

An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2015

Donegal County

Planning Register Reference Number: 15/51683

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 05.246265

APPEAL by The Inishowen Wind Energy Awareness Group care of Peter Sweetman and Associates of 14 Postnet, 113 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin and by Declan Clarke care of Harley Newman Planning Consultants of Bohullion, Burt, County Donegal against the decision made on the 19th day of February, 2016 by Donegal County Council to refuse permission to the said Declan Clarke.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Construction of a single turbine extension of tip height of 119.33 metres, comprising a hub height of 78.33 metres and a rotor diameter of 82 metres, to a permitted two turbine windfarm (each with tip height 119.33 metres, hub height 78.33 metres and rotor diameter of 82 metres) granted permission on this site under appeal reference number PL 05A.240394 (planning register reference number 12/70002) and appeal reference number PL 05E.244481 (planning register reference number 14/51367). Permission is also sought for one number control building, construction of new access roads, hardstandings, continued use of permitted rock borrow pit, underground cabling and all ancillary site works at Crockbrack Hill, in the townlands of Carrowbeg, Meenletterbale and Ballymagaraghy, Merville, County Donegal.

DECISION

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

1. The appeal site is located in a scenic coastal area in close proximity to an Area of Especially High Scenic Amenity, as set out in the current Donegal County Development Plan, where the policy is to safeguard the natural landscape qualities and the environmental habitats of the county. The site is also located in close proximity to a number of designated views and prospects identified for protection in the said plan. It is considered that the cumulative impact of the proposed development would interfere with the character of the landscape and in particular the aforementioned Area of Especially High Scenic Amenity and the designated views and prospects, which it is considered necessary to preserve. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. It is a policy of the planning authority (TOU-P-3) "...not to permit development proposals which would detract from the visual quality/amenity on either the approach roads to, or the views to be had from significant tourism attractions." The proposed development is located in close proximity and in clear sight of a scenic driving section of the Wild Atlantic Way, which is considered to be a significant tourist resource both locally and nationally. Having regard to the scale of the proposed turbine and its visual prominence in closer proximity to the coastline than permitted turbines at this location, it is considered that the proposed development would seriously injure the amenities of the area, by reason of visual intrusion and overbearing visual impact within a spatially enclosed landscape to the east and a more open landscape to the west. The proposed development would, therefore, detract from the tourism resource and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2016.