

APPENDIX 14

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR THE 400kV HVAC OVERHEAD LINE OPTION

Section 6 - Cultural Heritage –National Monuments in the Ownership of a Local Authority/Religious Sites Located Within 2km of the Overhead Line Option

SMR_No	Classification	Townland	County
MA021-067002-	Graveyard	Killeennashask	Mayo
MA021-067001-	Church	Killeennashask	Mayo
MA039-015001-	Church	Ardagh (Tirawley By.)	Mayo
MA039-015002-	Graveyard	Ardagh (Tirawley By.)	Mayo
MA039-064002-	Graveyard	Glebe (Tirawley By., Kilbelfad Par.)	Mayo
MA039-064001-	Church	Glebe (Tirawley By., Kilbelfad Par.)	Mayo
MA030-068001-	Church	Gortatogher	Mayo
MA039-053001-	Church	Ballynahaglish	Mayo
MA039-053002-	Graveyard	Ballynahaglish	Mayo
MA049-076001-	Church	Creggagh	Mayo
MA049-093----	Church	Cullin	Mayo
MA061-093001-	Church	Cloonygowan	Mayo
MA049-125001-	Church	Graffy (Gallen By., Killasser Par.)	Mayo
MA049-125002-	Graveyard	Graffy (Gallen By., Killasser Par.)	Mayo
MA049-127002-	Graveyard	Carrowneden (Gallen By.)	Mayo
MA049-127001-	Church	Carrowneden (Gallen By.)	Mayo
MA063-050001-	Church	Temple	Mayo
MA063-050002-	Graveyard	Temple	Mayo
MA073-011002-	Graveyard	Rusheens West	Mayo
MA073-011004-	Church	Rusheens West	Mayo
MA073-014002-	Graveyard	Rusheens West	Mayo
MA073-014001-	Church	Rusheens West	Mayo
RO008C031----	Chapel	Ballymaging Or Castlemore	Roscommon
RO008-033001-	Church	Glebe ((Costello By.)	Roscommon
RO008-033002-	Graveyard	Glebe ((Costello By.)	Roscommon
RO015-030005-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	Cloonshanville	Roscommon
RO015-030001-	Religious house - Dominican friars	Cloonshanville	Roscommon

SMR_No	Classification	Townland	County
RO015-030002-	Graveyard	Cloonshanville	Roscommon
RO015-047003-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	Ballaghcullia, Ballynahowna	Roscommon
RO015-047001-	Church	Ballaghcullia	Roscommon
RO016-015001-	Religious house - Franciscan Third Order Regular	Caldragh (Frenchpark By.)	Roscommon
RO016-015002-	Graveyard	Caldragh (Frenchpark By.)	Roscommon
RO010-073001-	Church	Kilcolagh	Roscommon
RO010-073002-	Graveyard	Kilcolagh	Roscommon
RO010-062001-	Church	Killappoge	Roscommon
RO010-062002-	Graveyard	Killappoge	Roscommon
RO010-062003-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	Killappoge	Roscommon
RO011-099001-	Church	Kilcanoran	Roscommon
RO011-099002-	Graveyard	Kilcanoran	Roscommon
RO011-099003-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	Kilcanoran	Roscommon
RO011-106002-	Graveyard	Killummod	Roscommon
MA049-078001	Burial ground	Coollagagh	Mayo
MA049-078002	Ritual site - holy well	Coollagagh	Mayo
RO011-106001-	Church	Killummod	Roscommon

Section 6 - Cultural Heritage –Summary of Archaeological Monuments Located Within 2km of the OHL Option

Site Type	Count	Site Type	Count
Graveyard	16	Armorial plaque	1
Hilltop enclosure	1	Barrow - bowl-barrow	1
House - 16th/17th century	1	Barrow - embanked barrow	2
House - early medieval	2	Barrow - mound barrow	4
House - fortified house	2	Barrow - pond barrow	1
House - indeterminate date	43	Barrow - ring-barrow	3
Hut site	12	Barrow – unclassified	2
Inscribed stone	1	Bawn	2
Kiln - lime	1	Boulder-burial	2
Mass-rock	2	Boundary mound	2
Mass-rock (present location)	1	Building	3
Mausoleum	1	Bullaun stone	19
Megalithic structure	5	Burial	3
Megalithic tomb - court tomb	10	Burial ground	7
Megalithic tomb - portal tomb	1	Burnt mound	7
Megalithic tomb - unclassified	8	Cairn - clearance cairn	2
Megalithic tomb - wedge tomb	5	Cairn - unclassified	13
Mill - unclassified	2	Castle - tower house	3
Moated site	11	Castle - unclassified	9
Mound	13	Causeway	2
Ogham stone	1	Chapel	1
Penitential station	1	Children's burial ground	25
Redundant record	47	Church	19
Religious house - Dominican friars	1	Country house	1
Religious house - Franciscan Third Order Regular	1	Crannog	8
Ringfort - cashel	67	Cross	3
Ringfort - rath	343	Cross - High cross	1
Ringfort - unclassified	8	Cross (present location)	1

