

Board Order PL 17.248823

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2017 Planning Authority: Meath County Council Planning Register Reference Number: AA/161238

Appeal by The Painestown Hill Committee of Kilbrew, Ashbourne, County Meath and by Clódagh O'Sullivan and James Muldowney of Kilbrew, Ashbourne, County Meath against the decision made on the 8th day of June, 2017 by Meath County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to Power Capital Renewable Energy Limited care of IMG Planning Limited of 75 Fitzwilliam Lane, Dublin in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

Proposed Development: Construction of an up to 12.5 Megawatts solar PV farm comprising approximately 48,100 number photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames within a site area of 20.21 hectares and associated ancillary development including 10 number transformer stations, 10 number auxiliary transformer stations, 10 number inverters, one number client side substation, one number single story storage building, one number single storey communications building, one number single storey DNO building, four number CCTV security cameras mounted on four metres high poles and perimeter security fencing (two metres high) and the formation of an access to the site from the adjoining L5003-44 road on lands in the townland of Irishtown, Kilbrew, County Meath, as amended by the further public notice received by the planning authority on the 15th day of May, 2017.

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

Having regard to the scale of the proposed development, located within an elevated site that is archeologically and culturally significant and proximate to Recorded Monument ME038-011, it is considered that the proposed development would result in an unacceptable impact on the archaeological and cultural heritage of the Recorded Monument and its location within the landscape, would result in an unacceptable visual impact in the landscape and would materially and adversely affect the character and setting of the Recorded Monument and would, therefore, seriously injure the amenities of the area and be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to grant permission, the Board did not share the Inspector's view that the archaeology issues have been resolved or that the development would not adversely impact on the landscape setting or the visual amenity of the area.

Dated this

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

day of

2018