

APPENDIX 13

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR THE HVDC UNDERGROUND CABLE OPTION

Section 5 – Cultural Heritage - National Monuments in the Ownership or Guardianship of the State within 5km of the UGC Route Option

Site Name	Townland	County	Nat. Mon. No.	SMR	Classification	Distance
Cashelmore	Clogher	Sligo	159	RO015-029-	Cashel	2.5km
Kildermot	Kildermot	Mayo	402	MA040-074001-	Church	2.6km
Lough Gur	Ardcarn	Roscommon	461	RO006-153001, RO006-153002, RO006-155	Rath, Souterrain & Barrow	3km
Ballina	Ballina	Mayo	519	MA030-073	Portal Tomb	3.5km
Cloonshanville	Cloonshanville	Roscommon	608	RO015-029	High Cross	4km
Templenagalliaghdoe	Errew	Mayo	308	MA038-129002-	Church	4.4km
Errew Abbey	Errew	Mayo	307	MA038-129001-	Priory	4.4km

Section 5 – Cultural Heritage - Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Sites Located Within 100m of the UGC Route Option

SMR NO	Classification	Townland	County
MA021-045----	Enclosure	Garranard	Mayo
MA039-097----	Enclosure	Gortaskibbole	Mayo
MA039-008----	Ringfort – rath	Ardagh (Tirawley By.)	Mayo
MA039-073----	Ringfort – rath	Corroy	Mayo
MA061-074----	Water mill - horizontal-wheeled	Carrowmoremoy	Mayo
MA063-001001-	Ringfort - rath	Tonnagh	Mayo
MA063-001002-	Children's burial ground	Tonnagh	Mayo
MA063-014----	Ringfort - rath	Barroe (Costello By.)	Mayo
MA021-023----	Mound	Breaghwyanteean	Mayo
MA021-061----	Megalithic structure	Ballyglass (Tirawley By., Moygownagh. Par.)	Mayo
MA039-036----	Enclosure	Garrycloonagh	Mayo
MA039-047----	Ringfort - rath	Ballyderg	Mayo
MA048-019----	Enclosure	Shanclogh	Mayo
MA049-007----	Enclosure	Corradrishy	Mayo
MA049-078001-	Burial ground	Coollagagh	Mayo
MA049-080----	Ringfort - cashel	Coollagagh	Mayo
MA049-083----	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	Coollagagh	Mayo
MA049-087----	Enclosure	Coollagagh	Mayo
MA049-093----	Church	Cullin	Mayo
MA049-103----	Enclosure	Coolcashla	Mayo

SMR NO	Classification	Townland	County
MA061-059001-	Ringfort - rath	Graffy (Gallen By., Killasser Par.)	Mayo
MA061-059002-	Souterrain	Graffy (Gallen By., Killasser Par.)	Mayo
MA061-059003-	Redundant record	Graffy (Gallen By., Killasser Par.)	Mayo
MA021-088----	Redundant record	Breaghwyanteean	Mayo
RO008-012----	Designed landscape - tree-ring	Creggan ((Costello By.)	Roscommon
RO008-051----	Ringfort - rath	Ratra	Roscommon
RO009-057----	Redundant record	Kilnamanagh (Frenchpark By.)	Roscommon
RO008-061----	Standing stone	Creggan ((Costello By.)	Roscommon
RO008-025----	Earthwork	Tullaghanrock	Roscommon
RO010-037----	Redundant record	Cavetown Or Ballynahough	Roscommon
RO010-049----	Standing stone	Knockacorha	Roscommon

Section 5 – Cultural Heritage - Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens Heritage within 100m of the UGC Route Option

Townland	House Name	County	Site Status
Cavetown	Ballynahough Castle	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Knockaculleen	Belville	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Camlin	Camlin	Roscommon	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Carrowmore	Carrowmore House	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Cloonmore	Cloonmore House	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Deelcastle	Deel Castle	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Edmondstown Demesne	Edmondstown House	Roscommon	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable
Glebe	Glebe House	Roscommon	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable
Greenwoodpark	Greenwood	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Drumrevagh	Mount Falcon Demesne	Mayo	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible
Ratra	Ratra	Roscommon	Virtually no recognisable features

