

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-016022-24
ABP-316309-23

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 03/04/2024.

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 proposed development by reason of its height (185m ground to tip height), scale (6 turbines) and location - being in an elevated and exposed designated Class 3 landscape, of high sensitivity, and in proximity to designated iconic landscapes, designated scenic routes and protected views, and in an area identified in the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES), which forms part of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, where developments of the type proposed are 'Not Normally Permissible' - would be contrary to Policy Objectives LCM 1 and 2 which seek to preserve and enhance landscape character and have regard to landscape sensitivity, and to Policy Objective RE 3 which facilitates wind farm development at suitable locations within the County. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the above-mentioned policy objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and would seriously detract from the landscape character and visual amenity of the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. The Board is not satisfied that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report has adequately assessed the likely effects of the proposed development on

population and human health, biodiversity, ornithology, peat stability, traffic and transport and the landscape, and the interaction of these factors. Accordingly, the Board is not satisfied that the development will not have significant adverse impacts on sensitive environmental receptors. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

3. The Board is not satisfied that the information presented in the applicant's Natura Impact Statement, the associated documentation, submissions received, and in light of the Inspector's report, which the Board agreed with, allows for a complete assessment of the adverse effects of the development on the conservation objectives of Connemara Bog Complex SPA, Lough Corrib SAC and SPA, Lough Mask SPA and Lough Carra SPA, as a consequence of peat stability, collision risk and cumulative impact assessment with other wind farm development in the vicinity of the site. The Board was not satisfied, therefore, that the proposed development would not adversely affect the integrity of the aforementioned European sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives and there is reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of effects. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Board Member



Tom Rabbette

Date: 09/04/2024