

# Appendices

## Appendix 9

### Draft Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)



# 2021

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# LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

Draft Report May 2021



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This report has been prepared by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid. This report is prepared for South Dublin County Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

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# 1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

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## 1.1. INTRODUCTION

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Minogue and Associates were commissioned by South Dublin County Council to update the Landscape Character Assessment of the county. The full county LCA was undertaken in 2015 to inform the South Dublin County Development Plan 2015-2021. In 2020, SDCC commissioned a review of this LCA with the following objectives:

- Review of existing county LCA to assess and describe any significant changes since 2015. This relates primarily to new landuse zonings in the intervening period.
- Review, assess and evaluate existing Views and Prospects in South Dublin CDP plus additional ones identified through 2015 LCA Study
- Liaison and consultation with the SDCC forward planning team and project team preparing the County Green Infrastructure Strategy

## 1.2 LANDSCAPE AS A RESOURCE AND VISUAL AMENITY

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The European Landscape Convention (ELC) 2000 defines landscape as: *“an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”* In the ELC, it is not only landscapes recognised as being special or valuable, but also the ‘everyday’ landscapes where people live, work, and play and applies to rural, townscapes and seascapes. The definition of landscape as enshrined in the ELC is included in the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010. In the most recent professional guidance<sup>1</sup>, the various functions of landscapes are highlighted in Box A:

### BOX A: LANDSCAPE AS A RESOURCE

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Landscape is:

A shared resource –important in its own right as public good;

The Environment for biodiversity, flora & fauna:

The Setting for day to day lives;

An Opportunity for aesthetic enjoyment;

A Sense of place and history, contributes to identity (individual, local, national & European);

A Continuity with past through landscapes relative permanence and its role as a cultural record of past;

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2013; Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

### 1.3 BENEFITS OF GOOD LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

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Landscape management allows a range of different interests and resources to be strategically planned for, enhanced, supported and developed. The aim of landscape character assessment is to recognise what makes an area distinctive and often this is a combination of community and people's history within an area, and how they interact with the natural environment.

By acknowledging what makes an area distinctive, management can allow for the retention and enhancement of those characteristics and ensure future development activities reflect these characteristics whether they be urban parkland, agricultural landuse, stone walls or historical landscapes.

The identity of an area and knowing what defines in area in landscape terms can be very useful in promoting an area, whether at county or smaller scale; it can be an promotional tool for attracting investment (an attractive place to work), to support tourism development (highlighting historical features or access to high quality recreational and natural heritage areas), as well as creating a sense of place and providing a good quality environment and living space for residents in the county. The latter can be provided for by ensuring that new developments reflect and relate local landscape character; ultimately landscape character assessment encourages diversity and helps to stop everywhere looking the same, homogenous and with little local identity or sense of place.

South Dublin County has a particular responsibility for landscape management as it provides the western and southern backdrop to the capital and greater Dublin area. The foothills and mountains frame the large metropolitan area and provide an important natural and recreational area for thousands of inhabitants and visitors to Dublin. The significance of these uplands is reflected in the archaeological record and shows the importance of these uplands from earliest human activity in this county. The rural, quiet, agricultural and wild character of these areas is a massive advantage for South Dublin County, and retaining this character through appropriate policies is essential.

Further west the limestone soils of the county provide a natural, green, agricultural buffer between the heavily urbanised east and the more rural midlands of Ireland. These landscapes also provide a variety of functions from the very important role of food production serving the immediate city and beyond; these are highly productive soils and should be recognised as such. By aligning local landscape character with food production, the producer can also add value to agricultural products; there are plenty of examples of this working both in Ireland and beyond (eg; Achill lamb, the West Cork Fuschia food label, the UK Countryside Agency Eat the View programme).

Finally, the river valleys, both the more intact River Liffey valley in the north, but also the River Dodder provide both landscape interest, a further area for natural and cultural heritage enjoyment and ecological diversity.

Landscape is one of the key attributes in what makes an area attractive, this landscape character assessment provides the evidence base upon which to enhance and promote the significant landscape resource within South Dublin County.

### 1.4 METHODOLOGY

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#### 1.4.1 DESKTOP REVIEW AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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The following statutory framework, guidelines and supporting documents have been informed the preparation of this report:

**TABLE 1A: STATUTORY FRAMEWORK AND PRINCIPAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS**

European	National	Regional/ County
<b>European Landscape Convention</b>	Planning and Development (amendment) Act 2010 National Landscape Strategy 2014 Landscape and Landscape Assessment, consultation draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2000. Department of Environment and Local Government. Wind Energy Development Guidelines, 2006	Greater Dublin Regional Planning Guidelines, 2010-2020  South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016 South Dublin County Heritage Plan 2010 -2015
<b>Supporting documents and research</b>		
<b>Heritage Council Review of Section 28 Wind Energy Guidelines, 2013</b>	Making Sense of Place- Landscape Character Assessment Guidance, 2002. Countryside Agency (now Natural England).	Scoping of Wind Farm Proposals, Assessment of Impact on the Setting of the Historic Environment Resource Some General Considerations. Historic Scotland, 2007
<b>ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties 2011</b>	Wind Energy and the Historic Environment, English Heritage, 2005	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, 2013; Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

