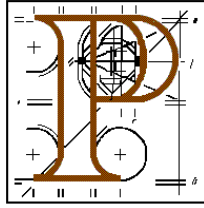


# An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2016

**Wexford County**

**Planning Register Reference Number: 20160690**

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 26.247217

**APPEAL** by Highfield Solar Limited care of Highfield Energy Services Limited of Design Studio 7, Old Castle View, Kilgobbin Road, Dublin against the decision made on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016 by Wexford County Council to refuse permission.

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** A ten year permission for the construction of a solar PV Energy development within a total site area of up to 89.46 hectares, to include one single storey electrical substation building and electrical compound, a second single storey electrical building, electrical transformer/inverter station modules, solar PV panels ground mounted on steel support structures, access roads, fencing and associated electrical cabling, ducting and ancillary infrastructure, all at Ballyminaun Big, Grahormick, Hilltown, Jonastown, Newhouse, Gibboghstown, Garryhack and Crosstown, Killinick and Tomhaggard, County Wexford.

## 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

The proposed development would involve the use of an extensive area of agricultural land (circa 90 hectares) for a substantial scale of solar power in a single project. There is a lack of guidance at national, regional and local level in relation to the appropriate location, scale and distribution of future proposals for solar power. Having regard to the scale of the proposed development and its potential impacts on the rural character of the area, the visual amenity of the landscape, the amenities of residential property, and agricultural land use patterns, the Board is not satisfied that the proposed development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, or that the proposed development would not be premature pending the adoption of national, regional or local guidance or strategy for solar power. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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

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Dated this            day of            2017.

Decision Quashed