



An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

21 August 2020

Re: Construction of the Boyne Greenway Drogheda to Mornington, Co. Meath & Co. Louth

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 20/170

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and has datasets on Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources and the Irish Seabed. These comprise maps, reports and extensive databases that include mineral occurrences, bedrock/mineral exploration groundwater/site investigation boreholes, karst features, wells and springs. Please see our [website](#) for data availability and we recommend using these various data sets, when undergoing the EIAR, planning and scoping processes. Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used, they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland.

Dear Sir/Madam,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] from Meath County Council concerning the proposed [REDACTED] the following [REDACTED] EIAR report.

[REDACTED] designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This [REDACTED] the theme [REDACTED] nty [REDACTED] tments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate [REDACTED] protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSS can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#). The audits for Co. Meath and Co. Louth were carried out in 2007 and 2011 respectively. The full report details can be found at [The Geological Heritage of Meath](#) and [The Geological Heritage of Louth](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] possible mitigation measures if applicable. [REDACTED]



Groundwater

Groundwater is important as a source of drinking water, and it supports river flows, lake levels and ecosystems. It contains natural substances dissolved from the soils and rocks that it flows through, and can also be contaminated by human actions on the land surface. As a clean, but vulnerable, resource, groundwater needs to be understood, managed and protected. Through our [Groundwater Programme](#), Geological Survey Ireland provides advice and maps to members of the public, consultancies and public bodies about groundwater quality, quantity and distribution. Geological Survey Ireland monitors groundwater nationwide by characterising aquifers, investigating karst landscapes and landforms and by helping to protect public and group scheme water supplies. We recommend using our National Aquifer Vulnerability and Recharge maps on our [Map viewer](#) to this end.

With regard to Flood Risk Management, there is a need to identify areas for integrated mitigation and management. We note reference within the EIAR Screening and Flood Risk Assessment reports to the OPW datasets on flooding. Our GWflood project is a groundwater flood monitoring and mapping programme aimed at addressing the knowledge gaps surrounding groundwater flooding in Ireland. The project is providing the data and analysis tools required by local and national authorities to make scientifically-informed decisions regarding groundwater flooding. **Although primarily focused on karst areas, this may provide useful information to benefit the Greenway project. The flood maps and their accompanying report are available [here](#). We recommend using our GWflood tools found under our programme activities (in conjunction with OPW data) to this end.**

[page](#)

[GWflood](#)

levels in
ge can be monitored and assessed. In this context we have
ating the
ems. **Further information can be found on the Groundwater**
While in
[Map Viewer](#) Geological
as Landscape Susceptibility Mapping and Groundwater
e indicate
nd, the Irish coast is vulnerable to tsunamis from submarine
land
d alerting system, coordinated by the Intergovernmental

Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. **We recommend that geohazards and particularly flooding be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.** Coastal Vulnerability while seen as a potential geohazard, is discussed in more

ainable development of our natural resources should be an
eration of
rial asset which should be explicitly recognised within the

environmental assessment process. Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our [Minerals section](#) of the website.



The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our [Map Viewer](#). We would recommend use of the **Aggregate Potential Mapping viewer to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area. In keeping with a sustainable approach, consideration of the effects of the proposed development on aggregate potential sources such as resource sterilisation should be considered in the Greenway project.**

Marine and Coastal Unit

Geological Survey Ireland's Marine and Coastal Unit manages programmes, projects and partnerships aimed at increasing our knowledge of the marine and coastal realm, developing new methods and tools for understanding coastal processes and taking action on climate change. Our Marine and Coastal Unit in partnership with the Marine Institute, jointly manages INFOMAR, Ireland's national programme focused on seabed mapping; providing key baseline data for Ireland's marine sector. **The Marine and Coastal Unit also manage coastal monitoring programmes providing data on coastal erosion and sea level rise including the Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands (CHERISH) and the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) mapping projects. We would therefore recommend use of our Marine and Coastal Unit datasets available on our [website](#) and [Map Viewer](#).**

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]