The Vision underpinning the NLS is as follows:

*Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning*

Six objectives underpin the vision and include preparation of national landscape character assessment, development of landscape policies, increased awareness and training and increasing public participation. A series of actions are developed for each objective. Essentially a policy framework for landscape management in Ireland, it is hoped that the NLS will provide the appropriate mechanism to advance and coordinate landscape management in Ireland.

A desktop review of the above documents in addition to archaeological, historical, ecological and cultural sources was undertaken. A full bibliography is provided at the end of this main report.

A Geographical Information System was established for the identification of landscape character types, assist in the identification of the Landscape Character Areas, the historic landscape characterisation and more detailed analysis of landscape resources. A full list of datasets used in provided in Annex B.

#### 1.4.2 IDENTIFICATON OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

Following the GIS analysis, Landscape Character Types (LCTs) were developed for the county. These were verified through fieldwork over February 2015. Fieldwork also reviewed the existing Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified in the current South Dublin CDP 2010-2015.

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### 1.4.3 IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE TYPES

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The HLC exercise follows the Heritage Council's published best practice guidance on historic landscape characterisation in Ireland.<sup>2</sup> This methodology sets out the rationale behind any HLC study and how to undertake one in four stages A-D. This HLC project is intended as an integrated strand of a Landscape Character Assessment project (LCA) of South Dublin County on behalf of the client- South Dublin County Council- and for the local authority's future use, for example in its review and updating of its County Development Plan, which will be subject to public consultation. The HLC project could be considered to be large sub-county scale, covering South Dublin, which is broadly coterminous with the baronies of Newcastle and Uppercross. The baseline data used in this HLC project has been outlined below. It has been agreed with the client, South Dublin County Council, that, due to time and budget constraints, this study would undertake stages A and B of the best practice document. Other stages may be carried out at a future date. Stage A involves defining the overall rationale for the HLC project and Stage B involves the mapping and description of the data collected.<sup>3</sup> The whole study area has been considered in the same level of detail for the purpose of this stage A and B HLC. It is suggested that future analyses may choose to consider specific areas of the HLC for more detailed work, for example, the towns and villages of the region in a specific townscape assessment, or the uplands of South Dublin. An excellent example of this approach is the detailed historical character assessment that has already been undertaken for Newcastle (Lyons).<sup>4</sup> This HLC has taken the approach of defining HLC through the use of past resource management units, the barony, parish and townland approach, as this is the method that archaeological monuments are currently recorded and described (Lambrick *et al* 2013, 26).<sup>5</sup>

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### 1.4.4 IDENTIFICATION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

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Following the development of LCTs for the county, fieldwork was undertaken in February 2015 by members of the study team; a two day county wide assessment was undertaken by environmental consultant, archaeologist and landscape architects. Thereafter, more focused fieldwork was undertaken using specially tailored field survey forms. The purpose of this was to update/refresh the existing LCA boundaries and ascertain their validity in the field. This work led to a considerable restructuring of the LCA boundaries and a refinement of the LCAs to better reflect landscape level areas, rather than previous iterations which included parts of townscape and parks as separate LCAs.

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### 1.4.5 DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY TO DEVELOPMENT TYPES

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A key requirement of this brief was to provide South Dublin County Council with an evidence base upon which to develop appropriate policies and recommendations in the review of the County

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<sup>2</sup> Lambrick *et al* 2013

<sup>3</sup> Lambrick *et al* 2013, 18-42.

<sup>4</sup> McDermott and Lyons 2011.

<sup>5</sup> It is acknowledged that there are other approaches to defining HLC, see Lambrick *et al* 2013, pp. 25-26.

Development Plan. From discussions with the council and our research and fieldwork, a number of key issues emerged – rural development, the uplands and wind energy. In addition, we identified the issue of urban pressure and sprawl and a relatively weak landscape identity of the county as other landscape character issues. In order to provide useful and workable advice, the team reviewed best practice from within and outside Ireland and developed landscape sensitivity assessments and thereafter capacity assessments. At the landscape level the sensitivity and capacity of each LCA and LCT to overall development was thereby assessed.

Following from, this the team provided a series of recommendations/mitigation measures for each LCA and LCT based on the above assessment.

