



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order PL 26.247886

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2017

Planning Authority: Wexford County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 20161212

Appeal by Harmony Solar Brookhill Limited care of Fehily Timoney and Company of Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork against the decision made on the 16th day of December, 2016 by Wexford County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: A solar photovoltaic panel array consisting of the following: up to 268,700 square metres of solar panels on ground mounted steel frames, a fenced electricity substation compound to include one number electricity control building and hardstands for ancillary electrical equipment, 20 number inverter/transformer units, underground cable and ducts, internal access tracks and hardstanding areas, boundary security fence, CCTV, a new entrance to the public road and all associated site services and works. Planning permission is sought for a period of 10 years. All at Brookhill, Ballyhoge, County Wexford.

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with 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 is located within the River Valley Landscape Character Unit, which is classified in the Landscape Character Assessment for the area as a sensitive landscape with a limited capacity to absorb development, and wherein Objective L05 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 – 2019 prohibits development which is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the landscape character and where there is no overriding need for the development in that location. It is considered, having regard to the generally elevated nature of the landform at this location, the significant scale and extent of the solar farm, and its immediate proximity to the River Slaney, that the proposed development would have a significant adverse effect on the character of this landscape, for which there is no overriding need in this location, and would interfere with the character of this landscape, which it is necessary to preserve. The proposed development would, therefore, contravene Objective L05 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 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 2018