Mr Brendan Allen

Planning Team Leader

Engineering and Major Projects

One Dublin Airport Central

Dublin Airport

Cloghran

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K67 XF72

12th May 2022

Dear Mr Allen

**Re Planning Compliance Submission for Laois Kilkenny Electricity**

**Reinforcement Project – ABP Reg Ref. VA0015**

A Chara

We refer to your letter of the 30th March 2022 regarding the above project, where you reference conditions no. 9 and 10 of ABP Reg Ref VA0015. By way of reference these conditions read as follows:

*9. Prior to commencement of development, and following consultation with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, a methodology shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the relevant planning authority for the replacement of existing polesets that are situated in close proximity to existing archaeological features.*

*Reason: In the interest of the protection of archaeological features.*

**Planning Authority Assessment**

The Planning Authority notes the conclusions of the report, the purpose of the condition is to submit a methodology to be agreed with the planning authority for the replacement of existing polesets that are situated in close proximity to existing archaeological features.

In this case within County Laois, there does not appear to be existing polesets being replaced, and therefore the compliance of this condition does not appear to be necessary for this part of the proposed development.

*10. The undertaker shall facilitate the archaeological appraisal of the site and shall provide for the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features which may exist within the site. In this regard, the undertaker shall:-*

*(a) notify the planning authority in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of any site operation (including hydrological and geotechnical investigations) relating to the proposed development,*

*(b) employ a suitably-qualified archaeologist prior to commencement of development. The archaeologist shall assess the site and monitor all site development works. The assessment shall address the following issues:-*

*(i) the nature and location of archaeological material on the site, and*

*(ii) the impact of the proposed development on such archaeological material, and*

*(c) particular care shall be taken in replacing polesets close to archaeological features.*

*A report, containing the results of the assessment, shall be submitted to the planning authority and, arising from this assessment, the undertaker shall agree in writing with the planning authority details regarding any further archaeological requirements (including, if necessary, archaeological excavation) prior to commencement of construction works. In default of agreement on any of these requirements, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.*

*Reason: In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the area and to secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) and protection of any archaeological remains that may exist within the site.*

**Planning Authority Assessment**

With regards to condition 10 (b), the Planning Authority is satisfied with the contents, conclusions and the recommendations of the Archaeological Impact Assessment Report (March 2022) prepared by Byrne Mullins and Associates.

Condition 10(b) has therefore been complied with. The Planning Authority does however note that in the event of additional subsurface features of archaeological interest being uncovered during the course of the monitoring, works in the immediate area of such features will cease and the advice of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will be sought to determine what additional action should be implemented.

Yours sincerely

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**Marie Murray**

**Senior Staff Officer**

**Planning Section**