Wind Energy sensitivity and capacity is well researched and now follow a generally agreed approach in terms of landscape character sensitivity and capacity; therefore another exercise was undertaken, again on LCA basis, to advise in terms of wind energy, sensitivity, and capacity within the County.

Finally, the updated research in 2020 reviewed a number of existing views and scenic routes and made a series of recommendations in relation to same.

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## 1.5 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

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The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- Section Two: Evolution of South Dublin County's Landscapes
- Section Three: Present Day Landscapes of South Dublin County-Landscape Character Types
- Section Four: Relict Landuse Types
- Section Five: A presentation of each Landscape Character Area
- Section Six: Recommendations for Landscape Character Types
- Section Seven: Landscape Character Sensitivity and Landscape Character Capacity for each LCA – overall development
- Section Eight: Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity relating to wind energy development
- Section Nine: Scenic Qualities
- Section Ten: Key Recommendations
- Glossary of Terms
- Bibliography
- Annex A: Detailed landscape sensitivity and capacity assessment for LCAs and LCTS
- Annex B: Survey sheets for views and prospects.
- Annex C: GIS Datasets

## 2 EVOLUTION OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY'S LANDSCAPE.

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

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In order to understand the landscapes within the county, it is necessary to outline the physical and historical influences that have created the contemporary landscape.

The interplay between geology, glaciation, soil formation, hydrology and ecology has formed the basic materials upon which human activities have impacted. This is, however, a constant interrelationship – humans need to access freshwater, and the preference for farming on good well-drained land has influenced the pattern and distribution of human activities in the county over the past several millennia. Although human habitation and activity has been the most recent landscape influence, in many ways it has been the most profound influence. Patterns of land ownership, settlements, agricultural and ritual activities have all been modified in response to local environmental conditions. A description of the physical landscape of the county is presented below and is then followed by an overview and analysis of human activities within the landscape from prehistoric to contemporary times.

### 2.2 PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

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#### 2.2.1 SOLID GEOLOGY

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South Dublin County contains three main geological areas. The oldest of these are volcanic and sedimentary rocks formed on the ancient sea floors of the Iapetus Ocean around 470 to 440 million years ago (Ordovician volcanic rocks and Silurian sedimentary rocks). These rocks are found in the foothills of the south western part of the county including Athgoe and Saggart Hills.

Following the closing of the Iapetus Ocean at the end of the Silurian period (around 419 million years ago), slates, greywacke's and shales were deposited along the very south eastern boundary of South Dublin County. Associated with the closure of the Iapetus was the collision of two ancient continents Avalonia and Laurentia; this resulted in a period of mountain building called the Caledonian orogeny. These mountains can be seen today stretching from Newfoundland and the Appalachians to NW Ireland, Scotland and Scandinavia.

This mountain building period uplifted these shales and slates at the end of the Silurian Period and thereafter large masses of granite were injected into the underlying crust during the Devonian Period around 405 million years ago. The uplands of South Dublin County form the northern end of the Leinster batholith, which is the largest area of upland granite in the British Isles. The mountains of Corrig, Seefingan, Kilakee and Kippure mountains are all such examples. Granite stone is a feature of buildings and entrances particularly in the southern part of the county, examples include the Whitechurch at Kilmashogue.

In line with much of the central plain of Ireland, the lower lying parts of South Dublin County comprise the Carboniferous limestone largely formed from the calcareous shells or skeletons of marine organisms that lived around 340 million years ago; these are faulted against the older rocks along the base of the mountains, and form a very different landscape. These limestone rocks were deposited in what was then a deep marine basin, forming a muddy limestone that underlies much of County Dublin. It is known as Calp limestone and is quarried today around South Dublin County, most notably at the largest limestone quarry in the country at Belgard Quarry. This Calp limestone has also been used extensively in buildings throughout Dublin, examples including the Church of the Immaculate Conception and St Killian's, Clondalkin village. Figure 1 shows the bedrock geology South Dublin County.

