

## Board Order PL 26.248210

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2017

**Planning Authority: Wexford County Council** 

Planning Register Reference Number: 20161449

**Appeal** by Renewable Energy Solutions Limited of Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim against the decision made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2017 by Wexford County Council to refuse permission for the proposed development.

**Proposed Development**: A temporary ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm to generate renewable electricity on a 11 hectare site, comprising solar arrays, associated electrical infrastructure, fencing, access improvements and ecologically beneficial landscape works at Banoge, near Gorey, 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**

It is Council policy under Objective L04 'To require all developments to be appropriate in scale and sited, designed and landscaped having regard to their setting in the landscape so as to ensure that any potential adverse visual impacts are minimised'. Having regard to the topography of this open, exposed site and to its elevated nature, it is considered that the proposed solar farm would form a prominent and obtrusive feature in the landscape, which would be highly visible in views from roads to south and south-east and which would adversely impact on the rural character of the area. The proposed development would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area and would conflict with this development plan objective which seeks to protect the landscape. The proposed development would, therefore 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

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