



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Board Direction**  
**BD-018130-24**  
**ABP-320058-24**

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 08/11/2024.

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) Policies ED43, ES03, ESO5 and ESO6 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028,
- b) the location of the proposal in an area determined to be open for consideration for solar farm development in map no. 6 in Volume 10 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, and
- c) the nature and scale of the proposed development,
- d) the submissions on file, and
- e) the report of the Planning Inspector,

it is considered that subject to compliance with the following conditions, the proposed development would comply with the policies in respect of renewables in the of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 and would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

### **AA screening**

The proposed development was considered in light of the requirements of Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Having carried out Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the project, the Board concluded that the project individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to give rise to significant effects on Wexford Harbour and Sloba SPA (site code: 004076) or Slaney River Valley SAC (site code: 000781), or any other European site, in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives, and Appropriate Assessment (submission of a NIS) is not therefore required. The Board, in reaching this conclusion, has considered all qualifying interests of the above mentioned European Sites (having noted the error in Table 1 of Appendix 2 of the Inspector's Report, the Board referred to Table 4 of the applicant's 'Appropriate Assessment Screening' report that contained the full list of the qualifying interests of the Slaney River Valley SAC).

### **Conditions**

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. (a) No artificial lighting shall be installed or operated on site unless authorised by a prior grant of planning permission;  
(b) the solar panels shall have driven or screw pile foundations only, unless

otherwise authorised by a separate grant of planning permission; and  
(c) all cables within the site shall be located underground.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity, visual amenity, to allow wildlife to continue to have access to and through the site, and to minimise impacts on drainage patterns and surface water quality.

3. (a) The permission shall be for a period of 30 years from the date of the first commissioning of the solar array. All structures, shall then be removed and the site reinstated unless, prior to the end of that period, planning permission shall have been granted for their retention for a further period.
- (b) Prior to the commencement of development, a detailed Site Restoration Plan providing for the removal of the solar arrays and all ancillary structures, and a timescale for its implementation, shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority.
- (c) On decommissioning or if the solar array ceases operation for a period of more than one year the solar arrays and all ancillary structures shall be dismantled and removed permanently from the site. The site shall be restored in accordance with the agreed Site Restoration Plan and all decommissioned structures shall be removed from the site within 6 months of decommissioning.

**Reason:** To enable the planning authority to review the operation of the solar array over the stated time period, having regard to the circumstances then prevailing, and in the interest of landscape restoration upon cessation of the project.

**Board Member**

  
Tom Rabbette

**Date:** 08/11/2024