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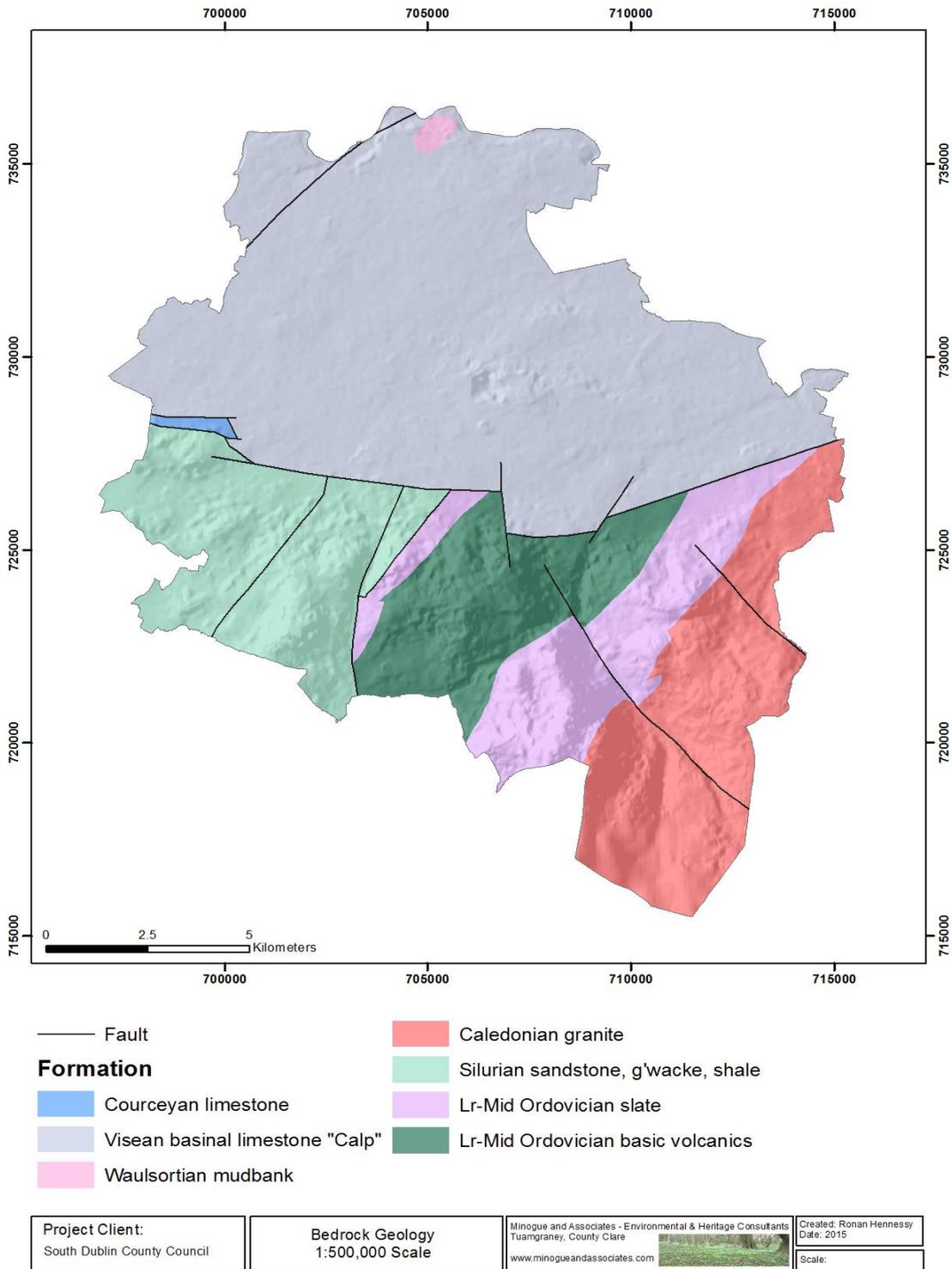


FIGURE 1 BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

## 2.2.2 GLACIATION

Of equal significance in shaping the landscape were the periods of glaciation that saw extensive areas of Ireland covered by ice sheets. These had a profound impact on the landscape and largely created the landform we see today.

The Midlandian glaciation (79,000 to 13,000 years ago) involved the movement of advancing and retreating ice sheets; on the lower lying areas of the county, the primary influence of glaciation was the deposit of drift sheets; while the uplands were subject to more erosion, creating glacial features such as valleys, corries and hanging valleys that create dramatic mountain landscapes. Glenasmole is one such example of a glacial valley with the river Dodder modifying the valley further over the past several thousand years.

Within the lower lying areas, as ice sheets melted away, glacial deposits of sands and gravels were deposited at the edges of ice margins including the hummocks and hills associated with Brittas and on the Regional Road R114 –these gravels are now quarried close by at Ballinascorney Quarry.

Other features associated with glacial deposits include eskers; The Greenhills esker includes large deposits of sands and gravels that were deposited under the ice sheet and its margins as the ice retreated northwest across Dublin at the end of the last Ice Age. Although much of the Greenhills esker has been removed by quarrying, intact portions presenting as a ridge over flatter landscape can be identified at Tymon Lane and close to the M50. The other esker present within the County is the Lucan Esker, which again shows the retreat of the ice sheet north westward, and has been extensively quarried throughout history. However, intact portions can be seen close to Esker Glebe in Griffeen Valley Park and at the Vesey Estate close to the Griffeen River.

Eskers have particular historical resonance. Greenhills is named after the hills that formed the esker, and the siting of Tymon Castle on top of the highest hills of the esker shows the importance of this elevated ridge for viewing across the wider area. Today the park ranger’s station for Tymon Park is located at the same site. Figure 2 shows the original Tymon Castle. The Lucan Esker also influenced the local landscape –Griffeen Road now follows the alignment of the original esker, and townlands around Lucan include Esker North and South.

