

# An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2016

**Wicklow County**

**Planning Register Reference Number: 16/1060**

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 27.247714

**APPEAL** by Solas Eireann Development Limited care of Meridiem Renewables of Unit 5, Blacklion House, Blacklion, Greystones, County Wicklow against the decision made on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016 by Wicklow County Council to refuse permission.

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** Development of a solar PV panel array with a capacity of 19MWp comprising approximately 73,000 photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames within a site area of 30.06 hectares single storey MV substations, one number single storey DSO substation, one number single storey customer substation, one number single storey spares building, one number communications pole, boundary security fencing, CCTV, associated electrical cabling and ducting, to include access gates and all associated ancillary development works on land south of the N81 road at Threecastles, Talbotstown Lower, Blessington, County Wicklow.

## **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**

Having regard to the nature and scale of the development proposed, the proximity of the proposed development to the Poulaphuca Reservoir Special Protection Area (Site Code 004063), the main conservation objective for this site which seeks to maintain the special conservation interests for this Special Protection Area at favourable conservation status of species including the Greylag Goose, and the fact that the lands that make up the appeal site are an important core feeding ground for Greylag Geese, which are confirmed to be in decline regarding numbers, there is potential for significant effects on the conservation status of Greylag Goose and the applicant has failed to provide adequate information to demonstrate that this would not be the case. In this regard the Board is not satisfied that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the Poulaphuca Reservoir Special Protection Area (Site Code 004063). In these circumstances, the Board is precluded from granting permission.

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

**Dated this                      day of                      2017.**