Section 5 – Material Assets - Commercial and Community Properties with Entrances on the UGC Route Option

Property	Type	Location
School	Community	Killeennashask, County Mayo.
Shop & post office& fuel yard	Commercial	Ardvarney, County Mayo.
Sports grounds & centre	Community	Knockaculleen, County Mayo.
Church & graveyard	Community	Ardvarney, County Mayo.
School	Community	Rathnamagh, County Mayo.
Sports grounds	Community	Carrowcrin, County Mayo.
Roadside monument	Community	Ballymanagh, County Mayo.
Church	Community	Brackloonagh, County Mayo.
Community centre	Community	Brackloonagh, County Mayo.
Farm Shop & horticultural enterprise	Commercial	Corroy, County Mayo.
Factory building	Commercial	Corroy, County Mayo.
Graveyard	Community	Bunnafinglass, County Mayo.
Cemex Quarry	Commercial	Bunnafinglass, County Mayo.
Quarry	Commercial	Corradrisky, County Mayo.
Quarry	Commercial	Creggagh, County Mayo.
Coolegrane Shrine & Cemetery	Community	Coollagagh, County Mayo.
Machinery/Plant contractor's yard	Commercial	Coollagagh, County Mayo.
Hennigan's Heritage Centre	Commercial	Rubble, County Mayo.
Workshop Garage	Commercial	Carrowmoremoy, County Mayo.
Handball alley	Community	Cornageeha, County Mayo
Building contractor's premises	Commercial	Cloonfinish, County Mayo.
Handball alley & car park	Community	Cully, County Sligo
Graveyard	Community	Bunnacrannagh, Co Sligo.
Guest House	Commercial	Botinny, Co Sligo.
Public Water Supply	Community	Carrowntober, Co Sligo.
Pet Farm	Commercial	Lissymulgee, Co Sligo.

Property	Type	Location
Church	Community	Cloonlumney, County Roscommon.
Workshop/garage	Commercial	Edmondstown Demense, Co Roscommon.
Public House (Pub)	Commercial	Tullaghanrock, County Roscommon.
Car repair premises	Commercial	Clashcarragh, County Roscommon
School / Post Office	Community	Sracocka, County Roscommon.
Public Water Supply	Community	Kilnamanagh, County Roscommon.
Accountant's Office	Commercial	Cloonacarrow, County Roscommon.
Church	Community	Cloonacarrow, County Roscommon.
Church	Community	Drumercool, County Roscommon.
Graveyard	Community	Drumercool/Lodge, County Roscommon.

Section 5 - Traffic - Intersections with National/Regional Roads

Route	Location Description	Approx Length	Indicative Road Width (not surveyed)	Potential Traffic Control	Impact to traffic	Other Comments
N61	Route crosses N61 South of Boyle	N/A	Non Standard reduced Single Carriageway with no hard shoulder	Stop/Go with diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic	
N17	Route intersects and runs along 135m of N17 South of Curry	135m	Type 1 Single Carriageway, 2 full lanes + full width hard shoulder and grass verge on both sides	Stop/Go with diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic	Trenchless Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) under disused railway line next to N17: it is possible that the HDD could be used underneath the N17 also.
N26	Route crosses N26 north of Knockmore, east of River Moy	N/A	Non standard reduced Single carriageway with no hard shoulder or grass verge	Stop/Go with diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic	Potential to continue HDD under River Moy to western side of N26 to minimise traffic disruption
N59	Crosses N59 between Ballina and Crossmolina	50m	Non standard reduced Single carriageway with no hard shoulder or grass verge	Stop/Go with diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic	
R370	SW of Carrick-on-Shannon	2km	Non standard reduced Single carriageway with no hard shoulder or grass verge	Stop/Go with diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic	
R361	North of Frenchpark	500m	Non standard reduced Single carriageway with no hard shoulder and narrow grass verge	Stop/Go with diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic	Routed 500m along R361 and the bridge at Breedoge River. HDD under river next to bridge.
R293	North of Ballaghaderreen	1.5km	Non standard reduced Single carriageway with no hard shoulder or grass verge	Stop/Go with diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic	
R310	North of Knockmore	3.5km	Non standard reduced Single carriageway with no hard shoulder and varying grass verge	Stop/Go with diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic	
R315	Moygownagh	5km (R315) ~8.5km (Local)	Non standard reduced (narrow) Single	Stop/Go through village&	Significant disruption due to route through village and closures along main access to Ballina.	Routed along main road through Moygownagh Village and along Local road

