AtkinsRéalis

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) Volume 2 – Chapter 18 – Landscape and Visual Assessment

Uisce Éireann

October 2026
0089328DG0050

BALLINA AND LOUGH TALT WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE

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This document has 126 pages including the cover.

Document history

Document title: Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) Volume 2 - Chapter 18 - Landscape and Visual Assessment

Document reference: 000089328DG00500000

Revision	Purpose description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
1.0	Final	EB	LH	DE	DL	23/10/2026

Client signoff

Client	Uisce Éireann
Project	BALLINA AND LOUGH TALT WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE
Job number	1000089328
Client signature/date	

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
BPS	Booster Pumping Station
BPT	Break Pressure Tank
CDP	County Development Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LI	Landscape Institute
LITGN	Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
RWI&PS	Raw Water Intake and Pumping Station
RWS&PS	Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SPA	Special Protection Area
TWR	Treated Water Reservoir
VP	Viewpoint
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Baseline conditions	The existing landscape and visual conditions against which the effects of the Proposed Development are assessed.
Construction phase	The temporary period during which the Proposed Development is constructed, including activities such as excavation, pipeline installation, temporary working areas, construction plant, site compounds, traffic management, vegetation clearance where required and reinstatement works.
Cumulative effects	Landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development in combination with other existing, permitted, consented or reasonably foreseeable developments.
Do Nothing Scenario	The likely evolution of the receiving landscape and visual baseline if the Proposed Development is not constructed.
Embedded mitigation	Mitigation incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, including pipeline alignment, use of existing operational sites where practicable, retention of vegetation where practicable, reinstatement and proposed ecological and landscape planting.
Future baseline	The likely future landscape and visual conditions in the absence of the Proposed Development, taking account of existing land use patterns, planning policy, permitted development and environmental trends.
Operational phase	The period when the Proposed Development is complete and functioning as part of the water supply network.
Reinstatement	The restoration of disturbed land, surfaces, vegetation or habitats following construction, as far as practicable.
Representative viewpoint	A selected viewpoint used to represent views experienced by particular visual receptors or receptor groups from a range of directions and distances.
Scenic Route	A public road identified in planning policy as affording valued scenic views or passing through or near sensitive landscapes or visually vulnerable areas.
Sensitive Rural Landscape	A landscape designation used in the Sligo County Development Plan for open, highly visible landscapes with intrinsic scenic qualities and low capacity to absorb new development.
Visual effect	An effect on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.

Term	Meaning
Visual receptor	People who may experience views of the Proposed Development, including residents, road users, recreational users, visitors, workers and communities.
Visually Vulnerable Area	A landscape designation used in the Sligo County Development Plan for distinctive and conspicuous natural features with extremely low capacity to absorb new development.

18. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

18.1 Introduction

This Chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) assesses the likely significant effects of the Ballina and Lough Talt Water Supply Upgrade (herein referred to as 'the Proposed Development') on landscape character and visual amenity receptors. This Chapter also summarises the related regulatory and policy framework, describes the methods used to assess the identified effects, the existing baseline conditions, the proposed mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects and the anticipated likely residual effects after mitigation measures have been applied. The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) and subsequent Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01. The study area extends across parts of Counties Mayo and Sligo. It includes lowland rural farmland, the urban edge of Ballina, the village setting of Bonniconlon, and upland landscapes associated with the Ox Mountains, Windy Gap and Lough Talt, the baseline landscape is described in Section 18.4.3 Receiving Environment - Landscape.

This chapter should be read in conjunction with:

- Biodiversity (Chapter 7);
- Population and Human Health (Chapter 6); and,
- Cultural Heritage (Chapter 17).

18.2 Legislation and Policy Context

This assessment has been undertaken with consideration of the requirements of key legislative and policy documents. Relevant Legislation that were considered during the assessment process for this Proposed Development are as follows:

- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended);
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2022;
- European Union (EU) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (hereafter referred to as the "EIA Directive");
- European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (hereafter referred to as the "EIA Regulations").

A summary of the planning policy, technical guidance and standards relevant to landscape and visual is provided below in Table 18-1.

Table 18-1 — Planning policy, legislation, technical guidance and standards

Document Title	Description / Relevance
Policy	
The European Landscape Convention	The European Landscape Convention is an international treaty adopted by the Council of Europe in 2000 in Florence, Italy. It aims to promote the protection, management, and planning of landscapes across Europe, recognizing them as an essential part of people's surroundings, cultural identity, and natural heritage. The European Landscape Convention was ratified by Ireland in 2002 and is applied indirectly through the National Landscape Strategy 2015–2025, the National Planning Framework, and local planning instruments. Its principles guide the identification, protection, management, and planning of landscapes and form the policy basis for landscape and visual assessment in EIARs/LVIAs.
National Planning Framework (NPF), April 2025	The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the long-term strategy for strategic planning and sustainable development up to 2040. The NPF was originally published in February 2018 and the first revision was adopted in April 2025. The revised NPF seeks to plan for population growth which is expected to grow by one million between 2022 and 2040. The National Planning Framework recognises landscape as a key component of Ireland's natural and cultural heritage and promotes the protection, management and sustainable development of landscape resources. National Policy Objective 89 seeks to protect and enhance the quality of Ireland's natural, built and cultural heritage, including landscape. National Policy Objective 91 supports the development of a consistent national approach to landscape character assessment, including the preparation of a National Landscape Character Map and the integration of landscape character assessment at regional and local authority level to inform spatial planning and development management.
The National Development Plan 2021-2030	This plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. While the Plan does not include specific landscape character policies, it emphasises that investment and infrastructure delivery must support sustainable development and environmental protection and be implemented in alignment with the spatial planning objectives of the National Planning Framework. Accordingly, projects delivered under the National Development Plan are expected to consider environmental factors, including landscape and visual effects, through statutory planning and environmental assessment processes.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025	The National Landscape Strategy 2015–2025 sets out the action to prepare a National Landscape Character Map using a consistent evidence base at the national scale. This remains an action to be completed under the Strategy.
Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028	The Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes policy and objectives related to visual amenity and landscape. The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo is included in Volume 4.
Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030	The Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030 includes policy and objectives related to visual amenity and landscape.
Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) and Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3rd Edition Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01	This document LITGN-2024-01 published August 2024, provides a compilation of clarifications on the 3rd Edition of the Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3).

18.2.1 Planning Context

This section summarises relevant local landscape planning policy and landscape designations. Information on landscape character is described under the 'landscape baseline' at 18.4 below.

18.2.1.1 Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028

The following policies and objectives from the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028, adopted June 2022 relevant to the application site are as follows:

Landscape Policy NEP 14
Includes reference to the following: '*To protect, enhance and contribute to the physical, visual and scenic character of County Mayo and to preserve its unique landscape character*.'

Landscape Objective NEO 25
Includes reference to the following: '*To consider applications for development, along Mayo's Scenic routes, that can demonstrate a clear need to locate in the area concerned, whilst ensuring that it:*

- *Does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of the area.*
- *Meets high standards in siting and design.*
- *Contributes to and enhances local landscape character.*
- *Satisfies all other criteria, with regard to, inter alia, servicing, public safety and environmental considerations.*'

Landscape Objective NEO 26
Includes reference to the following: '*To consider applications for development, within Mayo's Coastal Areas and Lakeshores and within areas along scenic routes with designated scenic views, that can demonstrate a long-standing social link to the area concerned, whilst ensuring that it:*

- *Does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of the area.*
- *Cannot be considered at an alternative location.*
- *Meets high standards in siting and design.*
- *Contributes to and enhances local landscape character.*
- *Satisfies all other criteria, with regard to, inter alia, servicing, public safety and environmental considerations*.'

Landscape Objective NEO 27
Includes reference to the following: '*To ensure all development proposals are consistent with the Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo and the associated Landscape Sensitivity Matrix and future editions thereof*.'

Landscape Objective NEO 29
Includes reference to the following: *'Require a Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment to accompany significant proposals, located within or adjacent to sensitive landscapes, where appropriate.'*

Given the scale of the project and its location within or adjacent to sensitive landscape, this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken.

Landscape Character and Landscape Designations
The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo include in Volume 4 of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028 '*identifies and describes the landscape character of each part of the County (Landscape Character Areas) and Scenic Routes and Views. The county is divided into six policy areas (see Map 10.1), relating to landscape protection and capacity to absorb development. The Landscape Appraisal includes a Landscape Sensitivity Matrix (see Map 10.2) that provides a general indication of the likelihood of success of planning applications for each development type, in each policy area. In addition, Map 10.2 illustrates the scenic routes and scenic routes with designated views for County Mayo. Mayo County Council seeks to safeguard these routes from inappropriate development, which would detract from the enjoyment of Mayo's outstanding landscape*.'

Within the study area, the section of the R294 road in the upland area east of Bonniconlon and near Windy Gap is designated as scenic route. A section of the Coast Road north of Ballina is designated as a scenic route.

18.2.1.2 Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

The following policies and objectives from the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030, relevant to the application site are as follows:

Landscape character protection policies
'***P-LCP-1*** *Protect the physical landscape, visual and scenic character of County Sligo and seek to preserve the County's landscape character. Planning applications for developments that have the potential to impact significantly and adversely upon landscape character, especially in Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and along Scenic routes, may be required to be accompanied by a visual impact assessment using agreed and appropriate viewing points and methods for the assessment.*

P-LCP-2 *Discourage any developments that would be detrimental to the unique visual character of designated Visually Vulnerable Areas.*

P-LCP-3 *Preserve the scenic views listed in* ***Appendix C*** *and the distinctive visual character of designated Scenic Routes by controlling development along such Routes and other roads, while facilitating developments that may be tied to a specific location or, in the case of individual houses, to the demonstrated needs of applicants to reside in a particular area.*

P-LCP-4 *Strictly control new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes, while considering exceptions that can demonstrate a clear need to locate in the area concerned. Ensure that any new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes:*

- *Does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of the area;*
- *Does not detract from the scenic value of the area;*
- *Meets high standards of siting and design;*
- *Satisfies all other criteria with regard to, inter alia, servicing, public safety and prevention of pollution.*

P-LCP-5 *Protect the County's Sensitive Rural Landscapes from the visual intrusion of large-scale energy and telecommunications infrastructure.*

P-LCP-7 *Preserve the status of traditionally open/unfenced landscapes. Fencing in upland or amenity areas will not normally be permitted unless such fencing is essential to the viability of the farm and conforms to best agricultural practice. The nature of the material to be used, the height of the fence and, in the case of a wire fence, the type of wire to be used will be taken into account. Barbed-wire shall not be used for the top line of wire. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required.*

P-LCP-8 *Where possible, preserve the open character of commonage and other hill land and secure access thereto*.'

Landscape character protection objectives
'***O-LCP-3*** *Prepare an updated Landscape Character Assessment for County Sligo in conjunction with the forthcoming Renewable Energy Strategy (refer to objective O-REN-1 in Chapter 31).*'

Landscape Designations
The Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030 and Sligo Landscape Characterisation Map, refers to the following landscape designations:

'***Normal Rural Landscapes****: areas with natural features (e.g. topography, vegetation) which generally have the capacity to absorb a wide range of new development forms – these are farming areas and cover most of the County. Certain areas located within normal rural landscapes may have superior visual qualities, due to their specific topography, vegetation pattern, the presence of traditional farming or residential structures. These areas may have limited capacity for development or may be able to absorb new development only if it is designed to integrate seamlessly with the existing environment*.'

Within the study area some limited areas of primarily pastureland near Lough Talt are designated as normal rural landscape.

'***Sensitive Rural Landscapes****: areas that tend to be open in character, highly visible, with intrinsic scenic qualities and a low capacity to absorb new development – e.g. Knocknarea, the Dartry Mountains, the Ox Mountains, Aughris Head, Mullaghmore Head etc.*'

Within the study area the upland areas of the Ox Mountains are designated as Sensitive Rural Landscapes.

'*Visually Vulnerable Areas: distinctive and conspicuous natural features of significant beauty or interest, which have extremely low capacity to absorb new development – examples are the Ben Bulben plateau, mountain and hill ridges, the areas adjoining Sligo's coastline, most lakeshores etc.'*

Within the study area the surrounding mountain and hill ridgelines and the shoreline of Lough Talt are designated as Visually Vulnerable Areas.

'***Scenic Routes****: public roads passing through or close to Sensitive Rural Landscapes, or in the vicinity of Visually Vulnerable Areas, and affording unique scenic views of distinctive natural features or vast open landscapes. In addition to remote views, scenic routes have often a distinctive visual character conferred by old road boundaries, such as stone walls, established hedgerows, lines of mature trees, adjoining cottages or farmyards together with their traditional, planted enclosures etc., all of which warrant protection*.'

Within the study the R294 road and sections of other local roads in the area near Lough Talt are designated as Scenic Routes.

18.3 Study Assessment and Methodology

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from a development. The two components of LVIA are:

- Assessment of landscape effects: assessing effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right; and,
- Assessment of visual effects: assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.

Landscape is defined by the European Landscape Convention[1] as: '*an area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.*

The assessment was carried out in accordance with the following:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition[2],2013);
- Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) LITGN-2024-01; and,
- EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports 2022.

The assessment has been undertaken using the assessment criteria set out in this chapter to provide a consistent and transparent framework. In accordance with GLVIA3, the assessment also relies on the application of informed professional judgement. The study was carried out between November 2025 to July 2026 through a combination of desk studies and field surveys within the study area. The study area is defined in 18.4 Receiving Environment. The methodology for undertaking the assessment is detailed below.

18.3.1 Baseline Studies

The baseline landscape and visual conditions were established through a combination of desk-based studies and field surveys conducted between November 2025 to March 2026.

18.3.2 Surveys

An initial field survey was undertaken on 17,18 and 19 November 2025 when deciduous vegetation was mostly not in leaf, providing a good indication of maximum visibility. Photography for verified photomontage purposes was undertaken on 20th March 2026.

18.3.3 Landscape Baseline

The aim of the landscape baseline is '*to provide an understanding of the landscape in the area that may be affected, its constituent elements, its character and way it varies spatially, its geographic extent, its history, its condition and the way the landscape is experienced, and the value attached to it*' (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013). The baseline study was undertaken by a mix of desktop study and fieldwork to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features, and aesthetic and perceptual factors that contribute to it. The study also considered the landscape condition and the value attached to the landscape. Sources of information for the desktop study included Ordnance Survey maps; aerial imagery of the route and sites that form the Proposed Development and surrounding area sourced from Google Maps and Bing Maps; existing landscape character assessments; and relevant planning policy from the Mayo County Development Plan 2022–2028 and Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030. Additional sources comprised Geological Survey Ireland online maps; National Monuments Service Historic Environment Viewer; National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Designations Viewer; Tailte Éireann Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer; Teagasc Irish Soil Information System; The Heritage Council Heritage Maps Viewer; Office of Public Works (OPW) Flood Mapping; and Tailte Éireann Land Registration Boundaries Mapping.

18.3.4 Visual Baseline

The aim of the visual baseline is '*to establish the area in which the development may be visible, the different groups of people who may experience views of the development, the places where they will be affected and the nature of the*

[1] Council of Europe Landscape Convention as amended by the 2016 Protocol (2000), Council of Europe

[2] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), Oxon: Routledge

views and visual amenity at those points' (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013).

The baseline study was undertaken by desktop study, followed by a field survey, to establish the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the Proposed Development and to identify seventy-five viewpoints representative of views experienced by people, or 'visual receptors'. The viewpoints were selected using professional judgement, informed by the desktop study and field survey and publicly accessible locations to represent the range of likely visual receptors and viewing directions and distances. The ZTV was estimated using a manual approach, including map interpretation, and on-site visual envelope mapping, to define the outer limit of land potentially visually connected to the Proposed Development.

There are areas within the ZTV that do not have views of the Proposed Development due to local variations in vegetation, topography, and built development. The ZTV is not always precise and represents an indication only of the area within which receptors may potentially experience the most significant visual effects.

18.3.5 Landscape Assessment Criteria

The overall significance of effects is established by combining professional judgements on the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development.

Sensitivity is determined through consideration of the value of the landscape receptor and its susceptibility to the type of change proposed.

Factors considered in assigning landscape value include:

- The presence of international, national or local designations;
- The quality or condition of the attributes and features contributing to character;
- Scenic quality (including all sensory aspects);
- The presence of rare elements, features or overall landscape type;
- The degree to which the landscape is representative of important defining characteristics;
- The presence of features of ecological, historical or geological conservation interest;
- The recreational value of the landscape;
- The likely perception of the landscape in connection with its wildness and/or tranquillity; and
- Cultural associations such as with notable people or historical events.

The criteria, in combination with professional judgement, used to inform the assessment of landscape value are set out in Table 18-2.

With regard to susceptibility, this relates to the ability of a landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation or landscape character. The criteria used to inform the assessment of landscape susceptibility, in combination with professional judgement, are described in Table 18-3.

The separate assessments of value and susceptibility are then combined to determine the overall sensitivity of each receptor. Table 18-4 provides a guide to this process and, in combination with professional judgement, informs the assessment of sensitivity.

Magnitude of change includes consideration of the nature, size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the area affected, and the duration (temporary, short-term, medium-term, long-term, or permanent) and reversibility of the effect. The direction of change is described separately as beneficial, adverse or neutral. The criteria used to inform the assessment of magnitude of change, in combination with professional judgement, are described in Table 18-5.

The separate assessments of sensitivity and magnitude are then combined, using professional judgement, to determine the significance of effects on each receptor. Effects may be beneficial, adverse or neutral and are described in Table 18-6.

18.3.6 Visual Assessment Criteria

The overall significance of effects is established by combining professional judgements on the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development. Sensitivity is determined through consideration of the value attached to views and the susceptibility of visual receptors to the type of change proposed.

Value was attributed to visual amenity and views within the Study Area according to the criteria in combination with professional judgment set out in Table 18-2. Factors influencing the judgement of value included:

- Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and
- Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment or convenience, and references to them in literature or art.

The susceptibility of visual receptors to change was then considered. As set out in GLVIA3, this depends upon the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view and the degree to which their attention or interest is focused on visual amenity. The criteria for assessing visual receptor susceptibility, in combination with professional judgement, are described in Table 18-3.

The separate assessments of value and susceptibility are then combined to determine the sensitivity of each receptor against the criteria in Table 18-4 which in combination with professional judgement guides the assessment of sensitivity.

Magnitude of change includes consideration of the size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the area affected, and the duration (temporary, short-term, medium-term, long-term, or permanent) and reversibility of the effect. The direction of effects (beneficial, adverse or neutral) is recorded separately. The criteria for assessing the magnitude of change, in combination with professional judgement, are described in Table 18-5.

The separate assessments of sensitivity and magnitude of change are then combined, using professional judgement, to determine the significance of effect on each receptor. Effects may be beneficial or adverse and are described in Table 18-6.

Table 18-2 — Criteria for Landscape Value and Value Attached to Views/ Visual amenity

Value	Landscape Value – Typical Criteria	Value Attached to Views/ Visual Amenity – Typical Criteria
Very High	International or National importance. Highly distinctive landscape characteristics; distinctive, rare, or unique features worthy of conservation; strong sense of place; no detracting features.	Highly distinctive view, including nationally or internationally significant features or scenery. Evidence of popular use, including access routes, facilities, and specific viewing infrastructure. No detracting features.
High	National, Regional, or Local importance. Highly distinctive landscape characteristics; distinctive, rare, or unique features worthy of conservation; strong sense of place; occasional detracting features.	Highly distinctive, although not necessarily widely publicised, view of unique or rare features or scenery. Evidence of popular use, including frequented access routes. Occasional or no detracting features.

Value	Landscape Value – Typical Criteria	Value Attached to Views/ Visual Amenity – Typical Criteria
Medium	Regional or Local importance. Recognised landscape characteristics; some features worthy of conservation; sense of place; some detracting features.	Highly or moderately distinctive view, not widely publicised and likely to be experienced mainly in passing and by smaller numbers of people living nearby. Some access infrastructure with little evidence of heavy use. Some or occasional detracting features.
Low	Local importance. Distinguishable landscape characteristics; few features worthy of conservation; no sense of place; frequent detracting features.	Moderately distinctive or undistinguished view, not widely known or frequented. Some access routes, e.g., Public Rights of Way. Frequent detracting features may be present.
Very Low	Local importance. Degraded or damaged landscape characteristics; no features worthy of conservation; extensive detracting features.	View with few or no distinctive features. Areas accessed mainly for transitory purposes. Frequent detracting features.

Table 18-3 — Criteria for Landscape and Visual Receptor Susceptibility

Susceptibility	Landscape Susceptibility Criteria	Visual Receptor Susceptibility to Change Criteria
Very High	The landscape receptor has no or very limited ability to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape policies and objectives.	People engaged in outdoor recreation within very important national/ international landscape, cultural/ historic sites (e.g. National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage sites), including users of public rights of way, whose attention is likely to be focussed on the landscape and particular views.
High	The landscape receptor has limited ability to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and objectives.	Residents People engaged in outdoor recreation, including user of public rights of way, whose attention is likely to be focussed on the landscape and particular views. Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important part of the experience. Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting and are enjoyed by residents. Travellers on scenic routes where awareness of views is likely to be high.
Medium	The landscape receptor has some ability to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and objectives.	Travellers on road, rail, or other transport routes, whose attention may occasionally be focused on the surrounding landscape.
Low	The landscape receptor has the ability to accommodate the Proposed Development	People engaged in outdoor recreation, which does not involve appreciation of views.

Susceptibility	Landscape Susceptibility Criteria	Visual Receptor Susceptibility to Change Criteria
	without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and objectives.	People at their place of work, whose attention may be focussed on their work and where the setting not important to the quality of working life.
Very Low	The landscape receptor has the ability to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and objectives.	Travellers on road, rail, or other transport routes within degraded or undistinguished landscapes, whose attention is unlikely to be focused on visual amenity.

Table 18-4 — Criteria for assessing Landscape and Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	Landscape criteria	Visual criteria
Very High	Landscapes of very high international or national importance, rarity, or value, with very limited capacity to accommodate change without substantial loss/ gain (e.g. National Parks, World Heritage Sites, landscapes of exceptional scenic quality).	1) Static views from and of major tourist attractions; 2) Views from and of very important national/ international landscapes, cultural/ historical sites (e.g. National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage sites); 3) Receptors engaged in specific activities for enjoyment of dark skies.
High	Landscapes of high national importance containing distinctive features/ elements with limited ability to accommodate change without incurring substantial loss/ gain (i.e. designated areas, areas of strong sense of place - registered parks and gardens, country parks).	1) Views by users of nationally important Public Right of Way (PRoW) / recreational trails (e.g. national trails, long distance trails); 2) Views by users of public open spaces for enjoyment of the countryside (e.g. country parks); 3) Views from residential properties, views from designated public open space, recreational areas; 4) Views from and of rare designated landscapes of national importance.
Medium	Landscapes of local or regional recognition of importance able to accommodate some change (i.e. features worthy of conservation, some sense of place or value through use/ perception).	1) Static views from less populated residential areas, schools and other institutional buildings and their outdoor areas; 2) Views by outdoor workers; 3) Transient views from local/regional areas such as public open space, scenic roads, railways or waterways, users of local/ regional designated tourist routes of moderate importance; 4) Views from and of landscapes of regional importance.

Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	Landscape criteria	Visual criteria
Low	Local landscape areas or receptors of low to medium importance with ability to accommodate change (i.e. non-designated or designated areas of local recognition or areas of little sense of place).	1) Views by users of main roads or passengers in public transport on main arterial routes; 2) Views by indoor workers; 3) Views by users of recreational/formal sports facilities where the landscape is secondary to enjoyment of the sport; 4) Views by users of local public open spaces of limited importance with limited variety or distinctiveness.
Very Low	Landscapes of very low importance and rarity able to accommodate change.	1) Quick transient views such as from fast moving vehicles; 2) Views from industrial areas, land awaiting redevelopment; 3) Views from landscapes of no importance with no variety or distinctiveness.

Table 18-5 — Magnitude of Change Criteria

Magnitude of change	Landscape criteria	Visual criteria
Major	Total loss or large-scale damage to existing landscape character or distinctive features or elements; and/or addition of new uncharacteristic, conspicuous features or elements. Large scale improvement of landscape character to features and elements; and/or addition of new distinctive features or elements, or removal of conspicuous infrastructure elements.	The project, or a part of it, would become the dominant feature or focal point of the view.
Moderate	Partial loss or noticeable damage to existing landscape character or distinctive features or elements; and/ or addition of new uncharacteristic, noticeable features or elements. Partial or noticeable improvement of landscape character by restoration of existing features or elements; or addition of new characteristic features or elements or removal of noticeable features or elements.	The project, or a part of it, would form a noticeable feature or element of the view which is readily apparent to the receptor.
Minor	Slight loss or damage to existing landscape character of one (maybe more) key features and elements; Slight improvement of landscape character by the restoration of one (maybe more) key	The project, or a part of it, would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view.

Magnitude of change	Landscape criteria	Visual criteria
	existing features and elements; and/or the addition of new characteristic features.	
Negligible	Very minor loss, damage or alteration to existing landscape character of one or more features and elements. Very minor noticeable improvement of character by the restoration of one or more existing features and elements.	Only a very small part of the project work or activity would be discernible or being at such a distance it would form a barely noticeable feature or element of the view.
No Change	No noticeable alteration or improvement, temporary or permanent, of landscape character of existing features and elements.	No part of the project work or activity would be discernible.

Table 18-6 — Significance categories of landscape and visual effects

Category	Landscape	Visual
Very Large Beneficial Effect	The project would greatly enhance the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; create an iconic high-quality feature and/or series of elements; enable a sense of place to be created or greatly enhanced.	The project would create an iconic new feature that would greatly enhance the view.
Large Beneficial Effect	The project would enhance the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements lost as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development; enable a sense of place to be enhanced.	The project would lead to a major improvement in a view from a highly sensitive receptor.
Moderate Beneficial Effect	The project would improve the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements partially lost or diminished as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development; enable a sense of place to be restored.	The project would cause obvious improvement to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, or perceptible improvement to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
Slight Beneficial Effect	The project would complement the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; maintain or enhance characteristic features and elements; enable some sense of place to be restored.	The project would cause limited improvement to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or would cause greater improvement to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity.

Category	Landscape	Visual
Neutral Effect	The project would maintain the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; blend in with characteristic features and elements; enable a sense of place to be retained.	Difficult to distinguish, barely perceptible change in view. No perceptible change in view
Slight Adverse Effect	The project would not quite fit the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; be at variance with characteristic features and elements; detract from a sense of place.	The project would cause limited deterioration to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or cause greater deterioration to a view from a receptor of high sensitivity
Moderate Adverse Effect	The project would conflict with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; have an adverse impact on characteristic features or elements; diminish a sense of place	The project would cause obvious deterioration to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, perceptible damage to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
Large Adverse Effect	The project would be at considerable variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; degrade or diminish the integrity of a range of characteristic features and elements; damage a sense of place.	The project would cause major deterioration to a view from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a major discordant element in the view.
Very Large Adverse Effect	The project would be at complete variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; cause the integrity of characteristic features, elements and sense of place to be lost.	The project would cause the loss of views from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a dominant discordant feature in the view.

Note: For the purposes of this assessment, effects classified as moderate, large or very large (beneficial or adverse) are considered significant in EIAR terms.

18.3.7 Embedded Mitigation

This assessment has been undertaken taking into account mitigation measures that are embedded within the design of the Proposed Development, including the pipeline alignment, and the proposed ecological and landscape planting at each above-ground project site. Additional mitigation measures are identified later in this Chapter.

18.4 Receiving Environment

18.4.1 Study area

The Study Area for this assessment has been defined as an area sufficient to enable the potential significant effects of the project on landscape character and visual amenity to be analysed. In accordance with the Guidelines for

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition, 2013), the extent of the Study Area is proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed infrastructure.

The Study Area encompasses the individual Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for each of the seven above-ground sites, as well as a defined corridor along the underground watermain route. This ensures that both the localised effects of built structures and the linear effects of the construction corridor are fully captured. Refer also to Section 18.4.4.1 Zone of Theoretical Visibility for extent of these areas.

18.4.2 Future baseline

In the absence of the Proposed Development, the receiving landscape is expected to continue to change gradually in accordance with existing land use patterns and the policies of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028, and the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030. Likely future change would include planned growth focused on Ballina and other designated settlements, limited appropriately located rural housing, consented infrastructure or renewable energy development where consistent with landscape, biodiversity and environmental policy, and ongoing agricultural, forestry and land-management activity. Climate adaptation, green infrastructure and biodiversity measures promoted by the Plans may also result in incremental changes to hedgerows, woodland and other vegetation. These changes are expected to be gradual and localised and are not anticipated to materially alter the landscape or visual baseline for this LVIA. Relevant committed developments are considered separately in the cumulative assessment.

18.4.3 Receiving Environment – Landscape

The study area is located within Counties Mayo and Sligo. Relevant local landscape character assessments include: The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo, Volume 4 (Mayo County Development Plan 2022–2028); and The Sligo Landscape Character Assessment, Volume 3 (Sligo County Development Plan 2024–2030).

18.4.3.1 Site Description

Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station (RWI&PS)
The site is located within an undulating rural landscape adjacent to Lough Conn. Existing land cover consists of the existing buildings and structures at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, including hardstanding, mown amenity grass, and an inlet at Lough Conn.

Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant (WTP)
The site is located within an undulating rural landscape. Existing land cover consists of the existing buildings and structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant, including hardstanding and grassland areas. The site is bounded by scrubby hedgerows to the east, south, west, and northwest, and by a low wall along the northern boundary adjacent to a local road.

Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station (RWS&PS)
The site is located within an undulating rural landscape. Existing land cover consists of the existing buildings and structures at Lisglennon RWS&PS, including hardstanding and grassland. The site is bounded by hedgerows and trees to the northern and eastern boundaries and is open along its southern boundary, which is adjacent to a local lane.

Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station (BPS)
The site is located within an undulating lowland rural landscape. Existing land cover consists of a pasture field, bounded by open fields to the north and south and by scrubby hedgerows and ditches to the east and west.

Bonniconlon Reservoir
The site is located within an undulating lowland rural landscape. Existing land cover consists of an existing reservoir, scrub, and grassland, bounded by scrubby hedgerows and ditches.

Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank (BPT)
The site is located within an open upland landscape. Existing land cover consists of open blanket bog and a small area of hardstanding next to the access road to Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm.

Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant (WTP)
The site is located within an upland landscape close to Lough Talt. Land cover consists of the existing buildings and structures at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant, including hardstanding and grassland areas. The site is situated on a cutting into the adjoining hillside and is bounded by scrub to the west and east, scrub and forestry to the north, and fencing and a stone wall along the R294 road to the south.

Pipeline Route
The proposed underground pipeline route traverses a variety of landscape types including undulating rural lowlands, the urban fringe of Ballina and the upland landscape at Windy Gap and Lough Talt. The pipeline route also includes the connection through agricultural land between Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station and Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The proposed underground water pipeline route travels through agricultural fields from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant to its connection with the R314 road. The route then follows the R314 towards the outskirts of Ballina, except where it deviates to cross various streams. The pipeline then follows a local road towards the Belleek Castle grounds, passing beneath existing lawn areas and access paths within Belleek Woods. The pipeline will connect to the existing watermain crossing on either side of the River Moy, with no works proposed within the river. East of the River Moy, the route travels along local roads to the north and east of Ballina, then continues through fields and beneath the Brusna River near Behy, where it connects with the R294 road. The pipeline then follows the R294 to Bonniconlon, the L51172 road east of Bonniconlon, and the R294 from Windy Gap to Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant, except where it deviates to cross various streams along the route.

18.4.3.2 Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo

The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo included in Volume 4 of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022–2028, defines four Landscape Character Units within the study area: Area D – North Coast Plateaux, Area G – Northern Drumlins, Area H – East Uplands and Lake (refer to Landscape Character drawing 24026-LP-1-01-REV1, Appendix 18-1).

Landscape Unit Area D – North Coast Plateaux

Landscape Unit Area D – North Coast Plateaux is described in the Mayo County Development Plan as a predominantly coastal landscape comprising often steeply sloping terrain with a combination of peat bog, moorland, natural grassland and occasional pasture. The Landscape Appraisal identifies **Critical Landscape Factors** as elevated coastal vistas, smooth terrain and low vegetation, noting that these characteristics contribute to long-distance visibility and a reduced capacity to absorb development. Field survey observations indicate that the **Critical Landscape Factors** described above are not representative of the portion of this character unit within the study area, which is primarily inland and characterised by rural pasture. The factors described above largely relate to landscape characteristics associated with the north Mayo coastline.

Table 18-7 sets out the factors (elements and attributes) contributing to character observed within the part of Landscape Unit **Area D – North Coast Plateaux** within the Study Area.

Table 18-7 — Landscape Character Area Baseline (Area D – North Coast Plateaux)

Natural factors	
Criteria	Description
Geology	Bedrock Geology: Visean limestone & calcareous shale. Quaternary Sediments:

	Till derived from limestones. Karstified bedrock outcrop or subcrop. Eskers comprised of gravels of basic reaction. Bedrock outcrop or subcrop. Cut over raised peat (Geological Survey Ireland, 2026).
Landform	Undulating lowland.
Hydrology	Watercourses include the Moyne stream which flows northeast towards Moyne Abbey and into Killala Bay. Meelick Lough is located south of Killala (EPA Water Maps, 2026).
Air and Climate	Temperate maritime climate influenced by the Atlantic Ocean, characterised by mild temperatures and frequent precipitation throughout the year.
Soils	Coarse loamy over calcareous gravels to Lisglennon. Coarse loamy drift with siliceous stones. Peat. Fine loamy over shale and slate bedrock (Teagasc, 2026).
Land cover/ flora and fauna	Fields and roads are usually bounded by hedgerows including hedgerow trees. Semi natural habitats include deciduous woodland, scrub, semi-improved grassland. Meelick Lough is within Killala Bay/Moy Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2026).
Cultural/ Social factors	
Criteria	Description
Land Use	Settlement at Killala and environs including residential, commercial and industrial land use. Some isolated rural dwellings and ribbon development along local roads. Improved grassland farmland. Woodland. Local road network including local/ regional roads and lanes. Industrial development south of Killala including: Tawnaghmore Power Station, Killala Business Park, Killala Wastewater Treatment Plant, Killala Wind Farm, Lisglennon Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ballina-Killala Railway Line – part of the dismantled route. Killala Greenway
Settlement	Killala includes a historic core surrounded by suburban development. The rural areas include one-off isolated dwellings and ribbon development along local roads. Building materials include local stone, render and slate roofs.
Enclosure	Small to medium sized regular and irregular shaped fields (some distinctly long, narrow, striped field patterns) bounded by hedgerows and ditches.

	Residential development enclosed by boundary walls, hedges, fencing and ornamental planting.
Land Ownership	Generally small sized parcels of land ownership (Landdirect.ie, 2026).
Time depth	The area is adjacent to Killala. 'The name Killala is derived from the Irish 'Cill Ala', meaning "the mottled church". The origins of Killala diocese date back to the time of St Patrick. In the year 442 AD, St Patrick appointed his disciple, St Muredach, to build a community in Killala, which has resulted in many fine archaeological sites and monuments remaining today, such as Rosserk Abbey, Moyne Abbey, Rathfran Abbey, Meelick Castle and Humberts Rock. The town is dominated by a round tower, which dates from the 12th century. The tower marks Killala's historic distinction as an important centre of ecclesiastical politics. In the centre of the town is a Church of Ireland cathedral. It was built in 1670 immediately above the remains of an earlier Catholic cathedral. The adjoining graveyard has a 9th century "Souterrain", an underground burial structure associated with the Atlantic Iron Age settlers. The street layout of Killala reflects its historical pattern and there are several cut-stone mill buildings which reflect its commercial past.' (Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028). Record of Protected Structures: There are numerous records of protected structures at Killala. Ballysakeery Glebe House is located northeast of the Lisglennon Wastewater Treatment Plant site. Sites and Monuments Records: There are numerous SMR predominantly in lands near Lisglennon Wastewater Treatment Plant (The Heritage Council, 2026).
Cultural associations	
Criteria	Description
Cultural associations	The origins of Killala diocese date back to the time of St Patrick. Killala is associated with the 1798 Irish Rebellion when General Jean Humbert and French forces landed nearby and joined Irish rebels against British rule.
Perceptual and aesthetic factors	
Criteria	Description
Aesthetic aspects (sight)	Scale: Small where vegetation restricts views and large where there are more open distant views including to the Ox Mountains. Enclosure: Combination of enclosed where vegetation is dense and open where there are long distant views over large areas of the lowland landscape and the Ox Mountains beyond. Diversity: Simple rural area. Texture: Textured appearance due to vegetation. Form: Rolling to horizontal. Line: Curved to straight. Colour: Predominantly green pasture lands.

	Balance: Discordant due to industrial elements including Tawnaghmore Power Station, Killala wind farm and Killala Business Park which have introduced large scale industrial elements into the landscape. Pattern: Irregular to regular field pattern including some distinctive striped pattern fields.
Other perceptual aspects	Security: Safe Stimuli: Typical lowland working landscape. Industrial elements including Killala wind farm. and Tawnaghmore Power Station are distinctive elements. Tranquillity: Still within rural areas and busy along the R314 regional road. Movement: Tranquil along local roads and lanes away from the R314 road. Naturalness: Combination of managed farmland and some semi natural areas. Noise: Quiet along local roads and lanes, and loud along the R314 Road corridor.
Key Characteristics	
	Landform: Gently undulating lowland with distant views towards the Ox Mountains. Geology/Soils: Visean limestone and calcareous shale; tills, karstified outcrops, eskers, and areas of cut-over peat; coarse loamy and fine loamy soils. Hydrology: Watercourses including the Moyne Stream and Meelick Lough (within SAC/SPA). Land Cover/Flora & Fauna: Improved pasture, hedgerows, scattered woodland, semi-natural habitats including scrub. Settlement & Land Use: Historic town of Killala; one-off dwellings and ribbon development along local roads; pasture agriculture dominates with some industrial development (Tawnaghmore Power Station, Killala Wind Farm, Killala Business Park). Field Pattern & Enclosure: Small to medium fields, irregular to regular shapes, hedgerow, ditch and some stone wall boundaries; some long narrow striped fields. Cultural & Historic Features: Historic townscape at Killala, abbeys, castles, archaeological sites, and links to St Patrick and the 1798 Rebellion. Perceptual & Aesthetic Qualities: Combination of enclosed views within vegetated lowlands and some open distant views across the lowland plain; green and earthy tones; textured appearance due to vegetation; industrial elements are visually prominent locally. Tranquillity & Naturalness: Generally calm and rural; semi-natural features enhance character; noise and visual intrusion occur near the R314 road corridor.

Condition
The rural landscape is generally in **good and largely intact condition**, with characteristics such as pasture farmland, hedgerows, woodland, and long-distance views remaining largely intact and contributing positively to landscape character. The field pattern and vegetation structure within the lower-lying farmland areas remain largely legible. Localised industrial elements reduce the overall coherence and integrity of the landscape in places.

Value
The landscape comprises typical rural lowland farmland with intact field patterns and areas of semi-natural vegetation. The area includes a nationally important natural heritage designation at Meelick Lough, which forms part of the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA).

The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo identifies pasture lands as 'areas designated as normal'. 'Sensitive areas' include mixed forest, broadleaf forest, peat bogs, agricultural lands with significant natural vegetation, and water bodies. The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo places the area within Policy Area 1 (Figure 24026-LP-1-02-REV1, Appendix 18-1, Volume 3 of this EIAR), and the associated landscape sensitivity matrix indicates that industrial or commercial type development would have medium potential to create adverse landscape effects on landscape character.

There are no national scenic or amenity landscape designations within the study area. Taking account of these factors, the landscape within the part of Area D – North Coast Plateaux within the study area is judged to be of **medium value** and local importance.

Landscape Unit Area G – Northern Drumlins

Landscape Unit Area G – Northern Drumlins is described in the Mayo County Development Plan as a drumlin landscape comprising gently undulating low-lying topography, with steeper drumlins occurring towards the east, and incorporating the floodplain of the River Moy. Land cover is dominated by pasture, interspersed with hedgerows, scrub, woodland, occasional moorland and peat bog, together with the urban settlement of Ballina. The Landscape Appraisal identifies the principal **Critical Landscape Factors** as undulating topography, shelter vegetation, prominent ridgelines and localised lake vistas. These characteristics provide visual containment across much of the landscape, while prominent ridgelines and localised lake vistas are recognised as sensitive features where development has the potential to affect important views and landscape character.

Table 18-8 below sets out the factors (elements and attributes) contributing to character observed within the part of Landscape Unit **Area G – Northern Drumlins** within the Study Area. For the purposes of this assessment, the areas of Lough Conn adjacent to land within this area are also included.

Table 18-8 — Landscape Character Area Baseline (Area G – Northern Drumlins)

Natural factors	
Criteria	Description
Geology	Bedrock Geology: Visean limestone & calcareous shale. Quaternary Sediments: Till derived from limestones; karstified bedrock outcrop or subcrop; bedrock outcrop or subcrop; cut-over raised peat; alluvium; gravels derived from limestones; till derived from granites (Geological Survey Ireland, 2026).
Landform	Undulating lowland including drumlins.
Hydrology	Moy and Killala Bay catchments. Watercourses include the River Moy (flows into Killala Bay), Rosserk River, Brusna River, Black River, Glenree River, Srafaungal River, Fiddaun River, Deel River, and Lough Conn (EPA Water Maps, 2026).

Air and Climate	Temperate maritime climate influenced by the Atlantic Ocean, characterised by mild temperatures and frequent precipitation throughout the year.
Soils	Coarse loamy drift with siliceous stones; coarse loamy over calcareous gravels; fine loamy over shale and slate bedrock; peat; river alluvium; coarse loamy drift with igneous and metamorphic stones; fine loamy drift with limestones (Teagasc, 2026).
Land cover/ flora and fauna	Fields and roads are usually bounded by hedgerows including hedgerow trees. Some hedgerows are not intensively managed. Semi-natural habitats include deciduous woodland, areas of scrub, semi-improved grassland, and areas of bog. Killala Bay / Moy Estuary - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA). River Moy - SAC and SPA. Lough Conn and Lough Cullin - SPA and pNHA (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2026).
Cultural/ Social factors	
Criteria	Description
Land Use	Settlement at Ballina and environs including residential, commercial, and industrial land use. Village settlement at Bonniconlon. Settled rural areas including isolated rural dwellings and ribbon development along local roads. Improved grassland pasture farmland; some areas of pasture invaded by scrub and rushes. Coniferous forestry. Woodland. Local road network including local, regional, and national roads and lanes. Industrial/infrastructure development including: Mullaferry Quarry, Coca-Cola Beverages Ballina, Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station. Part of the route of the dismantled Ballina-Killala Railway Line. Western Way Trail and Belleek Nature Trail. Belleek Woods recreation area.
Settlement	Ballina includes a historic core and waterfront surrounded by suburban development. Bonniconlon is a traditional linear village. The rural areas include one-off isolated dwellings and ribbon development along local roads. Building materials include local stone, render, and slate roofs.
Enclosure	Small to medium-sized regular and irregular shaped fields (some distinctly long, narrow, striped patterns) often bounded by hedgerows, earth banks, and wire fencing. Residential development enclosed by boundary walls, hedges, fencing, and ornamental planting.
Land Ownership	Generally small sized parcels of land ownership (Landdirect.ie, 2026).

Time depth	Ballina - from the Irish Béal an Átha (‘mouth of the ford’). Pearse Street Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) within the centre of Ballina. ‘Ballina benefits from a legacy of 18th, 19th and 20th century buildings, including Belleek Castle, townhouses on Pearse and Emmet Streets, civic and institutional buildings, such as the Military barracks, and ecclesiastical buildings, such as St. Muredach’s Cathedral on Cathedral Road. The town has also inherited a Town Centre street pattern that has informed the layout of the subsequent expansion of the town.’ (Ballina Local Area Plan 2024-2030). Record of Protected Structures: A mausoleum is located southeast of Belleek Castle. Sites and Monuments Records: There are numerous SMR located within this character area. The Heritage Council (2026). 6” First Edition maps show a demesne landscape at Belleek ‘Abbey’ north of Ballina town centre. Later 25” maps refer to Belleek Manor and show a more wooded estate landscape (Tailte Éireann, 2026).
Cultural associations	
Criteria	Description
Cultural associations	Ballina is well known for its salmon fishing at the River Moy. The Ballina Salmon festival is held every July.
Perceptual and aesthetic factors	
Criteria	Description
Aesthetic aspects (sight)	Scale: Small where vegetation restricts views, and large where there are open distant views over this lowland area including to the Ox Mountains and Nephin Mountain. Lakeland views to Lough Conn. Enclosure: Combination of enclosed where vegetation is dense, and open where there are long distant views over large areas of the lowland landscape and the Ox Mountains and Nephin Mountain beyond. Diversity: Simple rural area. Texture: Textured appearance due to vegetation. Form: Rolling to horizontal. Line: Curved to straight. Colour: Predominantly green pasturelands. Balance: Mostly balanced; areas of ribbon development and sparse/fragmented hedgerows are discordant. Pattern: Irregular to regular field pattern including some distinctive striped fields.
Other perceptual aspects	Security: Safe. Stimuli: Typical lowland working landscape. Views along the River Moy and long distant views over the lowland landscape including the Ox Mountains and Nephin Mountain are distinctive. Lakeland views to Lough Conn.

