



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
PL 92.247190

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 13th July 2017. At this meeting the reporting inspector gave a presentation of the case to the Board.

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 South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009, as varied by addition of the Wind Energy Strategy in September 2016 (Variation no. 3) identifies the site as an area which is unsuitable for new wind energy development with related policies set out in policy TWIND 14. Having regard to the cultural and historic significance of the landscape in this area, and the planning history of the site, this designation is considered reasonable and consistent with national policy as set out in the Wind Energy Guidelines 2006. It is considered that the proposed development, because of its location on a prominent ridge within a nationally important landscape framed by Slievenamon Mountain and within sight of a number of historic monuments (including Baunfree and Knockroe passage tombs and early Christian and medieval sites), in addition to Castletown Cox demesne, would have unacceptable visual and landscape impacts in such a sensitive area. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to policy set out in the County Development Plan as varied and would thus be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. The proposed eastern access to the site is via a constrained local road and runs close to the village of Ahenny and a national school. The proposed upgraded site access at this location is considered substandard by way of its alignment at its junction with the public highway and inadequate sightlines. The Board considered that this local road and access arrangement would be unsuitable for a construction project of the nature and scale proposed. The proposed development would therefore endanger public safety by way of traffic hazard.

Board Member

Date: 13th July 2017

Conall Boland