FIGURE 2 TYMON CASTLE, EIGHTEENTH CENTURY PAINTING BY GABRIEL BERANGER (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)



Glacial processes and their legacy remain under the ground, with investigations around Newcastle showing that the modern landscape overlies a former extensive river system with large areas of gravel present.

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### 2.2.3 TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE

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Having been so heavily influenced by glaciation, the topography of the county varies from the flatter, low- lying western areas of the county where ground elevations range

from 50 to 80m OD to the highest summit in the County at Seefingan 724m OD. Generally, the western areas of the county are low-lying and gently undulating, with little variation in topography. With the change in geology, the foothills and uplands become increasingly prominent as one travels southwards, starting with Athgoe Hill ((177m OD) and ranging through foothills such as Saggart Hill (395m OD), Knockannavaa (396m OD) and increasing elevation to the uplands proper with summits such as Ballymorefin (525m OD) and Seefingan.

The northern area of the county is heavily influenced by the river valley of the Liffey and this creates an enclosed, incised valley feature, particularly from Lucan to Palmerstown; although the slopes and ridges associated with the valley are not especially high- rising to only around 40 or 50m OD-, the incised character of the river valley increases the scenic quality of the valley in the area.

In terms of drainage, two rivers in particular, the Liffey and Dodder, have had a particular influence on the landscape of the county, modifying the landform and influencing the settlement history in the area.

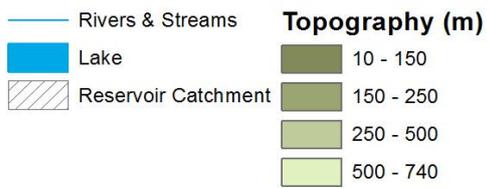
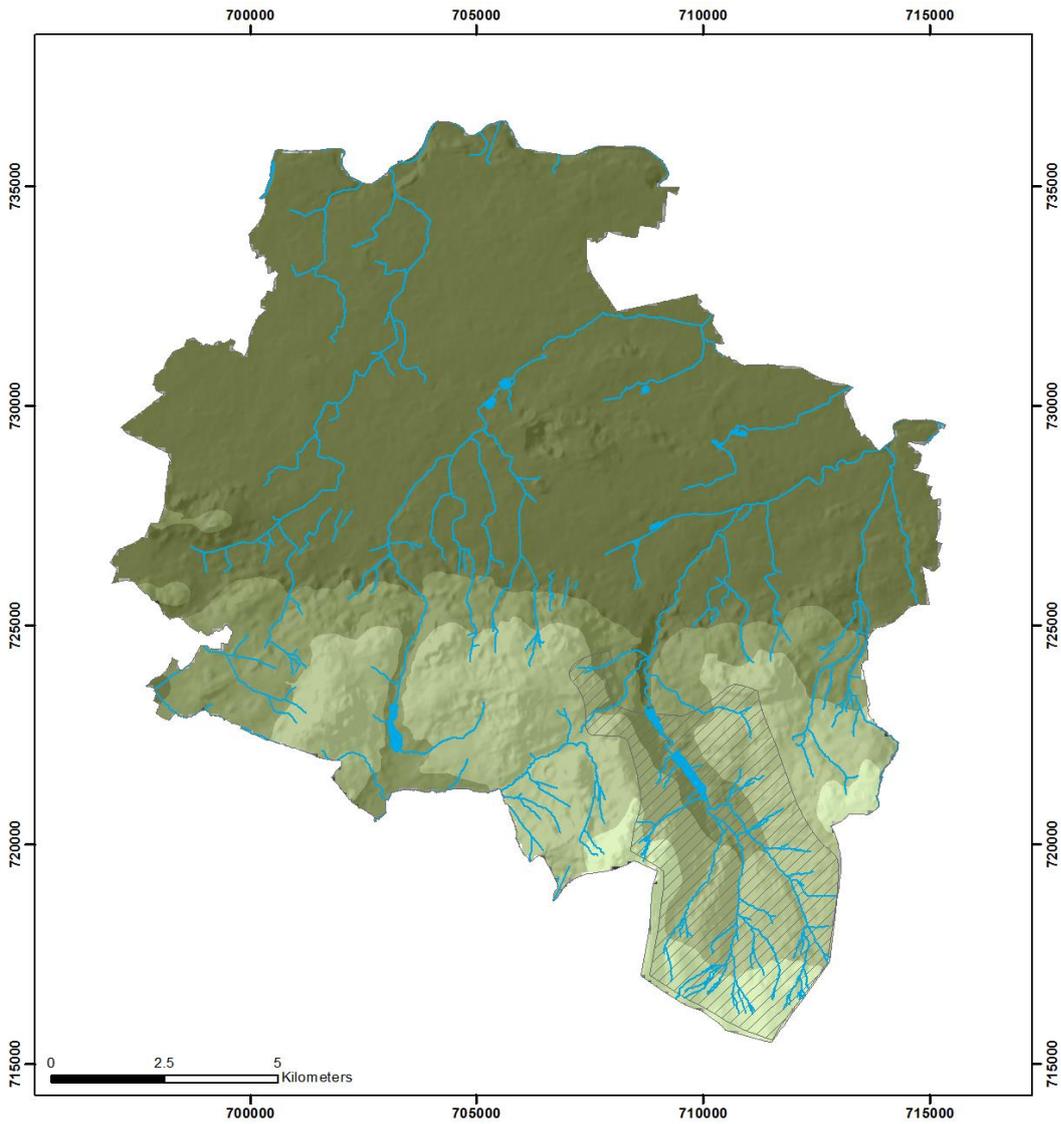
The River Liffey rises in Kippure in County Wicklow and flows around the mountains before turning eastwards and meeting the salt waters at Islandbridge in Dublin city. It is approximately 100km in length and has had a profound impact on settlement patterns and development in the Leinster region. The Liffey reservoir forms part of the western boundary of the county and then the northern boundary separating Fingal and Dublin City along the Liffey valley and Strawberry Beds.