	Tranquillity: Still within rural areas, busy along regional/national roads and the environs around Ballina. Movement: Tranquil along local roads and lanes away from the vibrant Ballina environs. Naturalness: Combination of managed farmland and some semi-natural areas including scrub invading fields. Noise: Quiet along local roads and lanes; loud along regional and national road corridors.
Key Characteristics	
	Landform: Undulating lowland with areas of glacial drumlins. Geology/Soils: Visean limestone and calcareous shale underlie tills, karstified outcrops, cut-over peat, and alluvial gravels; soils are coarse and fine loamy with local peat. Hydrology: Network of rivers including the Moy, Rosserk, Brusna, Black, Glenree, Srafaungal, Fiddaun, Deel, and Lough Conn, contributing to a water-influenced lowland character. Land Cover/Flora & Fauna: Predominantly improved pasture, hedgerows with occasional trees, small patches of woodland, scrub, semi-improved grassland, and bog; River Moy and Lough Conn are SPA/ SAC designated. Settlement & Land Use: Ballina with an historic core and waterfront; village settlement at Bonniconlon; one-off rural dwellings and ribbon development; agriculture dominates with some local industrial elements (quarry, Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Coca-Cola facility). Field Pattern & Enclosure: Small to medium fields of irregular and regular shapes; boundaries formed by hedgerows, earth banks, wire fencing, and occasional stone walls; some long narrow striped fields. Cultural & Historic Features: Long history of settlement in Ballina with 18th - 20th century buildings, Pearse Street ACA, mausoleum, demesne landscapes at Belleek, SMR sites; strong association with salmon fishing and the Ballina Salmon Festival. Perceptual & Aesthetic Qualities: Combination of enclosed views within vegetated lowlands and open lowland vistas; textured vegetation; predominantly green pastoral tones; lowland lakeland views to Lough Conn. Tranquillity & Naturalness: Generally calm in low-density rural areas; semi-natural habitats enhance natural character; noise and visual intrusion occur along regional/national roads near Ballina.

Condition
The rural landscape is generally in good and largely intact condition, with characteristics such as undulating pasture farmland, hedgerows, woodland, riverside views at Ballina, views of Lough Conn, long-distance views toward the Ox Mountains and Nephin Mountain contributing positively to landscape character. Localised areas of ribbon development and fragmented hedgerows reduce the overall coherence of the landscape in places.

Value
The landscape comprises typical rural lowland farmland with intact field patterns and areas of semi-natural vegetation. Several nationally important natural heritage designations contribute to ecological value, including Killala Bay/Moy Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA), River Moy SAC and SPA, and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA). There are no national scenic or amenity landscape designations within the study area.

The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo identifies river banks, lake shorelines, and water bodies, including Lough Conn and the River Moy, as 'vulnerable features', which are also designated as 'sensitive', while pasture lands are classified as 'areas designated as normal'. Other sensitive areas include mixed forest, broadleaf forest, peat bogs, agricultural lands with significant natural vegetation, and water bodies. The Landscape Appraisal places the area within Policy Areas 4 and 4a (Figure 24026-LP-1-02, Appendix 18-1, Volume 3 of the EIAR). Policy Area 4a covers Lough Conn and adjacent rural areas, while Policy Area 4 includes the rural areas to the north and east of this character unit. The associated landscape sensitivity matrix does not include Policy Area 4a but indicates that industrial or commercial development would have low potential to create adverse landscape effects on landscape character in Policy Area 4.

Taking account of these factors, the landscape within the part of Area G - Northern Drumlins in the study area is considered to be of **medium value** and local importance, with areas within and immediately adjacent to Lough Conn and the River Moy considered to be of **high value**.

Landscape Unit Area H – East Mayo Uplands

The Landscape Unit Area H – East Mayo Uplands, is described within the Mayo County Landscape Appraisal as follows:

Landscape Unit Area H - East Mayo Uplands is described in the Mayo County Development Plan as an upland landscape comprising rugged hill country and the foothills of the Ox Mountains, progressing from the low-lying lakeland drumlins surrounding Lough Conn and Lough Cullin. Land cover is predominantly peat bog, interspersed with areas of natural vegetation, agricultural land, pasture and small-scale conifer plantations. The Landscape Appraisal identifies the principal **Critical Landscape Factors** as steep slopes, prominent ridgelines and localised lake vistas. These characteristics contribute to the distinctive upland landscape character and highlight the importance of maintaining the integrity of skylines, prominent ridgelines and views associated with Lough Conn and Lough Cullin.

Table 18-9 below sets out the factors (elements and attributes) contributing to character observed within the part of Landscape Unit **Area H – East Mayo Uplands** within the Study Area.

Table 18-9 — Landscape Character Area Baseline (Area H – East Mayo Uplands)

Natural factors	
Criteria	Description
Geology	Bedrock Geology: Visean limestone and calcareous shale within lowland areas; Neoproterozoic Dalradian metasedimentary rocks and Siluro-Devonian granitic rocks with appinite intrusions in upland areas.

	Quaternary Sediments: Gravels derived from limestones, tills derived from granites, blanket peat and bedrock outcrop/subcrop (Geological Survey Ireland, 2026).
Landform	Transitions from undulating lowland at Bonniconlon to steeply sloping foothills and upland areas of the Ox Mountains within County Mayo.
Hydrology	Glenree River, Srafaungal River, and numerous small upland loughs including Loughatim, Lough Corskea, and Lough Alone. Extensive areas of blanket bog occur across upland areas (EPA Water Maps, 2026).
Air and Climate	Temperate maritime climate influenced by the Atlantic Ocean, characterised by mild temperatures and frequent precipitation throughout the year.
Soils	Peat. Fine loamy drift with limestones (Teagasc, 2026).
Land cover/ flora and fauna	In lowland areas or along local rivers, fields and roads are bounded by hedgerows, earth banks, stone walls and scrub. Some hedgerows are not intensively managed. Semi natural habitats include deciduous woodland, areas of scrub, semi-improved grassland and areas of bog. The upland areas primarily include blanket bog. Natural heritage designations include: Lough Hoe Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Ox Mountains Bogs Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Lough Hoe Bog Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). Ox Mountains Bogs Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2026).
Cultural/ Social factors	
Criteria	Description
Land Use	Settlement at Bonniconlon and environs including residential and commercial land use. Settled rural areas including isolated rural dwellings and ribbon development along local roads. Little settlement in upland areas. Improved grassland pasture farmland to areas near Bonniconlon. Some areas of pasture invaded by scrub. Coniferous forestry. Woodland. Turf cutting. Local road network including local/ regional roads and lanes. Public right of way: Western Way Trail and Bonniconlon Loops. Industrial/ infrastructure development including; Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm Glenree 110kV Substation and pylons.
Settlement	Bonniconlon is a traditional linear village. The rural areas include one-off isolated dwellings and ribbon development along local roads. Little settlement in upland areas.

	Building materials include local stone, render and slate roofs.
Enclosure	To lowland areas, small to medium sized regular and irregular shaped fields (some distinctly long, narrow, striped field patterns) often bounded by stone walls, hedgerows, earth banks and wire fencing. Upland areas are generally open and unenclosed, with distinctive striped patterns visible in areas of turf-cut blanket bog. Residential properties are typically enclosed by boundary walls, hedges, fencing and ornamental planting.
Land Ownership	Generally small sized parcels of land ownership to lowland areas. Large areas of commonage to upland areas (Landdirect.ie, 2026).
Time depth	Sites and Monuments Records: There are numerous SMR located within this character area (The Heritage Council, 2026). 6" First Edition maps show settlement and agriculture confined predominately to lowland areas whilst upland areas are mostly unsettled and not enclosed (Tailte Éireann, 2026).
Cultural associations	
Criteria	Description
Cultural associations	The Bonniconlon Agricultural Show takes place annually every summer. The area along the R294 Road near the Sligo border is known as the 'Windy Gap'.
Perceptual and aesthetic factors	
Criteria	Description
Aesthetic aspects (sight)	Scale: Small where vegetation and local undulating topography restricts views in lowland areas and large scale where there are open distant views over the lowland plain and upland areas including to the Ox Mountains. Enclosure: Combination of enclosed lowland areas where vegetation restricts views, and open upland areas with long-distance views across the lowland landscape and towards the Ox Mountains. Diversity: Diverse combination of lowland pasture and transition to upland areas including blanket bog and small loughs. Wind turbines are noticeable elements in the upland areas. Texture: Textured appearance due to vegetation in lowlands and smooth in upland blanket bog areas. Form: Rolling and sloping. Line: Curved. Colour: Predominantly green pasture lands and muted earth tones to extensive blanket bog areas with localised purple heather in summer. Balance: The landscape is generally balanced; however, ribbon development, fragmented hedgerows, dilapidated stone walls, pylons and linear blocks of coniferous forestry form locally discordant elements.

	Pattern: Irregular to regular field pattern including some distinctive striped pattern fields.
Other perceptual aspects	Security: Safe Stimuli: Interesting and inspiring combination of pasture lowland and upland blanket bog including long distant views over the lowland plain and to the Ox Mountains. Tranquillity: Still within rural areas and busy along regional roads. Movement: Tranquil along local roads and lanes away from the R294 road. Naturalness: Combination of managed farmland and some semi natural areas including extensive areas of blanket bog and areas of scrub. Upland areas feel remote and wild. Noise: Quiet along local roads and lanes, and trails within the upland areas.
Key Characteristics	
	Landform transitions from gently undulating lowland farmland around Bonniconlon to steep foothills and open uplands associated with the Ox Mountains. Complex mix of limestone and granitic bedrock, glacial sediments, and extensive blanket peat; rock outcrops in uplands. Hydrology includes river corridors (Glenree and Srafaungal rivers), numerous upland loughs, and bogland contributing to a water-influenced landscape. Land cover is varied, with improved pasture and hedgerow networks in lowland areas, pockets of woodland and scrub, and extensive areas of upland blanket bog. Ecological value is reinforced by multiple SACs and pNHAs associated with bog habitats. Settlement pattern is nucleated and linear at Bonniconlon, with dispersed rural dwellings and ribbon development along local roads; upland areas remain largely unsettled. Land use reflects a working rural landscape, including pastoral agriculture, forestry, turf cutting, renewable energy infrastructure, and recreational use via the Western Way and local looped trails. Field pattern and enclosure vary from small to medium-sized enclosed lowland field some with distinctive long, narrow striped forms to open, unenclosed uplands and patterned turf-cut bogs. Infrastructure and development include Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm and associated grid infrastructure, which introduce large-scale vertical and linear elements into the upland setting.

	Time depth is evident in historic field patterns, long-established settlement in lowland areas, numerous recorded archaeological sites, and historic mapping showing enduring contrasts between settled lowlands and open uplands. Large scale panoramic views from upland areas over the adjacent lowland plain and to the Ox Mountains.

Condition
The rural landscape is generally in good and largely intact condition, with characteristics such as gently undulating lowland farmland around Bonniconlon transitioning to steep foothills and open uplands associated with the Ox Mountains. Land cover is varied, with improved pasture and hedgerow networks in lowland areas, pockets of woodland and scrub, and extensive areas of upland blanket bog. Large-scale panoramic views from the uplands over the adjacent lowland plain and to the Ox Mountains contribute to the character. Localised areas of ribbon development, fragmented hedgerows, and industrial and infrastructure features including Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm, Glenree 110 kV Substation, and pylons reduce the overall coherence of the landscape in places, but the overall rural character remains evident.

Value
The landscape includes a combination of lowland and scenic upland areas. Several nationally important natural heritage designations contribute to its ecological value, including Lough Hoe Bog SAC, Ox Mountains Bogs SAC, Lough Hoe Bog Proposed pNHA, and Ox Mountains Bogs pNHA. There are no national scenic or amenity landscape designations within the Study Area. The section of the R294 road in the upland part of this character area is designated as a 'Scenic route' within Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo identifies skylines and ridges, including mountain areas, as 'vulnerable features', which are also designated as 'sensitive', while pasture lands are classified as 'areas designated as normal'. Other sensitive areas include mixed forest, broadleaf forest, peat bogs, agricultural lands with significant natural vegetation, and water bodies. The Landscape Appraisal places the area within Policy Area 3 (Figure 24026-LP-1-02, Appendix 18-1, Volume 3 of the EIAR), and the associated landscape sensitivity matrix indicates that industrial or commercial development would have medium potential to cause adverse landscape effects on landscape character in this policy area.

Taking these factors into account, the landscape within the part of Area H – East Mayo Uplands in the study area is considered to be of **high value** in the upland areas and **medium value** in the lowland areas near Bonniconlon.

18.4.3.3 Sligo Landscape Characterisation

The landscape character policy for County Sligo is set out in Volume 3, Chapter 23 of the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030. The Landscape Characterisation Map classifies the county according to its visual sensitivity and capacity to absorb new development without compromising scenic character.

The Landscape Characterisation Map identifies four landscape designations within County Sligo: Normal Rural Landscapes, Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and Scenic Routes. Normal Rural Landscapes generally have the capacity to accommodate a wide range of development, although areas with higher visual quality may have a more limited capacity and require careful integration with the existing landscape. Sensitive Rural Landscapes comprise open landscapes with intrinsic scenic qualities and a low capacity to absorb new development. Visually Vulnerable Areas comprise distinctive and visually prominent natural features (such as mountain and hill ridges) with a very low capacity to absorb development. Scenic Routes are public roads that pass through or adjacent to Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas and are recognised for their scenic views and distinctive landscape character.

Within the study area, the following landscape designations occur (refer also to Landscape Character Drawings, (Figure 24026-LP-1-01-REV1, Appendix 18-1, Volume 3 of the EIAR)). Lowland pasture areas around Largan, Lough

Talt and along the Lough Talt River are designated as Normal Rural Landscapes. The upland areas of the Ox Mountains are designated as Sensitive Rural Landscapes. The surrounding mountain and hill ridgelines and the shoreline of Lough Talt are designated as Visually Vulnerable Areas. The R294 and sections of other local roads in the area are designated as Scenic Routes.

Table 18-10 sets out the factors (elements and attributes) contributing to landscape character within the part of County Sligo located in the Study Area.

Table 18-10 — Landscape Character Area Baseline (Windy Gap to Lough Talt, Co. Sligo)

Natural factors	
Criteria	Description
Geology	Bedrock Geology: Neoproterozoic metasedimentary rocks – Dalradian. Siluro-Devonian granitic rocks & appinite. Quaternary Sediments: Gravels derived from Metamorphic rocks. Blanket Peat. Bedrock outcrop or subcrop. (Geological Survey Ireland, 2026).
Landform	Upland areas of the Ox Mountains within County Sligo including the Lough Talt Valley and surrounding hills. The Gap Corrie is a glacial feature northeast of Lough Talt. Landform strongly contributes to the sense of remoteness and scenic quality.
Hydrology	Lough Talt. Lough Talt River. Lenyvee River. Lough Hoe River. Extensive areas of blanket bog. Numerous small loughs within the upland area including Round Lough and Lough Alore. (EPA Water Maps, 2026). Hydrological features contribute significantly to character.
Air and Climate	Temperate maritime climate influenced by the Atlantic Ocean, characterised by mild temperatures and frequent precipitation throughout the year.
Soils	Predominantly peat soils associated with blanket bog (Teagasc, 2026).
Land cover/ flora and fauna	The area primarily includes peat blanket bog, open water (Lough Talt) and blocks of plantation coniferous forestry. In lower lying areas or along local rivers or the shores to Lough Talt, fields and roads are bounded by hedgerows, earth banks, and scrub. Some hedgerows are not intensively managed. Semi natural habitats include deciduous woodland, areas of scrub, semi-improved grassland and areas of bog. Natural heritage designations include: Lough Hoe Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Ox Mountains Bogs Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog (SAC). River Moy (SAC). Lough Hoe Bog Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog (pNHA).Ox Mountains Bogs Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2026).
Cultural/ Social factors	
Criteria	Description

Land Use	Settlement: Upland areas are generally empty. Settled rural areas including isolated rural dwellings, primarily located along the R294 road especially near Lough Talt, local roads and Lough Talt River valley. Improved grassland pasture farmland to areas near Lough Talt and Lough Talt River valley. Some areas of pasture invaded by scrub. Coniferous forestry. Turf cutting. Local road network including local/ regional roads and lanes. Long distance trails: Sligo Way Trail Local trails: Lough Talt Trail Industrial and infrastructure development including: Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant
Settlement	Settlement: Upland areas are generally empty. Settled rural areas including isolated rural dwellings, primarily located at Largan and along the R294 road especially near Lough Talt, local roads and Lough Talt River valley. Building materials include local stone, render and slate roofs.
Enclosure	Upland areas are generally open and not enclosed. Pasture fields in lower land areas around Lough Talt enclosed by ditches, hedgerows and scrub. Residential development enclosed by boundary walls, hedges, fencing and ornamental planting.
Land Ownership	Generally small sized parcels of land ownership to pasture farmland areas around Lough Talt and Lough Talt River valley. Large areas of commonage to upland areas. (Landdirect.ie, 2026).
Time depth	‘During the year of the French (1798), General Jean Joseph Amable Humbert marched his army through the Lough Talt valley on the way from Bonniconlon to battle in Longford. At least three French soldiers perished and are buried at the Old Gorterslin road overlooking Lough Talt (French Mans Grave) and on the Bonniconlon side of the gap in an area known as the French Man’s bridge’ (Sligo Walks.ie, 2026). Sites and Monuments Records: There are numerous SMR located within this character area. (The Heritage Council, 2026). Including Crannog at Lough Talt, Holy wells along Lough Talt River valley,

	6” First Edition maps show settlement and agriculture confined predominately to lowland areas whilst upland areas are mostly unsettled and not enclosed. (Tailte Éireann, 2026).
Cultural associations	
Criteria	Description
Cultural associations	The area along the R294 Road near the Mayo border is known as the ‘Windy Gap’. Routes linked to the French Expedition to Ireland (1798).
Perceptual and aesthetic factors	
Criteria	Description
Aesthetic aspects (sight)	Scale: Large scale views across Lough Talt and to the surrounding upland areas including to the Ox Mountains. Enclosure: Lough Talt is contained within a local valley and enclosed by surrounding upland areas. Diversity: Diverse combination of open water, areas of pasture and scrub fringing Lough Talt and upland areas including blanket bog and coniferous forestry with sparse settlement. Texture: Hills with blanket bog appear smooth, otherwise textured appearance due to vegetation. Form: Sloping and flat. Line: Curved and horizontal. Colour: Predominately green pasture lands, dark green forestry and muted earth tones to extensive blanket bog areas with localised purple heather in summer. Balance: Mostly balanced, however linear blocks and coniferous woodland are discordant elements. Pattern: Irregular to regular field pattern.
Other perceptual aspects	Security: Safe Stimuli: Scenic, interesting and inspiring combination of lake views enclosed by surrounding hills, with pasture lowland fringing Lough Talt and blanket bog to upland areas. The area feels remote with little settlement to the upland areas. Tranquillity: Still and remote within rural areas and busy at times along the R294 road. Movement: Tranquil along local roads and lanes away from the R294 road. Naturalness: Combination of small areas of managed farmland and semi natural areas including extensive areas of blanket bog and areas of scrub. Upland areas appear remote and wild. Noise: Quiet along local roads and lanes, and trails within the upland areas.
Key Characteristics	
	The landscape around Lough Talt forms part of the upland areas of the Ox Mountains and is characterised by a remote upland valley containing Lough Talt and associated watercourses. Landform comprises rolling and locally steep upland hills shaped by glacial processes, enclosing the Lough Talt valley.

Underlying geology consists of Dalradian metasedimentary rocks with granitic intrusions, overlain by peat and glacial gravels.

Hydrology is a key feature, centred on Lough Talt and associated rivers including the Lough Talt, Lenyvee and Lough Hoe Rivers, together with numerous small upland loughs. Extensive blanket bog occurs across upland areas, reflecting peat soils and high rainfall associated with the Atlantic influenced maritime climate.

Land cover is dominated by blanket bog, open water, and blocks of coniferous plantation forestry, with semi-natural habitats including scrub, semi-improved grassland and pockets of deciduous woodland. Lower-lying land around the lake and river valley supports improved pasture fields, typically enclosed by hedgerows, earth banks and scrub.

Settlement is sparse and dispersed, with isolated rural dwellings mainly located along the R294 and local roads around Lough Talt and within the Lough Talt River valley. Upland areas remain largely unsettled and are characterised by commonage and peatland landscapes. Land use includes pasture farming, commercial forestry, turf cutting, recreational walking routes such as the Sligo Way and Lough Talt Trail, and water infrastructure associated with the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant.

The landscape exhibits large-scale views across Lough Talt and surrounding hills, with generally open and exposed upland areas contrasting with more enclosed pasture lands near the valley floor. Visual character is defined by the contrast between smooth blanket bog, textured vegetation, and darker blocks of coniferous forestry. Colours are typically muted earth tones of peat and heather, green pasture, and dark green forestry.

Perceptually, the landscape is scenic and conveys a strong sense of place and remoteness, particularly within the uplands, with generally high levels of tranquillity away from the R294 corridor. Cultural and historic associations include routes linked to the French Expedition to Ireland (1798) and local archaeological features such as crannogs and holy wells.

Condition

The landscape is generally in **good and largely intact** condition, with characteristic features including Lough Talt, surrounding upland mountains, pasture farmland, hedgerows, woodland, scrub and extensive areas of blanket bog contributing positively to the landscape character. The field pattern and vegetation structure within lower lying farmland areas near Lough Talt remain largely legible, while upland areas retain a semi-natural character associated with blanket bog. Extensive views across Lough Talt and the surrounding uplands are a defining characteristic of the area. Localised blocks of coniferous plantation forestry form discordant elements that locally detract from the landscape character.

Value

The landscape is a scenic upland area combining Lough Talt, surrounding mountains, and open views within a sparsely settled rural setting. The area includes nationally important natural heritage designations, including Lough Hoe Bog SAC, Ox Mountains Bogs SAC, Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC, and River Moy SAC, as well as proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs): Lough Hoe Bog, Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog, and Ox Mountains Bogs. Locally important landscape designations include the upland areas of the Ox Mountains are designated as Sensitive Rural Landscapes. The surrounding mountain and hill ridgelines and the shoreline of Lough Talt are designated as Visually

Vulnerable Areas. The R294 and sections of other local roads in the area are designated as Scenic Routes. Taking these factors into account, the landscape is judged to be of **high value**, reflecting its scenic, ecological, and cultural significance.

18.4.4 Receiving Environment – Visual

The aim of the visual baseline is 'to establish the area in which the development may be visible, the different groups of people who may experience views of the development, the places where they will be affected and the nature of the views and visual amenity at those points.' Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013).

18.4.4.1 Zone of Theoretical Visibility

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), defined as the area of land from which the Proposed Development may theoretically be visible during the operation, was estimated using a manual approach comprising map interpretation and on-site visual envelope mapping. A manual approach was adopted as it provided a proportionate means of identifying the extent of theoretical visibility for the dispersed above-ground elements of the Proposed Development. This established the outer limit of land that may be visually connected with the Proposed Development and from which significant effects could arise. The extent of the ZTV varies between the individual project sites, reflecting differences in the scale of the Proposed Development, local topography, vegetation, built form and the degree of visual enclosure within the receiving landscape. The ZTV is described in the following sections according to each site location and pipeline corridor.

Wherrew Raw Water Intake and Pumping Station Upgrade

The areas identified are predominantly located within approximately 500 m of the Proposed Development and include lands within Wherrew townland. From open water at Lough Conn, views in clear weather conditions may extend beyond 500 m. Theoretical visibility from land to the north, south and east is largely limited by intervening undulating topography and vegetation. More open views towards the Proposed Development occur from areas of open water at Lough Conn in proximity to the site. There are also distant theoretical views from upland areas to the southwest, south and southeast, including Nephin Mountain; however, visibility from these locations would be limited due to distance and intervening landform and vegetation.

Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant and Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station, Expansion and Upgrades

The areas identified are predominantly located within approximately 2,000 m of the Proposed Development and include lands within the townlands of Lisglennon, Ballinteean and Rathglass East to the east; Tawnaghmore Upper, Mullafarry and Carrowreagh to the north; Ballinteean and Broadlands/Knockafarson to the south; and Lisglennon to the west. Theoretical visibility from land to the north, south and west is largely confined to areas within approximately 1,000 m of the site due to intervening undulating topography and vegetation. In contrast, visibility may extend further to the east, as the eastern side of the Proposed Development site lacks mature, dense screening vegetation.

New Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station

The areas identified are predominantly located within 500 m of the Proposed Development and include lands within Carrownlabaun townland. Theoretical visibility from land to the north, east, and west is largely restricted by intervening vegetation and subtle variations in local topography. However, theoretical visibility may extend further from some southern areas, as the southern side of the Proposed Development site is more open.

New Bonniconlon Reservoir

The areas identified are predominantly located within approximately 250 m of the Proposed Development and include lands within Bonniconlon West, Drumsheen, and Bonniconlon East townlands. Theoretical visibility from land to the

north, east, and south is largely restricted by intervening vegetation and local topography. To the west, visibility may extend further as the western side of the Proposed Development site lacks mature, dense screening vegetation.

New Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank

The areas identified are predominantly within 1,000 m of the Proposed Development. Theoretical visibility from land to the north, south, east, and west is generally open, though slightly restricted to the east by subtle variations in local topography. Given the openness of the surrounding upland blanket bog landscape, visibility may extend beyond 1,000 m. However, from more distant locations, visibility would be limited by distance and localised landform variations.

Repurposing of Lough Talt WTP

The areas identified are predominantly located within 500 m of the Proposed Development. Visibility from land to the north, south, east and west is restricted by intervening topography and dense intervening vegetation. There are also distant theoretical views beyond 500 m from upland areas surrounding the site; however, visibility from these locations would be limited due to distance and intervening landform and vegetation.

Proposed Pipelines

Proposed Pipeline A – Lisglennon RWPS to Lisglennon WTP
Proposed Pipeline B – Lisglennon WTP to River Moy Pipeline Crossing
Proposed Pipeline C – River Moy Pipeline Crossing to Bonniconlon BPS
Proposed Pipeline D – Bonniconlon BPS to Windy Gap BPT
Proposed Pipeline E – Windy Gap BPT to Lough WTP

The proposed water pipeline will be installed beneath existing roads, lanes, fields, and the grounds of Belleek Castle, and the areas will be reinstated following construction. Consequently, it will not give rise to a ZTV during operation. During construction, temporary visibility will be limited to the excavation trench, construction plant, and traffic management measures along the road corridor and/or local fields. These effects will be localised and transient and will cease upon completion and reinstatement of the affected surfaces. To ensure a proportionate assessment of these temporary effects, the ZTV for the pipeline route is defined as a 500m wide corridor (250m either side of the centreline) along the entirety of the route.

18.4.4.2 Visual Receptors

The following groups of people detailed in Table 18-11 below are potential visual receptors to changes arising from the project.

Table 18-11 — Visual Receptors

Visual Receptor Type	General Location	Description
Residents - Urban	Ballina (including The Quay and northern suburbs) and Bonniconlon village	Residents within urban and suburban dwellings with potential views towards sections of the pipeline corridor during construction within the public realm.
Residents - Rural Pipeline Corridor	Rural sections between Lisglennon, Belleek, and from Ballina to Behy, Corimla South, Bonniconlon and towards Lough Talt	Residents within dispersed rural dwellings adjacent to or overlooking the pipeline route.
Residents – Above ground Site Vicinities	Wherrew; Lisglennon; Carrownlabaun; Bonniconlon West; Windy Gap; Lough Talt	Residents within rural dwellings in proximity to proposed above ground structures at Lisglennon WTP, Lisglennon RWS&PS, Bonniconlon BPS, Bonniconlon Reservoir,

Visual Receptor Type	General Location	Description
		Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank and Lough Talt.
Road Users - Regional Roads	R314 and R294 corridors (including scenic route sections identified in Mayo and Sligo County Development Plans)	Users of regional roads travelling through rural and upland areas with potential views towards the pipeline corridor and above ground site locations.
Road Users - Local Roads and Lanes	Rural road network along the pipeline corridor and near site locations	Users of local roads and lanes travelling through the rural landscape.
Road Users - Urban Streets	Ballina (northern suburbs) and Bonniconlon	Users of streets and public roads within the urban areas.
Recreational Users - Water-Based	Lough Conn; River Moy; Lough Talt	Recreational users undertaking boating, angling and other water-based activities on and along these waterbodies.
Recreational Users - Long Distance Trails	Western Way; Bonniconlon Loops; Sligo Way	Walkers and recreational users of long-distance trails where they follow, cross or pass near the pipeline corridor or above ground site locations.
Recreational Users - Local Trails and Amenity Areas	Belleek Woods and Belleek Nature Trail; Lough Talt walking trail	Walkers and recreational users of local woodland and lakeside trails.
Community and Institutional Receptors	Ballina and Bonniconlon; Mullaferry	Users of educational, religious, sports and community facilities including schools, churches, graveyards and sports grounds.
Workplace Receptors - Agricultural and Forestry	Rural lands along the pipeline corridor and near site locations	Outdoor agricultural and forestry workers engaged in functional activities within fields and forestry areas.
Workplace Receptors - Industrial/Energy Facilities	Lisglennon/Killala area; Bonniconlon uplands	Employees at industrial, quarrying and energy generation facilities.
Workplace Receptors – Commercial/ Offices	Ballina, Bonniconlon	Users of commercial businesses and offices.
Visitors to Heritage Assets	Belleek Manor and grounds, Ballina	Visitors to heritage assets and associated designed landscapes with potential views towards the Proposed Development. Proposed Development

18.4.4.3 Representative Viewpoints

Seventy-five viewpoint locations were selected using professional judgement, informed by the ZTV and field surveys, to represent the experience of visual receptors in accordance with GLVIA3. The extent of the scheme and the number

of separate above ground sites required a larger number of representative viewpoints than would be expected for a single site development. The selected viewpoints do not capture every view but were chosen to represent different user groups from a range of directions and distances from the site. The viewpoint locations are illustrated on the Viewpoint Location drawings in Appendix 18-1, Volume 3 of this EIAR (Figure 24026-LP-2-01 to Figure 24026-LP-2-06), and the associated images are provided in Appendix 18. Of these, twenty-eight viewpoints were visited to prepare verified photomontage visualisation sequences, showing the existing view, Year 1 view, and Year 15 view where relevant (screen planting is assumed to reach approximately 9 m in height). These verified photomontages are also illustrated in Appendix 18-1 (Volume 3 of this EIAR) and referenced below. Table 18-12 describes the nature and characteristics of the existing baseline views from the selected viewpoints.

Table 18-12 — Representative Viewpoints-Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
VP1*	G	View from the entrance road to Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, within the site boundary. In the foreground, the view is characterised by the road carriageway, areas of amenity grass, and fencing. The middleground comprises existing buildings and structures associated with the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station site. In the background, the view extends across water at Lough Conn, with distant upland areas forming the western skyline. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents at adjacent dwellings.
VP2	G	View from a gap in dense roadside boundary hedgerows, approximately 65 m from the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station. In the foreground, the view is characterised by the entrance to a garden/field, including field gates, grass, outbuildings, and planting. The middleground comprises partial views of the roof of a residential dwelling, the upper parts of existing buildings within the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station site, and a line of trees. In the background, the view includes water at Lough Conn and distant upland areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP3*	G	View from the L5111 local road, approximately 138 m from the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station. In the foreground, the view is characterised by two dwellings, including the entrance and front garden area of one dwelling, boundary walls, and garden planting. The middleground comprises dense vegetation and some trees. In the background, the view includes distant upland areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP4*	G	View from a local lane, approximately 330 m from the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station. In the foreground, the view is characterised by grassland (partially flooded), fencing, and some scrub. The middleground comprises rising topography, grassland, hedgerows, trees, and a single dwelling. In the background, the view includes a partial glimpse of water at Lough Conn and distant upland areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP5	G	View from the L5111 local road, approximately 330 m from the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station. In the foreground, the view is characterised by dense roadside hedgerows, grassland, trees, and an abandoned traditional cottage. The middleground and background comprise rising topography and dense vegetation. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road.
VP6*	D	View from the local road, approximately 140 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises managed roadside hedgerows and grass verges. The middle distance is defined by rising topography, with the upper sections of buildings and structures within the water treatment plant visible above intervening vegetation. Glimpses of pasture fields, hedgerows and scattered trees are also evident. The background is formed by open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road.

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
VP7	D	View from the local road, approximately 1,003 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the local road, roadside hedgerows, grass verges, wooden poles and glimpsed views of pasture. The middle distance includes a bungalow-style dwelling, dense vegetation, and the local road and wooden poles extending through the scene. The background is largely defined by dense vegetation. The upper sections of buildings and structures within Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant are barely perceptible through intervening vegetation. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP8*	D	View from the local road, approximately 1,450 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the local crossroads, roadside hedgerows, ditches, grass verges, wooden poles and views of pasture. The middle distance includes a bungalow-style dwelling with outbuildings, dense vegetation, and the local road and wooden poles extending through the scene. The background comprises rising topography with pasture, hedgerows, wooden poles and dense vegetation. Buildings and structures within Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant are visible upon a local ridge. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP9*	G	View from the local road, approximately 1,217 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises a ditch and pasture. The middle distance includes an unmanaged hedgerow with trees. The background comprises dense vegetation, a two-storey cottage in the distance, wooden poles, and the faint impression of the upper sections of buildings or structures within Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant, which are barely perceptible through intervening vegetation. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP10	G	View from the local road, approximately 1,200 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the local road, overhead electrical cables, ditches with scrub, and pasture with scattered trees. The middle distance includes structures associated with the Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station site, pasture, dense vegetation, wooden poles, and the local road extending through the scene. The background comprises dense vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP11	G	View from the local road, approximately 13 m from Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station site. The foreground comprises the local road and the site entrance, including boundary concrete walls. The middle distance includes structures associated with the Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station site, boundary fencing, pasture, wooden poles, and the local road extending through the scene. The background comprises undulating topography with pasture, hedgerows, and trees. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP12	G	View from the local road, approximately 425 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises a field gate and pasture. The middle distance includes rising topography, pasture, hedgerows, trees, and wooden poles. The background comprises wooden poles, part of a wind turbine, and the upper sections of some structures within Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant, which are partially visible through intervening vegetation. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of an adjacent dwelling.
VP13	G	View from the local road, approximately 437 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises a field gate and pasture. The middle distance includes rising topography, pasture, hedgerows, and trees. The background comprises open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road.

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
VP14	G	View from the local road, approximately 435 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises a ditch and pasture. The middle distance includes rising topography, pasture, hedgerows, and trees. The background comprises vegetation, part of a wind turbine, and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of an adjacent dwelling.
VP15	D	View from the local lane, approximately 114 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises a ditch, scrub, and pasture. The middle distance includes rising topography, pasture, a ditch, scrub, and some structures within Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The background comprises parts of a wind turbine and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane.
VP16*	G	View from the local road, approximately 12 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the main entrance to the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant and a boundary wall. The middle distance includes some structures within the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant and grassland. The background comprises distant views of the Ox Mountains and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and Mullafarry Presbyterian Church.
VP17*	G	View from the local road, approximately 346 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the local road, ditches, hedgerows, a stone wall, trees, and an abandoned cottage. The middle distance includes dense roadside hedgerows, ditches, and the road extending through the scene. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and visitors to Mullafarry graveyard.
VP18	G	View from the local road, approximately 60 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the local road, ditches, and dense hedgerows. The middle distance includes dense roadside hedgerows, ditches, trees, and the road extending through the scene. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP19	G	View from a local lane, approximately 250 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the lane, ditches, and hedgerows. The middle distance includes dense roadside hedgerows, ditches, and the lane extending through the scene. The background comprises part of a structure within the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane and residents of an adjacent dwelling.
VP20*	D	View from the R314 road, approximately 1,860 m from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises a roadside stone wall, grass verge, and pasture. The middle distance includes undulating pasture, hedgerows, woodland, and scrub. The background comprises rising topography with woodland, pasture, and elements of industry, including wind turbines at Killala Community Wind Farm, Tawnaghmore Power Station, lattice masts, and factory buildings. Structures within the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site are also visible in the background. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R314 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP21	G	View from the R314 road, looking towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises a grass ditch, pasture, and trees. The middle distance includes rising topography, pasture, hedgerows, and trees. The background comprises rising topography with pasture, trees, and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R314 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP22	G	View from the R314 road, looking north towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the R314 road, ditches, grass verges, hedgerows, and trees. The

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
		middle distance includes the R314 continuing in the scene upon undulating topography, dwellings, hedgerows, and trees. The background comprises woodland, glimpses of pasture, and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R314 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP23	G	View from the R314 road, looking south towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the R314 road, ditches, grass verges, scrubby hedgerows, and trees. The middle distance includes the R314 road and scrubby ditches extending through the scene, pasture, and a dwelling. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R314 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP24	G	View from the R314 road, looking north towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the R314 road, ditches, grass verges, scrubby hedgerows, trees, a stone wall, and a dwelling partially screened by vegetation. The middle distance includes the R314 road and scrubby ditches extending through the scene. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R314 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP25	G	View from the R314 road, looking north towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the R314 road, ditches, grass verges, scrubby hedgerows, and trees. The middle distance includes the R314 road, scrubby ditches, trees, and scrubby pasture extending through the scene. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R314 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP26	G	View from the R314 road, looking south towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the R314 road, ditches, grass verges, scrubby hedgerows, trees, and a concrete wall. The middle distance includes the R314 road extending through the scene, scrubby ditches, trees, and scrubby pasture. The background comprises suburban development, vegetation, and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R314 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP27	G	View from the R314 road, looking south towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the R314 road, grass verges, trees, and concrete and stone walls. The middle distance includes the R314 road extending through the scene, grass verges, trees, and woodland. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R314 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP28	G	View from the local road towards Belleek Castle, looking west towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the local road, a dwelling, grass verges, scrubby hedgerows, trees, and a stone wall. The middle distance includes the local road extending over rising topography through the scene, grass verges, trees, and hedgerows. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP29	G	View along a local lane leading to Belleek Castle, looking east towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the local lane, a stone wall with stile, an entrance gate, a cottage, and woodland. The middle distance includes the local lane extending over rising topography through the scene, ivy-clad stone walls, and woodland. The background comprises woodland. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP30	G	View from the grounds of Belleek Castle, looking towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises open lawns. The middle distance includes an earth embankment supporting the Belleek Manor terrace, woodland, and specimen trees, including

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
		a monkey puzzle tree. The background comprises dense woodland. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the Belleek Castle grounds.
VP31	G	View from the upper terrace of Belleek Castle, looking towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises gravel paths, lawn, a stone balustrade, and formal yew planting. The middle distance and background comprise dense woodland. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the Belleek Castle grounds.
VP32	G	View from the lower terrace of Belleek Manor, looking towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises a path, lawn, trees, and scrub. The middle distance includes a gate and stile, and the path extending along a formal vista enclosed by dense woodland. The background comprises dense woodland. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the Belleek Castle grounds.
VP33	G	View from the Belleek Woods Greenway, looking towards the proposed underground pipeline route at the eastern bank of the River Moy. The foreground comprises the riverbank and open water. The middle distance includes the eastern bank of the River Moy, a car park, a pumping station, and built development. The background comprises rising topography, development within woodland, and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the Belleek Woods Greenway.
VP34	G	View from Greggs Road, Ballina, looking towards the proposed underground pipeline route near the eastern bank of the River Moy. The foreground comprises a road junction (Greggs Road and Quay Road), stone walls, fencing, and a pumping station. The middle distance includes the River Moy and woodland. The background comprises woodland and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of Greggs Road.
VP35	G	View from the local road (L1101), looking west towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises a road junction (L1101 and N59), woodland, grass verges, hedging, fencing, dwellings, and a concrete wall. The middle distance includes the local road extending through the scene, a shed, woodland, and hedgerows. The background comprises woodland and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP36	G	View from the local road, looking northwest towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the local road, ditches with scrubby hedgerows, grass verges, and a boundary wall. The middle distance includes the local road extending through the scene, ditches with scrubby hedgerows, pasture, trees, and a dwelling. The background comprises woodland and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP37	G	View from the local road, looking north towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the local road, ditches with scrubby hedgerows, trees, grass verges, a boundary wall, and a shed. The middle distance includes the local road extending through the scene, ditches with scrubby hedgerows, pasture, and trees. The background comprises trees and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP38	G	View from the local road (L51333), looking southeast towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises pasture fields, hedgerows, and trees. The middle distance comprises pasture, hedgerows, trees, and scrub. The background comprises upland areas of the Ox Mountains. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road.
VP39	G	View from the R294 road, looking north towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises a pasture field, hedgerows, and trees. The middle distance

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
		comprises pasture, hedgerows, trees, and scrub. The background comprises undulating lowland with woodland and glimpses of pasture. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP40	G	View from the R294 road, looking east towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the regional road, ditches with hedgerows, scrub and pasture. The middle distance comprises the regional road extending through the scene, ribbon residential development, hedgerows, trees, and scrub. The background comprises upland areas of the Ox Mountains. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP41	G	View from the R294 road, looking east towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises the regional road, ditches with scrub, pasture, wooden poles, and dwellings. The middle distance comprises the regional road and wooden poles extending through the scene, residential development, hedgerows, trees, and scrub. The background comprises upland areas of the Ox Mountains. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP42*	G	View from the R294 road, approximately 105 m from the proposed Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station (BPS). The foreground comprises the regional road and a ditch with grass and scrub. The middle distance comprises a line of hedgerows, trees, and dwellings. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP42a*	G	View from the R294 road, approximately 40 m from the proposed Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station (BPS). The foreground comprises the regional road and a ditch with grass. The middle distance comprises a line of hedgerows, trees, and dwellings. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP43*	G	View from the R294 road, approximately 110 m from the proposed Bonniconlon BPS. The foreground comprises the regional road and a ditch with grass, scrub, and pasture. The middle distance comprises a line of hedgerows, wooden poles, trees, scrub, and partial views of a dwelling. The background comprises undulating pasture with woodland, scrub, hedgerows, and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP44*	G	View from the local road, approximately 174 m from the proposed Bonniconlon BPS. The foreground comprises the local road, part of an entrance to a dwelling, and a ditch with grass, scrub, and a pasture field. The middle distance comprises a line of hedgerows, wooden poles, trees, scrub, and partial views of dwellings. The background comprises woodland and distant views of upland areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP45*	G	View from the local road, approximately 416 m from the proposed Bonniconlon BPS. The foreground comprises the local road and a ditch with grass, scrub, and a pasture field. The middle distance comprises a line of hedgerows, wooden poles, trees, scrub, and partial views of some dwellings. The background comprises distant views of upland areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road.
VP46	G	View from the local road, looking east towards the proposed pipeline route. The foreground comprises the local road, a ditch with grass and scrub, the R294 road, a stone bridge, and a pasture field. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene with hedges, trees, and dwellings. The background comprises vegetation. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road.

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
VP47	G	View from the R294 road, looking west towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises settlement areas within Bonniconlon village, including stone boundary walls, a footpath, and buildings. The middle distance comprises the regional road extending through the scene, built development, trees, and hedges. The background comprises woodland. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and users of adjacent settlement areas.
VP48*	H	View from the local road (L51172), approximately 17 m from the Bonniconlon Reservoir. The foreground comprises the local road and ditches with scrub and grass. The middle distance includes fencing and scrub around the reservoir site, and trees. The background includes vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and Bonniconlon Loops Walk.
VP49*	H	View from the local lane, approximately 42 m from the Bonniconlon Reservoir. The foreground comprises the local lane and stone-retained ditches with scrub and grass. The middle distance includes scrub and trees. The background comprises open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane and Bonniconlon Loops Walk.
VP50	H	View from the local road (L51172), approximately 8 m from the Bonniconlon Reservoir. The foreground comprises the local road and fencing to the reservoir site, overgrown with ivy and grass. The middle distance includes scrub around the reservoir site. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road, and Bonniconlon Loops Walk and residents of the adjacent dwelling.
VP51*	H	View from the local road (L51172), approximately 46 m from the Bonniconlon Reservoir. The foreground comprises the local road and ditches with scrub and grass. The middle distance comprises dense scrub around the reservoir site and a wooden pole. The background comprises vegetation and open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and users of Bonniconlon Loops Walk.
VP52	H	View from the local road, looking west towards the proposed pipeline route where it crosses the Srafaungal River. The foreground comprises the local road and the river crossing, with grass verges and riverside scrub. The middle distance comprises the local road extending through the scene, with ditches, fencing, trees, and pasture. The background comprises vegetation and sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road.
VP53	H	View from the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk), approximately 960 m from the proposed break pressure tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises the grass-covered local lane, stone walls, earth banks, fencing, scrub, and pasture. The middle distance comprises open upland bog with few trees. The background comprises open upland blanket bog and areas of forestry. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk).
VP54*	H	View from the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk), approximately 600 m from the proposed break pressure tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises the grass-covered local lane and open upland bog. The middle distance comprises open upland bog with glimpsed views of the R294 road, the entrance road to Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm, and a small number of trees. The background comprises open upland blanket bog, areas of forestry, and wooden electricity poles. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk).
VP55*	H	View from the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk), approximately 288 m from the proposed break pressure tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises the asphalt and gravel local lane, signage, a ditch, fencing, scrub, and open upland bog. The middle distance comprises open upland bog with glimpsed views of the entrance road and embankments to Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm. The background comprises open upland blanket bog and open

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
		sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk).
VP56	H	View from the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk), which also forms part of the access tracks to Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm, approximately 830 m from the proposed break tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises the gravel local lane and open upland bog. The middle distance comprises open upland bog, wooden electricity poles, and the path descending through the scene. The background comprises long-distance views of open upland blanket bog, with glimpsed views of traffic on the R294 road, a small lough, areas of forestry, and wind turbines. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk).
VP57*	H	View from the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk), which also forms part of the access tracks to Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm, approximately 420 m from the proposed break tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises the gravel local lane and open upland bog. The middle distance comprises open upland bog, wooden electricity poles, and the path descending through the scene. The background comprises long-distance views of open upland blanket bog, small loughs, areas of forestry, and wind turbines. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk).
VP58*	H	View from the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk), which also forms part of the access tracks to Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm, approximately 60 m from the proposed break tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises the gravel local lane and open upland bog. The middle distance comprises open upland bog, a fence line, and the path descending through the scene. The background comprises long-distance views of open upland blanket bog, areas of forestry, the upper part of a dwelling, and wind turbines. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane (Bonniconlon Loops Walk).
VP59*	H	View from Bonniconlon Loops Walk, approximately 179 m from the proposed break tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises open upland bog. The middle distance comprises open upland bog. The background comprises long-distance views to lowland farmed areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the Bonniconlon Loops Walk.
VP60	H	View from Bonniconlon Loops Walk, approximately 15 m from the proposed break tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises open upland bog and a fence line. The middle distance comprises open upland bog, pasture, trees, dwellings, lattice mast and pylons. The background comprises long-distance views to lowland farmed areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the Bonniconlon Loops Walk.
VP61*	H	View from the local lane, approximately 471 m from the proposed break tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises open upland bog and water. The middle distance comprises open upland bog, a small number of wooden electricity poles, wind turbines at Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm, and a small number of trees. The background comprises open upland blanket bog extending towards the Ox Mountains. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local lane.
VP62	H	View from the R294 road, approximately 566 m from the proposed break tank at Windy Gap. The foreground comprises the R294 road upon rising topography and open upland blanket bog. The middle distance comprises open upland bog. The background comprises open sky. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road, parking area at the Windy Gap and Bonniconlon Loops Walk.
VP63	H	View from the R294 road, looking southeast towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises open upland blanket bog and the R294 road. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene, open upland blanket bog, areas of forestry, and wooden electricity poles. The background comprises the R294 road passing