Route	Location Description	Approx Length	Indicative Road Width (not surveyed)	Potential Traffic Control	Impact to traffic	Other Comments
		road from Moygownagh to Ballina	carriageway with no hard shoulder or grass verge	diversions for temporary closures	Delays from Stop/Go, temporary diversions, & construction traffic to cable route and converter station site	from Moygownagh to N59 & Ballina; construction traffic to converter station site

Detailed Description of Landscape Character –Underground Cable Route Option

The following lists and describes the landscape character, which is to incorporate the proposed underground cable route 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 underground cable route 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 UGC route option	
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 UGC route option	
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 UGC 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 UGC route option traverses this unit in its northern section in a west to east direction, intersected by County Sligo. 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 underground structures along the existing road network as well as a large above ground warehouse style structures at the north-western end point of the development, it is considered that the development would fall under the categories “Road Projects” and “Industrial/Commercial”. 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**, “Road Projects” have been identified as having a Medium to Low impacts. The impact of the proposed development would be confined to “Road Projects” only within this Policy area.

For **Policy Area 4 (including 4A)**, “Road Projects” and “Industrial/Commercial” developments have been identified as having a Low impact.

It should be noted that the development category “Industrial/Commercial” will be limited to one area at the north-western end of the proposed underground route within Policy Area 4.

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 UGC route option 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 UGC route option		
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
Wet Farmland	21 – Mullaghnashee Wet Farmland Plateau	Moderate
Dry Farmland	18 – Plains of Boyle	Moderate
Drumlin Lakelands	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.

Dry Farmland: located in the middle of the county stretching from north to south.

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.

18 – Plains of Boyle

Key Characteristics:

Although this character area is known as the Plains of Boyle in fact it undulates to the south east draining into Cavetown Lough before petering out into low lands where it meets a ridgeline of drumlins delineating the southern boundary of the LCA. In elevated places, particularly around Cavetown Lough the land cover is predominantly rolling dry grassland farmland with mature beech, ash and hawthorn hedgerows. This extends into low land areas, where patches of wet grassland and reclaimed raised bog occur. Small areas of wetland can be found along water courses. The Dublin-Galway railway line passes through the north eastern corner of the LCA. The overall image of this LCA is one of an elevated plateau providing lake views both to the north and south.

Landscape Value:

Moderate. The main feature of interest is Cavetown Lough and its adjoining water courses due to scenic qualities.

Forces of Change:

- Demand for single rural dwellings particularly along the shoreline of Cavetown Lough and adjoining lakes. Any type of development on the lakeshore will have a negative impact on the visual quality of the scenic area.

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.