The River Dodder also rises in Kippure and is approximately 26km long. It forms a reservoir system that is a key supplier of water to Dublin at Glenasmole; it runs through Tallaght, then Rathfarnham and enters the Liffey estuary at Ringsend in Dublin City. Numerous tributaries drain into the Dodder, including the Tallaght stream, the Owendoher, the Whitechurch, little Dargle and Dundrum Slang.

The Camac River, although almost as long as the Dodder, is less visible at landscape level throughout the county. Rising at Mountseskin in the foothills, it flows through another glaciated valley known as the Slade of Saggart, then runs southwest of Tallaght, through Corkagh Demense and onto Clondalkin. It ultimately joins the Liffey upstream of Heuston Station. The Griffeen River rises on Saggart Hill, traverses northwards and flows under the Grand Canal entering the Liffey at the Lucan weir.

The mountains with the numerous streams and tributaries of these major rivers represent a very significant watershed, fulfil numerous ecological functions, and contribute to local landscape character. They offer recreational opportunities from urban river parklands to walking and angling; they are also essential ecological corridors throughout the South County area providing refuge areas for wildlife and commuting routes for a number of species.

Finally, although manmade, the Grand Canal traverses the county westwards and provides an important recreational and ecological route across the county. Figure 3 presents the topography and main water features in the County.



**Project Client:**  
South Dublin County Council

**Bedrock Geology**  
1:500,000 Scale

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Created: Ronan Hennessy  
Date: 2015  
Scale:

FIGURE 3 TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

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## 2.2.4 SOILS AND HABITATS

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The various soils found in South Dublin County have developed from a combination of factors, primarily the geological parent material, climate and topography. The three main geological areas have given rise over time to three principal soil types though clearly at more local level these are more varied and have been subjected to agricultural activities for hundreds of years.

The upland areas and hills generally comprise peaty soils. This forms blanket bog habitat on the upper slopes of Seefingan and Corrig Mountain. Coarse loamy drift with siliceous stones are present around Glenasmole valley and the hills surrounding it. Loamy soils cover much of the foothills and lower hills in South Dublin County. These belong to the Brown Podzols soil group. The remaining soil type in the county are the productive soils associated with the limestone bedrock, called fine loamy drift with limestones. These cover the lowlands up to the county boundary around the River Liffey. Alluvial soils are present at the Rivers Liffey and Dodder.

The habitats and fauna associated with this area have a long environmental history. The last cold phase was the Midlandian cold stage around 79,000 years ago where ice sheets formed and spread from two main centres in the north and midlands of the country with ice caps forming in the Wicklow Mountains. An area south of these mountains and in the southwest of the country were ice free and functioned as a refuge for plants and animals. Some 13,000 years ago, the ice sheets had melted and Ireland entered what is called the Woodgrange phase with the growth of sorrels, grasses and dwarf willow. Juniper and birch grew subsequently.

