

Board Order PL 09.248329

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2017 Planning Authority: Kildare County Council Planning Register Reference Number: 17/39

Appeal by Renewable Energy Systems Limited of Willowbank Business Park, Willowbank Road, Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim against the decision made on the 15th day of March, 2017 by Kildare County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: A temporary (27 years) ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm to generate renewable electricity on a 10.6-hectare site, comprising solar arrays, associated electrical infrastructure, fencing, access improvements and ecologically beneficial landscape works. All at Cardington Development Site, Milltown, Athy, County Kildare.

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

- 1. The proposed development by reason of its scale, nature and proximity to the River Barrow, an area designated as High Amenity in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023, and the Grand Canal, would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area and would be contrary to Policy WC3 of the Plan, which seeks to protect the visual integrity of distinctive linear sections of water corridors and river valleys, and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- 2. Having regard to Section 14.4.2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023, the proposed development being located within 300 metres of the River Barrow and the Grand Canal, would materially contravene the provisions of Table 14.3 and Table 14.4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and 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