



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Board Order ABP-318773-24

### Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Tipperary County Council

(Associated application reference number: ABP-310171-21)

**REQUEST** received by An Bord Pleanála on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2023 from Ecopower Developments Limited of Zetec House, Purcellsinch IDA Business Park, Kilkenny under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to alter the terms of the previously authorised Upperchurch Windfarm (An Bord Pleanála Reference Number PL 22.243040) to increase the size of the wind turbines and amend the height and design of the two meteorological masts at townlands of Graniera, Shevry, Knockcurraghbola Commons, Knockmaroe, Grousehall, Cummer, Foilnahan, Gleninchaveigh, Coumnageeha, Coumbeg, Knocknamena Commons, Glenbeg and Seskin, County Tipperary the subject of an permission under An Bord Pleanála reference number ABP-310171-21.

**WHEREAS** the Board made a decision to grant permission, subject to conditions, An Bord Pleanála reference number, ABP-310171-21, by Order dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022,

**AND WHEREAS** the Board has received a further request to alter the terms of the development, the subject of the permission,

**AND WHEREAS** the proposed alterations are described as follows:

- (a) alteration of the dimensions of the authorised turbines to an overall height of 158 metres with hub height of 90 metres and rotor diameter of 136 metres, resulting in the rotor blade increasing by 9.5 metres and the hub height decreasing by 3.5 metres;
- (b) micro-siting of five number turbines (four number by 10 metres and one number by five metres);
- (c) realignment of four number turbine hardstandings;
- (d) omission of authorised site entrance number 9 in Knockmaroe townland and omission of 700 metres of authorised windfarm roadway;
- (e) felling of an additional 4.51 hectares of forestry at 12 locations, and
- (f) the removal of 667 metres of hedgerow across 10 locations.

**AND WHEREAS** the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the proposed alteration would result in a material alteration to the terms of the development, the subject of the permission,

**AND WHEREAS** the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to invite submissions or observations from the public in relation to whether the proposed alteration would constitute the making of a material alteration to the terms of the development concerned,

**AND WHEREAS** having considered all the documents on file, submissions and the Inspector's report, the Board considered that the making of the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment or on any European Site,

**NOW THEREFORE** in accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby alters the above-mentioned decision so that the permitted development shall be altered in accordance with the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2023, for the reasons and considerations set out below.

### **REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS**

Having regard to:

- (i) the nature and scale of the amendments to the windfarm approved by An Bord Pleanála under reference number ABP-310171-21 for this site;
- (ii) the examination of the environmental impact, including in relation to European Sites, carried out in the course of that application;
- (iii) the nature and character of the proposed alteration when considered in relation to the overall approved development;
- (iv) the mitigation measures and precautions for the proposed construction works and operational phase;
- (v) the absence of any other significant new or additional environmental concerns (including in relation to European Sites) arising as a result of the proposed alteration, and
- (vi) the report of the Board's Inspector, which is adopted,

It is considered that the proposed alteration would be material but would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment or on any European Site. In accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby makes the said alterations.

  
Chris McGarry

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

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.