

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order
ABP-309937-21

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Carlow County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 21/13

APPEAL by the Irish Hangliding and Paragliding Association (IHPA) care of Pearse Cafferky of 9 Hillside, Greystones, County Wicklow and by Coilte CGA care of Fehily Timoney of Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork against the decision made on the 18th day of March, 2021 by Carlow County Council to refuse permission to Coilte CGA.

Proposed Development: Development of a wind farm and associated works. The proposed development will consist of construction of up to seven number wind turbines with a maximum overall blade tip height of up to 178 metres, construction of turbine foundations and crane pad hardstanding areas, construction of new site tracks and associated drainage infrastructure, upgrading of existing tracts and associated drainage infrastructure where necessary including upgrade of entrance onto L2026, all associated drainage and sediment control including the installation of new watercourse or drain crossings and the re-use or upgrading of existing internal watercourse and drain crossings, construction of one number permanent onsite 38kV electrical substation to ESNB specifications including control building with welfare facilities, electrical infrastructure, parking, wastewater holding tank, rainwater harvesting, security fencing, all associated infrastructure, services and site

works, one number temporary construction site compound and associated ancillary infrastructure including parking, one number on-site borrow pit (the borrow pit shall be accessed via wind farm access tracks), tree felling to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development, installation of medium voltage (20/33kV) and communication underground cabling between the proposed turbines and the proposed on-site substation and associated ancillary works; erection of one number permanent meteorological mast to a maximum height of 100 metres above ground level, upgrade of existing forest tracks and paths that shall be re-purposed as recreational amenity trails for community use including signage, and all associated site development works at Rossacurra, Cranemore, Kilbrannish North, Bealalaw, Raheenliegh, Aclare, County Carlow. A 10 year planning permission and 35 year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm is proposed.

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the reasons and considerations set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

Notwithstanding the general planning policy support for wind energy generation at national, regional and local policy level including Objective WE O1 of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, which seeks to increase the penetration of wind energy generation in County Carlow at appropriate locations and scale and subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations, in relation to the specific appeal site location, Policy WE P4 of the plan states that wind farm development will not normally be permissible in the Uplands Landscape Type identified in the Carlow County Landscape Character Assessment. The proposed

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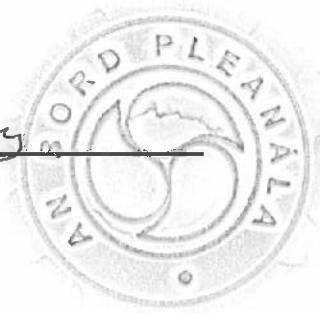
development would be sited on lands that are located within the designated Blackstairs and Mount Leinster Uplands Landscape Character Area and is therefore within an area where wind farm development is not normally permissible. Accordingly, it is considered that the proposed development would materially contravene Policy WE P4 of the development plan and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Patricia Calleary

Patricia Calleary

Member of An Bord Pleanála

**duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**



Dated this *6th* day of *March* 2023.