

An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Commission Order
PL-500836-LS-26

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Laois County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 2560465

Appeal by Save Our Mountain CLG against the decision made on the 22nd day of January, 2026 by Laois County Council to grant, subject to conditions, a permission to Cullahill Wind Farm Limited in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

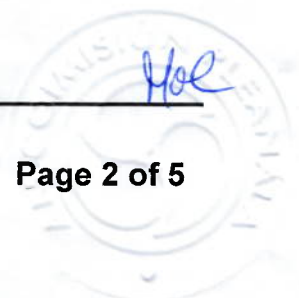
Proposed Development: Carry out continued operation of the existing 80 metre meteorological mast and all ancillary infrastructure for a period of up to five years. The meteorological mast was installed as exempted development in accordance with Class 20A, Schedule 2, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 Gorteennahilla, County, Laois.

Decision

GRANT permission 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.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the location of the proposed development within an upland, rural area, to the purpose of the development to measure local climate conditions, to the siting and design of the development together with its temporary nature, it is considered subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the visual amenities of the area including on any high amenity value views, would not seriously injure residential amenities of property in the area, would be acceptable in terms of traffic safety, would not result in an adverse impact on biodiversity and would not be prejudicial to public health. The Commission considered that the period of the permission for 3.5 years, taking account of the on-going operation of the mast since March 2025 would provide for the collection/analysis of at least 5 years of meteorological data as stated by the developer as being required. It is considered that the proposed development would be consistent with the Climate Action Plan 2025, would be in accordance with policies LCA 5 and LCA 7 of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, as amended by the further plans and particulars received by the planning authority on the 19th day of December 2025, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. This permission shall apply for a period of three years and six months from the date of this Order. The meteorological mast and ancillary structures shall then be removed unless, prior to the end of the period, planning permission shall have been granted for their retention for a further period.

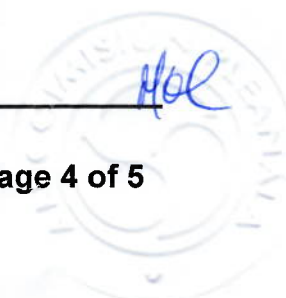
Reason: To enable the impact of the development to be reassessed, having regard to changes in technology and design during the specified period.

3. (a) The site shall be reinstated on removal of the meteorological mast and ancillary structures. Details relating to the removal and reinstatement shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the commencement of development.
- (b) In the event of the meteorological mast becoming obsolete and being decommissioned, the developers shall, at their own expense, remove the structure and restore the site to its original condition.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

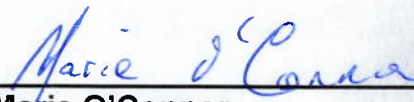
4. A low intensity fixed red obstacle light shall be fitted as close to the top of the mast as practicable and shall be visible from all angles in azimuth.

Reason: In the interest of public safety.

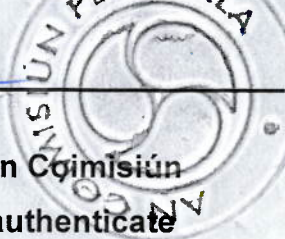


5. The developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or such other security as may be acceptable to the planning authority, to secure the satisfactory reinstatement of the site upon cessation of the project, coupled with an agreement empowering the planning authority to apply such security or part thereof to such reinstatement, including all necessary demolition and removal. The form and amount of the security shall be agreed between the planning authority and the developer, or in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Coimisiún Pleanála for determination.

Reason: To ensure the satisfactory reinstatement of the site.



Marie O'Connor
Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún
Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Commission.



Dated this *04th* day of *June* 2026