

Appendix G

County landscape designations

The genesis of the **Landscape Characterisation Map** (Fig. 7.B in Chapter 7 of this Plan), previously called *Development Control Policy Map* in the CDP 2005-2011, was the An Foras Forbartha's *Inventory of Outstanding Landscapes*, published in 1972. A variant of this map has been attached to successive county development plans up to the 1999-2004 Plan. This map was refined to take stock of the Yeats County landscape study commissioned by Bord Fáilte and a detailed landscape characterisation and appraisal study commissioned by the Council and completed by CAAS Environmental Consultants in 1998. The latter study was based on an analysis of the CORINE European landuse data and a county-wide landscape evaluation proofed against key planning policies. This resulted in a map indicating, inter alia, Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Normal Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and Scenic Routes.

This approach distinguishes the “quintessential Sligo landscapes”, e.g. the Dartry Mountain range, the Glencar Valley, Lough Easky and the Ox Mountains etc. Such areas are designated as *Sensitive Rural Landscapes*, as distinct from the remainder of Sligo landscapes, which may exhibit significant scenic character and qualities, but not to the same immediate, memorable and special extent. Each designation is described in more detail below.

- Normal Rural Landscapes** have the capacity to absorb a wide range of new developments, subject to normal planning and development control procedures. Most of County Sligo falls into this category, which comprises the main areas of existing farming and rural residences. Such areas tend to have enclosing topography and existing screening vegetation – or the potential to support trees, tall hedges and woody vegetation to screen new development.

In certain locations, designated Normal Rural Landscapes form the context for exceptional landscape features, such as distinctive mountains or coastal areas. In such landscapes, it is necessary to assess each development proposal on its merits, having regard to general restrictions on development (e.g. servicing, traffic safety) and any other provisions of the Development Control Policy Map that relate to the area concerned (e.g. Scenic Routes).



Drumnacool



Kilcreevin, Ballymote

Designated Normal Rural Landscapes tend to have enclosing topography and existing screening vegetation



Kesh Corann



Benwiskin

In certain locations, designated Normal Rural Landscapes form the context for exceptional landscape features



Tievebaun Mountain



Lough Aghree, Ox Mountains

Designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes have intrinsic scenic qualities and a low capacity to absorb development



Lough Easky



Ox Mountains

Scenic Routes afford unique scenic views of distinctive natural features

- **Sensitive Rural Landscapes** are areas with intrinsic scenic quality and a low capacity to absorb new development – e.g. uplands, headlands. They generally support insufficient vegetative cover for screening purposes and most sites are seen against the sky or water. As a result, even a small development in such an area has the potential to create an impact on the appearance and character of an extensive part of the landscape.

To preserve the integrity of designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes, while endeavouring to sustain local communities, only a limited range of appropriate new developments can be accommodated. Any such proposal must demonstrate a high standard of siting, layout and design and may be required to consider ecological, archaeological, water quality and other factors.

- **Visually Vulnerable Areas** are characterised by distinctive natural features, which have an extremely low capacity to absorb new development without significant alterations of existing character over a very wide area. The eye is strongly drawn to such features, which include coastlines, lakeshores, ridgelines and hill/mountain tops, i.e. conspicuous linear features where land meets sky or water.

Due to their recognised natural beauty or interest and their susceptibility to damage, specified views of designated Visually Vulnerable Areas receive special protection (see Appendix F). Development in, or in the context/setting of these features is also strictly controlled. To be considered for planning permission, a proposal must demonstrate, inter alia, that the development will not impinge in any significant way on the integrity, distinctiveness and unique visual character of the area when viewed from the surroundings, especially from designated Scenic Routes and the environs of archaeological and historical sites.

- **Scenic Routes** indicate public roads from which the more dramatic scenic views, prospects and vistas of the County can be enjoyed. Most Routes pass through or close to designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes or adjoin designated Visually Vulnerable Areas. Scenic Routes also, in the main, form loops or circuits designed to maximise visibility of important Sligo landscapes without undue interruption. However, some routes considered to warrant designation, do not or cannot form part of a loop.



Cope's Mountain and Glencar Lake

Designated Visually Vulnerable Areas are characterised by distinctive and conspicuous features where land meets sky or water

The designation of Scenic Routes provides a basis for protecting views and prospects of Visually Vulnerable features, such as mountain-ridges, lakeshores and coastlines. It is not necessary for a particular feature to be visible for the full length of a Route, as the designation is based on the overall quality and uniqueness of the views available.

Due to the strong inter-visibility between landscape elements in County Sligo, most Scenic Routes enjoy scenic views of more than one Visually Vulnerable feature.