*'In those days the Irish landscape must have approximated that of arctic tundra with a smattering of birch woodland and juniper scattered over the ground'<sup>6</sup>*

However a subsequent cold phase killed off these pioneering species. Permafrost developed on the lowland with scattered plant cover. This later developed into open grasslands, characterised by docks and sedges with the mugwort *Artemisia sp.* common in the pollen record. These grasslands supported the large herbivores including the giant deer and reindeer, remains of which have been found in the Dublin-Wicklow Mountains, most notably at Ballybetagh Bog near Kiltiernan in County Wicklow. A further cold snap reduced the growing season and caused habitat changes which ultimately led to the mega fauna's extinction<sup>7</sup> and killed off much of the postglacial life. The colonisation of the bare soils had to recommence from grasses to shrubs and dwarf trees to woodlands. The rising temperature saw a rapid increase in trees and woodland cover, particularly birch and willow as early colonisers, subsequently followed by hazel, pine, oak/elm and eventually alder and ash.

By 5,000 years ago, the landscape evolved from open tundra to woodlands. The exception to this was the mountains, above the treeline, and bogs and watercourses. At the peak of this woodland climax phases, elm was the commonest tree on the good soils and Lucan is associated with this tree, with one translation of Lucan being '*place of the Elms*'. Kiltalown House in Jobstown in Tallaght is also understood to mean '*Church of the Elms*'.

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<sup>6</sup> Ireland, David Cabot, 1999.

<sup>7</sup> Barnosky, Anthony, D. Quaternary Research Vol 25, 1986

FIGURE 4 ST MAELRUAN'S TREE, TALLAGHT (SDCC LIBRARY)



The arrival of the Neolithic farmers led to profound landscape and environmental change caused by agricultural practices and the reduction in foraging lifestyles. Subsequent settlers to Ireland introduced tree species that we now consider native—examples include lime, hornbeam and sycamore.

The formation of blanket bog in the uplands and mountains provide a multitude of ecological functions in South Dublin County and beyond. These commenced formation around the end of the last ice age and accelerated and expanded above 350m OD contours after 4000-3600 BP<sup>8</sup>. The word bog itself comes from the Irish '*bogach*' meaning soft ground and has been used in the English language since the sixteenth century. Blanket bog forms on upland areas where rainfall levels create waterlogged soils. It is considered that the increase in wetter conditions during the Neolithic period led to the increase in blanket bog formation, though dating of pine and peat samples in the Wicklow mountains varies from around 4000 to 8000 years ago. Native mammal species present included the red deer, wolves, otters, hares and stoats. Mammals were also introduced including rabbit and fallow deer by the Anglo-Normans, and the sika deer introduced by Lord Powerscourt in County Wicklow. These subsequently interbred with the native Wicklow red deer all across the mountains.

Today, a range of habitats are associated with the soil types and historical human activities. These include woodlands, blanket bogs, river systems and improved grassland. The following section discusses habitats that are given statutory protection and more general habitat types, that although undesignated, fulfil a role as stepping stones, refuges and areas of local ecological importance. Figure 5 presents the landcover as identified using Corine data, and areas given statutory protection.

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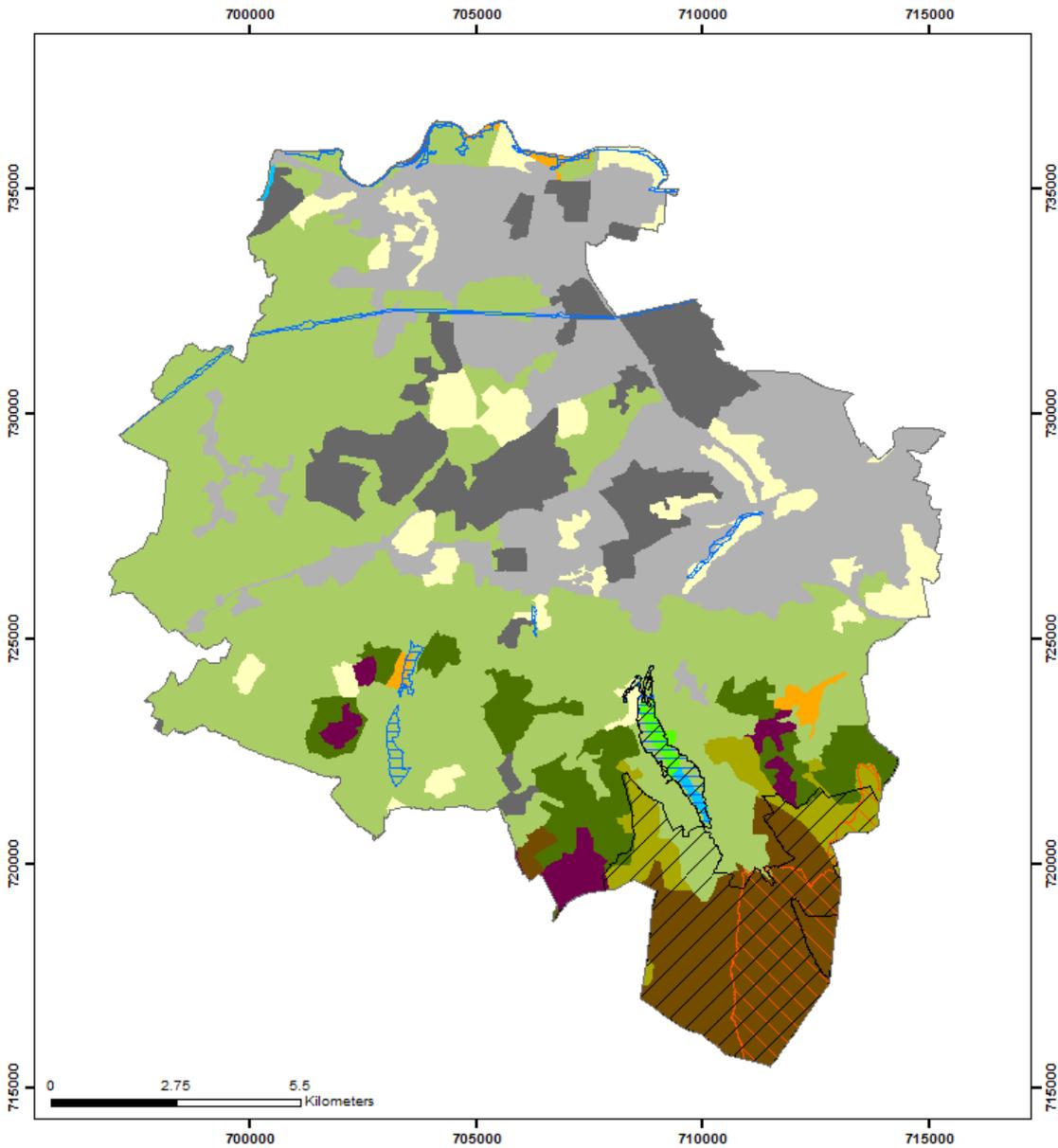
<sup>8</sup> Uplands Archaeology Report REF