Ritual site - holy well	9	Cross-slab	1
Souterrain	74	Designed landscape - tree-ring	5
Standing stone	11	Earthwork	29
Stone circle	1	Ecclesiastical enclosure	4
Stone row	1	Enclosure	151
Structure	3	Field boundary	6
Sundial	1	Field system	8
Water mill - horizontal-wheeled	2	Fulacht fia	37
Well	1	Graveslab	1
		Grand Total	1099

Section 6 - Cultural Heritage – Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens Located Within 2km of the OHL Option

Townland	House Name	County	Site Status
Ballybeg	Ballybeg	Mayo	Virtually no recognisable features
Kilcanoran	Beechabbey	Roscommon	Virtually no recognisable features
Lung	Beechmount	Roscommon	Unknown
Bella	Bella	Roscommon	Unknown
Knockaculleen	Belville	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Ishlaun	Brooklawn	Roscommon	Unknown
Carrowmore	Carrowmore House	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Castlemore	Castlemore	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Cloonfad More	Cloonfad House	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Croghan	Croghan House	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Danesfort	Danesfort	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Deelcastle	Deel Castle	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Fahy	Fahy House	Mayo	Virtually no recognisable features
Frenchpark Demesne	Frenchpark House	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Greenwoodpark	Greenwood	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Ballaghcullia	Hermitage House	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Kiltymaine	Kiltymaine	Roscommon	Unknown
Lissadorn	Lissadorn House	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Banada	Lung House	Roscommon	Unknown
Drumrevagh	Mount Falcon Demesne	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Nettlepark	Nettlepark House	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible

Townland	House Name	County	Site Status
Rappacastle	Rappacastle	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Ardlougher	Rush Hill	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible

Detailed Description of Landscape Character – Overhead Line Route Option

The following lists and describes the landscape character, which is to incorporate the proposed overhead line development. The landscape characterisation for each County is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 (Landscape Characterisation – Map 1 and 2) accompanying this appendix.

County Mayo

The Landscape Appraisal accompanying the current Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 subdivides the County into 16 Landscape Character Units. Units with similar landscape types have been grouped into 4 Principle Policy Areas. The proposed overhead line development is located within the following landscape character units and policy areas:

Table 1.1: List of Landscape Character Units (LCU) traversed by the proposed overhead line development	
LCU	Name
G	North Mayo Drumlins
H	East Mayo Uplands
K	East Central Drumlins Spine

Table 1.2: List of Principle Policy Areas (PPA) traversed by the proposed overhead line development	
PPA	Name
3	Uplands, moors, heath or bogs
4	Drumlins and Inland Lowlands
4A	Lakeland Sub-policy Area

Description of sections of Landscape Units affected by the proposed development based on the Landscape Appraisal:

Landscape Unit G – North Mayo Drumlins

The proposed development will traverse this unit in a northwest to southeast direction and north, northeast and east of Lough Conn. This unit contains low lying Lakeland drumlins in the southern part, the flood plain of the River Moy and steeper drumlins in the proximity of the mountains foothills to the north-west. The land cover is dominated by pasture with sporadic areas of moorland. Hedgerows and small patches of scrub and woodland create a patchwork of farmer landscapes in this area. The region is dominated by extensive areas of pastureland and some pockets of peat bog. The region includes the urban settlement of Ballina.

Critical Landscape Factors:

Undulating topography

- The gently undulating topography has the ability to both shelter and absorb the visual impact of development if it does not break the skyline. The dynamic and complex nature of undulating country provides fore, middle, and distant ground to a vista that helps to provide a realistic scale and visual containment not available in open country.

Shelter Vegetation

- In a similar manner to undulating topography, shelter vegetation has a shielding and absorbing quality in landscape terms. It can provide a natural visual barrier and also adds to the complexity of a vista, breaking it up to provide scale and containment for built forms.

Prominent Ridgelines

- These occur as either primary ridgelines (visible only against the sky from any prospect) or secondary ridgelines (visible at least from some prospects below a distant primary ridge line). In this area both primary and significant secondary ridgelines are located to the east as part of the Ox Mountains. Ridge lines perform the important roles of providing an area with its identity, acting as dominant landscape focal points, and defining the extent of visual catchments.

It is important that development does not interrupt the integrity of primary ridgelines. Due to the dominating influence of ridge lines, in instances where penetration does occur, development can appear insubordinate to the landscape in which it sits.

Localised Lake Vistas

- This character unit envelops a large part of Lough Conn, around the shores of which, several major roads pass. Due to the low-lying nature of lakeland environments low prospect vistas are available from the roads of the Lough and its shores. The main concern for natural linear features such as lake-shores, coast lines, and ridge lines is to avoid penetration by development that will interrupt and reduce the integrity of such elements. Given the low viewing points around the Loughs, visual intrusion by development is likely to be enhanced.

Landscape Unit H – East Mayo Uplands

The proposed development will traverse this unit in the centre in a northwest to southeast direction. This unit is primarily made up of rugged hill country where it forms the foothills at the south-western end of the Ox Mountains. Despite the region being mostly occupied by peat bogs, agricultural lands with significant areas of natural vegetation and pasture lands is present in the landscape. Other major land uses include small scale commercial coniferous forestry and urban settlements (such as Foxford).

