



Board Direction

Ref: PL25M.245628

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on February 8th 2016.

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

Reasons and Considerations

1. The site lies within an area which is the subject of an archaeological preservation order made for the summit of Frewin Hill under the National Monuments Acts, 1930-2004, and contains two barrows which comprise National Monument No. 606. The 'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July, 1996 advise that telecommunication facilities should not be sited close to archaeological sites. Policy P-AH1 of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 undertakes to preserve in-situ all archaeological remains and sites of importance, such as national monuments, their setting and context and zones of archaeological potential. On the basis of the documentation accompanying the current application and appeal, it is considered that the development for which retention is sought adversely affects the setting of these archaeological remains. Accordingly, it is considered that the subject development contravenes Policy P-AH1 of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. By reason of the height of the telecommunications structure/mast for which retention is sought and the utilitarian appearance of the overall facility including the site compound, it is considered that the appearance of the facility is wholly unsympathetic to its archaeological setting and fails to preserve the setting of the National Monument and Recorded Monuments. Furthermore, it is considered that this telecommunications structure/mast dominates the

appearance of the summit of Frewin Hill which is located within the Lough Owel High Amenity Area as designated under the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 and is visible from the designated Protected View and Prospect No. 28 at the shores of Lough Owel to the east. Accordingly, the development for which retention is sought would conflict with the provisions of this Development Plan and would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area. The subject development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Board Member: _____ Date: 12th February 2016
Philip Jones