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
		through a gap between upland areas of the Ox Mountains. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and users of the nearby section of Bonniconlon Loops Walk.
VP64	S	View from the R294 road, looking northwest towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises open upland blanket bog, the R294 road and wooden electricity poles. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene, open upland blanket bog, and wooden electricity poles. The background comprises upland areas of the Ox Mountains. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and users of the nearby section of Bonniconlon Loops Walk.
VP65	S	View from the R294 road, looking west towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises grass verges, ditches with scrub and trees, the R294 road, and wooden electricity poles. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene, trees and scrub, and wooden electricity poles. The background comprises upland areas and blanket bog of the Ox Mountains. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road.
VP66	S	View from the R294 road, looking northwest towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises grass verges, ditches with scrub and trees, the R294 road, and wooden electricity pole. The middle distance comprises, trees and scrub, and water at Lough Talt. The background comprises, a dwelling and upland areas of the Ox Mountains. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road.
VP67	S	View from the R294 road, looking southeast towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises grass verges, ditches with scrub and trees, the R294 road, wooden electricity poles, the lakeshore of Lough Talt, and dwellings including boundary walls. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene, dwellings, trees and scrub, and water at Lough Talt. The background comprises upland areas including scrub and forestry. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP68	S	View from the R294 road, looking northwest towards the proposed underground pipeline route. The foreground comprises grass verges, ditches with scrub and trees, the R294 road, wooden electricity poles, water to Lough Talt. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene, dwellings, trees and scrub, and water at Lough Talt. The background comprises upland areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road and residents of adjacent dwellings.
VP69*	S	View from the R294 road, approximately 50 m from Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the R294 road, a stone-faced ditch, grass verges, scrub, and wooden electricity poles. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene, grass verges, boundary fencing, and partial views of structures at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The background comprises views of upland areas including forestry, woodland, and scrub. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road.
VP70*	S	View from a local road, approximately 225 m from Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises dense scrub and wooden electricity poles. The middle distance comprises partial views of structures at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant and dense scrub. The background comprises views of upland areas, including forestry plantations. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road and residents of nearby dwellings.
VP71	S	View from a local road, approximately 260 m from Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the local road, a ditch and fencing, dense scrub, and wooden electricity poles. The middle distance comprises dense scrub. The background comprises views of

Viewpoint	LCA	Nature and Characteristics of the Baseline View
		upland areas, including forestry plantations and scrub. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the local road.
VP72*	S	View from the R294 road, approximately 34 m from Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the R294 road, grass verges, scrub, and the entrance to Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene, grass verges, boundary fencing, and partial views of structures at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The background comprises views of upland areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road.
VP73*	S	View from the R294 road, approximately 190 m from Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises the R294 road, grass verges, scrub, and wooden poles. The middle distance comprises the R294 road extending through the scene, grass verges, scrub, boundary fencing, and partial views of structures at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The background comprises views of upland areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the R294 road.
VP74*	S	View from Lough Talt Trail, approximately 110 m from Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The foreground comprises scrub and young forestry plantation trees. The middle distance comprises partial views of structures at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant, scrub, pasture, trees, dwellings, and the Lough Talt River. The background comprises views of upland mountain areas. Visual receptors at or near this viewpoint include users of the Lough Talt Trail.

Notes:

Landscape Character Area (LCA): G = Northern Drumlins, D = North Coast Plateaux, H = East Uplands, S = Windy Gap to Lough Talt.

*Verified visualisation provided (refer to Appendix 18-1).

18.5 Potential effects

The full project description and construction methodology are set out in Chapter 3. A summary of key parameters with the potential to impact landscape and visual receptors is provided below.

18.5.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The proposals are described in terms of their physical appearance at Chapter 3 Project Description of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). For the purposes of this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), the principal characteristics with the potential to give rise to landscape and visual change are summarised below.

The Proposed Development comprises upgrades to the existing Ballina and Lough Talt Water Supply Schemes through improvements to existing operational water infrastructure, the construction of a limited number of new and upgraded above-ground facilities, and approximately 30.2 km of underground treated water pipelines between Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant and Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant, and approximately 1 km of underground raw water pipeline between Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station and Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant.

During the construction phase, landscape and visual change will arise principally from temporary activities associated with pipeline installation and works at the above-ground infrastructure sites, including excavation, temporary working areas, construction plant, site compounds, vegetation clearance where required, traffic management, temporary

lighting where required, and reinstatement works. These effects will be temporary and generally concentrated around active construction areas.

During the operational phase, permanent landscape and visual change will be associated principally with the upgraded and new above-ground infrastructure, including buildings, tanks, treatment structures, reservoirs, hardstanding, access arrangements, security fencing, lighting and ancillary infrastructure. At existing operational sites, the Proposed Development will extend and upgrade established water supply infrastructure, while at new infrastructure locations it will introduce new development into the receiving landscape. The proposed pumping house at Bonniconlon Pumping Station will incorporate a building form and external finishes sympathetic to the local built character. The proposed break pressure tank at Windy Gap will be located below ground, with the surrounding landform graded to integrate the structure into the landscape. Following reinstatement, the underground pipeline will have minimal permanent above-ground expression, limited primarily to essential ancillary infrastructure such as chambers and marker posts where required.

The assessment takes account of embedded mitigation incorporated into the Proposed Development, including the use of existing operational sites where practicable, routing of pipelines to make use of existing road corridors and existing utility / pipeline corridors where practicable, reinstatement of disturbed land, retention of existing vegetation where practicable, landscape planting associated with the above-ground infrastructure, and lighting design measures to minimise upward light spill, overspill to adjacent properties and disturbance to light-sensitive bat species.

Overall, the Proposed Development gives rise to two principal forms of landscape and visual change: temporary change associated with construction activities, and permanent change associated primarily with the new and upgraded above-ground water infrastructure, lighting and associated landscape works.

18.6 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development

This section describes the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape receptors and assesses the significance of the effects identified.

18.6.1 Landscape Sensitivity

18.6.1.1 Area D – North Coast Plateaux (Co. Mayo)

The value of Landscape Unit Area D - North Coast Plateaux within the study area is judged to be **medium** (refer to Section 18.4.2). The susceptibility of this landscape to the proposed type of development is considered **low**, due to the presence of existing industrial and infrastructure development already present in the local area. Taking account of the combination of medium landscape value and low susceptibility, the overall landscape sensitivity to the Proposed Development is judged to be **low.**

18.6.1.2 Area G – Northern Drumlins (Co. Mayo)

The value of Landscape Unit Area G - Northern Drumlins within the study area is judged to be **medium to high** (refer to Section 18.4.3.2). The susceptibility of this landscape to the proposed type of development is considered **low to medium**. Areas near Lough Conn and Belleek Woods/Moy River are more susceptible due to their scenic value, while the lowland areas near Ballina and Bonniconlon are less susceptible. Taking account of medium to high value and low to medium susceptibility, the overall landscape sensitivity to the proposed development is assessed as **low to medium**. The medium sensitivity areas would include lands near Lough Conn and at Belleek Woods/ Moy River.

18.6.1.3 Area H – East Mayo Uplands (Co. Mayo)

The value of Landscape Unit Area H - East Mayo Uplands within the study area is judged to be **medium to high** (refer to Section 18.4.3.2). The susceptibility of this landscape to the proposed type of development is judged to be **low to medium**. Upland areas are more susceptible due to their scenic value, while the lowland areas near Bonniconlon are less susceptible. Taking account of the combination of medium to high landscape value and low to medium susceptibility, the overall landscape sensitivity to the proposed development is judged to be **low to medium.** The medium sensitivity areas would include upland blanket bog areas.

18.6.1.4 Windy Gap to Lough Talt, Co. Sligo

The value of Windy Gap to Lough Talt landscape within the study area is judged to be **high** (refer to Section 18.4.3.2). The susceptibility of this landscape to the proposed type of development is judged to be low, as the development in this area includes a water pipeline that will be placed underground and modifications that are generally confined to the existing built footprint of the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. Taking account of the combination of high landscape value and low susceptibility, the overall landscape sensitivity to the proposed development is judged to be **medium.**

18.6.2 Landscape Effects

The effects of construction and operation phases upon the elements and attributes of each landscape character area previously identified is detailed below.

18.6.2.1 Area D – North Coast Plateaux (Co. Mayo)

Table 18-13 lists the effects of construction and operation phases upon the elements and attributes contributing to character previously identified.

Table 18-13 — Effects Upon Attributes of Landscape Character: (Area D – North Coast Plateaux)

Natural factors	
Criteria	Description
Geology	Grading of landform required to facilitate the development at the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site may affect superficial deposits and bedrock. Once the development is completed the change will not be visible. Construction Magnitude of change will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change will be negligible and long-term.
Landform	Temporary excavations/ regrading at the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site. Trenching to accommodate pipeline route. Once the development is completed the change will not be readily discernible. Construction Magnitude of change will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of the change will be minor (adverse) and long-term.
Hydrology	No perceptible physical changes to watercourses.

	No change.
Soils	Areas of soil within the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site will be stripped, stored and re-used for landscaping purposes where feasible within the development. Areas of soil removed as part of pipeline trenching works and reinstated where feasible. Construction Magnitude of change will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of the change will be negligible and long term.
Land cover/ flora and fauna	Existing trees at the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site will be largely retained. Minor areas of existing vegetation will be removed to facilitate the pipeline route. The Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will include additional hedge, scrub, woodland planting and species rich grassland areas which will enhance vegetation structure and biodiversity within the site. Construction Magnitude of the change will be negligible (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change will be moderate (beneficial) as planting matures and long term.
Cultural/ Social factors	
Criteria	Description
Land Use	During construction, both the existing Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site and the proposed extension area will experience a temporary change to construction-related land use. During operation, the development will result in an extension of the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant within the local area. The type of land use change is consistent with existing patterns of built infrastructure and utilities development within the immediate context. Construction During construction, the temporary change in land use associated with construction activities will result in a moderate (adverse) magnitude of change to the character of the site and its immediate surroundings. This effect will be short-term and temporary. Operation During operation, the permanent extension of the water treatment plant will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to land use within the local landscape context. This change will be long-term.
Settlement	There will be no change to settlement patterns or the distribution of dwellings. The Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant, including the underground pipeline, will avoid existing residential properties. Construction

	The magnitude of change to settlement pattern and the character of the local landscape during construction is no change. Operation The magnitude of change to settlement pattern during operation is no change.
Enclosure	During construction, there will be localised removal of small sections of boundary ditches and scrub vegetation to facilitate installation of the underground pipeline. During operation, additional boundary planting at the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site will establish and mature over time, strengthening vegetation structure and enhancing the enclosure of the site within the surrounding landscape. Construction During construction, the removal of small areas of boundary vegetation will result in a negligible (adverse) magnitude of change to landscape enclosure and local landscape character. Operation During operation, the establishment and maturation of new boundary planting will strengthen vegetation structure and increase enclosure of the site. This will result in a minor (beneficial) magnitude of change in the long term.
Time depth/ Cultural associations	There will be no change to the setting of Killala or the Protected Structures located within Killala, as the Proposed Development will not be visible from this location. There will also be no change to the setting of Ballysakeery Glebe House, as dense intervening vegetation screens views of the proposed project from this location. Potential effects on Protected Structures and Recorded Monuments (SMRs) are addressed in the Cultural Heritage Chapter.

Perceptual and aesthetic factors	
Criteria	Description
Aesthetic aspects (sight)	Scale: No change; the local landscape will still be perceived as a combination of large open areas and more intimate spaces enclosed by vegetation. Enclosure: The proposed extension to the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site will change from open pasture to a more enclosed site over time as screen planting matures. This is consistent with the existing combination of open pasture and woodland blocks. Diversity: The area is a simple rural landscape. Temporary construction activities will be introduced for a short duration. Additional buildings at Lisglennon will be similar in appearance to existing structures. Texture: The local landscape has a textured appearance due to vegetation. Proposed buildings and structures will be similar to existing ones, and screen planting is appropriate. There will be no significant change to perceived texture. Form: No change to the perception of form.

	Line: No change to the perception of line. Colour: Temporary introduction of construction machinery, stockpiles, part finished structures, bare earth etc. The proposed extension to Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will include material finishes in keeping with existing material finishes within the local area. Balance: The completed development will include structures/ materials similar in appearance to the existing Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. Proposed screen planting will as it matures mostly screen the extension to the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant and existing structures leading to an improvement in local landscape character. Pattern: The extension to the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will be confined within existing field boundary patterns and the underground pipeline will follow existing road field boundaries. There will be no change to the perception of pattern. Construction During construction, temporary works and the introduction of machinery and stockpiles will result in minor (adverse) magnitude of change to local landscape character. This effect will be short-term. Operation Over time, screen planting will largely integrate the extension to Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant into the landscape. The magnitude of change to landscape character is judged to be negligible once planting matures.
Other perceptual aspects	Security: No Change Stimuli: No Change Tranquillity: During construction temporary introduction of construction machinery, lighting and noise etc. reducing tranquillity. No noticeable change to tranquillity once the development is completed. Negligible change for lighting as the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant site is located within an area which already includes some lighting. Movement: Temporary construction activities may introduce minor visual and physical movement. No noticeable change will occur once the development is complete. Naturalness: No Change Noise: During construction temporary introduction of construction activities. No noticeable change to noise once the development is completed. Construction During construction, temporary machinery, lighting, and noise will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to perceptual aspects of local landscape character. This effect will be short-term. Operation

	During operation, maturing screen vegetation will integrate the development into the landscape, resulting in a negligible magnitude of change to other perceptual aspects of local character.

The assessment of landscape elements in Table 18-13 indicates that overall, the magnitude of landscape change will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term, and negligible (adverse) during operation and long term.

Construction

The combination of **low** sensitivity and moderate (adverse) magnitude indicates that the significance of the effects on Area D - North Coast Plateaux Landscape Character Unit within the study area is judged to be **Moderate Adverse Effect** during construction. This reflects the temporary concentration of excavation, earthworks, construction plant, soil disturbance and other construction activity associated with the extension of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant and the underground pipeline. These works will result in noticeable, although localised, changes to landform, soils and land use within and around the active construction areas. The effects will be short term and will occur within a landscape that already contains established industrial and infrastructure development. They will substantially cease following completion and reinstatement, and the wider rural landscape character and key characteristics of Area D will remain intact.

Operation

The combination of **low** sensitivity and negligible magnitude indicates that the significance of the effects on Area D - North Coast Plateaux Landscape Character Unit within the study area is judged to be **Neutral Effect** during operation.

Following completion and reinstatement, the underground pipeline will have minimal above-ground expression. The permanent changes will principally relate to the extension of the existing Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant, within a local landscape already influenced by water infrastructure and other industrial development. Proposed landscape planting will progressively integrate the development into its surroundings. Consequently, there will be no material change to the wider landform, field pattern, settlement pattern or perceptual character of Area D, and its key landscape characteristics will be maintained.

18.6.2.2 Area G – Northern Drumlins (Co. Mayo)

Table 18-14 below lists the effects of construction and operation phases upon the elements and attributes contributing to character previously identified.

Table 18-14 — Effects Upon Attributes of Landscape Character: (Area G - Northern Drumlins)

Natural factors	
Criteria	Description
Geology	Grading of landform required to facilitate the development at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station and horizontal directional drilling beneath streams for the underground pipeline may affect superficial deposits and bedrock. Once the development is completed the change will not be visible. Construction Magnitude of change on local character will be negligible (adverse) and short term. Operation Magnitude of change on local character will be no-change.

Landform	Localised temporary excavations/ regrading at the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station (BPS) sites. Trenching to accommodate pipeline route. Once the development is completed the change will not be readily discernible. Construction Magnitude of change on local character will be minor (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change on local character is negligible and long-term.
Hydrology	The Proposed Development will not result in perceptible changes to watercourses within the wider landscape. However, during construction there will be localised works at the shoreline of Lough Conn at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, including intake pipeline installation and limited infilling at the shoreline. Construction During construction, these works will result in short term minor (adverse) magnitude of change to the hydrological component of local landscape character. Operation During operation, the establishment of shoreline planting will integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape. Magnitude of change will be negligible in the long term.
Soils	Areas of soil at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station site will be stripped, stored and re-used for landscaping purposes where feasible within the development. Areas of soil removed as part of pipeline trenching works and reinstated where feasible. Construction Magnitude of change on local character will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change on local character will be negligible and long term.
Land cover/ flora and fauna	Existing trees at Wherrew Treatment Plant and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station sites will be largely retained. Minor sections of existing vegetation at field boundaries will be removed to facilitate the pipeline route and the entrance to the Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station. Existing trees within Belleek Woods will also be largely retained and protected. The Proposed Development at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station will include additional hedge, scrub, woodland planting and areas of species-rich grassland, which will enhance vegetation structure and biodiversity at these sites. Additional hedge planting at the Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station site will, as it matures, enhance local landscape character. Construction During construction, the removal of limited sections of boundary vegetation and temporary disturbance associated with the Proposed Development will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to vegetation elements of local landscape character.

	Operation During operation, the establishment of new planting at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station and Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station will enhance vegetation structure and landscape integration. This will result in a minor (beneficial) magnitude of change locally at these sites in the long term. Along the pipeline route, loss of small areas of vegetation will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to landscape elements in the long term.
Cultural/ Social factors	
Criteria	Description
Land Use	During construction, along the pipeline route, at the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station site and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Sation sites will experience a temporary change to construction-related land use. During operation, the Proposed Development will result in an extension of Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, small changes to Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station and new development of limited scale at Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station. The type of land use change is consistent with existing patterns of built infrastructure and utilities development within the immediate context. Construction During construction, the temporary change in land use associated with construction activities will result in a moderate (adverse) magnitude of change to the character of the site and its immediate surroundings. This effect will be short-term and temporary. Operation During operation, land use along the pipeline route will not change. The additions to the above ground sites (Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Sation) will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to land use within the local landscape context. This change will be long-term.
Settlement	There will be no change to settlement patterns or the distribution of dwellings. The Proposed Development, including the underground pipeline, will avoid existing residential properties. Construction The magnitude of change to settlement pattern and the character of the local landscape during construction will be no change. Operation The magnitude of change to settlement pattern during operation will be no change.
Enclosure	During construction, there will be localised removal of small sections of boundary ditches and scrub vegetation to facilitate installation of the underground pipeline.

	During operation, additional boundary planting at the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station sites will establish and mature over time, strengthening vegetation structure and enhancing the enclosure of the site within the surrounding landscape. Construction During construction, the temporary removal of small areas of boundary vegetation will result in a negligible adverse magnitude of change to landscape enclosure and local landscape character. Operation During operation, the establishment of new boundary planting will strengthen vegetation structure and increase enclosure of the site. This will result in a minor (beneficial) magnitude of change in the long term.
Time depth/ Cultural associations	There will be no change to the setting of Ballina ACA, as the Proposed Development will not be visible from this location. There will also be no change to the setting of Belleek Abbey once the underground pipeline work is completed. Potential effects on Protected Structures and Recorded Monuments (SMRs) are addressed in the Cultural Heritage Chapter.
Perceptual and aesthetic factors	
Criteria	Description
Aesthetic aspects (sight)	Scale: No change; the local landscape will still be perceived as a combination of large open areas with distant views and more intimate spaces enclosed by vegetation. Enclosure: No change to the perception of enclosure. Diversity: The area is a simple rural landscape. Temporary construction activities will be introduced for a short duration. Additional buildings/ structures at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station and Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station will be similar in appearance to existing structures. The proposed Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station will be similar in scale or appearance to nearby farm buildings and dwellings. Texture: The local landscape has a textured appearance due to vegetation. Proposed buildings and structures will be similar to existing ones in their immediate context, and planting is appropriate. There will be negligible change to perceived texture. Form: No change to the perception of form. Line: No change to the perception of line. Colour: Temporary introduction of construction machinery, stockpiles, part finished structures, bare earth etc. The proposed additions to Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Lisglennon Raw Water Pumping site and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Sation will include material finishes in keeping with

	existing material finishes within the local area. Paving will be reinstated to match existing. Balance: The completed development will include structures/ materials similar in appearance to existing context. The Proposed Development at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station will include additional hedge, scrub, woodland planting and areas of species-rich grassland, which will enhance local landscape character. Additional hedge planting at the Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station site will, as it matures, enhance local landscape character. Pattern: The project will be confined within existing field boundary patterns, and the underground pipeline will follow existing roads or field boundaries. There will be no change to the perception of pattern. Construction During construction, temporary works and the introduction of machinery and stockpiles will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to local landscape character. This effect will be short-term. Operation Over time, screen planting will largely integrate the extension to Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station into the landscape. The magnitude of change to landscape character is judged to be negligible once planting matures.
Other perceptual aspects	Security: No Change Stimuli: No Change Tranquillity: During construction temporary introduction of construction machinery, lighting and noise etc. reducing tranquillity. No noticeable change to tranquillity once the development is completed. Negligible change for lighting at the Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station, and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping station sites, as the sites are located within areas which already includes some lighting including from adjacent dwellings. Movement: Temporary construction activities may introduce minor visual and physical movement. No noticeable change will occur once the development is complete. Naturalness: No Change Noise: During construction temporary introduction of construction activities. No noticeable change to noise once the development is completed. Construction During construction, temporary machinery, lighting, and noise will result in moderate (adverse) magnitude of change to perceptual aspects of local landscape character especially from the pipeline works due to the extent of the Proposed Development. This effect will be short-term. Operation During operation, the pipeline works will be complete and not visible, the maturing screen vegetation will integrate the above ground developments into the

	landscape, resulting in a negligible magnitude of change to other perceptual aspects of local character.

The assessment of landscape elements in Table 18-14 indicates that overall, the magnitude of landscape change will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term, and negligible (adverse) during operation and long term.