Critical Landscape Factors:

Steep Slopes

- Steeply sloping land provides both a potentially increased elevation and an immediate backdrop for development, intensifying its visual prominence over greater distances. Slope also provides an increased opportunity for development to penetrate primary and secondary ridgelines, when viewed from lower areas of the public realm such as the roads in this area.

Prominent Ridgelines

- This unit contains primary ridgelines (visible only against the sky from any prospect) and secondary ridge lines (visible at least from some prospects below a distant primary ridge line). Both, primary and significant secondary ridgelines are located in this unit and form part of the Ox Mountains in the east and with Nephin Beg and Croaghmoyle to the west. Ridge lines perform the important roles of providing an area with its identity, acting as dominant landscape focal points, and defining the extent of visual catchments. It is important that development does not interrupt the integrity of primary ridgelines. Due to the dominating influence of ridgelines, in instances where penetration does occur, development can appear insubordinate to the landscape in which it sits.

Localised Lake Vistas

- This character unit envelopes part of both Lough Conn and Lough Cullin, around the shores of which, several major roads pass. Due to the low-lying nature of lakeland environments such as this, low prospect vistas are available from the roads of the Lough and its shores. The main concern for natural linear features such as lakeshores, coastlines, and ridgelines is to avoid penetration by development that will interrupt and reduce the integrity of such

elements. Given the low viewing points around the Loughs, visual intrusion by development is likely to be enhanced.

Landscape Unit K – East Central Drumlins Spine

The proposed overhead line development traverses this unit in its north, north-eastern section and in a northwest to east direction. The area is made up of drumlins that become less uniform and severe than in the western section near Clew Bay, and the terrain merges into several sets of geologically distinct and isolated hills particularly in the vicinity of Swinford and Charlestown. The land cover is a mixture of bog/moorland, poor quality pasture and transitional woodland scrub with better quality to the east and south. This unit is characterised by a mixed land use such as peat bogs and agricultural land with significant areas of natural vegetation and transitional woodland scrub. Swinford and Charlestown are significant urban settlements in this region.

Critical Landscape Factors:

Undulating topography

- Mildly undulating topography as represented in this character unit by drumlins and low hills has the ability to both shelter and absorb the visual impact of development where it does not break the skyline. The dynamic and complex nature of undulating country provides fore, middle, and distant ground to a vista that helps to provide a realistic scale and visual containment not available in open country.

Shelter Vegetation

- In a similar manner to undulating topography, shelter vegetation has a shielding and absorbing quality in landscape terms. It can provide a natural visual barrier and also adds to the complexity of a vista, breaking it up to provide scale and containment for built forms.

Prominent Ridgelines

- There are major primary ridgelines beyond the north-west boundary of this character unit, and it also contains some relatively low and isolated examples of primary and secondary ridge lines through its centre. Ridge lines perform the important roles of providing an area with its identity, acting as dominant landscape focal points, and defining the extent of visual catchments. As with other natural linear features such as shorelines it is important that development does not interrupt the integrity of primary ridgelines. Due to the dominating influence of ridgelines, in instances where penetration does occur, development can appear insubordinate to the landscape in which it sits.

Localised Lake Vistas

- This character unit envelops a large part of Lough Conn, around the shores of which, several major roads pass. Due to the low-lying nature of lakeland environments such as this, low prospect vistas are available from the roads of the Lough and its shores. The main concern for natural linear features such as lakeshores, coastlines, and ridgelines is to avoid penetration by development that will interrupt and reduce the integrity of such elements. Given the low viewing points around the loughs, visual intrusion by development is likely to be enhanced.

Description of sections of Landscape Policy Areas affected by the proposed development based on the Landscape Appraisal:

The Landscape Appraisal sets out indicative policies for each Policy Area, which should be read in conjunction with the relevant landscape factors of each landscape character unit. The Landscape Appraisal sets out the following indicative policies:

Policy Area 3 – Uplands, Moors, Heath or Bogs

These distinctive and large areas of the County form a single policy unit due to the similar visual characteristics of smooth topography, limited shelter vegetation, often steep slopes and prominent ridge lines, rendering this policy unit similar suitability to absorb development.

“Policy 12: *Recognise the occurrence of areas of highly valued scenic vistas, uninterrupted by shelter vegetation or undulating topography, which can cover vast areas and are abundant.*

Policy 13: *Encourage development that will not have a disproportionate visual impact (due to excessive bulk, scale or inappropriate siting) and will not significantly interfere or detract from scenic upland vistas, as identified in the Development Plan, when viewed from areas of the public realm.*

Policy 14: *Encourage development that will not interrupt or penetrate distinct linear sections of primary ridge lines when viewed from areas of the public realm.*

Policy 15: *Facilitate developments that have a locational requirement to be situated on elevated sites (e.g. telecommunications and wind energy structures). It is necessary however to ensure that adverse visual impacts are avoided or mitigated wherever possible.*

Policy 16: *Preserve from development any areas that have not already been subject to development, which have retained a dominantly undisturbed upland/moorland character.*

Policy 17: *Consider development on steep slopes, ensuring that it will not have a disproportionate or dominating visual impact on the surrounding environment as seen from areas of the public realm.”*

Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands

These undulating areas of pasture, woodland and forest have a generally similar ability to absorb development. Many of these areas are underlain by glacial drumlins and incorporate low-lying lakelands.

