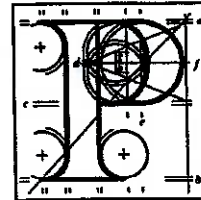


Our Case Number: ABP-309770-21



An
Bord
Pleanála

Ruth and Adam Sweeney
Ballinameagh
Castlepollard
Co. Westmeath
N91Y658

Date: 28 February 2023

Re: Proposed development of up to 15 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 175 metres and laying of approximately 26km of underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid, and all associated site development works
Townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monktown, Mullagh, Newcastle and other townlands, Co. Westmeath

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of Westmeath County Council and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

PA09

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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Niamh Thornton

From: SIDS
Sent: Friday 24 February 2023 09:20
To: Niamh Thornton
Subject: FW:
Attachments: ruthsub.pdf

From: Ruth Sweeney [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 23 February 2023 18:55
To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject:

Ruth Sweeney

Ballinameagh

Castlepollard

Co. Westmeath

N91 Y658

SID Further Information

Planning Dept 17 February 2023

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough St

Dublin 1

SENT BY EMAIL TO sids@pleanala.ie

Dear Sir

I, Ruth Sweeney

wish to make an observation on the Further Information supplied in relation to Case reference: PA25M.309770: Townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monkstown, Mullagh, Newcastle and other townlands, Co. Westmeath.

Proposed development of up to 15 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 175 metres and laying of approximately 26km of underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid, and all associated site development works.

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i. Up to 15 No. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 175 metres and all associated foundations and hardstanding areas;

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The following design requirements shall be complied with: a) The hub height shall be within the range of 103.5 metres to 120 metres, and the blade length shall be in the range of 58.5 metres to 75 metres. The overall tip height shall be in the range of 175 metres to 178.5 metres and the height of the permanent meteorological mast shall be within the range of 100 metres to 112 metres. Details of the turbine design, hub height, blade length, tip height, and meteorological mast complying with these limits, shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing

with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. The wind turbines, including tower and blades, shall be finished externally in a light grey colour.

The tip height has been raised by 3.5 metres. How can this be that the tip be 175 metres tall and also 178.5 tall? There is a differential of 3.5 metres

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The Department would like to highlight the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027 Natura 2000 sites' policy objective CPO 12.6, "Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted.

Footnote: Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place." This point is noted and it is recognised that the NIS has concluded that: Following an examination, evaluation and analysis, in light of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, and, on the basis of objective information, having taken into account the relevant mitigation measures, it can be concluded that the Proposed Development will not have an adverse impact on any European Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The project is therefore in accordance with the above objective.

Question: Is the expectation to wipe out half the population not theriocide?

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The Department recommends the following measures are put in place to mitigate impacts to all bat species in the proposed development site and along the proposed grid connection route: 1. Bat surveys in the proposed development site should be carried out over a number of additional dates prior to the commencement of the development, potential bat roosts should be reassessed over a number of dates, recorded, marked and examined at height for bat presence, under licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service section of this Department. The survey should be carried out in accordance with the Bat Tree Habitat Key and companion volume, BTHK 2020, available for free download at <http://battreehabitatkey.eo.uk/?page id=43>. A report on this survey, including details of potential roost features found to be submitted to the planning authority and the National Parks and Wildlife Service prior to the commencement of the development. 2. Any roosts identified, are protected under the provisions of Regulation 51 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015. Therefore, damage/disturbance to any such roosts must be avoided in the first instance. While the Minister may grant a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015, a licence can only be granted once a number of strict criteria have been met (see Regulation 54). Applications for derogation licences can be made in writing, including survey results and proposed mitigation measures, to the Wildlife Licensing Unit of

the National Parks and Wildlife Service. 3. Replacement planting of trees and hedgerows should include a mix of age classes of trees of native species to ensure a similar structure to the removed hedgerows is replaced. A specific condition, as stated in the EIAR, should be included prohibiting any removal of any trees or vegetation including conifer trees in the plantation; between the 1st March to 31st August of any year for the duration of the construction phase for the purposes of protecting nesting bird species and bat species recorded during the surveys. The above recommendations are acknowledged and it is confirmed that they will be undertaken should planning permission be granted by An Bord Pleanála.

Question :is this not closing the barn door once the horse has bolted

Please find attached an Observation on Further Information on case Nos 309770-21 Coole Wind Farm SID.

We submitted an observation previously under the name of Ruth Sweeney so there is no fee to pay.

Please can you send me a receipt as confirmation.