Construction

The combination of low to medium sensitivity and moderate (adverse) magnitude indicates that the significance of the effects on **Area G - Northern Drumlins** Landscape Character Unit within the study area is judged to be **Moderate Adverse Effect** during construction. This reflects the temporary introduction of pipeline excavation, construction plant, soil disturbance, traffic management and associated construction activity across an extensive part of the Landscape Character Unit, together with construction works at Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station. These works will result in localised changes to land use, land cover and perceptual characteristics, including tranquillity, and will extend through some of the more sensitive parts of the landscape near Lough Conn and Belleek Woods/River Moy. However, the effects will be concentrated around active construction areas, will be short term and will substantially cease following completion and reinstatement. The wider landscape character and key characteristics of Area G will remain intact.

Operation

The combination of low to medium sensitivity and negligible (magnitude) indicates that the significance of the effects on **Area G - Northern Drumlins** Landscape Character Unit within the study area is judged to be **Neutral Effect** during operation. Following completion and reinstatement, the underground pipeline will have minimal above-ground expression. Changes at the above-ground infrastructure sites will be localised and will occur either within existing operational sites or, at Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station, within a limited area of the wider rural landscape. Proposed landscape planting will further integrate these elements as it establishes and matures. Consequently, there will be no material change to the wider landform, field pattern, settlement pattern or perceptual character of Area G, and its key landscape characteristics will be maintained.

18.6.2.3 Area H - East Mayo Uplands (Co. Mayo)

Table 18-15 below lists the effects of construction and operation phases upon the elements and attributes contributing to character previously identified.

Table 18-15 — Effects Upon Attributes of Landscape Character: (Area H – East Mayo Uplands)

Natural factors	
Criteria	Description
Geology	Grading of landform required to facilitate the development at Bonniconlon Reservoir, Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank and horizontal directional drilling beneath streams for the underground pipeline may affect superficial deposits and bedrock. Once the development is completed the change will not be visible. Construction Magnitude of change on local character is negligible (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change on local character is no-change.
Landform	Localised temporary excavations/ regrading at Bonniconlon Reservoir, Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank sites. Trenching to accommodate pipeline route. Once the development is completed the change will not be readily discernible.

	Construction Magnitude of the change on local character will be minor (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of the change on local character will be negligible and long-term.
Hydrology	No perceptible physical changes to watercourses. No change.
Soils	Areas of soil at Bonniconlon Reservoir, Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank sites will be stripped, stored and re-used for landscaping purposes where feasible within the development. Areas of soil removed as part of pipeline trenching works and reinstated where feasible. Construction Magnitude of change on local character will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change on local character will be negligible and long term.
Land cover/ flora and fauna	Existing trees and scrub at Bonniconlon Reservoir site will be largely retained. Blanket bog removed at Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank during construction will be largely reinstated. Minor sections of existing vegetation at field boundaries will be removed to facilitate the pipeline route. The Proposed Development at Bonniconlon Reservoir will include additional hedge, scrub, planting and areas of species-rich grassland, which will enhance vegetation structure and biodiversity at these sites. Reinstated blanket bog at the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank site will, as it matures, enhance local landscape character. Construction During construction, the removal of limited sections of boundary vegetation and temporary disturbance associated with the Proposed Development will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to vegetation elements of local landscape character. Operation During operation, the establishment of new planting at Bonniconlon Reservoir and Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank sites will enhance vegetation structure and landscape integration. This will result in a negligible (beneficial) magnitude of change at these sites in the long term. Along the pipeline route, loss of small areas of vegetation will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to landscape elements in the long term.
Cultural/ Social factors	
Criteria	Description

Land Use	During construction, along the pipeline route, at the Bonniconlon Reservoir and Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank sites will experience a temporary change to construction-related land use. During operation, the development will result in an extension of Bonniconlon Reservoir, and new development of limited scale at Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank. The type of land use change is consistent with existing patterns of built infrastructure and utilities development within the immediate context. Construction During construction, the temporary change in land use associated with construction activities will result in a moderate (adverse) magnitude of change to the character of the site and its immediate surroundings. This effect will be short-term and temporary. Operation During operation, land use along the pipeline route will not change. The additions to the above ground sites (the Bonniconlon Reservoir and Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank) will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to land use within the local landscape context. This change will be long-term.
Settlement	There will be no change to settlement patterns or the distribution of dwellings. The Proposed Development, including the underground pipeline, will avoid existing residential properties. Construction The magnitude of change to settlement pattern and the character of the local landscape during construction will be no change. Operation The magnitude of change to settlement pattern during operation will be no change.
Enclosure	During construction, there will be localised removal of small sections of boundary ditches and scrub vegetation to facilitate installation of the underground pipeline. During operation, additional boundary planting at the Bonniconlon Reservoir site will establish and mature over time, strengthening vegetation structure and enhancing the enclosure of the site within the surrounding landscape. Blanket bog will be reinstated at the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank site to maintain the openness of this site and local area. Construction During construction, the temporary removal of small areas of boundary vegetation will result in a negligible (adverse) magnitude of change to landscape enclosure and local landscape character. Operation During operation, the establishment of new boundary planting will strengthen vegetation structure and increase enclosure of the Bonniconlon Reservoir site. This will result in a minor (beneficial) magnitude of change in the long term.
Time depth/ Cultural associations	There will be no change to the setting of the R294 Road at Windy Gap once the underground pipeline work is completed. Potential effects on Protected Structures and Recorded Monuments (SMRs) are addressed in the Cultural Heritage Chapter.
Perceptual and aesthetic factors	

Criteria	Description
Aesthetic aspects (sight)	Scale: No change; the local landscape will still be perceived as a combination of large open areas with distant views and more intimate spaces enclosed by vegetation. Enclosure: No change to the perception of enclosure. Diversity: The area is a diverse combination of lowland and upland rural landscape. Temporary construction activities will be introduced for a short duration. Additional buildings/ structures will mostly be placed underground or screened with vegetation. Texture: The local landscape has a textured appearance due to vegetation in the lowland and a smoother appearance in the upland blanket bog areas. Proposed structures at Bonniconlon Reservoir will be modest in scale and planting is appropriate. The Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be placed underground and largely covered in blanket bog. There will be no significant change to perceived texture. Form: No change to the perception of form. Line: No change to the perception of line. Colour: Temporary introduction of construction machinery, stockpiles, part finished structures, bare earth etc. The proposed additions to Bonniconlon Reservoir and Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank include material finishes and landscaping in keeping with existing material finishes/ planting within the local area. Paving will be reinstated to match existing. Balance: The completed development will include structures/ materials similar in appearance to existing context. The Bonniconlon Reservoir will be partially underground. The Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be placed underground. The Proposed Development at Bonniconlon Reservoir will include additional hedge, scrub, planting, which will enhance local landscape character. Reinstated blanket bog at the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank site will, as it matures, blend the site into the local landscape character. Pattern: The project will be confined within existing field boundary patterns, and the underground pipeline will follow existing roads or field boundaries. The Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank site will include reinstated blanket bog to maintain openness in the upland area. There will be no change to the perception of pattern. Construction During construction, temporary works and the introduction of machinery and stockpiles will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to local landscape character. This effect will be short-term.

	Operation During operation the underground pipeline will not be visible. Over time, screen planting will largely integrate the extension to Bonniconlon Reservoir into the landscape. Reinstated blanket bog once it matures will integrate the Windy Gap Pressure tank site into the local landscape. The magnitude of change to landscape character is judged to be negligible once planting matures.
Other perceptual aspects	Security: No Change Stimuli: No Change Tranquillity: During construction temporary introduction of construction machinery, lighting and noise etc. reducing tranquillity. No noticeable change to tranquillity once the development is completed. Movement: Temporary construction activities may introduce moderate visual movement. No noticeable change will occur once the development is complete. Naturalness: No Change Noise: During construction temporary introduction of construction activities. No noticeable change to noise once the development is completed. Construction During construction, temporary machinery, lighting, and noise will result in moderate adverse magnitude of change to perceptual aspects of local landscape character especially from the pipeline works due to the extent of the Proposed Development. This effect will be short-term. Operation During operation, the pipeline works will be complete and not visible, the maturing screen vegetation will integrate the above ground elements into the landscape, resulting in a negligible magnitude of change to other perceptual aspects of local character.

The assessment of landscape elements in Table 18-15 above indicates that overall, the magnitude of landscape change will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term, and negligible (adverse) during operation and long term.

Construction

The combination of low to medium sensitivity and moderate (adverse) magnitude indicates that the significance of the effects on **Area H - East Mayo Uplands** Landscape Character Unit within the study area is judged to be **Moderate Adverse Effect** during construction. This reflects the temporary introduction of excavation, construction plant, soil disturbance, movement and other construction activity associated with the pipeline, Bonniconlon Reservoir and Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank into parts of the rural and upland landscape. These activities will locally affect landscape characteristics including land cover, land use, tranquillity and the open character of the upland landscape. However, the effects will be concentrated around the active construction areas and pipeline corridor, will be short-term, and will substantially cease following completion and reinstatement.

Operation

The combination of low to medium sensitivity and negligible magnitude indicates that the significance of the effects on **Area H - East Mayo Uplands** Landscape Character Unit within the study area is judged to be a **Neutral Effect** during operation. The underground pipeline will have no appreciable above-ground expression following reinstatement, while the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be predominantly below ground with blanket bog reinstated over the affected area. Changes at Bonniconlon Reservoir will be localised and will become increasingly integrated as proposed planting establishes. Consequently, there will be no material change to the wider landform,

settlement pattern, openness or perceptual character of the Landscape Character Unit, and its key characteristics and sense of place will be maintained.

18.6.2.4 Windy Gap to Lough Talt, Co. Sligo

Table 18-16 lists the effects of construction and operation phases upon the elements and attributes contributing to character previously identified.

Table 18-16 — Effects Upon Attributes of Landscape Character: (Windy Gap to Lough Talt, Co. Sligo)

Natural factors	
Criteria	Description
Geology	Grading of landform required to facilitate the development at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant and horizontal directional drilling beneath streams for the underground pipeline may affect superficial deposits and bedrock. Once the development is completed the change will not be visible. Construction Magnitude of change on local character will be negligible adverse during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change on local character will be no-change.
Landform	Localised temporary excavations/ regrading at Lough Talt Water Treatment plant site. Trenching to accommodate pipeline route. Once the development is completed the change will not be readily discernible. Construction Magnitude of change on local character will be minor (adverse) during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change on local character will be negligible and long-term.
Hydrology	No perceptible physical changes to watercourses. No change.
Soils	Areas of soil removed as part of pipeline trenching works and reinstated where feasible. The route primarily travels underneath roads. Construction Magnitude of change on local character will be negligible during construction and short term. Operation Magnitude of change on local character will be negligible and long term.
Land cover/ flora and fauna	Minor sections of existing vegetation at stream crossings will be removed to facilitate the pipeline route. The Proposed Development at Lough Talt Water Treatment plant will include additional hedge, planting and areas of species-rich grassland, which will enhance vegetation structure and biodiversity at the site. Construction

	During construction, the removal of limited sections of boundary vegetation and temporary disturbance associated with the Proposed Development will result in minor (adverse) magnitude of change to vegetation elements of local landscape character. Operation During operation, the establishment of new planting at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant site will enhance vegetation structure and landscape integration. This will result in a moderate (beneficial) magnitude of change locally at this site in the long term. Along the pipeline route, loss of small areas of vegetation will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to landscape elements in the long term.
Cultural/ Social factors	
Criteria	Description
Land Use	During construction, areas along the pipeline route, at the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant site will experience a temporary change to construction-related land use. During operation, the development will result in changes to structures within the existing Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant site. The type of land use change is consistent with existing patterns of built infrastructure and utilities development within the immediate context. Construction During construction, the temporary change in land use associated with construction activities will result in a moderate (adverse) magnitude of change to the character of the site and its immediate surroundings. This effect will be short-term and temporary. Operation During operation, land use along the pipeline route will not change. The changes to structures within Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant will result in a negligible magnitude of change to land use within the local landscape context. This change will be long-term.
Settlement	There will be no change to settlement patterns or the distribution of dwellings. The Proposed Development, including the underground pipeline, will avoid existing residential properties. Construction The magnitude of change to settlement pattern and the character of the local landscape during construction will be no change. Operation The magnitude of change to settlement pattern during operation will be no change.
Enclosure	During construction, there will be localised removal of small sections of boundary ditches and scrub vegetation to facilitate installation of the underground pipeline.

	During operation, additional boundary planting at the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant site will establish and mature over time, strengthening vegetation structure and enhancing the enclosure of the site within the surrounding landscape. Construction During construction, the temporary removal of small areas of boundary vegetation will result in a negligible (adverse) magnitude of change to landscape enclosure and local landscape character. This effect will be short-term and temporary. Operation During operation, the establishment of new boundary planting will strengthen vegetation structure and increase enclosure of the Lough Talt Water Treatment plant site. This will result in a minor (beneficial) magnitude of change in the long term.
Time depth/ Cultural associations	There will be no significant change to the setting of the R294 Road scenic route and sites associated with the year of the French once the underground pipeline work is completed. Potential effects on Protected Structures and Recorded Monuments (SMRs) are addressed in the Cultural Heritage Chapter.
Perceptual and aesthetic factors	
Criteria	Description
Aesthetic aspects (sight)	Scale: No change to the perception of scale. Enclosure: No change to the perception of enclosure. Diversity: The area is a diverse combination of lakeland and upland rural landscape. Temporary construction activities will be introduced for a short duration. Replacement buildings/ structures will mostly be placed within the footprint what is already currently built development at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant site. Texture: Proposed structures at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant will be similar to existing ones in their immediate context and planting is appropriate. There will be no significant change to perceived texture. Form: No change to the perception of form. Line: No change to the perception of line. Colour: Temporary introduction of construction machinery, stockpiles, part finished structures, bare earth etc. The proposed changes to Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant include material finishes and landscaping in keeping with existing material finishes/ planting within the local area. Paving will be reinstated to match existing. Balance: The completed development will include structures/ materials similar in appearance to existing context at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The

	Proposed Development at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant will include additional hedge, scrub, planting, which will enhance local landscape character. Pattern: The project will be confined within existing field/ site boundary patterns and the underground pipeline will follow existing roads or field boundaries. There will be no change to the perception of pattern. Construction During construction, temporary works and the introduction of machinery and stockpiles will result in a minor (adverse) magnitude of change to local landscape character. This effect will be short-term. Operation During operation the underground pipeline will not be visible. Over time, screen planting will largely integrate the Lough Talt Water Treatment plant site into the landscape. The magnitude of change to landscape character will be negligible once planting matures.
Other perceptual aspects	Security: No Change Stimuli: No Change Tranquillity: During construction temporary introduction of construction machinery, lighting and noise etc. reducing tranquillity. No noticeable change to tranquillity once the development is completed. Movement: Temporary construction activities may introduce moderate visual movement. No noticeable change will occur once the development is complete. Naturalness: No Change Noise: During construction temporary introduction of construction activities. No noticeable change to noise once the development is completed. Construction During construction, temporary machinery, lighting, and noise will result in moderate (adverse) magnitude of change to perceptual aspects of local landscape character especially from the pipeline works due to the extent of the Proposed Development. This change will be short-term. Operation During operation, the pipeline works will be complete and not visible, the maturing screen vegetation will integrate the above ground elements into the landscape, resulting in a negligible magnitude of change to other perceptual aspects of local character.

The assessment of landscape elements in Table 18-16 indicates that overall, the magnitude of landscape change will be moderate (adverse) during construction and short term, and negligible (adverse) during operation and long term.

Construction

The combination of medium sensitivity and moderate adverse magnitude indicates that the significance of the effects on **Windy Gap to Lough Talt, Co. Sligo** Landscape Character Unit within the study area is judged to be **Moderate Adverse Effect** during construction. This reflects the temporary introduction of pipeline excavation, construction plant, soil disturbance, traffic management and associated construction activity within a scenic upland landscape.

Construction activity will locally affect land use, land cover and perceptual characteristics, including tranquillity, particularly along the R294 and within the open upland landscape. Works at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant will also introduce temporary construction activity within the landscape, although these works will occur at an established infrastructure site. The effects will be localised and short term, and the principal landscape characteristics, including Lough Talt, the surrounding upland landform and ridgelines, will remain intact.

Operation

The combination of medium sensitivity and negligible magnitude indicates that the significance of the effects on **Windy Gap to Lough Talt, Co. Sligo** Landscape Character Unit within the study area is judged to be **Neutral Effect** during operation. Following construction and reinstatement, the underground pipeline will have minimal above-ground expression and will not materially alter the character of the R294 corridor or the wider upland landscape. Operational changes at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant will be largely contained within the existing operational site and will be integrated through proposed landscape planting. There will be no material change to the wider landform, openness, scenic qualities, settlement pattern or perceptual character of the landscape, and the key characteristics and sense of place of the Windy Gap to Lough Talt landscape will be maintained.

18.7 Potential Visual Effects of the Proposed Development

18.7.1 Visual Effects of the Proposed Development

This section describes the effects of the Proposed Development on visual receptors and assesses the significance of the effects identified.

18.7.2 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

18.7.2.1 Residential

Residents at home will have high susceptibility to changes in their view, as their attention is focused on their domestic visual amenity.

Residents - Urban (Ballina, Bonniconlon): For residents located within the urban areas of Ballina and Bonniconlon the value of urban views is judged to be of medium value, however residents with views to Moy Estuary or Belleek Woods have high value views. The combination of high susceptibility and medium to high value of the views, the sensitivity of these receptors is judged to be high.

Residents - Rural Pipeline Corridor: Residents in dispersed rural dwellings near the proposed pipeline corridor have rural landscape views of medium to high value. The higher value views would include views within upland areas and to the River Moy/ Belleek Woods. The combination of high susceptibility and medium to high value of the views, the sensitivity of these receptors is judged to be high.

Residents - Site Vicinities (Wherrew, Lisglennon, Carrownlabaun, Bonniconlon West, Windy Gap, Lough Talt): Residents in dispersed rural dwellings near the various above ground project sites have rural landscape views of medium to high value. The higher value views would include views within upland areas and near Lough Conn. The combination of high susceptibility and medium to high value of the views, the sensitivity of these receptors is judged to be high.

18.7.2.2 Road Users

Road Users - Regional Roads (R314, R294 including scenic sections): Users of regional roads are transient receptors and their attention, or interest would not always be focussed on the view and will have medium susceptibility. The value of views for these receptors is judged to be medium from lowland landscape areas and high from upland landscape areas particularly along the sections designated as scenic routes within both the Mayo and Sligo County Development Plans. The combination of medium susceptibility and medium to high value of the views, the sensitivity of these receptors is judged to be medium to high.

Road Users - Local Rural Roads and lanes: Users of local roads and lanes are transient receptors and their attention, or interest would not always be focussed on the view and will have medium susceptibility. The value of views for these receptors is judged to be medium from lowland landscape areas and high from upland landscape areas particularly near Windy Gap and Lough Talt. The combination of medium susceptibility and medium to high value of the views, the sensitivity of these receptors is judged to be medium to high.

Road Users – Urban Streets: Users of urban roads are transient receptors and their attention, or interest would not always be focussed on the view and will have medium susceptibility. The value of urban views for these receptors is judged to be medium. The combination of medium susceptibility and medium value of the views, the sensitivity of these receptors is judged to be medium.

18.7.2.3 Recreational Users

Recreational Users - Water-Based (Lough Conn, River Moy, Lough Talt): Users of lakes for recreation often includes an appreciation of scenery and will have high susceptibility. The value of views from large lakes including surrounding countryside is judged to be high. The combination of high susceptibility and high value of views, the sensitivity of these receptors is judged to be high.

Recreational Users - Long Distance Trails (Western Way, Bonniconlon Loops, Sligo Way): Users of long-distance trails for recreation often includes an appreciation of scenery and will have high susceptibility. The value of views from long distance trails including the surrounding countryside is judged to be medium to high, the higher value views would be from upland areas. The combination of high susceptibility and medium to high value of views, the sensitivity of these receptors is judged to be high.

Recreational Users - Local Trails and Amenity Areas (Belleek Woods, Lough Talt walking trail): Users of local trails typically include an appreciation of landscape and scenery as part of their recreational experience and are therefore will have high susceptibility to visual change. The value of views experienced from these trails is assessed as medium to high, reflecting the quality of upland areas, lakeside settings near Lough Talt, river corridors along the River Moy, and woodland environments. Taking account of the high susceptibility of this receptor group and the medium to high value attributed to the views, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.

18.7.2.4 Community and Institutional

Users of community and institutional buildings and their associated outdoor areas will have medium susceptibility to visual change, as their primary activity is not the appreciation of views, although outdoor spaces may allow visual awareness of the surrounding landscape. The value of views from these locations, which include both urban areas and rural lowland contexts, is assessed as medium. Taking account of the medium susceptibility of this receptor group and the medium value attributed to the views, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.

18.7.2.5 Workplace Receptors

Agricultural and forestry workers: Agricultural and forestry workers are primarily engaged in functional outdoor activities and are therefore will have low susceptibility to visual change, as appreciation of views is not generally a primary purpose of their presence. The value of views within the rural landscape varies from medium in lowland

agricultural areas to high in upland/ lake or scenic contexts. Taking account of the low susceptibility of this receptor group and the medium to high value attributed to the landscape, overall sensitivity is judged to be low to medium.

Industrial and energy workers: Industrial and energy workers are primarily engaged in functional outdoor activities and are therefore will have low susceptibility to visual change, as appreciation of views is not generally a primary purpose of their presence. The value of views from industrial and energy facilities is typically low to medium, reflecting the utilitarian character of these settings, even where they occur within a wider rural landscape. Taking account of the low susceptibility of this receptor group and the low to medium value attributed to the views, overall sensitivity is judged to be low to medium.

Commercial areas: Users of commercial areas, including shops and offices and their outdoor spaces, are considered a workplace receptor group with medium susceptibility to visual change, as their primary activity is not the appreciation of views. The value of views from these locations, which include both urban and rural lowland contexts, is assessed as medium. Considering the medium susceptibility and medium value, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.

18.7.2.6 Visitors to Heritage Assets (Belleek Castle and grounds)

Visitors to Belleek Castle typically appreciate landscape and scenery as part of their recreational experience and are therefore will have high susceptibility to visual change. The value of views on-site is assessed as medium to high, reflecting the parkland setting and associated woodland environments. Considering the high susceptibility of this receptor group and the medium to high value of the views, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.

18.7.3 Effects on Visual Receptors

This section should read in conjunction with section 18.7.4 Representative Viewpoints which describes the effect on views from viewpoints within the study area.

18.7.3.1 Residential

Residents – Urban (Ballina, Bonniconlon): Residents of dwellings located in urban areas along the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. These changes will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to moderate adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 26–34).

Residents – Rural Pipeline Corridor Residents of dwellings located in rural areas along the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. This will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to moderate adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 9–13, 21–25, 35–43, 47–55, 62–69, 72–73).

Residents – Above Ground Site Vicinities (Wherrew, Lisglennon, Carrownlabaun, Bonniconlon West, Windy Gap, Lough Talt):

Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station:

Residents of dwellings located to the east of Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station along a local lane will generally not have views of the proposed project due to intervening vegetation and topography. The magnitude of change will be negligible, resulting in neutral visual effects during construction and operation (refer to Representative Viewpoint 04).