“Policy 14: *Encourage development that will not interrupt or penetrate distinct linear sections of primary ridge lines when viewed from areas of the public realm.*

Policy 16: *Preserve from development any areas that have not already been subject to development, which have retained a dominantly undisturbed upland/moorland character.*

Policy 21: *Recognise that these areas are made up of a variety of working landscapes and contain the vast proportion of the County’s population within principle towns and on rural holdings. These also incorporate all of the major national primary and regional roads, and railways.*

Policy 22: *Continue to permit development that can utilise existing infrastructure, whilst taking account of absorption opportunities provided by the landscape and prevailing vegetation.*

Policy 23: *Encourage development that will not significantly interfere or detract from scenic Lakeland vistas, as identified in the Development Plan, when viewed from areas of the public realm.*

Policy 24: *Encourage development that will not result in detrimental impacts (through excessive bulk, scale or inappropriate siting) on the landscape at a local or micro level as viewed from areas of the public realm.”*

Policy Area 4A – Lakelands Sub-policy Area

This distinctive area of the County comprises the landscapes of policy areas 3 and 4, which bound Lough Mask. It bounds often steep slopes and prominent ridge lines with limited shelter vegetation to the west and undulating areas of pasture, woodland and forest with underlying glacial drumlins to the east.

“Policy 19: Promote only development that will not penetrate distinct linear sections of shorelines when viewed from areas of the public realm.

Policy 20: Recognise the value of scenic lake land vistas, as identified in the development plan. Protect areas that have not been subject to recent or prior development by ensuring any new development can be absorbed by the surrounding landscape.

Policy 25: Ensure all new development utilises the existing infrastructure of the policy area in a manner, which can be best visually absorbed.

Policy 26: Ensure development will not take place on steep slopes, which will have a strong visual impact on the surrounding landscapes, when viewed from areas of the public realm.”

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Appraisal also evaluates different development types in different policy areas in a Development Impact – Landscape Sensitivity Matrix. Given the nature of the proposed development with its proposed overhead transmission line and substation structures, the development belongs to the category “Powerlines”. The classification distinguishes into the following impact ratings:

“High potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character. Having regard to the intrinsic physical and visual characteristics of the landscape area, it is unlikely that such impacts can be reduced to a widely acceptable level.”

“Medium potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character. Such developments are likely to be clearly discernible and distinctive, however with careful siting and good design, the significance and extent of impacts can be minimised to an acceptable level.”

“Low potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character. Such development is likely to be widely conceived as normal and appropriate unless siting and design are poor.”

For **Policy Area 3**, “Powerlines” have been identified as having a High impact.

For **Policy Area 4 (including 4A)**, “Powerlines” have been identified as having a Medium to High impact.

County Roscommon

The Landscape Character Assessment accompanying the current Roscommon County Development Plan 2014-2020 subdivides the county into 7 Landscape Character Types, which contain 36 Landscape Character Areas. Each Landscape Character Area has been classified into the following landscape values:

- Exceptional Value
- Very High Value
- High Value
- Moderate Value

The proposed overhead line development is located within the following character types and landscape character units:

Table 1.3: List of Character Types and Landscape Character Areas traversed by the proposed overhead line development		
Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Area	Landscape Value
Hills and Upland	23 – Ballaghaderreen and Bockagh Hill Uplands	Moderate
Bogland	20 – Breedoge Bogland Basin	Moderate
	22 – Cloona Lough and Lung River Bogland Basin	Moderate
	27 – Castlerea Raised Bogland	High
Wet Farmland	21 – Mullaghnashee Wet Farmland Plateau	Moderate
Drumlin Lakelands	19 – Elphin Drumlins	Moderate
	3 – Lough Corry Drumlin Basin	Very High

Description of sections of Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas affected by the proposed development based on the Landscape Character Assessment:

Landscape Character Types

“Landscape Character Types are distinct landscapes that are relatively consistent in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the county, but wherever they occur they broadly share similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use and settlement pattern.” The following types are traversed by the proposed development:

Hills and Upland: mostly located in the north of the county but also including relatively confined areas in the middle and west.

Bogland: located throughout including along river corridors as well as in the east and northwest.

Wet Farmland: concentrated in the northern half of the county.

Drumlin Lakelands: concentrated in the northeast.”

Landscape Character Areas

3 – Lough Corry Drumlin Basin

Key Characteristics:

This Landscape Area is located in the northeast of the county and contains the eastern end of the proposed underground development. The southern and western boundaries of this LCA are formed by a series of drumlins which also mark a change in elevation between neighbouring character areas. The general alignment of drumlins is in a southwest to northeast direction. The predominant land cover is dry grassland with areas of wet grassland as well as reclaimed blanket bog throughout. The latter two land cover types are typically found in the drumlin flats and hollows. Hedgerows comprise mostly broadleaf species including ash. In some areas there is a strong sense of openness created by loose light hedgerows. While there are no large settlements in this LCA, the town of Carrick-on-Shannon extends over the Shannon River to the northeast including residential and commercial development. The overall image of this LCA is of a relatively well drained drumlin farmland, with strong tourist amenities along the River Shannon including Lough Corry.

