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**Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022**

**Planning Authority: Galway County Council**

**Planning Register Reference Number: 2360051**

**APPEAL** by Tullaghmore Wind Farm Limited care of Jennings O'Donovan and Partners Limited Consulting Engineers of Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, County Sligo against the decision made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2023 by Galway County Council to refuse permission.

**Proposed Development:** The erection of six number wind turbines with an overall ground to blade tip height of 185 metres with a rotor diameter of 162 metres and a hub height of 104 metres. The development will also consist of the construction of crane hardstand areas and turbine foundations, improvement of existing site entrance with access onto the N59, construction of one no. temporary construction compound with associated temporary site offices, parking areas and security fencing, installation of 1 no. permanent meteorological mast of 104m overall height, construction of new internal site access tracks and upgrade of existing site track, to include all associated drainage including new clear span bridge crossing of the Owenwee River, development of a site drainage network, construction of one no. permanent 38kV substation, all associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the wind farm substation and biodiversity enhancement measures and peat storage and restoration areas; all at Tullaghmore, Tawnaghbeg, Tullaghboy, and Lurgan, Maam Cross,

County Galway. The application is seeking a ten year permission and a 35 year operational life from the date of commissioning of the wind farm.

## **Decision**

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

## **Reasons and Considerations**

1. The proposed development, by reason of its height (185 metres ground to tip height), scale (six turbines) and location - being in an elevated and exposed designated Class 3 landscape, of high sensitivity, and in proximity to designated iconic landscapes, designated scenic routes and protected views as set out in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, and in an area identified in the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES), which forms part of the Development Plan, where developments of the type proposed are 'Not Normally Permissible' - would be contrary to Policy Objectives LCM 1 and 2 which seek to preserve and enhance landscape character and have regard to landscape sensitivity, and to Policy Objective RE 3 which facilitates wind farm development at suitable locations within the County. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the above-mentioned policy objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, would seriously detract from the landscape character and would seriously injure the visual amenity of the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. The Board is not satisfied that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report has adequately assessed the likely effects of the proposed development on population and human health, biodiversity, ornithology, peat stability, traffic and transport and the landscape, and the interaction of these factors. Accordingly, the Board is not satisfied that

the development will not have significant adverse impacts on sensitive environmental receptors. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

3. The Board is not satisfied that the information presented in the applicant's Natura Impact Statement, the associated documentation, submissions received, and in light of the Inspector's report, which the Board agreed with, allows for a complete assessment of the adverse affects of the development on the conservation objectives of Connemara Bog Complex Special Protection Area (site code: 004181), Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation (site code: 000297) and Special Protection Area (site code: 004042), Lough Mask Special Protection Area (site code: 004062) and Lough Carra Special Protection Area (site code: 004051), as a consequence of peat stability, collision risk and cumulative impact assessment with other wind farm development in the vicinity of the site. The Board was not satisfied, therefore, that the proposed development would not adversely affect the integrity of the aforementioned European sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives and there is reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of effects. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



**Tom Rabbette**

**Member of An Bord Pleanála**

**duly authorised to authenticate**

**the seal of the Board.**

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL 2024.