



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order
ABP-315059-22

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Cork County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 21/737

APPEAL by Ian Collins of Maulakieve, Bantry, County Cork against the decision made on the 18th day of October, 2022 by Cork County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) care of Brendan Allen, Planning Team Leader, ESB Engineering and Major Protects (ESB EMP) of One Dublin Airport Central, Dublin Airport, Cloghran, County Dublin for the proposed development.

Proposed Development: Removal of the existing grid connection works and the development of the full length of a new grid connection over a distance of approximately 14.8 kilometres, between the existing Ballylicky ESB substation and the permitted Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm. The proposed development involves the following works: (a) removal of approximately 9.5 kilometres of 20 kV overhead line (OHL) along the route, the OHL to be removed consists of 138 wood poles (ranging from nine metres to 12.5 metres above ground), supporting electrical conductor lines and ancillary structures and equipment; (b) following removal of the OHL, it is proposed to construct approximately 10.8 kilometres of 20 kV overhead line (OHL) along the route, the OHL to be constructed consists of circa 157 wood poles (ranging from nine metres to 12.5 metres above ground), supporting electrical conductor

lines and ancillary structures and equipment; (c) installation of approximately four kilometres of underground cable ducting and associated electrical cabling, and all other ancillary works including joint bays, culverts, marker posts and all associated developments all at Derreenacrinnig West, Barnagowlane West, Glanareagh, Gortnacowly, Ards Beg, Ardrah, Laharanshermeen, Maulraha, Maulikeeve, Derryarkane, Cappanaboul, Skahanagh, Gortroe, Shandrum Beg, Shandrum More, Dromloughlin, Ballylicky, Crossoge, County Cork as revised by the further public notices received by the planning authority on the 24th day of August, 2022.

Decision

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

Reasons and Considerations

The Board had regard to the totality of the file including the applicant's response received on the 11th day of June 2024 to the request under section 132 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

In considering the applicant's response, the Board noted that the proposed grid connection is "an intrinsic part" of the Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm, a separately permitted wind farm, the permission for which has now lapsed. The Board concluded that the applicant had not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board the requirement for the grid connection in the absence of a permission being in place for the wind farm. Therefore, the proposed development in this rural setting would not be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In addition, the Board was not satisfied that the applicant had sufficiently demonstrated that a normal Section 34 planning application with an accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report is the appropriate procedure for regularising the partially-built grid connection works of 9.5 kilometres when its purpose is to connect a seven-turbine wind farm.

In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to grant permission, the Board considered it had not been sufficiently demonstrated that a distinct Section 34 planning application was the most appropriate way forward to complete the regulatory process for the grid connection as set out in the Inspector's planning assessment. In light of the additional information provided to the Board through the Section 132 request after the Inspector had prepared their report, the Board also considered the proposed development could no longer be considered in the context of a required connection to a consented windfarm.

Eamonn James Kelly

Eamonn James Kelly

Member of An Bord Pleanála

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



Dated this *13th* day of *September*, 2024