

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order
ABP-314725-22

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Roscommon County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: PD/22/363

Appeal by Peter Gillooly care of Harley Planning Consultants Limited of 1 Melmount Park, Strabane, County Tyrone against the decision made on the 5th day of September, 2022 by Roscommon County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: (A) Amendments to (i) extant planning permission PD18/313, which amended planning application PD/11/126, (ii) extant planning permission ABP-303677-19, which amended planning permissions PD11/126 and PD18/313 and (iii) extant planning permission ABP-307726-20, which amended planning permission PD18/313. (B) permission for the development of a battery storage unit and a transformer unit. The amendments in (A) above will provide for (1) erection of two Enercon E138 turbines models in lieu of the Vensys 121 turbine models agreed with the planning authority, under condition 4(a) of planning permission ABP-3037726-19. Turbine T1 will have a hub height of 95.53 metres, a blade diameter of 138 metres and a blade tip height of 164.65 metres. Turbine T2 will have a hub height of 81 metres, a blade diameter of 138 metres and a blade tip height of 150 metres. The combined output from the turbines will be 4.9 megawatts. (2) Relocation of the access road serving the development, as previously permitted under planning permissions PD11/126, PD18/313, ABP-303677-19 and ABP-307726-20. 3. The relocation of underground electrical cabling to the relocated access road referred to under paragraph 2 above and additional underground

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electrical cabling to serve the proposed modular windfarm control and switch rooms, the ESB modular MV station referred to in paragraph 6 below and the new battery storage and transformer units referred to in (b) above. 4. Increase in the hub height of turbine T1 to 95.53 metres, increasing the blade tip height from 150 metres to 164.65 metres and micro-siting of turbine T1 by 12.75 metres. 5. Increase in the area of the hardstands associated with each turbine. 6. Amended substation structure to incorporate a proposed modular windfarm control and switch rooms and an ESB modular MV station. 7. Revised site boundaries on lands at Derrane and Roxborough, Roscommon, County Roscommon.

Decision

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

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Reasons and Considerations

1. The Board is not satisfied on the basis of the information submitted in support of the application and the appeal that the proposed amendments to the development originally permitted for two turbines and associated development under Roscommon County Council planning Register Reference Number 11/126, involving a change in turbine model, would not result in a combined output exceeding the threshold for mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment within the scope of Class 3 (i) of Part 2 of the Fifth Schedule of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, being an installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farm) having a total output of greater than five megawatts. The Board is not therefore satisfied that the effects of the development on the environment can be properly assessed. The Board took into account the applicant's assertion that the combined output of both turbines would be maintained below five megawatts, however, given the capacity for the output of each of the proposed turbines ranging from 3.5 megawatts to 4.2 megawatts, the Board considered that such a limit would constitute an unsustainable use of resources and would be contrary to the applicable provisions of the Roscommon County Development Plan that support the generation of electricity from renewable sources. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. It is considered that the archaeological significance of the site arising from the proposed amendments, including that the base for Turbine T2 occupies a considerable amount of the area where Recorded Monument RO 035-09203 (earthworks) is located and that the newly enlarged access route appears to pass very close to Recorded Monument RO 035-09201 (enclosure), is such that any development of the site in advance of a comprehensive archaeological assessment, carried out to the requirements of the appropriate authorities, would be premature and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

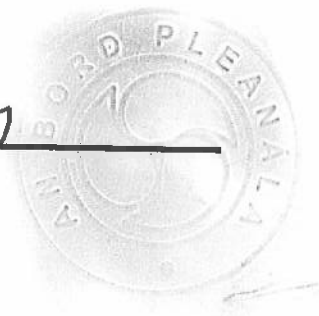
Patricia Calleary

Patricia Calleary

Member of An Bord Pleanála

duly authorised to authenticate

the seal of the Board.



Dated this 10th day of February 2023