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**Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021**

**Planning Authority: Wicklow County Council**

**Planning Register Reference Number: 21/60**

**APPEAL** by ABO Wind Ireland Limited care of Tom Phillips and Associates of 80 Harcourt Street, Dublin against the decision made on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021 by Wicklow County Council to refuse permission.

**Proposed Development:** 10 year permission for construction of up to five number wind turbines with a maximum overall blade top height of 165 metres, with a transformer at each turbine and associated hard stand areas; one number 38kV electrical substation and all associated infrastructure and works; 20kV underground cables facilitating the connection of turbines to 38kV electrical substation and all associated infrastructure and works; Circa 6.5 kilometres of 38kV underground cabling and all associated works along public roads to facilitate the connection of the proposed 38kV wind farm electrical substation to the existing Stratford 38/110kV substation referred to as 'the grid route', Provision of a heritage trail circa one kilometre in length to include associated information signage (located at the key heritage assets) and parking area; Replacement of existing grass verge with a new one metre wide footway at each bridge crossing along 'the grid route'; New site tracks, upgraded site tracks and all associated works; one number 30 metre permanent meteorological mast and all associated infrastructure and works; A

temporary site compound and all associated works; and all associated and ancillary site development works all in the townlands of Kilranelagh, Colvinstown Upper, Ballinroan Upper, Bolleycarrigeen, Cloghnagaune, Downings, Spinans West, Kill, Eadestown South, Eadestown Middle, Ballintruer More, Castleruddery Lower, and Castleruddery Upper, County Wicklow. The application site includes Protected Structures RPS numbers 21-01, 27-22 and 27-23.

## **Decision**

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

## **Reasons and Considerations**

1. Having regard to;
  - (a) The location of the proposed development in an area of archaeological remains and of monuments of national, regional and local importance and within an area described by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in its submission to the planning authority on this application, as a wider and nationally important archaeological landscape recognised by the Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Local Authority,
  - (b) The stated objectives of the planning authority in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022, in particular,

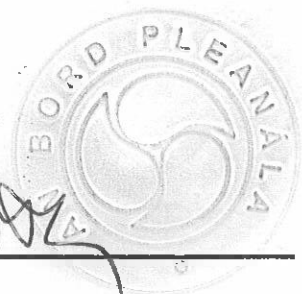
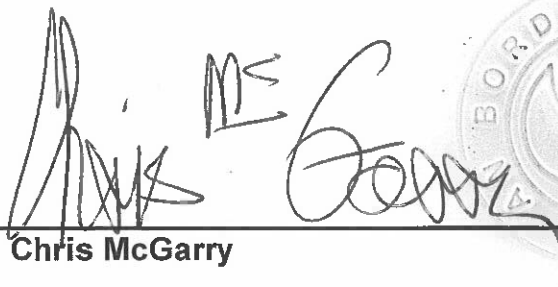


- (i) BHI - 'No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value', and
  - (ii) BH5 - 'To protect the Hillforts in west Wicklow and to engage with the relevant central Government department to seek to undertake a detailed study of their importance'.
- (c) The identification of the area in which the site is located in Schedule 10.01 of the development plan as an Area of Archaeological Potential and Significance (11. Baltinglass Hills Megalithic Hillfort Complex),

it is considered that the proposed development, by itself and by the precedent it would set, would result in significant physical and visual impacts on the heritage and archaeology of the area and on the archaeological landscape of the area, and would materially contravene the objectives of the development plan. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. The proposed development of five turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 165 metres, would be within an area identified by the Department of Defence as being of critical importance for Air Corps operational requirements and within Military Operating Area 3 which is used for the safe holding of aircraft before entering EI-D5 – a live firing round area and wherein it is stated by the Department of Defence that the airspace within this area is used for low level flying where aircraft will not be complying with the civil rules of the air.

The proposed development at this location would adversely affect the ability of Irish Air Corps aircraft to operate on and in the vicinity of Coolmoney Camp, which lies within 1.57 to 2.65 nautical miles of the subject site, an air firing range and a larger training area in the Glen of Imaal, used for low level flight training and as an air firing range, and the proposed development, which is located on high ground to the south-west of Coolmoney camp, could negatively impact on any future instrument approach 'go around' and instrument departure at the camp. In this regard, it is considered that the proposed development would endanger or interfere with the safety of aircraft or the safe and efficient navigation thereof and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



**Chris McGarry**

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

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.