



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018

Planning Authority: Kildare County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 18/1328

APPEAL by BNRG Neoen Holdings Limited care of Feehily Timoney and Company of Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork against the decision made on the 4th day of January, 2019 by Kildare County Council to refuse permission to the said BNRG Neoen Holdings Limited.

Proposed Development Permission is sought for 10 years for a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm within a site area of 26 hectares consisting of solar photovoltaic panels covering an area of up to 185,000 square metres on ground mounted steel frames, one number on-site substation/control room and palisade fencing, up to five number inverter/transformer stations, underground cables and ducts, boundary security fence, use of existing entrance to public road at Dunmurray Springs Golf Club, upgrade to parts of existing track from the public road to the proposed solar farm, new and upgraded internal tracks, CCTV cameras, two temporary site compounds and all associated site services and works located within townlands of Guidenstown South and Rahilla Glebe, 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

The site of the proposed development is located in the Chair of Kildare, Special Landscape Character Area, as indicated in Chapter 14 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 which has a low capacity to accommodate uses without significant adverse effects on the appearance or character of the landscape having regard to special sensitivity factors. Having regard to the open, exposed and elevated nature of the site, and to the scale, nature and design of the proposed development, 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 its environs and which would adversely impact on the character of the local setting. 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.

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

Dated this day of 2019.