the development on the Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA, the Board took account of the existing distribution of wind farms in the SPA, including the absence of such from the general environs of the site, and the unsuitable nature of the existing habitat on the site for the hen harrier, being largely semi-mature conifer forestry, and concluded that the proposed development would have no significant impact on the hen harrier population. The Board also considered that the visual impact of the development would be acceptable.

The Board decided to refuse permission generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, subject to the following reasons and considerations.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

The site of the proposed development is in an exposed upland area of blanket bog, adjoining an intact, active bog, Glendree Bog Special Area of Conservation, and outside any of the areas identified as "Strategic Areas" or "Acceptable in Principle" in the Wind Energy Strategy of the current Clare County Development Plan, 2005-2011 (as amended).

On the basis of the submissions made in connection with the application and appeal, the Board is not satisfied that the proposed development would not prejudice the stability of the peatland on the site of the proposed windfarm or adversely affect the hydrology of the bog in the adjacent Glendree Bog cSAC.

Having regard to the foregoing adverse environmental impacts, to the identification in the county development plan, as amended on 14th December 2009, of extensive other areas in Co. Clare as strategic areas for wind energy development and areas where such development is acceptable in principle, and to the objective of the development plan to provide the target amount of wind energy generation capacity for the county in the areas so identified, it is not considered that the site of the instant proposal is an appropriate location for the development as proposed, which would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Board Member: _____ Date: 8th October 2010
Karl Kent