The following section of this Appendix contains a list of the scenic views it is proposed to preserve over the 2011-2017 period. These are indicated on the Landscape Characterisation Map included in Chapter 7 of this Draft Plan and on the A1 map that accompanies the Plan.

To preserve the listed scenic views, it is necessary to control development along designated Scenic Routes, while facilitating developments that are tied to a specific location or that meet the demonstrated needs of an applicant to reside in a particular area. In all cases, the onus is on the applicant to show that there will be no obstruction or degradation of the scenic view concerned, nor significant alterations to the appearance or character of the designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes in the vicinity.

The above scenic evaluation approach and resultant map have proven robust in both facilitating development and conserving fragile landscapes. The map has been modified only in the light of development management experience. Incidentally, added protection is available under this scheme for designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes insofar as the identified scenic areas correspond greatly – over 95% correlation – with sites designated under EU Directives, e.g. SPAs, cSACs and pNHAs.

Scenic Views to be preserved

National Primary Routes

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| 1. N15 from Bunduff Bridge (Leitrim County boundary) to Sligo | Views of Atlantic Ocean, Ben Bulbin, Kings Mountain and Benwiskin |
| 2. N16 from Leitrim County boundary to Sligo | Views of Glencar Lake, Ben Bulbin and Atlantic Ocean |
| 3. N4 Castlebaldwin to Ballinafad | Views of Bricklieve Mountains, Lough Arrow and Curlew Mountains |
| 4. N4 Collooney By-Pass from northern roundabout at Collooney to Carrowroe | Views of Ballysadare Bay, Knocknarea, Union Wood, Slieve Daeane, Slieve Dargan |
| 5. N4 Curlew By-Pass from Roscommon County boundary to Ballinafad | Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Curlew Mountains |

National Secondary Routes

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| 6. N59 Beltra to Ballysadare | Views of Ballysadare Bay, Slieveward and Knocknarea |
| 7. N59 Dromore West to Beltra | Views of Atlantic Ocean and Ox Mountains |
| 8. N59 Tullylinn to Culleens | Views of Atlantic Ocean and Ox Mountains |
| 9. N59 Caltragh to Camcuill | Views of Atlantic Ocean and Ox Mountains |

Regional Routes

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| 10. R279 Mullaghmore to Cliffony | Views of Atlantic Ocean, Donegal Bay and Benwiskin |
| 11. R291 from Sligo to Rosses Point | Views of Sligo Bay and Harbour, Coney Island, Knocknarea and Coolera Peninsula, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane, Killery Mountain and Ox Mountains |
| 12. R284 from Carrowroe to junction with road L-3605 north of Ballygawley | Views of Ballygawley Lough, Slieve Dargan and Slieve Daeane |
| 13. R286 from Sligo to Leitrim County boundary | Views of Lough Gill and Colgagh Lough |
| 14. R287 from Carrowroe to junction with road L-3605 at Correagh | Views of Lough Gill, Slish Wood, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane and Killery Mountain |
| 15. R292 from Ransboro to Culleenamore House | Views of Knocknarea, Ballysadare Bay, Sligo Bay, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane and Ben Bulbin |
| 16. R292 at Larass, Strandhill, immediately north of St. Anne's Church and Rectory, to junction with road L-3502 at Scardan | Views of Sligo Harbour, Sligo Bay and Ben Bulbin |

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| 17. R292 at Larass, Strandhill, between St Anne's Church and Sligo Rugby Club (south side) | Views of Knocknarea |
| 18. R292 at Carrowdough and Culleenamore, between the southern development limit and the Plan limit of Strandhill Local Area Plan at Culleenamore House | Views of Sligo Bay, Ballysadare Bay and Knocknarea |
| 19. R294 from The Gap (Mayo County boundary) to Mullany's Cross | Views of Lough Talt and Ox Mountains |
| 20. R295 from Carrowmacleanany Crossroads to Carrowcrory Crossroads | Views of Kesh Corran and the Bricklieve Mountains |
| 21. R294 from Mullaghroe Crossroads to Roscommon County boundary | Views of Lough Gara |
| 22. R297 from Scurmore to Dromore West | Views of Killala Bay and Atlantic Ocean |
| 23. R278 from Calry (Doonally road junction) to Leitrim County boundary at Carrickoneileen. | Views of Keelogyboy Mountain |

