



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

**Board Direction  
BD-008725-21  
ABP-308846-20**

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 19/07/2021.

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

#### **Reasons and Considerations**

Having regard to:

- (a) national policy with regard to the development of sustainable energy sources,
- (b) the provisions as set out in the current Cork County Development Plan, including those regarding renewable energy development, in particular Objective ED 1-1,
- (c) the location for the grid connection primarily within a road corridor and in an area not subject to natural heritage protection,
- (d) the pattern of development along the grid connection route and the pattern of permitted development in the area, and
- (e) the limited scale of the proposed development,

it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development, would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would not have an unacceptable impact on the road network of the area, would not be detrimental to the natural heritage of the area, and would otherwise be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

### ***Appropriate Assessment***

The Board agreed with the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002170) is the European site for which there is a possibility of significant effects and must therefore be subject to Appropriate Assessment.

The Board considered the Natura Impact Statement and all other relevant submissions and carried out an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposed development for European Sites in view of the site's Conservation Objectives (Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002170)). The Board considered that the information before it was sufficient to undertake a complete assessment of all aspects of the proposed development in relation to the site's conservation objectives using the best available scientific knowledge in the field.

In completing the assessment, the Board considered, in particular, the following,

- (i) Site Specific Conservation Objectives for this European Site,
- (ii) Current conservation status, threats and pressures of the qualifying interest features
- (iii) likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects, specifically the permitted Fiddane solar farm development,
- (v) mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal,

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 site and to secure the preservation and protection of any remains that may exist within the site.

5. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or other security to secure the provision and satisfactory completion of roads, footpaths, watermains, drains, open space and other services required in connection with the development, coupled with an agreement empowering the local authority to apply such security or part thereof to the satisfactory completion of any part of the development. The form and amount of the security 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 the satisfactory completion of the development.

**Board Member**

  
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Maria FitzGerald

**Date:** 19/07/2021