Residents of the dwelling located immediately north of Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station will experience close-range views of the project during construction and operation. During construction, the magnitude of change will

be moderate, resulting in moderate adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change will reduce to minor as screen planting matures, resulting in slight adverse visual effects (refer to Representative Viewpoint 01).

A single dwelling located immediately east of Wherrew Water Treatment Plant, away from public viewpoints, will have distant views of construction activities associated with the intake pipeline. The magnitude of change will be moderate during construction, resulting in moderate adverse visual effects, and negligible during operation, resulting in neutral visual effects. Operational effects will be mitigated by intervening vegetation, distance, and water cover at Lough Conn.

Residents of a group of dwellings located further north of Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station (beyond those immediately to the north, discussed above) will experience views in which the Proposed Development is not visible or barely perceptible due to intervening topography, vegetation, and distance during both construction and operation. During construction, the magnitude of change will be minor to negligible, resulting in neutral to slight adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change will be negligible, resulting in neutral visual effects (refer to Representative Viewpoints 02 and 03).

Lisglennon WTP/ RWS&PS:

Residents north of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant:

Residents of dwellings located north of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will experience views in which the proposed project is not visible or barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation during both construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change will be negligible to no change, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoints 18 and 19).

Residents south of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant:

Residents of dwellings located south of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will experience views of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be negligible to moderate, resulting in Neutral to Moderate Adverse visual effects. The Moderate Adverse effects will arise from close-range, short-term views during the construction of the pipeline and at Lisglennon RWS&PS. During operation, the magnitude of change will be minor to negligible, resulting in Slight Adverse to Neutral visual effects. The Slight Adverse effects will arise from the upper parts of taller structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant being partially perceptible in some views (refer to representative viewpoints 12, 13, and 14). Once the proposed hedge planting along the boundary of Lisglennon RWS&PS matures, local views towards Lisglennon RWS&PS will improve, resulting in Slight Beneficial visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 10 and 11).

Residents east of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant:

Residents of dwellings located east of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will experience views of the proposed project during construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change is considered minor to moderate, resulting in Neutral to Moderate Adverse visual effects. The Moderate Adverse effects will arise from close-range, short-term views during the construction of the pipeline or distant, albeit prominent views of the proposed extension to Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. During operation, and as mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will be minor to negligible, resulting in Slight Adverse to Neutral visual effects. The Slight Adverse effects will arise from the upper parts of taller structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant being partially perceptible in some views (refer to representative viewpoints 7, 8, 9, and 20).

Residents west of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant:

Residents of dwellings located to the west of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will generally not have views of the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation and topography. The magnitude of change will be negligible to

no change, resulting in Neutral visual effects during construction and operation (refer to representative viewpoints 14 and 17).

Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station:

Residents - R294 (south, southeast and southwest):

Residents of dwellings located along the R294 to the south, southeast and southwest of the proposed Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station will experience views of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. These effects will arise from close-range, short-term views during the construction of the pipeline and the Booster Pumping Station. During operation, and as mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. The Slight Adverse effects will arise from the upper parts of taller structures at the Booster Pumping Station being partially perceptible in views (refer to representative viewpoints 42 and 43).

Residents - local road north of the site:

Residents of dwellings located along a local road to the north of the proposed Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station will experience views of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects arising from short-term views during the construction of the Booster Pumping Station. During operation, and as mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. These effects will arise from the upper parts of taller structures at the Booster Pumping Station being partially perceptible in views (refer to representative viewpoint 44).

Bonniconlon Reservoir:

Residents of a dwelling located immediately north of the proposed Bonniconlon Reservoir will experience close-range views of the project during both construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year is also considered moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. As mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce to negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoints 48 and 50). Other dwellings will not experience any significant adverse visual effects from the proposed Bonniconlon Reservoir due to intervening vegetation and topography (refer to representative viewpoints 49 and 51).

Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank:

Residential receptors are sparse in the vicinity of the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank. The closest dwellings are located approximately 250 m west of the site. From this location, residents will experience minor, temporary visual effects during construction. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year is also considered minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. As mitigation planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce to negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 55). Other dwellings will not experience any significant adverse visual effects from the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank due to intervening vegetation, topography, and distance.

Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant:

Residents of dwellings located west and southwest of Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant will experience views of the Proposed Development during both construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. The Slight Adverse effects will arise from short-term, partial views during the construction of the Proposed Development at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. During operation, the magnitude of change will be negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative

viewpoint 70). Other dwellings near Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant will not experience any significant adverse visual effects from the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation and topography.

18.7.3.2 Road Users

Road Users - Regional Roads (R314, R294 including scenic sections), Local Roads and Urban Streets - Pipeline Corridor.

Users of regional and local, urban roads along the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. This will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to Moderate Adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in Neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 9–13, 21–28, 35–43, 47–55, 62–69, 72–73).

Road Users – Regional, Local Rural Roads and Lanes:

Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station:

Users of local roads and lanes near Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station will generally not have views of the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation and topography. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be negligible to minor, resulting in Neutral to Slight Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change will be negligible, mitigated by maturing planting, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoints 02, 03, and 04). The exception is a section of the local road immediately opposite the entrance to Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station, from where road users will have close-range views of the project during construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change will be minor due to maturing screen planting, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 01).

Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant – north and east roads:

Users of the local and regional roads to the north and east of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will experience partial views of the Proposed Development. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be minor to moderate, resulting in Neutral to Moderate Adverse visual effects. The Moderate Adverse effects will arise from close-range, short-term views during the construction of the pipeline or views of the proposed extension to Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant under construction. During operation, and as mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will be minor to negligible, resulting in Slight Adverse to Neutral visual effects. The Slight Adverse effects will arise from the upper parts of taller structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant being partially perceptible in some views (refer to representative viewpoints 7, 8, 9, 16, and 20).

Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant – south roads:

Users of local roads located south of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will experience views of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be negligible to moderate, resulting in Neutral to Moderate Adverse visual effects. The Moderate Adverse effects will arise from close-range, short-term views during the construction of the pipeline, Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant, and at Lisglennon RWS&PS. During operation, the magnitude of change will be minor to negligible, resulting in Slight Adverse to Neutral visual effects. The Slight Adverse effects will arise from the upper parts of taller structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant being partially perceptible in some views (refer to representative viewpoints 10, 12, 13, and 15). Once the proposed hedge planting along the boundary of Lisglennon RWS&PS matures, local views towards Lisglennon RWS&PS will improve, resulting in Slight Beneficial visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 10 and 11).

Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant – west roads:

Users of local roads located to the west of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will generally not have views of the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation and topography. The magnitude of change will be negligible to no change, resulting in Neutral visual effects during construction and operation (refer to representative viewpoints 14 and 17).

Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station: R294 Road and local road

Users of the R294 to the south, southeast and southwest, and users of local roads to the east and north, of the proposed Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station will experience views of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. These effects will arise from close-range, short-term views during the construction of the pipeline and the Booster Pump Station. During operation, and as mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. The Slight Adverse effects will arise from the upper parts of taller structures at the Booster Pump Station being partially perceptible in views (refer to representative viewpoints 42, 43 and 44). Further north, the Proposed Development will be largely screened by intervening vegetation, and the magnitude of change will reduce to minor or negligible, resulting in Slight Adverse or Neutral visual effects where gaps occur in roadside vegetation (refer to representative viewpoint 45).

Bonniconlon Reservoir:

Users of the local road and lane located immediately north and west of the proposed Bonniconlon Reservoir will experience close-range views of the project during both construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be locally moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year is also considered moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. As mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce to negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoints 48 and 50). Sections of the local road and lane to the east and south will not experience significant adverse visual effects from the proposed Bonniconlon Reservoir due to intervening vegetation and topography. However, users may experience short-term, temporary adverse visual effects during construction of the pipeline (refer to representative viewpoints 49 and 51).

Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank - Road Users

R294 Road – opposite site and near Bunnyconnellan Windfarm access junction: Users will experience minor, short-term visual effects during construction. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. As mitigation planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce to negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 55).

R294 Road – further east and west: The proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will not be visible due to intervening topography and distance (refer to representative viewpoint 62).

Access track north of the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank: Users will experience minor, short-term visual effects during construction. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. As mitigation planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce to negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 61).

Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant - Road Users

Users of the R294 road immediately opposite the site will experience moderate magnitude, short-term visual effects during construction, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year will be minor, resulting in Slight Beneficial visual effects. As mitigation planting matures, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Beneficial visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 69).

Users of the R294 road further east will experience minor to moderate magnitude effects during construction, resulting in Minor to Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, as mitigation planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce, resulting in Minor Beneficial to Slight Beneficial visual effects.

18.7.3.3 Recreational Users

Recreational Users – Water-Based (Lough Conn, River Moy, Lough Talt):

Users of Lough Conn will have views of the Proposed Development from parts of the lake near Wherrew Water Treatment Plant. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be locally moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change will be locally minor due to the increase in structures within the view, and with the intake pipeline covered by water for most of the year, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. Note: No representative viewpoints were possible due to lack of access to the lake; the above assessment is based on professional judgement.

Users of the River Moy and Lough Talt near the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. This will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to Moderate Adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in Neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 33-34, and 65-71).

Recreational Users - Long Distance Trails (Western Way, Bonniconlon Loops, Sligo Way):

Users of Long Distance Trails including the Western Way, Bonniconlon Loops, Sligo Way along and near the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. This will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to Moderate Adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in Neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 28–29, 48-60, 64-65).

Bonniconlon Reservoir:

Users of the section of the Western Way and Bonniconlon Loops located immediately north and west of the proposed Bonniconlon Reservoir will experience close-range views of the project during both construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year is also considered moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. As mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce to negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoints 48 and 50). Sections of the trails to the east and south will not experience significant adverse visual effects from the proposed reservoir due to intervening vegetation and topography. However, users may experience short-term adverse visual effects during pipeline construction (refer to representative viewpoints 49 and 51).

Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank – Trail Users (Bonniconlon Loops)

Users of the section of the Bonniconlon Loops located immediately to the east of the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will experience close-range views of the project during both construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year is also considered moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. As mitigation planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce to minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects (refer to representative viewpoints 53and 62). Sections of the trail further to the east will not experience significant adverse visual effects due to intervening vegetation and topography.

Users of the section of the Bonniconlon Loops located immediately to the south of the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will experience close-range views of the project during both construction and operation. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 58). Sections of the trail further to the south will not experience significant adverse visual effects due to intervening vegetation, topography, and distance.

Users of the section of the Bonniconlon Loops located immediately to the northwest of the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will experience minor, short-term visual effects during construction. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. As mitigation planting matures, the magnitude of change will reduce to negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 55). Sections of the trail further to the northwest and north will not experience significant adverse visual effects due to intervening vegetation, topography, and distance (refer to representative viewpoints 52, 53, 54).

Where the pipeline follows sections of the Bonniconlon Loops trail in the vicinity of the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank, users will experience short-term, moderate magnitude effects during construction, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects.

Recreational Users - Local Trails and Amenity Areas (Belleek Woods, Lough Talt walking trail):

Users of the Lough Talt Walking Trail will experience views of the project during both construction and operation along short sections of the trail north of Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects. During operation, the magnitude of change during the opening year will be minor, resulting in Neutral visual effects. As intervening forestry planting matures, the magnitude of change remains minor, resulting in Slight Beneficial visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 74). Sections of the trail further to the west will not experience visual effects due to intervening vegetation and topography (refer to representative viewpoint 71).

Users of Belleek Woods Nature Trails along and near the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. This will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to Moderate Adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in Neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 29-33).

18.7.3.4 Community and Institutional

Users of community and institutional buildings along and near the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. This will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to Moderate Adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in Neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 16, 17, & 47).

Mullafery Church: Users of Mullafery Church will have views of the proposed extension at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant. During the construction phase, the magnitude of change will be locally moderate, resulting in Moderate Adverse visual effects. During operation, as mitigation screen planting matures, the magnitude of change will be locally minor, resulting in Slight Adverse visual effects (refer to representative viewpoint 16).

Mullafery Old Graveyard: Users of Mullafery Old Graveyard, located to the northwest of Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant, will not have views of the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation and topography. The magnitude of change will be no change, resulting in Neutral visual effects during construction and operation (refer to representative viewpoint 17).

18.7.3.5 Workplace Receptors

***Agricultural and forestry workers*:**

Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station: Agricultural workers in farmland areas surrounding Wherrew Raw Water Intake & Pumping Station will generally not have views or will experience partially filtered views of the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation, topography, or buildings. The magnitude of change will be negligible to minor, resulting in Neutral to Slight Adverse visual effects during construction and operation. Any Slight Adverse visual effects will be experienced from fields immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development. Note: No representative viewpoints were possible due to lack of access to private fields; this assessment is based on professional judgement.

Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant: Agricultural workers in farmland areas surrounding Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will generally not have views or will experience partially filtered views of the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation and topography. The magnitude of change will be negligible to minor, resulting in Neutral to Slight Adverse visual effects during construction and operation. Any Slight Adverse visual effects will be experienced from fields immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development. Note: No representative viewpoints were possible due to lack of access to private land; this assessment is based on professional judgement.

Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Reservoir: Agricultural workers in farmland areas surrounding Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station and Bonniconlon Reservoir will generally not have views or will experience partially filtered views of the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation and topography. The magnitude of change will be negligible to minor, resulting in Neutral to Slight Adverse visual effects during construction and operation. Any Slight Adverse visual effects will be experienced from fields immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development. Note: No representative viewpoints were possible due to lack of access to private land; this assessment is based on professional judgement.

Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank: Forestry workers in the vicinity of the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will generally not have views, or will experience only distant views of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change will be negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects during both construction and operation. Note: No representative viewpoints were possible due to lack of access to private fields; this assessment is based on professional judgement.

Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant:

Forestry and agricultural workers in the vicinity of the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant will generally not have views, or will experience only distant or partially filtered views of the Proposed Development due to intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change will be negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects during both construction and operation. Note: No representative viewpoints were possible due to lack of access to private fields; this assessment is based on professional judgement.

Industrial and energy workers:

Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant: Workers in industrial areas near Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant will generally not have views of the Proposed Development or will experience distant, partially filtered views due to intervening vegetation, buildings, and topography. The magnitude of change will be negligible to minor, resulting in Neutral visual effects during construction and operation. Note: No representative viewpoints were possible due to lack of access to private land; this assessment is based on professional judgement.

Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank: Workers at windfarms in the vicinity of the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will generally not have views, or will experience only distant views of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change will be negligible, resulting in Neutral visual effects during both construction and operation.

Commercial areas:

Users of commercial areas along and near the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. This will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to Moderate Adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in Neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 27, 34 and 47).

18.7.3.6 Visitors to Heritage Assets (Belleek Manor and grounds)

Visitors to areas of Belleek Manor along and near the underground pipeline corridor will experience short-term views during the construction phase, associated with excavation works, construction plant, and traffic management required for the installation of the pipeline. This will result in a moderate magnitude of change, giving rise to Moderate Adverse visual effects during construction. Following completion of the pipeline installation and reinstatement of affected surfaces and landscape, these temporary changes will cease, resulting in Neutral visual effects during operation (refer to representative viewpoints 29-33).

18.7.4 Representative Viewpoints

Table 18-17 describes the effects of the Proposed Development on representative viewpoints. The viewpoint locations are illustrated on the Viewpoint Location drawing, Figure 24026-LP-2-01 to 06-REV1, in Appendix 18-1 of Volume 3 of this EIAR. The viewpoint images are also included in Figure 24016-PB-4A-01-A3 Viewpoints, Appendix 18-1, Volume 3 of this EIAR.

Table 18-17 — Potential visual effects upon representative viewpoints

Viewpoint	LCA	
VP1*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be noticeable temporary/short-term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view. The extension to the access road will be visible. The intake works will be mostly screened by the existing intervening building. The intake pipeline will be screened by the existing building and water cover at Lough Conn; proposed planting will provide further integration as it matures. The filled-in inlet will be barely perceptible; tree planting, as it matures, will further screen views of Lough Conn. The magnitude of change will be minor and the direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of effect will be slight adverse during operation.

Viewpoint	LCA	
VP2	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary, short term partial views of construction activities associated with Proposed Development. The magnitude of change will be minor and the direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view. Intervening vegetation, topography and buildings will screen most elements of the proposed development.. The magnitude of change will be negligible and the direction of change will be neutral. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP3*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction The Proposed Development will not be visible due to intervening topography, vegetation, and distance. The magnitude of change will be no change. Operation The Proposed Development will not be visible due to intervening topography, vegetation, and distance. the magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/high sensitivity and a magnitude of no change, the significance of effect during both construction and operation will be neutral.
VP4*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction The Proposed Development will not be visible/ barely perceptible due to intervening topography, vegetation and distance. The magnitude of change will be negligible. Operation

Viewpoint	LCA	
		The Proposed Development will not be visible/ barely perceptible due to intervening topography, vegetation and distance. The magnitude of change will be negligible. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during both construction and operation.
VP5	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction The Proposed Development will not be visible due to intervening topography, vegetation and distance. The magnitude of the change will be no change. Operation The Proposed Development will not be visible due to intervening topography, vegetation and distance. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during construction and operation.
VP6*	D	Sensitivity Medium Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant partially screened by intervening hedgerows/ scrub. The magnitude of change will be moderate and the direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the upper parts of additional taller structures partially visible above intervening hedgerows/ scrub. The change will be visible only along sections of the local road where roadside hedgerows have been cut to a low height. As mitigation screen planting to the perimeter of the site matures, views will be mostly filtered and better integrated by maturing vegetation, while the upper parts of the taller structures remain partially visible. The change will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Significance Given the medium sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse at opening year. Given the medium sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at year 15.
VP7	D	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant including tall items of equipment such as cranes partially screened by intervening dense vegetation. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of the change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the upper parts of additional taller structures barely noticeable due to dense intervening vegetation, the rest of the proposed development will not be visible. The magnitude of change will be negligible and long term. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP8*	D	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant which is a prominent feature on an area of higher ground albeit within a small portion of this distant view. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of the change will be adverse. Operation

Viewpoint	LCA	
		The view will remain similar to the existing view with additional structures, especially to the eastern part of the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant development site visible within a small portion but prominent part of this distant view. The change will be visible only along sections of the local road or nearby dwellings where there are no roadside hedgerows or hedgerows have been cut to a low height. As mitigation screen planting to the perimeter of the site matures both existing and proposed structures will be mostly screened. The change will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at year 15.
VP9*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant including tall items of equipment such as cranes partially screened by intervening dense vegetation. The Proposed Development at Lisglennon RWS&PS will be mostly screened by intervening vegetation. There will be views of construction activities associated with the construction of the pipeline through the field within the foreground of this view. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the upper parts of additional taller structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant barely noticeable due to dense intervening vegetation, the rest of the proposed development including the pipeline will not be visible. The effect will be long term. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP10	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon RWS&PS and Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant including tall items of equipment such as cranes partially screened by intervening dense vegetation. There will views of construction activities associated with the construction of the pipeline through the field within this view. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of the change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with additional taller structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant barely noticeable due to dense intervening vegetation, the rest of the proposed pipeline will not be visible. Changes to Lisglennon RWS&PS will be minimal and include hedge planting along the site boundary next to the lane. The effect will be long term. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP11	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon RWS&PS. There will be distant views of construction activities associated with the construction of the pipeline through the field within the background of this view. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation At opening year, the view will remain similar to the existing view; the proposed pipeline will not be visible. Changes to Lisglennon RWS&PS will be minimal and include hedge planting

Viewpoint	LCA	
		along the site boundary next to the lane. As hedge planting to the perimeter of the site matures both existing and proposed structures will be partially screened. The effect will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be beneficial. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be beneficial. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect is judged to be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect is judged to be neutral at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect is judged to be minor beneficial at year 15.
VP12	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant including tall items of equipment such as cranes partially screened by intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the upper parts of additional taller structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant partially perceptible due to intervening vegetation, the rest of the proposed development including the pipeline will not be visible. The change will be long term. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during operation.
VP13	G	Sensitivity

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant including tall items of equipment such as cranes partially screened by intervening dense vegetation. There will views of construction activities associated with the construction of the pipeline through the field within the foreground of this view. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the outline of additional structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant barely noticeable due to dense intervening vegetation, the rest of the proposed development including the pipeline will not be visible. The effect will be long term. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect is judged to be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP14	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant including tall items of equipment such as cranes partially screened by intervening dense vegetation. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the outline of additional structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant barely noticeable due to dense intervening vegetation, the rest of the proposed development including the pipeline will not be visible. The effect will be long term. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during construction.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP15	D	Sensitivity Medium Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant partially screened by intervening hedgerows/ scrub. There will views of construction activities associated with the construction of the pipeline through the field within this view. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the upper parts of additional taller structures in particular visible above intervening hedgerows/ scrub. The change will be visible only along sections of the local lane where roadside hedgerows/ scrub has been cut to a low height or where there are only grass ditches. As mitigation screen planting to the perimeter of the site matures both existing and proposed structures will be mostly screened. The effect will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse at opening year. Given the medium sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at year 15.
VP16*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant partially screened by intervening hedgerows/ scrub. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with parts of additional structures partially visible above an intervening boundary wall. The change will be visible only along sections of the local road where roadside hedgerows have been cut to a low height. As mitigation screen planting to the perimeter of the site matures both existing and proposed structures will be partially screened and better integrated into the landscape. The effect will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at year 15.
VP17	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction The Proposed Development will not be visible due to intervening topography, vegetation and distance. The magnitude of change will be no change. Operation The Proposed Development will not be visible due to intervening topography, vegetation and distance. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during construction and operation.
VP18	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction

Viewpoint	LCA	
		There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant including tall items of equipment such as cranes mostly screened by intervening dense vegetation. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The Proposed Development will not be visible due to intervening topography, vegetation and distance. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP19	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant including tall items of equipment such as cranes mostly screened by intervening dense vegetation. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the outline of additional structures at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant barely noticeable due to dense intervening vegetation. The effect will be long term. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP20	D	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Proposed Development at Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant which is a distant feature on an area of higher ground albeit within a small portion of this distant view which already

Viewpoint	LCA	
		includes numerous industrial elements. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with additional structures, especially to the eastern part of the Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant development site partially visible within a small portion of this distant view. The change will be visible only along sections of the R314 road or nearby dwellings where there are no roadside hedgerows or hedgerows have been cut to a low height or no intervening topography. As mitigation screen planting to the perimeter of the site matures both existing and proposed structures will be mostly screened. The effect will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral at year 15.
VP21	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. A small section of hedgerow will be removed from the view to accommodate the pipeline route. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP22, 23 & 24	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP25	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. A small section of roadside hedgerow will be removed from the view to accommodate the pipeline route. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during operation.

Viewpoint	LCA	
VP26, 27, 28 & 29	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP30	G	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. Existing parkland trees will be protected. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP31	G	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction

Viewpoint	LCA	
		The Proposed Development will not be visible due to intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change will be no change. Operation The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be to be neutral during construction and operation.
VP32	G	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. Existing parkland trees will be protected. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP33	G	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP34	G	Sensitivity Medium Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP35, 36 & 37	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.