Landscape Value:

The Lough Corry Drumlin Basin is classified as Very High Value to reflect the boating, fishing and scenic amenities along the River Shannon.

Forces of Change:

- Inappropriate and poorly sited development on the shoreline of Lough Corry and along the River Shannon;
- Increasing development pressure along the R370 leading into Carrick-on-Shannon, contributing to the erosion of the rural character of the area;
- Unchecked ribbon development along the R368 and other local roads connecting to Carrick-on-Shannon could have a comparable adverse impact; and
- Increasingly marginalised farmland could also lead to a gradual down grading of the visual quality of the landscape.

19 – Elphin Drumlins

Key Characteristics:

This landscape character area is located in the northern half of County Roscommon. It is positioned to the west of the Shannon corridor and is defined by a low rounded ridge of high ground to the west, lakeland drumlins to the southeast and the Plains of Boyle to the north. The drumlins in this LCA are not as distinct as they are in adjoining nearby LCAs (LCA 3 and 4). However, there is a series of low rounded hills aligned on a northeast southwest axis along with a number of small lakes. The hills give way to a low rounded ridge to the west, providing some distant views. The principle river in this LCA is the Killukin River which connects a number of small lakes including Corbally Lough. While there are some patches of raised bog especially in the northwest corner of this LCA, landcover is otherwise primarily dry grassland with some wet grassland found scattered particularly on low ground between drumlin hills. Patches of coniferous forest are located in the northern section of this LCA. The overall image of this landscape character area is one at the edge of drumlin belt comprising hills and lakes and terminating by a continuous ridge of drumlins to the south.

Landscape Value:

Moderate. This landscape has been extensively formed by human activity and consists of small fields and mixed broadleaf hedgerows.

Forces of Change:

- Change in farmland management. The farmland is currently not intensively managed as evidenced by poorly maintained hedgerows and rush infested pasture; and
- Dispersed rural settlement including excessive new housing along the road network (in particular in the vicinity of the village of Elphin).

20 – Breedoge Bogland Basin

Key Characteristics:

This LCA is located in the northern region of County Roscommon, defined by the County Sligo boundary to the north, the general catchment of the River Breedoge and landcover pattern. The landform is one of a broad shallow basin draining to the northwest serving the above mentioned river and contained by higher ground to the west and east. The River Breedoge feeds the southern part of Lough Gara, providing scenic views from nearby local roads. Three distinct shifts of surface vegetation are readily apparent. In the east of the LCA, landcover comprises mostly wet and dry grassland complex with low hedgerows of hawthorn and willow. There is a distinct shift to raised bog and reclaimed raised bog in the centre of the LCA where birch and willow woodland occurs along drainage channels. Drier grassland develops in the north-western part with coniferous planting and high hedgerows along local roads. The largest settlement in the LCA is the village of Ballinameen, located on dry and slightly elevated ground to the east. The overall image is one of a broad bogland basin draining into Lough Gara located County Sligo.

Landscape Value:

Moderate. The principle feature of interest is the vast area of bogland in the centre of the LCA, which has intrinsic ecological qualities and is remote. There is a designated Scenic View located on the N61 to the east providing a broadly panoramic and elevated view overlooking this LCA as seen below.

Forces of Change:

- Afforestation of bogland;
- Encroachment of rural housing into bogland fringes and overlooking Lough Gara; and
- Increased marginalisation of farmland particularly to the east.

21 – Mullaghnashee Wet Farmland Plateau

Key Characteristics:

This LCA is located in the northwest of County Roscommon, defined by its relatively elevated position overlooking wetter areas of bogland to the northwest. Its landcover contrasts with the extensive areas of bog located to the southwest. Landform comprises a broad elevated and rounded plateau sweeping gradually to lower ground to the north in the vicinity of Lough Gara. This area of raised ground peaks at Mullaghnashee where elevated and panoramic views are provided of the surrounding landscape. The largest river in this LCA is the Carricknabraher River which flows northeast eventually connecting to Lough Gara. Landcover comprises raised bogland on higher ground near Mullaghnashee and otherwise a patchwork of wet and dry grassland throughout the remainder of the LCA. The principle settlement is Frenchpark. The overall image of this LCA is dry and elevated undulating farmland with pockets of cultural interest.

Landscape Value:

Moderate. The main features of special value include the elevated views available from the summit of Mullaghnashee and the cultural heritage interest in the Douglas Hyde burial place and the adjacent Frenchpark Demesne with its walled estate grounds, parkland landscape and folly. Importance of Carricknabraher River for fishing.

Forces of Change:

- Realignment of N5, resulting in increased demand for alternative rural enterprise buildings;
- Rapid expansion of Frenchpark potentially compromising the heritage value of the parkland landscape of Frenchpark Demesne;
- Development of dispersed rural dwellings.

