

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order ABP-317809-23

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Laois County Council

Application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, including an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 14th day of August 2023, by Coolglass Windfarm Limited care of SLR Consulting Ireland Limited, 7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin.

Proposed development: The proposed development is for a ten-year permission that comprises of the following:

- Construction of 13 number wind turbines within two clusters with an overall ground to blade tip height of 180 metres. The wind turbines will have a rotor diameter ranging from 155 metres to 162 metres inclusive and a hub height ranging from 99 to 102.5 metres inclusive;
- Construction of permanent turbine hardstands and turbine foundations;
- Construction of 1 number permanent 110 kV electrical substation including 2 number control buildings with welfare facilities, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing and gates, all associated underground cabling, wastewater holding tank, and all ancillary structures and works;
- Construction of a 33 kV collector cable circuit connecting the wind farm two clusters along the L3851/Knocklead Road;

- Construction of two temporary construction compounds with associated temporary site offices, parking areas and security fencing.
- Development of one on-site borrow pit;
- Construction of new permanent internal site access roads, upgrade of existing internal site access roads, including passing bays and all associated drainage infrastructure;
- Development of an internal site drainage network and sediment control systems;
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the wind farm substation;
- All associated site development works including berms, landscaping, and soil excavation;
- Improvement of a site entrance to an existing access off the L3851/Knocklead local road to include localised widening of the road and creation of a splayed entrance to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads and turbine component deliveries. Improvements include removal of existing vegetation for visibility splays to facilitate the use of the access for the delivery of construction materials to the site;
- A new site entrance slip road from the L3851 / Knocklead local road to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads and turbine component deliveries. Works at this location require the removal of existing forestry to facilitate the use of the access for the delivery of construction materials to the site and for use during the operational phase;
- Construction related temporary upgrade works on the turbine delivery route to facilitate the delivery of turbine components to include the use of temporary road surfaces at a roundabout at the southern exit of Junction 16 of the M7, the R425/N80 roundabout and the R426 – L3851 Junction,
- The erection of a permanent meteorological mast 102.5 metres in height;
- A 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire proposed development.

All located in the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard, Kylenebehy, Monamanry,

Brennanshill, Knocklead, Aghoney, Timahoe, Carrigeen, Ballygormill South, Money Upper, Hophall, Rathleague, Ballymooney, Rathbrennan, County Laois.

Decision

Refuse permission under section 37G of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the above proposed development in accordance with the said plans and particulars based on the reasons and considerations under and subject to the conditions set out below.

Determine under section 37H(2)(c) the sum to be paid by the applicant in respect of costs associated with the application as set out in the Schedule of Costs below.

Reasons and Considerations

1. In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the Policy Objective CM RE 5 of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 which seeks to promote and facilitate wind energy development in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Wind Energy Development and Appendix 5, Wind Energy Strategy of the Development Plan, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria. Notwithstanding the general supportive policy for wind energy development, Policy Objective CM RE 7 prohibits the location of wind farms in areas identified as 'Areas not open for consideration', as outlined in Map 3.2. The Wind Energy Strategy for County Laois delineates "Areas Not Open for Consideration" whereunder Policy Objective WES 7 refers, stating that "these areas are not considered suitable for wind farm development due to their overall sensitivity arising from landscape, ecological, recreational and/or cultural and built heritage resources as well as their limited wind regime". Accordingly, having regard to the totality of relevant policy in relation to wind energy as set out in the statutory plan, it is considered that the proposed development would materially

contravene Policy Objective CM RE 7 of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Policy Objective WES 7 of the Laois County Wind Energy Strategy and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Schedule of Costs

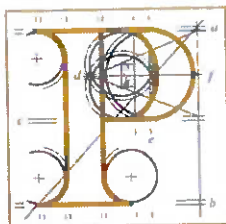
In accordance with the provisions of section 37H(2)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the amount due to be recouped to the applicant is **€75,075**.

A breakdown of the Board's costs is set out in the attached Appendix 1.

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "AN BORD PLEANÁLA" around the perimeter and a stylized logo in the center. The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this 23rd day of August 2024



An
Bord
Pleanála

**Board Order –
Appendix 1**

ABP-317809-23

Strategic Infrastructure Development

Costs of determining the Application

Case Number: ABP-317809-23

Proposed Development: Proposed Coolglass windfarm and related works in the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Board Costs		
(1)	Cost (calculated based on Inspector's time) Inspector 1 (pre-application consultation) €3,705 Inspector 2 (application) €31,070	€34,775
(2)	Costs invoiced to Board	N/A
	Total chargeable costs	€34,775
Board Fees		
(3)	Application Fee - € 100,000 Pre-application Consultation Fee- € 4,500	€104,500
(4)	Observer fees paid	5,350
	Total	€109,850
	Net amount due to be refunded to applicant	€75,075


Tom Rabbette

Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.

Dated this 23rd day of August 2024