



## Board Direction

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**Ref: PL93.247310**

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

The Board decided to grant permission generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, subject to the amendments shown below.

### Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the provisions of the Waterford County Development Plan 2011 - 2017, including the Waterford City and County Renewable Energy Strategy 2016 – 2030, and the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014 – 2020, and the nature and scale of the development proposed, the suitability of the aspect and topography of the site, the pattern of development in the area, it is considered that subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposal would not seriously injure the amenities or detract from the visual amenities of the area and would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

### Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, as amended by the further plans and particulars submitted on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and with the appeal, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. The period during which the development hereby permitted may be carried out, shall be 10 years from the date of this Order.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

3. The permission shall be for a period of 25 years from the date of the commissioning of the solar array. The solar array and related ancillary structures shall then be removed unless, prior to the end of the period, planning permission shall have been granted for their retention for a further period.

**Reason:** To enable the planning authority to review the operation of the solar array having regard to the circumstances then prevailing and in the interest of orderly development.

4. Prior to commencement of development, a detailed restoration plan, providing for removal of all structures, foundations and access roads to a specific timescale shall be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement. On full or partial decommissioning of the solar farm, or if the solar farm ceases operation for a period of more than one year, the solar arrays, including foundations, shall be dismantled and removed from the site. The site (including all access roads) shall be restored in accordance with the said plan and all decommissioned structures shall be removed within three months of decommissioning.

**Reason:** In the interest of orderly development.

5. No external artificial lighting shall be installed or operated on site, unless otherwise authorised by a prior grant of planning permission.

**Reason:** In the interest of visual amenity and residential amenity.

6. Cables from the solar arrays to the inverters and substation shall be located underground.

**Reason:** In the interest of visual amenity.

7. The site shall be landscaped in accordance with a comprehensive scheme of landscaping, details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This scheme shall provide a comprehensive landscape plan to provide for the landscaping of the ridgeline along the eastern site boundary which shall ensure the proposed development is visually screened from views along the R675 road. All planting shall be adequately protected from damage until established. Any plants which die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased, within a period of five years from the completion of the development shall be replaced within the next planting season with others of similar size and species, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority.

**Reason:** In the interest of residential and visual amenity.

8. Before construction commences on site, details of the structures of the security fence showing provision for the movement of mammals shall be submitted for prior approval to the Planning Authority. This

shall be facilitated through the provision of mammal access gates every 100m along the perimeter fence and in accordance with standard guidelines for provision of mammal access (NRA 2008).

**Reason:** To allow wildlife to continue to have access across the site.

9. The developer shall facilitate an archaeological appraisal of the site and shall provide for the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features which may exist within the site. In this regard, the developer shall:

(a) notify the planning authority in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of any site operation (including hydrological and geotechnical investigations) relating to the proposed development, and

(b) employ a suitably-qualified archaeologist prior to the commencement of development. The archaeologist shall assess the site and monitor all site development works.

The assessment shall address the following issues:

- (i) the nature and location of archaeological material on the site, and  
(ii) the impact of the proposed development on such archaeological material.

A report, containing the results of the assessment, shall be submitted to the planning authority and, arising from this assessment, the developer shall agree in writing with the planning authority details regarding any further archaeological requirements (including, if necessary, archaeological excavation) prior to commencement of construction works.

In default of agreement on any of these requirements, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the area and to secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) and protection of any archaeological remains that may exist within the site.

10. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction Management Plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall provide details of intended construction practice for the development, including noise management measures and off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste.

**Reason:** In the interests of public safety and residential amenity.

11. This permission shall not be construed as any form of consent or agreement to a connection to the national grid or to the routing or nature of any such connection.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

12. S.48 [€47,500].

13. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or such other security as may be acceptable to the planning authority, to secure the satisfactory reinstatement of the site upon cessation of the project coupled with an agreement empowering the planning authority to apply such security or part thereof to such reinstatement. The form and amount of the security as well as any arrangements relating to the phasing or staging of payments shall be as agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** To ensure satisfactory reinstatement of the site.

Board Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
G.J. Dennison