22 – Cloona Lough and Lung River Bogland

Key Characteristics:

This landscape character area is located in the northwest of County Roscommon and is mostly defined by the catchment of the Lung River which drains in a north-easterly direction from a cluster of lakes close to the border with County Mayo. The largest of these lakes is Cloonagh Lough, flanked by Clooacolly Lough to the north, Errit Lough to the south and Loughglynn further to the east. This landscape character area is very low lying and without spatial relief. The Lung River meanders towards Lough Gara in the neighbouring County Sligo. The Lung River creates a broad floodplain rather than a valley. Landcover varies and it is visually dominated in the west and east by extensive areas of raised bog and reclaimed raised bog. The largest area of bog can be found along the County Roscommon / Sligo border where the Lung River connects to Lough Gara. The largest settlement is Loughglynn, although there is considerable influence from Ballaghaderreen located on the northern edge. Overall image is one of a wide river corridor serving an extensive bogland.

Landscape Value:

Moderate. The Lung River and associated bogland and wetland corridors are defining elements in this LCA, along with clusters of lakes in the west. This landscape is of high nature value and the low lying scenery of rivers and lakes is also of significant interest for passive recreation as well as angling. The areas of bogland particularly in the east provide an opportunity for isolation and tranquillity as human activity is not very evident in the landscape.

Forces of Change:

- Expansion of Ballaghaderreen into the northern fringes of this LCA;
- Development pressure along the regional roads and in the village of Loughglynn; and
- Afforestation in wet areas to the east potentially threatening views of Lough Gara.

23 – Ballaghaderreen and Bockagh Hill Uplands

Key Characteristics:

This landscape character area is located in the north-western corner of County Roscommon. The area is defined by Bockagh Hill, a low rounded cone-shaped hill, providing elevated views over the surrounding landscape. Landcover is very varied, comprising an intimate mix of wet and dry grassland on lower elevations and raised bog and upland blanket bog at higher elevations. Some coniferous afforestation can be found at higher elevations. The largest settlement is Ballaghaderreen. Existing wind farm development and telecommunication masts are recognisable vertical developments. The overall image is one of a marginal upland landscape defining the gateway to County Mayo.

Landscape Value:

Moderate. The elevated Scenic Route from Bockagh Hill of the Roscommon and Mayo landscape provides spatial relief from the predominantly low lying landscape of much of the rest of the county. The intimate landscapes of small fields and stone walls to the northwest of the character area signal the transition from the midlands to the west of Ireland.

Forces of Change:

- Realignment of the N5;
- Higher ground may attract additional telecommunication infrastructure as well as wind farm development; and
- Increase in afforestation due to the marginal quality of the farmland.

27 – Castlerea Raised Bogland

Key Characteristics:

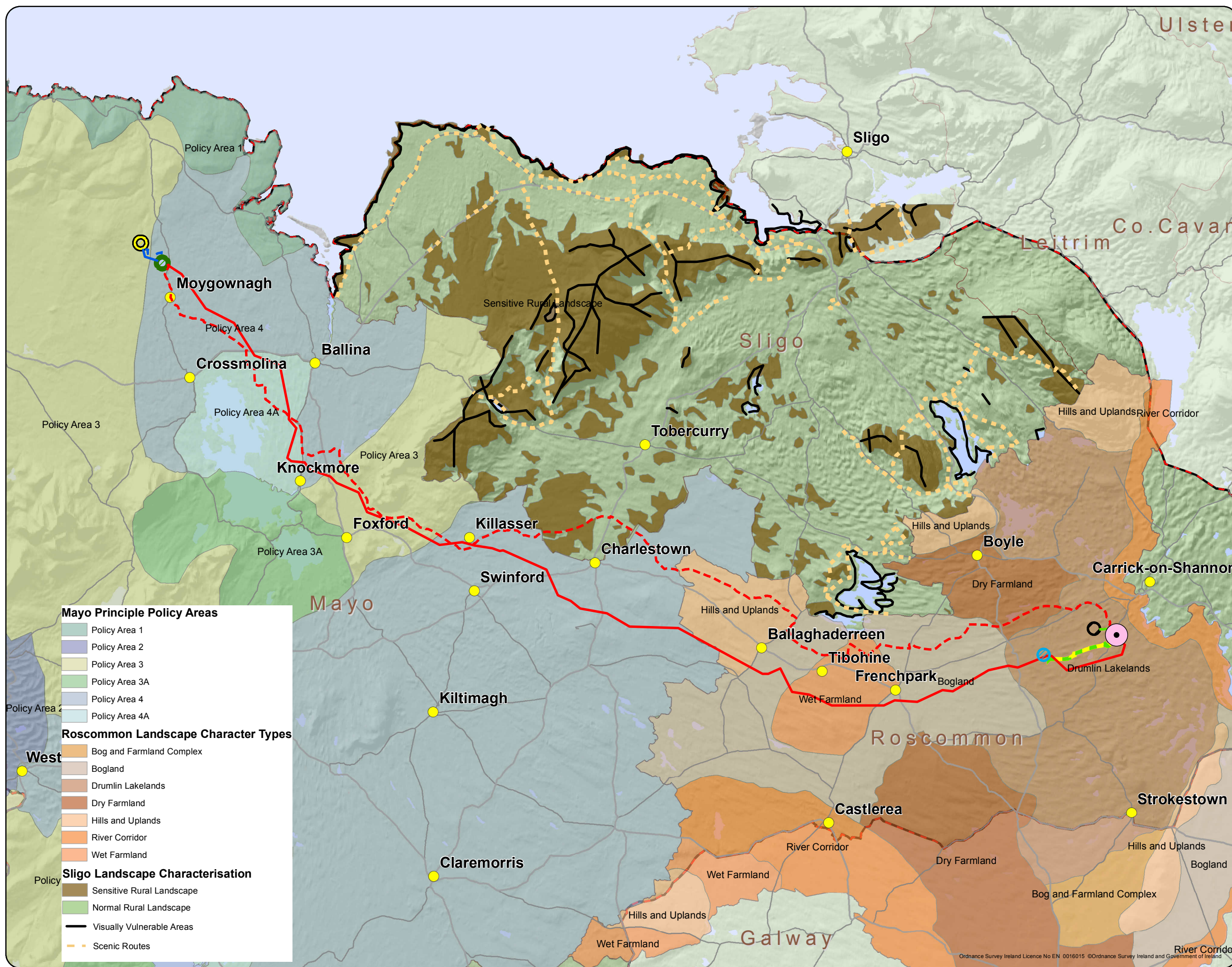
This LCA is located towards the northwest of County Roscommon. The Castlerea Raised Bogland is predominantly a plateau which drops off gradually along the south-eastern edge to a swath of dry grassland providing a significant contrast in terms of colour and texture. There are no major rivers located within this LCA. Landcover is dominated by bog, comprising almost exclusively heather and grass. There is very little afforestation, except at the outer fringes of the LCA to the northeast and southwest. There are very few houses in or around the bogland areas. The main settlement is the village of Ballangare located to the northeast. This LCA has a very distinctive image of a remote and isolated bogland.