County Sligo

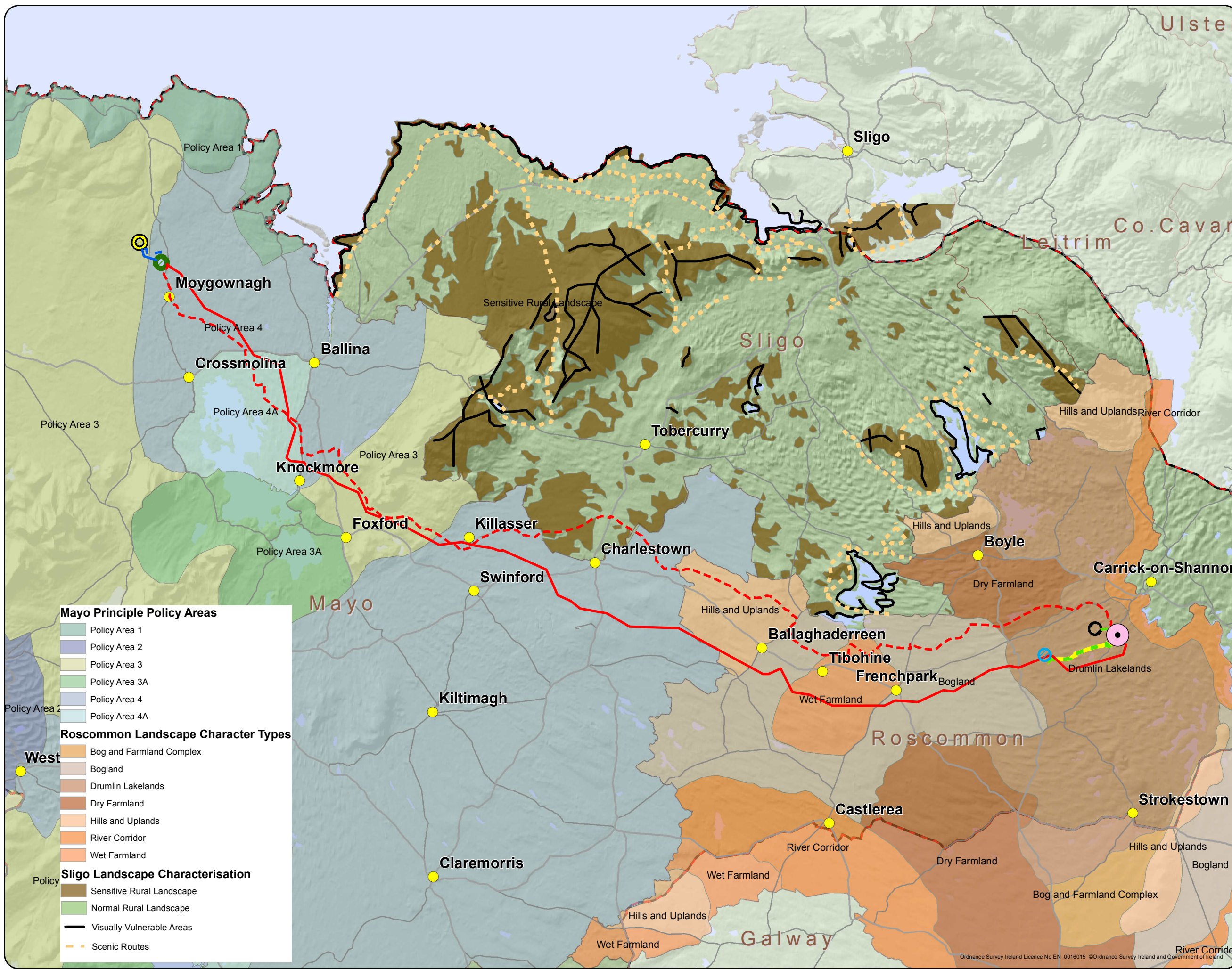
Objective O-LCAP-1 contained in the current Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 states that Sligo County Council plans to “*undertake a Landscape Character Assessment for County Sligo within the principles of the European Landscape Convention and best practice guidance.*”

Current landscape policy is based on a detailed landscape characterisation and appraisal study which was completed in 1996 resulting in a Development Control Policy Map. The map classifies the county into normal and sensitive rural landscape, visual vulnerable areas and scenic routes. According to its visual sensitivity and ability to absorb new development without compromising the scenic character of an area.

