

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-010632-22
ABP-309955-21

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at Board meetings held on the 11/04/22 and 04/05/2022.

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

Reasons and Considerations

1. Having regard to;
 - (a) The location of the proposed development in an area of archaeological remains and of monuments of national, regional and local importance and within an area described by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in its submission to the planning authority on this application, as a wider and nationally important archaeological landscape recognised by the Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Local Authority,
 - (b) The stated Objectives of the Council in the County Development Plan 2016-2022, in particular,
 - i. BHI 'No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value'.

ii. BH5 'To protect the Hillforts in west Wicklow and to engage with the relevant central Government department to seek to undertake a detailed study of their importance'.

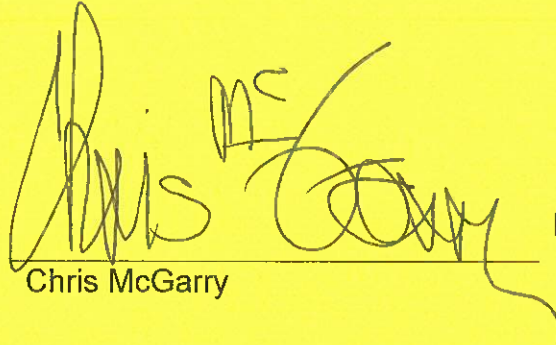
(c) The identification in Schedule 10.01 of the County Development Plan 2016-2022 of the area in which the site is located as Areas of Archaeological Potential and Significance: 11 Baltinglass Hills Megalithic Hillfort Complex,

It is considered that the proposed development, by itself and by the precedent it would set, would result in significant physical and visual impacts on the heritage and archaeology of the area and on the archaeological landscape of the area, and would materially contravene the objectives of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. The proposed development of five turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 165 metres, would be within an area identified by the Department of Defence as being of critical importance for Air Corps operational requirements and within Military Operating Area 3 which is used for the safe holding of aircraft before entering EI-D5 – a live firing round area and wherein it is stated by the Department of Defence that the airspace within this area is used for low level flying where aircraft will not be complying with the civil rules of the air. The proposed development at this location would adversely affect the ability of Irish Air Corps aircraft to operate on and in the vicinity of Coolmoney Camp, which lies within 1.57 to 2.65 nautical miles of the subject site, an air firing range and a larger training area in the Glen of Imaal, used for low level flight training and as an air firing range, and the proposed development, which is located on high ground to the south west of Coolmoney camp, could negatively impact on any future instrument approach 'go around' and instrument departure at the camp. In this regard, it is considered that the proposed development would endanger or interfere with the safety of aircraft or the safe and efficient navigation thereof and

would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Board Member



Chris McGarry

Date: 05/05/2022