Landscape Value:

High value due to the extent of bogland, the sense of remoteness and tranquillity and the contrast provided with its broad surrounds.

Forces of Change:

- Realignment of the N5 further into the LCA; and
- Negative impact on the sense of openness within the LCA due to a potential increase in afforestation.



- Mayo Principle Policy Areas**
- Policy Area 1
 - Policy Area 2
 - Policy Area 3
 - Policy Area 3A
 - Policy Area 4
 - Policy Area 4A
- Roscommon Landscape Character Types**
- Bog and Farmland Complex
 - Bogland
 - Drumlin Lakelands
 - Dry Farmland
 - Hills and Uplands
 - River Corridor
 - Wet Farmland
- Sligo Landscape Characterisation**
- Sensitive Rural Landscape
 - Normal Rural Landscape
 - Visually Vulnerable Areas
 - Scenic Routes

Legend

- Town/Village
- Existing Flagford Substation
- Study Area Boundary
- Indicative Overhead Line Route (400 kV and 220 kV options)
- Emerging Preferred Underground Route Option
- Indicative Route of the Underground section of the existing Flagford to Sranagh 220kV line (Overhead Line Option)
- Indicative route for underground cable - 220 kV HVAC from DCF7 to Flagford (Underground Route Option)
- Indicative Overhead Line route to Alternative substitution location
- Indicative Underground route to alternative substitution location
- Preferred Converter Station location DCF7 (1km diameter)
- North Mayo Converter Station Location- Option 1/ Substation Location SB2
- Converter Station Location- Option 2 / Substation Location SB3A
- Sealing End Compound Location (Line Cable Interface Station 1Km Diameter)

0 2.5 5 10
Kilometres

Issue	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	MAR-2015	Issued	G.F.	S.T.

Client:

