



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
PL07.247582

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on July 27th 2017, at which the reporting Inspector Karla McBride presented an overview of the case.

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

Reasons and Considerations

The proposed development would be located within 15km from an extensive range of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas). It would also be located in close proximity to the River Suck Callows Special Protection Area (site code 004097), the Middle Shannon Callows Special Protection Area (site code 004096) and the River Little Brosna Callows Special Protection Area (site code 004086), which are designated for their importance to wintering and migratory birds, wetland birds, and waterfowl. The windfarm site is potentially used and overflown by a range of bird species that are listed as conservation interests for these nearby Special Protection Areas, and the proposed development would cause a disturbance and pose a potential collision risk to these species, which include Whooper Swan, Lapwing and Golden Plover, arising from the construction and operation of the wind farm.

On the basis of the information provided with the application and appeal, including the Natura Impact Statement and revised Natura Impact Statement, the Board is not satisfied that sufficient information has been submitted to enable the completion of an appropriate assessment in so far as it cannot determine and rule out, beyond

reasonable scientific doubt, the likelihood of significant adverse effects of the proposed development individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of these European sites, in view of their conservation objectives. Having regard to the provisions of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive, and of Section 177V (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board is therefore precluded from granting permission for the proposed development.

Board Member

Date: 28th July 2017

Philip Jones