

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Roscommon County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: PD/23/60198

APPEAL by Peter Gillooly care of Harley Planning Consultants Limited of 1 Melmount Park, Strabane, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland against the decision made on the 3rd day of January, 2024 by Roscommon County Council to refuse permission for the proposed development.

Proposed Development: Permission for amendments to (i) extant planning permission PD/18/313, which amended planning application PD/11/126, (ii) extant planning permission An Bord Pleanála reference number ABP-303677-19, which amended planning permissions PD/11/126 and PD/18/313 and (iii) extant planning permission An Bord Pleanála reference number ABP-307726-20, which amended planning permission PD/18/313. The output from the development will be 4.9MW, similar to the extant planning permissions. The amendments will provide for 1. Erection of two bespoke Enercon E138 turbines models in lieu of the Vensys 121 turbine models agreed with the planning authority, under condition number 4(a) of planning permission granted under An Bord Pleanála reference number ABP-303677-19. Turbine T1 will have a hub height of 99 metres, a blade diameter of 138 metres and a blade tip height of 168 metres. Turbine T2 will have a hub height of 81 metres, a blade diameter of 138 metres and a blade tip height of 150 metres. The maximum combined output from the turbines will be 4.9MW. 2. Relocation of the access road serving the development, as previously permitted under

planning permissions PD/11/126, PD/18/313, An Bord Pleanála reference numbers ABP-303677-19 and ABP-307726-20. 3. The relocation of underground electrical cabling to the relocated access road referred to under paragraph 2 above and additional underground electrical cabling to the proposed modular windfarm control /switch room and the ESB modular MV station referred to in paragraph 6 below. 4. Increase in the hub height of turbine T1 to 99 metres, increasing the blade tip height from 150 metres to 168 metres and micro-siting of turbine T1 by 12.75 metres. 5. Increase in the area of the hardstands associated with each turbine. 6. Amended substation structure to incorporate a proposed modular windfarm control/switch rooms and an ESB modular MV station. 7. Revised site boundaries; all at Derrane and Roxborough, Roscommon, County Roscommon.

Decision


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

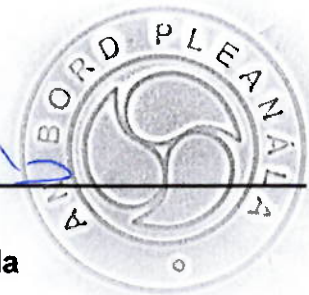
Reasons and Considerations

1. The Board is not satisfied, on the basis of the submissions made in connection with the application and the appeal, that the proposed amendments to the development originally permitted for two turbines and associated development under Roscommon County Council planning register reference number PD/11/126, involving a change in turbine model, would not result in an output exceeding the threshold for mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment within the scope of Class 3(i) of Part 2 of the Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, being an installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farm) having a total output of greater than five megawatts. The Board is not, therefore, satisfied that the effects of the development on the environment can be properly assessed, particularly in the absence of a comprehensive response to the requirements of Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development

Regulations 2001, as amended. The Board had regard to the applicant's assertion that mitigation measures would be employed so that the combined output of both turbines would be maintained below five megawatts, and to the documentation in respect of the grid connection provided; however, given the capacity for the output of each of the proposed turbines ranging from 3.5 megawatts to 4.2 megawatts, the Board considered that such a limit would constitute an unsustainable use of resources and would be contrary to the applicable provisions of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 that support the generation of electricity from renewable sources. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. The Board noted the limited bird survey work undertaken to inform the appropriate assessment screening, as submitted with the application and appeal. The Board also noted that the appropriate assessment screening undertaken did not encompass consideration of the grid connection associated with the proposal. The Board is, therefore, not satisfied, on the basis of the submissions made in connection with the application and appeal, that the development as proposed, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on European sites and in such circumstances the planning authority is precluded from granting permission.


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



Dated this 16th day of July, 2024.