



An
Bord
Pleanála

**Ordú Boird
Board Order
17.PA0046**

**Forbairt Bhonneagair
Straitéisigh**

**Na hAchtanna um Pleanáil agus
Forbairt 2000 go 2016**

**Údarás Pleanála: Comhairle Contae
na Mí**

Iarratas ar chead faoi alt 37E den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, arna leasú, de réir na bpleananna agus na sonraí, lena n-áirítear ráiteas tionchair timpeallachta agus ráiteas tionchair Natura, a thaisc North Meath Wind Farm Limited faoi chúram Element Power Ireland, Aonad C, Foirgneamh 4200, Páirc Gnó Aerford Chorcaí, Corcaigh leis an mBord Pleanála an 28ú lá de Iúil, 2016.

Strategic

Infrastructure Development

**Planning and Development Acts
2000 to 2016**

**Planning Authority: Meath 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 statement and a Natura impact statement, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 28th day of July, 2016 by North Meath Wind Farm Limited care of Element Power Ireland, Unit C, Building 4200, Cork Airport Business Park, Cork.

An Fhorbairt Bheartaithe:

Cead pleanála le haghaidh deich mbliana agus tréimhse oibríochta 30 bliain ó dháta coimisiúnaithe na feirme gaoithe ar fad. Beidh na nithe seo a leanas mar chuid de:

- Suas le 25 tuirbín gaoithe a thógáil a mbeidh airde rinne suas le 169 méadar orthu,
- bunsraitheanna agus ionaid chrua do na tuirbíní a thógáil,
- 18 km go neasach de thraiceanna nua a thógáil agus draenáil ghaolmhar,
- 3.5 km go neasach de thraiceanna atá ann cheana a uasghrádú maraon le draenáil ghaolmhar más gá,
- dhá shloc soláthair i dteannta infreastruchtúir choimhdeach,
- gach draenáil ghaolmhar agus srianadh dríodair,
- trasnú sruthán,
- fostáisiún 110-kilovolt amháin a thógáil lena gcuimseofar:
 - dhá fhoirgneamh rialála ina gcuimseofaí áiseanna leasmhara,
 - infreastruchtúr leictreach,
 - páirceáil,

Proposed Development:

Permission for a period of 10 years and a 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm. The proposed development will consist of the following elements:

- Erection of up to 25 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169 metres,
- construction of turbine foundations and hardstanding areas,
- construction of approximately 18 kilometres of new site tracks and associated drainage,
- upgrading of approximately 3.5 kilometres of existing tracks and associated drainage where necessary,
- two number borrow pits and associated ancillary infrastructure,
- all associated drainage and sediment control,
- stream crossings,
- construction of one number 110-kilovolt substation including:
 - two control buildings containing welfare facilities,
 - electrical infrastructure,
 - parking,

- taiscumar fuíolluisce,
- an uile infreastruchtúr gaolmhar, seirbhísí agus oibreacha láithreáin lena n-áirítear tírdhreachú,
- cáblú Meán Voltais (MV) 33-kilovolt faoi thalamh agus cáblú cumarsáide lena mbaineann a shuiteáil idir na tuirbíní atá beartaithe agus an fostáisiún atá beartaithe ar an láithreán,
- ceangal leis an eangach leictreachais náisiúnta ón bhfostáisiún atá beartaithe ar an láithreán go dtí an fostáisiún atá ann cheana i nGormán (laistigh de bhaile fearainn Baile an Chabhsaigh) lena n-áirítear 16 km go neasach de cháblú faoi thalamh Ardvoltais (HV) 110-kilovolt agus cáblú cumarsáide lena mbaineann,
- oibreacha / forbairt shealadach bainteach leis an gcéim tógála lena n-áirítear dhá láithreán tógála beartaithe a thógáil agus infreastruchtúr coimhdeach lena mbaineann lena n-áirítear páirceáil,
- slite isteach atá ann cheana a uasghrádú agus slite isteach nua a sholáthar ar an mbóthar poiblí,
- waste water holding tank,
- and all associated infrastructure, services and site works including landscaping,
- installation of Medium Voltage (MV) 33-kilovolt underground cabling and associated communications cabling between the proposed turbines and the proposed on-site substation,
- connection to the national electricity grid from the on-site substation to an existing substation at Gorman (within the townland of Causestown) consisting of the installation of approximately 16 kilometres of High Voltage (HV) 110-kilovolt underground cabling and associated communications cabling,
- temporary development / works associated with the construction phase including two number proposed temporary construction site compounds and associated ancillary infrastructure including parking,
- upgrading of existing entrances and provision of new entrances onto the public road,

