

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Wexford County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 20210807

Appeal by Highfield Solar Limited care of Highfield Energy Services Limited of Design Studio 7, Old Castle View, Kiltobbin Road, Dublin against the decision made on the 2nd day of February, 2022 by Wexford County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

Proposed Development: Permission for development consisting of a ten year permission for a solar farm on a site of approximately 86.6 hectares consisting of the following: solar photovoltaic panels on ground mounted steel frames; IPP electrical control building and associated compound; inverter/transformer stations; battery storage units and associated hard standings; storage containers for spare parts; underground power and communication cables and ducts; boundary security fencing; upgraded internal access tracks; new internal access tracks and associated drainage infrastructure; CCTV cameras and all associated site services and works, all at Rochestown, Harperstown, County Carlow.

Decision

Having regard to the nature of the conditions the subject of the appeal, the Board is satisfied that the determination by the Board of the relevant application as if it had been made to it in the first instance would not be warranted and, based on the reasons and considerations set out below, directs the said Council under subsection (1) of section 139 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 to REMOVE conditions numbers 15 and 17 and the reasons therefor, and AMEND conditions numbers 2, 7 and 8 so that they shall be as follows for the reasons set out.

2. This planning permission is for 10 years only and the development shall be completed within 10 years of the grant of permission unless otherwise granted by an extension of duration under Section 42 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

7. The structures shall be removed at the expiration of a period of 35 years from the date of commissioning of the development, unless planning permission for a further period has been granted.

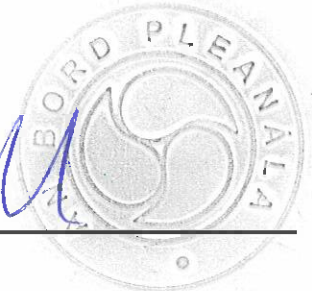
Reason: To enable the planning authority to review the operation of the solar farm having regard to the circumstances then prevailing.

8. No additional external artificial lighting shall be installed or operated during the operation of the site.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to national and local policies in relation to renewable energy, to the scale, extent and layout of the proposed development and to the pattern of development in the area, it is considered that, subject to compliance with the amended conditions set out below, the proposed development would be in accordance with national and local policy, would not seriously injure the visual or residential amenities of the area, would be acceptable in terms of landscape impacts and in terms of traffic safety and public health. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



Dave Walsh

Member of An Bord Pleanála

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

Dated this 6th day of May 2022.