Local Roads

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| 24. L-7101 around Mullaghmore Head | Views of Atlantic Ocean and Donegal Bay |
| 25. 'The Hill' (L-7103) from junction with L-7101 on northside of Mullaghmore Head, onto L-7102 as far as junction with L-7101 on south side of Head | Views of Atlantic Ocean, Donegal Bay, the Dartry Range (Ben Bulben, Benwisikin, Truskmore) and Knocknarea |
| 26. L-3104 from junction with R279 (Mullaghmore/Cliffony road) turning east onto Lower Bunduff road (L-3101) to junction with N15 at Castlegal | Views of Bunduff Lake, the Dartry Range and Mullaghmore Harbour |
| 27. Loop road (L-7121) between N15 and coast at Moun temple, and south-east from N15 to junction with Derrylehan road (L-3205) | Views of Atlantic Ocean, Donegal Bay, Dernish Island, Conors Island, Inishmurray, Milk Harbour and the Dartry Range |
| 28. Upperwood road (L-7202) from junction with N15 down to sea shore | Views of the Dartry Range, Streedagh Point, Conors Island and Inishmurray |
| 29. Grange to Streedagh Point (L-3203 turning west onto L-3202 and north onto L-32022) | Views of Atlantic Ocean and Ben Bulben |
| 30. Benwisikin Horseshoe (L-7130) | Views of Benwisikin, Ben Bulben and Donegal Bay |
| 31. Ballaghna trillick Bridge northwards to Leitrim County boundary (L-7126 & L-3102) and southwards to N15 at Mullaghneaneane (L-3105, L-3205 & L-7216) | Views of Benwisikin, Ben Bulben and Donegal Bay |
| 32. Glencar Lake to Carney (L-3404, L-3403 & L-3402) | Views of Glencar Lake, Kings Mountain and Ben Bulben |

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| 33. Kintogher road (L-3306) from junction with N15 at Tully (Rathcormack) down to Lower Rosses road (L-7311) via L-7309 and Cregg road (L-3307) | Views of Drumcliff Bay, the coast, Ben Bulben, Kings Mountain, Sligo Bay, Knocknarea, Killery Mountain, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane, Cope's Mountain and Glencar Valley |
| 34. L-3311 as far as junction at Yeats County Hotel turning south onto Rosses Point Promenade Road (R291) to mini-plan development limit | Views of Sligo Bay and Harbour, Coney Island, Knocknarea and Coolera Peninsula, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane, Killery Mountain and Ox Mountains |
| 35. Glencar Lake to N16 (L-3404) | Views of Glencar Lake and Kings Mountain |
| 36. L-3602 along Garvoge River and Lough Gill from Sligo to junction with R287 | Views of Garavoge River and Lough Gill |
| 37. From junction of L-3409 and R286 at Ballynamona, northwards through Loughanelteen to Keelogyboy (L-3409 & L-7418), then south to R278 via Fermoyle (L-7420 & L-3407) | Views of Keelogyboy Mountain, Cope's Mountain, Lough Anelteen, Killery Mountain, Lough Gill, Ox Mountains, Slieve Daeane, Slieve Dargan, Kings Mountain, Ben Bulben, Knocknarea, the coast, Sligo Bay and Atlantic Ocean |
| 38. L-7417 from junction with L-7418 north to junction with L-7416 at Glackbaun and along L-7416 from its eastern extremity near Leitrim County boundary to junction with N16 at Drumkilsellagh | Views of Cope's Mountain, Keelogyboy Mountain, Lough Gill, Slieve Dargan, Kings Mountain, Knocknarea, Ox Mountains, Sligo Bay and Atlantic Ocean |
| 39. L-3502 from junction with R292 at Scardan to Ransboro. | Views of Knocknarea |
| 40. Ransboro road (L-3503) at Larass, Strandhill, between St Anne's Church and the eastern Plan limit of Strandhill Local Area Plan | Views of Sligo Bay and Knocknarea |
| 41. Airport Road, Strandhill (L-35052), between southern boundary of Business and Enterprise Park and northern boundary of new Village Centre | Views of Knocknarea |
| 42. Road network to east and south of Knocknarea, between junctions of R292 and L-3502: specifically the Glen Road (L-3507) and L-3506 | Views of Knocknarea, Kings Mountain, Ben Bulben, Cope's Mountain, Killery Mountain, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane, Keelogyboy Mountain, Ox Mountains Ballysadare Bay, Atlantic Ocean, Culleenamore Strand, Sligo Bay, Drumcliff Bay, the coast and Coney Island |
| 43. L-6101 from junction with N59 at Corhawnagh Church extending westward to Streamstown and south to N59 via Lisduff | Views of Ballysadare Bay, Knocknarea and Slieveward (Little Ox Mountains) |
| 44. L-6101 between junction with N59 at Corhawnagh Church and junction with R290 (old N4) south of Ballysadare | Views of Slieveward (Little Ox Mountains) |