Viewpoint	LCA	
VP38	G	Sensitivity Medium Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP39	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. A small section of scrub will be removed from the background of the view to accommodate the pipeline route. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP40	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP41	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. A small section of scrub will be removed from the background of the view to accommodate the pipeline route. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP42*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities at the proposed Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station (BPS) site partially screened by intervening hedgerows/ scrub and the effect of distance. There will be temporary/ short term views of

Viewpoint	LCA	
		construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works along the R294 road. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the upper parts of the pumping station building partially visible above intervening hedgerows/ scrub. The change will be visible only along sections of the local road where roadside hedgerows are absent or cut to a low height. Proposed hedge planting to the development will not screen the roof of the proposed pumping station building. Tree planting will filter views of the roof. The change will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at year 15.
VP42a*		Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities at the proposed Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station (BPS) site. There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works along the R294 road. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain partially similar to the existing view with the pumping station building visible in the view. The pumping station building will include a pitched roof and will be small in scale. The change will be visible only along sections of the local road where roadside hedgerows are absent or cut to a low height. Proposed tree and hedge planting to the development will mostly screen the Proposed Development as it matures. The change will be long term.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Opening Year The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at year 15.
VP43*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities at the proposed Bonniconlon BPS site partially screened by intervening hedgerows/ scrub/ trees and the effect of distance. There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works along the R294 road and field within the foreground. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the upper parts of the pumping station building partially visible above intervening hedgerows/ scrub. The change will be visible only along sections of the local road where roadside hedgerows are absent or cut to a low height. Proposed hedge planting to the development will not screen the roof of the proposed pumping station building. Tree planting will filter views of the roof. The change will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at year 15.
VP44*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities at the proposed Bonniconlon BPS site in the middle ground of this view. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with pasture visible in the foreground and a pumping station visible in the middleground of the view. The change will be noticeable along sections of the local road where roadside hedgerows are absent or cut to a low height. Proposed hedge and tree planting to the development will mostly screen the proposed pumping station building as it matures. The change will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse at year 15.
VP45*	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction

Viewpoint	LCA	
		There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities at the proposed Bonniconlon BPS site mostly screened by intervening hedgerows/ scrub/ trees and the effect of distance. The magnitude of change will be minor to negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation The view will remain similar to the existing view with the upper parts of the pumping station building partially visible through intervening hedgerows/ scrub. The change will be visible only along sections of the local road where roadside hedgerows are absent or cut to a low height. Proposed hedge planting to the development will not screen the roof of the proposed pumping station building. The change will be long term. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor to negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor to negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor to negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse to neutral during construction. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor to negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse to neutral at opening year. Given the medium/ high sensitivity and minor to negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse to neutral at year 15.
VP46 & 47	G	Sensitivity Medium/ High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the medium/ high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the medium/ high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP48*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term open views of construction activities at the proposed Bonniconlon Reservoir site in this view. There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will be visible as the proposed reservoir will be sited partially above existing ground level. The proposed pipeline will not be visible as it will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. Existing scrub planting to the north of the site will be retained and a new hedge will be planted to the western and southern boundary of the site. The hedge planting as it matures will screen the proposed reservoir. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during year 15.
VP49*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening vegetation and topography. The magnitude of change will be no change. Operation

Viewpoint	LCA	
		The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be to be neutral during construction and operation.
VP50	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. Existing planting to the boundary of the Bonniconlon Reservoir site in this view will be retained. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP51*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. Existing planting to the boundary of the Bonniconlon Reservoir site in this view will be retained. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP52	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. Some existing scrub and trees will be removed from this view. The magnitude of change will be negligible. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP53	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. There will be temporary/ short term long distant barely perceptible views of construction activities associated with the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. Due to distance the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will not be visible. The magnitude of change will be negligible. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP54*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. There will be temporary/ short term long distant views of construction activities associated with the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the proposed pipeline will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. On opening year there will be some perceptible changes the to the small area of reinstated blanket bog at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank as vegetation will not have established. At year 15 the reinstated blanket bog will be fully established and blend in with the surrounding areas. Due to distance and intervening topography, the kiosks and fencing at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be barely perceptible. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during year 15.
VP55*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. There will be temporary/ short term distant views of construction

Viewpoint	LCA	
		activities associated with the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the proposed pipeline will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. On opening year there will be some perceptible changes the to the small area of reinstated blanket bog at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank as vegetation will not have established. At year 15 the reinstated blanket bog will be fully established and blend in with the surrounding areas. Due to distance and intervening topography the kiosks and fencing at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be barely perceptible. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during year 15.
VP56	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term barely perceptible distant views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. Due to distance and intervening topography the construction activities associated with the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be barely perceptible. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. Due to distance and intervening topography the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be barely perceptible. The magnitude of change will be negligible. Significance

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during construction. Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP57*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term distant views of construction activities associated with the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation On opening year there will be some barely perceptible changes to the small area of reinstated blanket bog at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank as vegetation will not have established. At year 15 the reinstated blanket bog will be fully established and blend in with the surrounding areas. Due to distance and intervening topography the kiosks and fencing at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be barely perceptible. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during year 15.
VP58*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short-term close-range views of construction activities associated with the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank and water pipeline. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Operation On opening year there will be some perceptible changes to the area of reinstated blanket bog at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank as vegetation will not have established. At year 15 the reinstated blanket bog will be fully established and blend in with the surrounding areas. Due to the short distance, above ground elements such as kiosks and fencing at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be perceptible. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during year 15.
VP59*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening topography. The magnitude of change will be no change. Operation The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening topography. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be to be neutral during construction and operation.
VP60	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction

Viewpoint	LCA	
		There will be temporary/ short-term close-range views of construction activities associated with the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation On opening year there will be some perceptible changes to the area of reinstated blanket bog at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank as vegetation will not have established. At year 15 the reinstated blanket bog will be fully established and blend in with the surrounding areas. Due to the short distance, above ground elements such as kiosks and fencing at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be perceptible. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during year 15.
VP61*	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term distant views of construction activities associated with the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation On opening year there will be some barely perceptible changes to the small area of reinstated blanket bog at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank as vegetation will not have established. At year 15 the reinstated blanket bog will be fully established and blend in with the surrounding areas. Due to distance and intervening topography, the kiosks and fencing at the proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank will be barely perceptible. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Year 15 The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during year 15.
VP62	H	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening topography. The magnitude of change will be no change. Operation The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening topography. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be to be neutral during construction and operation.
VP63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68	H, S	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation Once completed the Proposed Development will not be visible as the water pipeline will be underground and surfaces will be reinstated. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the high sensitivity and no change magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP69*	S	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short-term close-range views of construction activities associated with the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant and water pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation On opening year some existing structures will be demolished and removed from the view. The new reservoir and solar panels on its roof will be mostly screened by intervening topography and vegetation. A hedgerow will also be planted along the fenceline within this view. At year 15 the hedge along the fence line will be fully established and screen the fence and the overall view will be enhanced compared to the baseline. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be beneficial. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be beneficial. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight beneficial during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate beneficial during year 15.
VP70*	S	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term distant views of some construction activities associated with the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. However, most construction activities will be screened by dense intervening vegetation and topography. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Operation The proposed development will be mostly screened by intervening topography and vegetation. The magnitude of change will be negligible. The direction of change will be adverse. Significance Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP71	S	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening topography and vegetation. The magnitude of change will be no change. Operation The Proposed Development will not be visible due to the effect of intervening topography and vegetation. The magnitude of change will be no change. Significance Given the high sensitivity and negligible magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during operation.
VP72*	S	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short-term close-range views of construction activities associated with the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant and water pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be moderate. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation On opening year some existing structures will be demolished and removed from the view and replaced with new structures including the proposed reservoir and solar panels on the roof of the proposed reservoir. The extent of the new structures will be similar to the existing view. A hedgerow will also be planted along the fenceline within this view but won't initially when immature enhance the view. At year 15 the hedge along the fence line will be fully established and the overall view will be enhanced compared to the baseline. Opening Year

Viewpoint	LCA	
		The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be neutral. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be beneficial. Significance Given the high sensitivity and moderate magnitude, the significance of the effect will be moderate adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight beneficial during year 15.
VP73*	S	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term distant views of construction activities associated with the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant and water pipeline works. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation On opening year some existing structures will be demolished and removed from the view and replaced with new structures including the proposed reservoir and solar panels on the roof of the proposed reservoir. The extent of the new structures will be similar to the existing view. A hedgerow will also be planted along the fenceline within this view but won't initially when immature enhance the view. At year 15 the hedge along the fence line will be fully established and the overall view will be enhanced compared to the baseline. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be neutral. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be beneficial. Significance Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during opening year.

Viewpoint	LCA	
		Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight beneficial during year 15.
VP74*	S	Sensitivity High Magnitude Construction There will be temporary/ short term views of construction activities associated with the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant in the middleground of this view and mostly restricted to the area of the existing Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant. The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be adverse. Operation On opening year there will be open views of the proposed development, where some structures will be removed from the view and new structures such as the reservoir added to the view, but overall the size and extent of built development within the view will be similar to the baseline view. At year 15 the intervening forestry planting will have grown, and the development will be barely perceptible due to screening. Opening Year The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change will be neutral. Year 15 The magnitude of change will be minor. The direction of change is considered beneficial due to screening by forestry planting. Significance Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight adverse during construction. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be neutral during opening year. Given the high sensitivity and minor magnitude, the significance of the effect will be slight beneficial during year 15.

Notes:

Landscape Character Area (LCA): G = Northern Drumlins, D = North Coast Plateaux, H = East Uplands, S = Windy Gap to Lough Talt.

*Verified visualisation provided (refer to Appendix 18-1).

18.8 Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures set out below respond to the landscape and visual effects identified in this chapter, including temporary construction-stage effects arising from vegetation removal, pipeline installation, temporary compounds and construction activity, and operational effects associated with new or upgraded above-ground infrastructure.

Landscape planting to all above ground sites has been included within the project design (Refer to Chapter 3: Project Description). Landscaping measures were designed to maximise potential re-use of excavated material where possible (see Chapter 3 – Section 3.6 and CRWMP submitted with the EIAR) and support biodiversity enhancement measures (see Chapter 7 – Biodiversity).

Landscape planting species proposed for screening of the Proposed Development shall be selected having regard to the local climate, degree of exposure, soil characteristics and drainage conditions at each individual site. Species shall be appropriate to the specific growing conditions to promote successful establishment and the long-term effectiveness of the proposed screening.

Vegetation removed to facilitate the underground pipeline and temporary site compounds will be reinstated following completion of the Proposed Development.

Finishes & Materials: Built structures will utilise neutral, finishes and colours appropriate to their specific rural or upland contexts.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels will consist of modern, high-efficiency modules featuring Anti-Reflective Coating (ARC) and textured glass. These specifications ensure that the panels function as dark recessive elements. A Glint and Glare Assessment was undertaken and is provided in Appendix 18-2.

Site-Specific Measures (Windy Gap): Above-ground kiosks at the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank site will be finished in black (RAL 9005 or similar) to recede against the dark tones of the upland peat and vegetation. Fencing at this location will utilise high-transparency fencing to maintain the open character of the site.

The proposed landscape planting to the project will include an initial 3-year post completion establishment maintenance period. The success of planting establishment and landscape management on the site will be checked and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure successful long-term establishment. A detailed Landscape Management Plan (LMP) will be prepared prior to the commencement of construction. This plan will define the specific maintenance operations, replacement protocols for failed planting, and long-term management goals required to achieve the screening and biodiversity benefits.

18.9 Cumulative and Interactive Effects

18.9.1 Cumulative Impact Assessment

The developments listed in Chapter 20: Cumulative Impacts and Interactions were reviewed to identify those with the potential to give rise to cumulative landscape or visual effects with the Proposed Development. The review considered the scale, nature and location of each development, potential intervisibility, shared landscape character and visual receptors, and the potential for construction or operational effects to occur at the same time or in close succession.

The developments with the greatest potential to interact with the Proposed Development are the larger industrial, energy, quarry / inert recovery and data centre developments in the wider Killala / Lisglennon area, including the data centre development at Mullafarry and Tawnaghmore Upper (Ref. 2460708 / ACP Ref. 322575), the anaerobic digestion facility and associated gas pipeline near Lisglennon and the R314 corridor (Refs. 313975 / 2193), quarry / inert recovery developments at Mullafarry (Refs. 319173 / 2360182, 21342, 211284 and 21708), and energy-related

developments at Tawnaghmore / Killala (Refs. 2012, 18358, 2560108, 2360134 and 2360266). The Glenree to Moy 110 kV overhead line uprate (Ref. 2360261) and the permitted upland wind / communications infrastructure in the Bonniconlon, Windy Gap and wider Mayo / Sligo upland context (Refs. 317560, 21881 and 21581) were also considered relevant to the landscape and visual cumulative assessment. These developments are identified in the Chapter 20 cumulative development list.

In the Killala / Lisglennon area, the relevant developments are located within a landscape context already influenced by industrial, quarrying and energy-related land uses, including Killala Business Park, Tawnaghmore Power Station, Killala Wind Farm and quarrying activity. Although these developments may contribute to some further intensification of industrial and infrastructure character locally, they are spatially separated from Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant and Lisglennon Raw Water Storage and Pumping Station. In some longer-distance views, such as from the R314, Lisglennon Water Treatment Plant and the wider Killala / Tawnaghmore industrial and energy cluster may be visible within the same broad panorama; however, they are generally perceived as separate elements, with intervening rural landform, vegetation, field boundaries and distance reducing the potential for significant combined or successive visual effects.

Along the underground pipeline route, potential cumulative effects would be limited mainly to temporary construction-stage effects where other developments are located alongside or close to the works and where construction programmes overlap. Following reinstatement, the pipeline would have minimal permanent above-ground expression and would not give rise to significant cumulative operational landscape or visual effects.

In the Bonniconlon / Windy Gap / Lough Talt upland area, the relevant developments include the permitted Bunnyconnellan wind farm development, including associated infrastructure (Ref. 317560), the permitted single wind turbine at Bunnyconnellan East (Ref. 21881), the Glenree to Moy 110 kV overhead line uprate (Ref. 2360261) and the permitted lattice communications structure at Glenree 110 kV Substation (Ref. 21581). These developments have the potential to influence the wider upland landscape and sequential views from roads and recreational routes. However, the Proposed Development in this area is limited in its operational landscape and visual effects. The underground pipeline would be reinstated following installation, the Bonniconlon Reservoir would be partially recessed into the ground and integrated with planting, the Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank would be below-ground with disturbed peat and ground reinstated, and the proposed changes at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant would be located within the context of the existing operational water treatment plant. The Proposed Development would therefore not introduce prominent new vertical or large-scale above-ground elements into the upland landscape and would not materially add to the visible operational infrastructure baseline.

Overall, significant cumulative landscape and visual effects are not anticipated, having regard to the limited operational visibility of the Proposed Development, the temporary nature of construction effects, the progressive construction of the pipeline in discrete sections along the route corridor, and the proposed reinstatement and landscape mitigation measures incorporated into the Proposed Development.

18.9.2 Interactions

Interactions between landscape and visual effects and other environmental aspects of the Proposed Development have been considered as part of this assessment (Table 18-18). The principal interactions relate to environmental topics where construction activity, reinstatement, operation or mitigation may also influence landscape character, visual amenity or the perceptual qualities of the receiving landscape.

No additional significant landscape or visual effects are predicted as a result of interactions between environmental aspects, beyond those already assessed within this chapter and the relevant specialist EIAR chapters.

Table 18-18 — Interactions between Environmental Aspects of the Proposed Development

Interaction	Description

Landscape and Visual / Biodiversity	Interactions arise where vegetation removal, hedgerow planting, woodland and scrub planting, species-rich grassland, blanket bog reinstatement and other landscape mitigation measures also affect habitats, ecological connectivity and biodiversity enhancement. These measures are complementary and have been considered in the landscape mitigation and reinstatement proposals.
Landscape and Visual / Population and Human Health	Interactions arise where landscape and visual effects influence the amenity experienced by residents, recreational users, road users, visitors and local communities. These receptors are considered within the visual assessment through representative viewpoints and receptor based professional judgement.
Landscape and Visual / Cultural Heritage	Interactions arise where landscape and visual changes may also relate to the setting of cultural heritage assets. The principal interaction identified in this assessment relates to Belleek Castle and woodland, where the proposed pipeline route follows an existing track through the wooded estate landscape. The LVIA considers landscape character and visual amenity effects, while any effects on cultural heritage significance or heritage setting are assessed in the Cultural Heritage chapter.

18.10 Residual Effects

This section summarises the residual landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. The tables below are summary tables. They list the residual significance / effect level at each assessment phase and identify whether the effect is significant or not significant in EIAR terms. They should be read in conjunction with the detailed landscape character area and viewpoint assessments.

18.10.1 Residual Landscape Effects

Residual effects on Landscape Character Areas are summarised in Table 18-19.

Table 18-19 — Residual Landscape Character Area Effects

Landscape Character Area	Construction residual significance / effect level	Operation residual significance / effect level	EIAR significance
Area D - North Coast Plateaux (Co. Mayo)	Moderate adverse	Neutral	Construction: Significant Operation: Not significant
Area G - Northern Drumlins (Co. Mayo)	Moderate adverse	Neutral	Construction: Significant Operation: Not significant
Area H - East Mayo Uplands (Co. Mayo)	Moderate adverse	Neutral	Construction: Significant Operation: Not significant
Windy Gap to Lough Talt (Co. Sligo)	Moderate adverse	Neutral	Construction: Significant Operation: Not significant

18.10.2 Residual Visual Effects

Residual visual effects for all representative viewpoints are summarised in Table 18-20.

Table 18-20 — Residual Visual Effects at Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Construction residual significance / effect level	Operation / opening year residual significance / effect level	Year 15 residual significance / effect level	Significant / not significant in EIAR terms
VP1*	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP2	Slight adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP3*	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP4*	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP5	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP6*	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Significant Year 15: Not significant
VP7	Slight adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP8*	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Significant Year 15: Not significant
VP9*	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP10	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP11	Moderate adverse	Neutral	Minor beneficial	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP12	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP13	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP14	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP15	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Significant Year 15: Not significant
VP16*	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant

Viewpoint	Construction residual significance / effect level	Operation / opening year residual significance / effect level	Year 15 residual significance / effect level	Significant / not significant in EIAR terms
				Opening year: Significant Year 15: Not significant
VP17	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP18	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP19	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP20	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Neutral	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP21	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP22, 23 & 24	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP25	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP26, 27, 28 & 29	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP30	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP31	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP32	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP33	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP34	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP35, 36 & 37	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP38	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP39	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant

Viewpoint	Construction residual significance / effect level	Operation / opening year residual significance / effect level	Year 15 residual significance / effect level	Significant / not significant in EIAR terms
				Opening year: Not significant
VP40	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP41	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP42*	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP42a*	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Significant Year 15: Not significant
VP43*	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP44*	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP45*	Slight adverse to neutral	Slight adverse to neutral	Slight adverse to neutral	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP46 & 47	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP48*	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Neutral	Construction: Significant Opening year: Significant Year 15: Not significant
VP49*	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP50	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP51*	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP52	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP53	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP54*	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Neutral	Construction: Significant

Viewpoint	Construction residual significance / effect level	Operation / opening year residual significance / effect level	Year 15 residual significance / effect level	Significant / not significant in EIAR terms
				Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP55*	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Neutral	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP56	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP57*	Slight adverse	Neutral	Neutral	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP58*	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP59*	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP60	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Construction: Significant Opening year: Significant Year 15: Not significant
VP61*	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Neutral	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP62	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68	Moderate adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant
VP69*	Moderate adverse	Slight beneficial	Moderate beneficial	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Significant
VP70*	Slight adverse	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP71	Neutral	Neutral	N/A	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant
VP72*	Moderate adverse	Neutral	Slight beneficial	Construction: Significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP73*	Slight adverse	Neutral	Slight beneficial	Construction: Not significant

Viewpoint	Construction residual significance / effect level	Operation / opening year residual significance / effect level	Year 15 residual significance / effect level	Significant / not significant in EIAR terms
				Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant
VP74*	Slight adverse	Neutral	Slight beneficial	Construction: Not significant Opening year: Not significant Year 15: Not significant

Notes: * indicates viewpoints with verified visualisations. Where a separate Year 15 effect was not reported in the assessment, the operational effect is listed in the Operation / opening year column and the Year 15 column records N/A.

18.11 Monitoring Requirements

The proposed landscape planting to the project will include an initial 3-year post completion establishment maintenance period. The success of planting establishment and landscape management on the site will be checked and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure successful long-term establishment. A Landscape Management Plan (LMP) will be implemented for a minimum period of three years following completion of the works. Monitoring will include annual inspections of planting establishment, replacement of failed planting, and management of boundary vegetation to ensure the effectiveness of visual screening and landscape integration.

18.12 Do-Nothing scenario

In the Do-Nothing Scenario, the Proposed Development would not be constructed, and the existing landscape and visual baseline would remain broadly as described in Section 18.4, subject to gradual change arising from existing land use, permitted development, agricultural and forestry activity, vegetation growth and landscape management. No temporary construction-related landscape or visual effects would occur, including those associated with excavation, construction plant, traffic management, vegetation clearance or reinstatement. No new or upgraded above-ground water supply infrastructure would be introduced, and no associated landscape planting or screening mitigation would be implemented. Accordingly, the landscape and visual effects associated with the Proposed Development would not arise, and the receiving landscape would continue to evolve as described in Section 18.4.2.

18.13 Conclusion and Summary

This chapter has assessed the likely landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. The receiving landscape comprises a varied sequence of rural lowland, and upland landscapes, including Area D North Coast Plateaux, Area G Northern Drumlins, Area H East Mayo Uplands and the Windy Gap to Lough Talt landscape in County Sligo. Construction effects would be temporary and short-term, arising mainly from excavation, construction plant, temporary working areas, traffic management and reinstatement works associated with the pipeline and above-ground infrastructure sites. These works are assessed as giving rise to Moderate Adverse landscape effects across the landscape character areas during construction.

During operation, the underground pipeline would not be visible following reinstatement, and permanent change would be limited primarily to new or upgraded above-ground water supply infrastructure. With embedded mitigation, reinstatement and landscape planting, operational effects on landscape character are assessed as Neutral and not significant. Visual effects would be most noticeable during construction for nearby residents, road users, recreational users and visitors close to the pipeline corridor and above-ground sites, with a number of temporary Moderate Adverse

effects identified. During operation, visual effects would generally reduce to Neutral or Slight Adverse as works are completed, surfaces reinstated and planting establishes. Some localised opening-year visual effects would remain close to above-ground infrastructure, but these would reduce as mitigation planting matures. Overall, following reinstatement and establishment of mitigation planting, no significant adverse long-term landscape or visual effects are anticipated.

18.14 Difficulties encountered during preparation of this chapter

No difficulties were encountered in the preparation of this chapter.

18.15 References

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