- leagan crann buaircíneach, i mbailte fearainn Baile Réisc, An Riasc, Baile Chraibhil, Imleach, Bheagáin, Baile Caisleán na Móna, Ráth Eoin, Ráth an Drácaigh, Cluaine, Baile an Drácaigh, Baile an Dódaigh, Dústún, Baile Mhic an Fhleastair, An Ghléib, Cluain an Ghail, Baile Órthaí, An Ros Mín, Gléib na Gráinsí, Baile Uilcín, Baile Shadhbha, Baile na Maileais, Baile an Scotaigh, Mullach Áithe, An Corrbhaile, Ráth Cuain, Dún Dairc, Baile Cuirneachain, Stigh Colláin, Baile an Chabhsaigh, Baile Mhontam, Contae na Mí.

Is iad na bailte fearainn de Cluain an Ghail agus Baile Órthaí atá lonnaithe i gceantar Gaeltachta.

- tree felling of coniferous trees, all in the townlands of Balreask, Reask, Gravelstown, Emlagh, Castletownmoor, St. John's Rath, Drakerath, Clooney, Drakestown, Dowdstown, Dowthstown, Fletcherstown, Glebe, Clongill, Oristown, Rossmeen, Grange Glebe, Wilkenstown, Balsaw, Demailestown, Scottstown, Mullagha, Corballis, Rathcoon, Dunderk, Carniaghanstown, Stackallan, Causestown and Mountainstown, County Meath.

The townlands of Clongill and Oristown are located within a Gaeltacht area.

An Cinneadh

Cead pleanála a DHIÚLTÚ faoi alt 37G den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, arna leasú, don fhorbairt bheartaithe thuasluaite, de réir pleananna agus sonraí atá ráite, bunaithe ar na cúiseanna agus na nithe le cur san áireamh thíos.

CINNEADH a dhéanamh faoi alt 37H(2)(c) cibé suim a n-íocfaidh an t-iarratasóir maidir le costais an iarratais, mar atá leagtha amach i Sceideal na gCostas thíos.

Decision

REFUSE permission under section 37G of Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, for the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations 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.

Na hÁbhair a cuireadh san Áireamh

Ag déanamh a chinnidh, thug an Bord aird ar na nithe áirithe atá dualgas air, de bhua na n-Achtanna um Pleanáil agus Forbairt agus na Rialachán arna ndéanamh fúthu, aird a thabhairt dóibh. San áireamh bhí aon aighneacht agus tuairim a fuair an Bord faoi réir forálacha reachtúla.

Matters Considered

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included the submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

Cúiseanna agus Cúinsí

Ag déanamh a chinnidh dó thug an Bord aird ar na nithe seo a leanas:

- (a) na Treoirlínte maidir le Forbairt an Fhuinnimh Ghaoithe – Treoirlínte d’Údaráis Phleanála arna n-eisiúint ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtais Áitiúil i Meitheamh, 2006, agus, go háirithe, forálacha Chaibidil 3 ‘Fuinneamh Gaoithe agus an Plean Forbartha’ agus Caibidil 6 ‘Nithe Aeistéitiúla le Cur san Áireamh maidir le Suíomh agus Dearadh’;
- (b) beartais agus cuspóirí Phlean Forbartha Chontae na Mí 2013-2019 lena n-áirítear, inter alia, maidir le fuinneamh in-athnuaite, fuinneamh gaoithe, turasóireacht, oidhreacht chultúrtha, struchtúir

Reasons and Considerations

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) the Wind Energy Development Guidelines – Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in June, 2006, and, in particular, the provisions of Chapter 3 ‘Wind Energy and the Development Plan’ and Chapter 6 ‘Aesthetic Considerations in Siting and Design’;
- (b) the policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, including, inter alia, in respect of renewable energy, wind energy, tourism, cultural heritage, protected structures,

