

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order
ABP-315652-23

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Cork County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 217246

APPEAL by Annagh Wind Farm Limited care of Fehily Timoney and Company of Core House, Poulacuff Road, Cork against the decision made on the 22nd day of December, 2022 by Cork County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: Construction of six number wind turbines with a blade tip height of 175 metres, rotor diameter of 150 metres and a hub height of 100 metres; construction of turbine foundations and crane pad hardstanding areas; construction of new site tracks and associated drainage infrastructure; upgrading of existing tracks and associated drainage infrastructure where necessary; upgrade of entrance onto local road L1322; all associated drainage and sediment control including the installation of new watercourse or drain crossing and the re-use or upgrading of existing internal water course and drain crossings; construction of one number permanent on-site 33kV electrical substation to ESBN specifications including: control building with welfare facilities; electrical infrastructure; parking; wastewater holding tank; rainwater harvesting; security fencing; and, all associated infrastructure, services and site works. One number temporary construction site compound and associated ancillary infrastructure including parking; 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 with a height of 100 metres above ground level and associated access track; installation of medium voltage (38kV) underground cabling and associated ancillary works between the proposed on-site substation and the existing Charleville Substation within the townland of Rathnacally. The proposed grid connection will be installed primarily within the public road and will include two number watercourse crossings and the installation of eight number pre-cast joint bays; . All associated site development works; a 10 planning permission and 35 year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm, at Annagh North, Coolcaum, Fiddane, Cooliney, Rathnacally, Farranshonikeen, Annageehy and Clashganniv, County Cork.

Decision

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

Reasons and Considerations



The Board is not satisfied, on the basis of the information submitted with the application and appeal, that it can be determined beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, will not have an adverse effect on the Whooper Swan, a species of conservation interest of the Kilcolman Bog Special Protection Area (Site code 004095). Therefore, on the basis of the information provided with the application and appeal and in light of the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment undertaken, the Board cannot be satisfied that the development, individually, or in combination with other plans or projects,

would not be likely to have an adverse affect on the integrity of the Kilcolman Bog Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004095) in view of the sites conservation objectives. In such circumstances, the Board is precluded from granting permission for the proposed development. Furthermore, the granting of permission for this development would be contrary to development objective BE 15-2 of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 which seeks to 'Protect sites' habitats and species' and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.


Una Crosse

Member of An Bord Pleanála

duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.

Dated this  day of  2024.

DECISION QUASHED