Project: **THE GRID WEST PROJECT**

Title: **Landscape Characterisation Map 1**

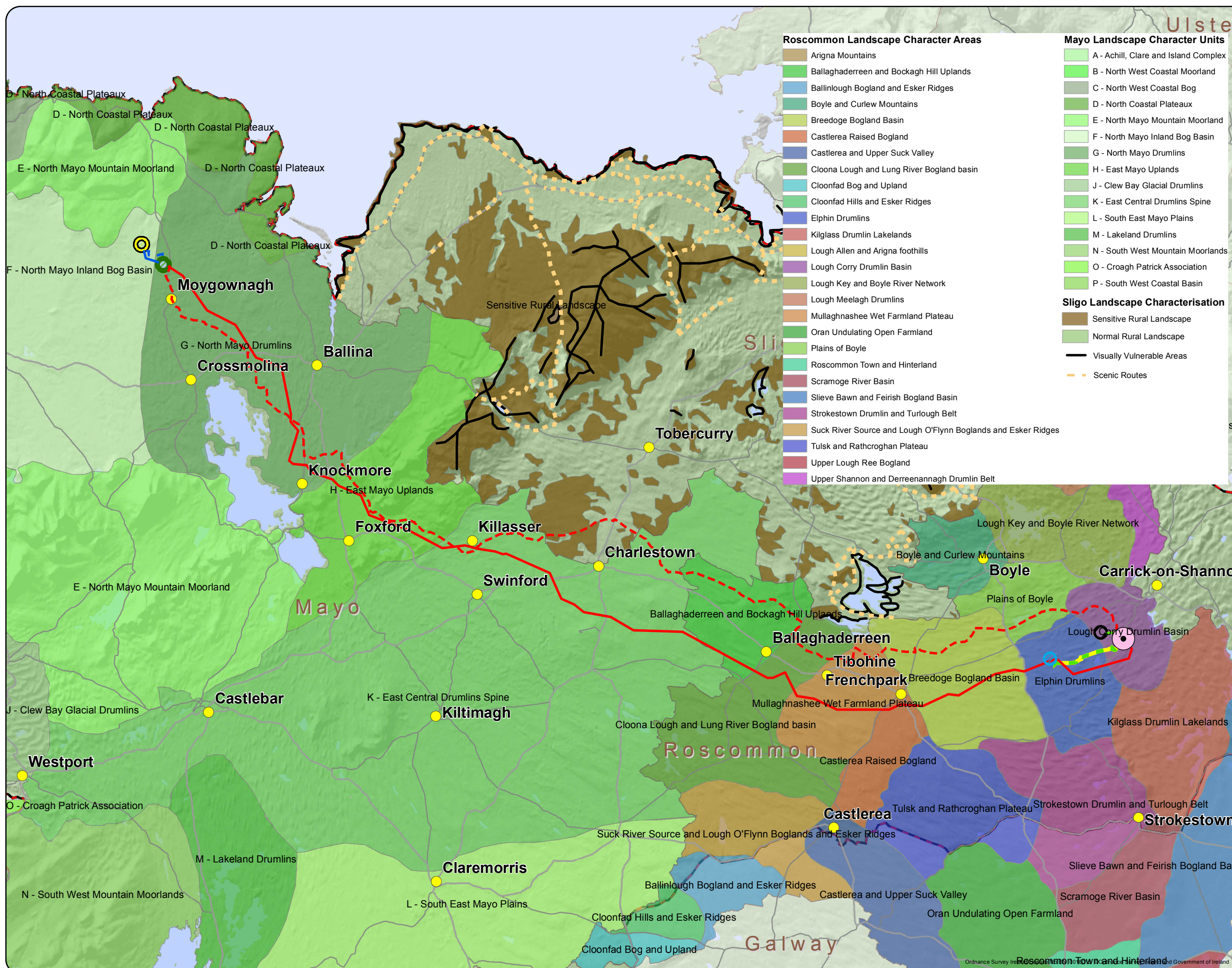
Scale @ A0: 1:300,000

Prepared by: G.Fil Checked: S.Tinnelly Date: March 2015

Project Director: B.Downes

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Roscommon Landscape Character Areas

- Arigna Mountains
- Ballaghaderreen and Bockagh Hill Uplands
- Ballinlough Bogland and Esker Ridges
- Boyle and Curlew Mountains
- Breedoge Bogland Basin
- Castlerea Raised Bogland
- Castlerea and Upper Suck Valley
- Cloona Lough and Lung River Bogland basin
- Cloonfad Bog and Upland
- Cloonfad Hills and Esker Ridges
- Elphin Drumlins
- Kilglass Drumlin Lakelands
- Lough Allen and Arigna foothills
- Lough Corry Drumlin Basin
- Lough Key and Boyle River Network
- Lough Meelagh Drumlins
- Mullaghnashee Wet Farmland Plateau
- Oran Undulating Open Farmland
- Plains of Boyle
- Roscommon Town and Hinterland
- Scramoge River Basin
- Slieve Bawn and Feirish Bogland Basin
- Strokestown Drumlin and Turlough Belt
- Suck River Source and Lough O'Flynn Boglands and Esker Ridges
- Tulsk and Rathcroghan Plateau
- Upper Lough Ree Bogland
- Upper Shannon and Derreenannah Drumlin Belt

Mayo Landscape Character Units

- A - Achill, Clare and Island Complex
- B - North West Coastal Moorland
- C - North West Coastal Bog
- D - North Coastal Plateaux
- E - North Mayo Mountain Moorland
- F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin
- G - North Mayo Drumlins
- H - East Mayo Uplands
- J - Clew Bay Glacial Drumlins
- K - East Central Drumlins Spine
- L - South East Mayo Plains
- M - Lakeland Drumlins
- N - South West Mountain Moorlands
- O - Croagh Patrick Association
- P - South West Coastal Basin

Sligo Landscape Characterisation

- Sensitive Rural Landscape
- Normal Rural Landscape
- Visually Vulnerable Areas
- Scenic Routes

Legend

- Town/Village
- Existing Flagford Substation
- Study Area Boundary
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Client:

Project: **THE GRID WEST PROJECT**

Title: **Landscape Characterisation - Map 2**

Scale @ A0: 1:300,000

Prepared by: G.Fil	Checked: S.Tinnelly	Date: March 2015
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