45. Easkey coastal scenic road (L-2401) between junctions with Dromore West - Easkey road (R297)	Views of Sligo Bay, the coast, Ox Mountains and Donegal Bay.
46. Coast road from R297 at Dromore West to N59 at Beltra (L-2302 & L-2204)	Views of Atlantic Ocean, Sligo Bay, Ballysadare Bay, Ox Mountains, Knocknarea and Ben Bulben.
47. Aughris Head (L-2301 turning onto L-6301) between junctions with Beltra - Dromore West coastal road (L-2302)	Views of Knocknarea, Ben Bulben, the coast and Sligo & Donegal Bays
48. Derk road (L-6215) from junction with Beltra - Dromore West coastal road (L-2204) to sea shore	Views of Ballysadare Bay, Knocknarea, Coolera Peninsula, Coney Island, Rosses Point, Sligo Bay and Ben Bulben
49. Dromore West to Mullany's Cross (L-2702, L-4701 & L-4702)	Views of Lough Easkey, Ox Mountains and Atlantic Ocean
50. L-8701 & L-8702 from junction with L-4701 at Masshill to junction with R294 at Largan	Views of Lough Talt and Ox Mountains
51. Ladies Brae road from Carroweden (L-4602 & L-2205) leading to N59 via L-2304 and L-2303 and continuing northwards to Beltra - Dromore West coastal road (L-2302) via L-6205	Views of Ox Mountains and Atlantic Ocean
52. Carroweden to Coolaney and continuing to junction with N59 at Lugnadeffa (L-8601, L-6804 & L-2801)	Views of Ox Mountains and Atlantic Ocean
53. Coast road from Mayo County boundary at Rathmurphy northwards to its junction with R297 at Scurmore	Views of Killala Bay
54. L-6102 from junction with N59 west of Cooney Lough, continuing on L-2101 to junction with L-2801 south of Tullaghan Hill	Views of Ox Mountains, Atlantic Ocean and Cooney Lough
55. L-3605, south of Slieve Daeane and Slieve Dargan, between junctions with R284 and R287	Views of Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane and Lough Dargan
56. Lakeshore drive around Lough Arrow from Castlebaldwin to Roscommon County boundary (L-1404, L-1403 & L-1905)	Views of Lough Arrow and Bricklieve Mountains
57. Old N4 along western shore of Lough Arrow from Aghanagh through Ballinafad village to junction with new N4 south of Ballinafad	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Curlew Mountains
58. Carrowcroy crossroads to Ballinafad (L-1806)	Views of Bricklieve Mountains, Curlew Mountains and Lough Arrow
59. Ladies Brae to Beltra via Chapel Street (L-6213)	Views of Ox Mountains, Coolera peninsula and Ballysadare Bay

60. From Castlebaldwin southwards to junction with R295, southwest of Templevanny Lough (L-1404 & L-5801)	Views of Bricklieve Mountains, Kesh Corran and Lough Arrow
61. Heapstown Crossroads to Killadoon Crossroads (L-1901)	Views of Lough Arrow and Bricklieve Mountains
62. Ballindoon Crossroads to Killadoon Crossroads (L-1904)	Views of Lough Arrow and Bricklieve Mountains
63. Highwood road (L-1904) from Ballindoon Crossroads to junction with L-5902 & L-59021 north of Kilmactranny	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Kesh Corran
64. L-18011 south of Lough Arrow and L-18012 through Lecarrow (Aghanagh ED) to junction with Curlew Bypass (N4)	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Carran Hill (north-east of Lough Arrow)
65. Killadoon Crossroads to junction with L-1101 north of Conways Cross (L-1901)	Views of Lough Arrow, Lough Nasool and Lough Bo
66. L-1101 from north of Conways Cross extending along southside of Carran Hill to Roscommon County boundary	Views of Carran Hill
67. Mullaghroe to Monasteraden (L-4104)	Views of Lough Gara
68. From Monasteraden eastward to Roscommon County boundary (L-4105)	Views of Lough Gara
69. Road west of St Aidan's church (L-8107 & L-4103) from junction at Monasteraden village, to Gorteen-Boyle road (R294) at Mullaghroe	Views of Lough Gara
70. Derrinoghran loop – from junction off R294 west of Cloonloogh onto L-5707, turning north onto L-5708, then east onto L-5705, and proceeding south on L-5706 to join up again with L-5707	Views of Lough Gara
71. L-1906 from junction with L-1905 to junction with L-5904, north of Kilmactranny	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Keash Corran

Notes

1. Unless otherwise stated, a scenic view commencing at Sligo starts at the development limit indicated in the Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016.
2. The Darty Range includes Kings Mountain, Ben Bulben, Benwisikin and Truskmore.
3. The portions of designated Scenic Routes that run within the development limits of mini-plans and local area plans should be disregarded.