The following designated areas will be traversed by the proposed UGC route option:

“Normal rural landscape: *areas with natural enclosing features (e.g. topography, vegetation), which have the capacity to absorb a wide range of new development forms – these are the main farming areas of the County.”*

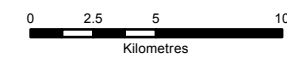
“Sensitive rural landscape: *areas that tend to be open in character, with intrinsic scenic quality and a low capacity to absorb new development.”*



- 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)



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

Client:

Project: **THE GRID WEST PROJECT**

Title: **Landscape Characterisation Map 1**

Scale @ A0: 1:300,000

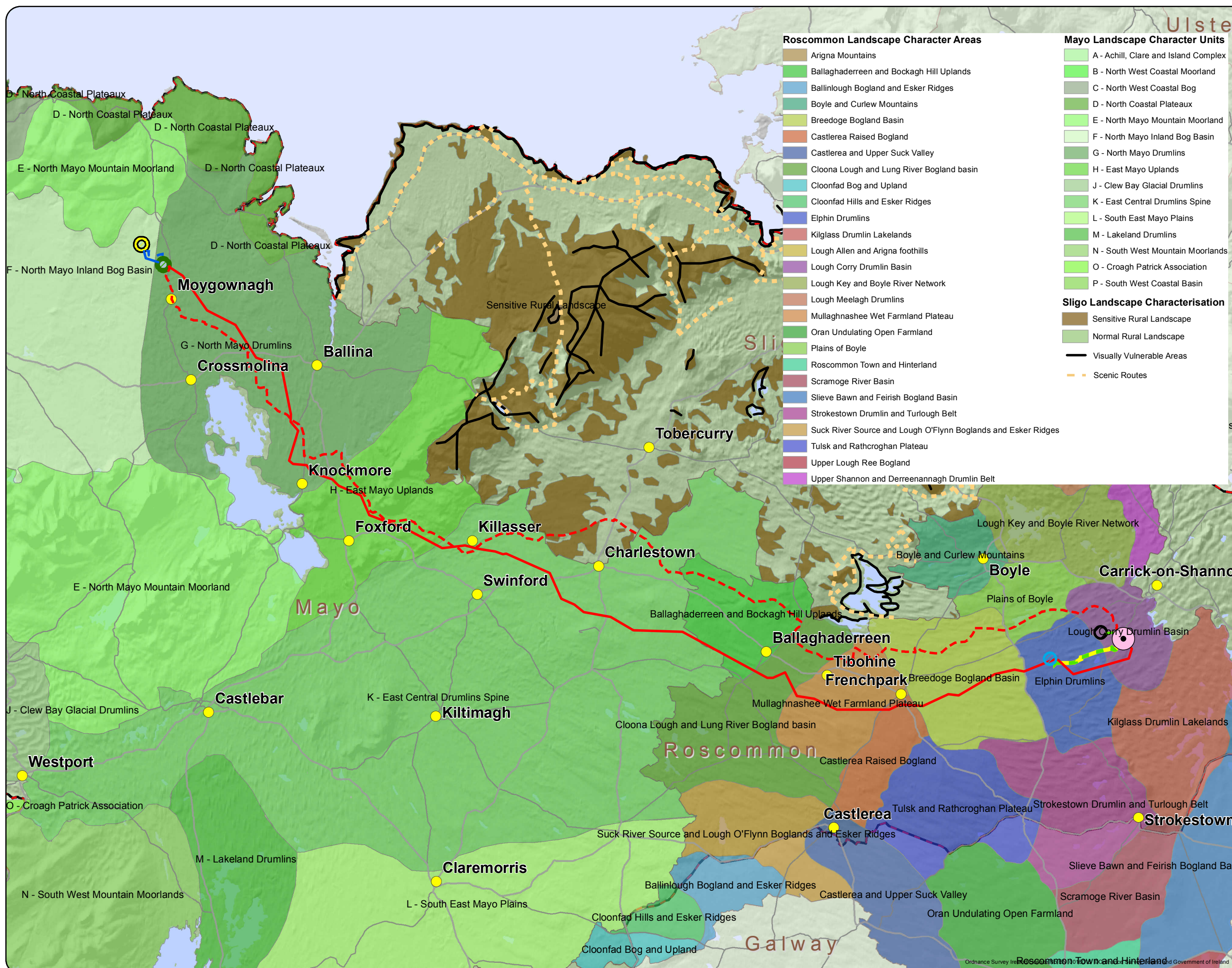
Prepared by: G.Fil Checked: S.Tinnelly Date: March 2015

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

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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 2

Scale @ A0: 1:300,000

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

Project Director: B.Downes

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