- faoi chosaint, radhairc agus measúnú ar charachtar an tírdhreacha (cuirtear san áireamh nach bhfuil Straitéis Fuinneamh Gaoithe sa Phlean);
- (c) a riachtanaí atá sé caitheamh le forbairt feirmeacha gaoithe sa cheantar seo le híogaireacht ar leith i bhfianaise a chónagaraí atá an fhorbairt do líon mór tithe atá suite amach faoin tuath agus atá cóngarach do Droichead Chearbhalláin agus do Bhaile Cheanannas atá cóngarach;
- (d) suíomh na forbartha beartaithe i gceantar ina bhfuil stair lonnaíochta agus oidhreacht ghaolmhar d'áiteanna agus de ghnéithe a bhfuil tábhacht chultúrtha leo ó mhórchuid tréimhsí stairiúla;
- (e) carachtar an tírdhreacha fála, go háirithe ceantar ina bhfuil an tírdhreach seo lonnaithe ó thaobh oidhreacht chultúir de a bhfuil tábhacht réigiúnach, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta ag baint leis.
- (f) méid mór spásúil na feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe agus chomh hard is atá na tuirbíní atá beartaithe, agus
- (g) aighneachtaí agus tuairimí a
- views and prospects and landscape character assessment (noting the lack of a Wind Energy Strategy in the Plan);
- (c) the need to treat wind farm development in this area with particular sensitivity given the proximity of the development to a large number of houses located in the open countryside and within Carlanstown and in the nearby town of Kells;
- (d) the location of the proposed development in an area with a history of settlement and an associated legacy of places and features of cultural importance from many historical periods;
- (e) the character of the receiving landscape, including the contextual setting of this landscape for cultural heritage of international, national and regional importance.
- (f) the large spatial extent of the proposed wind farm and the tall height of the proposed wind turbines, and
- (g) the submissions and observations

fritheadh i gcomhar leis an bhforbairt atá beartaithe, agus

(h) tuarascáil agus moladh an Chigire,

Meastar go mbeadh feirm ghaoithe den scála, den mhéad agus den airde atá beartaithe ina gné thiarnasach sa cheantar tuaithe faoi líon daoine seo, go ndéanfaidh sé dochar mór do thaitneamhachtaí na réadmhaoine sa chomharsanacht, go gcuirfeadh sé isteach ar charachtar an tírdhreacha agus nach mbeadh sé de réir chuspóirí forbartha iomlána Phlean Forbartha Chontae na Mí 2013-2019.

Ina theannta sin meastar nach mbeadh an fhorbairt atá beartaithe ar aon dul leis na Treoirlínte maidir le Forbairt an Fhuinnimh Ghaoithe mar de réir na cáipéise treorach seo ní bheifear ag súil feirmeacha gaoithe de mhéid mór spásúil a thógáil agus ní bheifear ag súil tuirbíní arda a thógáil i gceantar atá aitheanta mar thalamh idir chothrom agus chnocánach agus atá cóngarach do neart tithe atá bailithe le chéile. Dá bhrí sin, bheadh an fhorbairt atá beartaithe in aghaidh pleanáil chuí agus forbairt inchothaithe an limistéir.

received in relation to the proposed development, and

(h) the report and recommendation of the Inspector,

It is considered that a wind farm of the spatial extent and wind turbines of the height proposed would visually dominate this populated rural area, would seriously injure the amenities of property in the vicinity, would interfere with the character of the landscape and would not be in accordance with the overall development objectives of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019.

Furthermore, it is considered that the proposed development would not align with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines as this guidance document does not envisage the construction of wind farms of large spatial extent and generally does not envisage wind turbines of tall height within an area primarily characterised as a hilly and flat farmland landscape and in such proximity to high concentrations of dwellings. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

SCEIDEAL NA gCOSTAS

Chuir an Bord san áireamh sonraí na gcostas a thabhaigh an Bord Pleanála sa chás.

De réir alt 182B den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000, arna leasú, ceanglaíonn an Bord ar an iarratasóir an ranníocaíocht réasúnach seo a leanas a íoc i leith na gcostas a thabhaigh an Bord Pleanála.

Leis an mBord Pleanála:

€5,102

Gheofar in Aguisín 1 miondealú ar chostais an Bhoird.

SCHEDULE OF COSTS

The Board noted the details of costs arising on the case for An Bord Pleanála.

In accordance with section 182B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board requires the following costs to be paid by the applicant:

To An Bord Pleanála

€5,102

A breakdown of the Boards costs is set out in the attached Appendix 1.

Ball den Bhord Pleanála a bhfuil údarás aige/aici séala an Bhord a fhíordheimhniú

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

Dátaithe ar an

lá seo de

2017