



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-011734-23
ABP-314725-22

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 02/02/2023.

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 Board is not satisfied on the basis of the information submitted in support of the application and the appeal that the proposed amendments to the development originally permitted for two turbines and associated development under Roscommon County Council planning Register Reference Number 11/126, involving a change in turbine model, would not result in a combined output exceeding the threshold for mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment within the scope of Class 3 (i) of Part 2 of the Fifth Schedule of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, being an installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farm) having a total output of greater than five megawatts. The Board is not therefore satisfied that the effects of the development on the environment can be properly assessed. The Board took into account the applicant's assertion that the combined output of both turbines would be maintained below five megawatts, however, given the capacity for the output of each of the proposed turbines ranging from 3.5 megawatts to 4.2 megawatts, the Board considered that such a limit would constitute an unsustainable use of resources and would be contrary to the applicable provisions of the Roscommon County Development Plan that support the generation of electricity from renewable

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

2. It is considered that the archaeological significance of the site arising from the proposed amendments, including that the base for Turbine T2 occupies a considerable amount of the area where Recorded Monument RO 035-09203 (earthworks) is located and that the newly enlarged access route appears to pass very close to Recorded Monument RO 035-09201 (enclosure), is such that any development of the site in advance of a comprehensive archaeological assessment, carried out to the requirements of the appropriate authorities, would be premature and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Note:

The Board noted that the application and/or appeal did not reference the grid connection for the new proposed wind turbines or its planning status. Given the grid connection would form part of a development requiring environmental impact assessment (EIA), having regard to *O’Grianna & Ors. v An Bord Pleanála* [2014] IEHC 632 and *Daly v Kilronan Windfarm Ltd* [2017] IEHC 308, the Board would be required to carry out EIA of the development as a whole including the windfarm and the grid connection and the grid connection cannot be classed as exempted development under the meaning of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. This would raise a new issue, however, given the substantive reasons for refusal, the Board did not pursue this issue.

Board Member



Patricia Calleary

Date: 02/02/2023