Two Special Areas of Conservation are designated in South Dublin County. A number of areas associated with the uplands and hills as well as the river valleys are designated at European or national level.

Wicklow Mountains SAC is an extensive, upland site covering much of the Wicklow Mountains and a portion of the Dublin Mountain range. Within the boundaries of South Dublin County, the SAC encompasses the mountains of Ballymorefinn, Corrig, Kilakee, and Cruagh, stretching south to the summit of Kippure Mountain at the border with County Wicklow. The mountains in South Dublin County generally represent good examples of upland habitats including blanket bog, heath and upland grassland. Several rare, protected plant and animal species also occur in this SAC.

Glenasmole Valley Special Area of Conservation contains three habitats listed on Annex 1 of the EU Habitats directive -petrifying springs with tufa formation, semi - natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (important orchid sites), and *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty, or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinia caeruleae*). Both petrifying springs and orchid-rich calcareous grasslands also qualify as Priority Habitats under the Habitats Directive. The presence of four Red Data Book plant species further enhances the value of the site as does the presence of populations of several mammal and bird species of conservation interest.

DRAFT



Project Client: South Dublin County Council	CORINE Landcover 2012 (Simplified & Merged) & Conservation Designated Areas	Mingue and Associates - Environmental & Heritage Consultants Tullamore, County Clare <a href="http://www.mingueandassociates.com">www.mingueandassociates.com</a>	Created: Ronan Hennessy Date: 2015 Scale:
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FIGURE 5 LANDCOVER IN SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

In addition to the European sites above, a number of areas are proposed for Natural Heritage Designation; these include sites on the foothills and valleys of the Dublin mountains; namely the Slade of Saggart and Crooksling- this comprises both a river valley (the Slade) with steep sides covered with planted trees such as of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Oak (*Quercus* spp.) and Birch (*Betula* spp.), as well as well-developed ground flora including Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Wood Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). Higher up the valley at Crooksling Glen the vegetation is more natural with shrubs including goat willow (*Salic caprea*) and Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*). The Brittas ponds, south of Crooksling, add further ecological interest in the form of small wetlands that includes freshwater marsh and wet grassland as well as being a Wildfowl sanctuary supporting a variety of wildfowl including mallard, teal and tufted duck.

Lugmore Glen, near Tallaght Hill, is a narrow valley with a small stream. Woodland cover is dense Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The herb layer is quite rich, especially towards the stream, with species such as Woodsorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*). The importance of this site is that it is a fine example of a wooded glen with a good representation of woodland plants. This type of semi-natural habitat is now scarce in Co. Dublin. The presence of a rare plant species adds to the interest of the site.

Although not designated, the Native Woodlands Survey identified Massy's Wood as a woodland habitat of interest. Although an extensive quite modified Coillte site, beech and pendunculate oak are present in addition to extensive stands of conifers, beech and sycamore. The size of this wood adds to its overall importance.

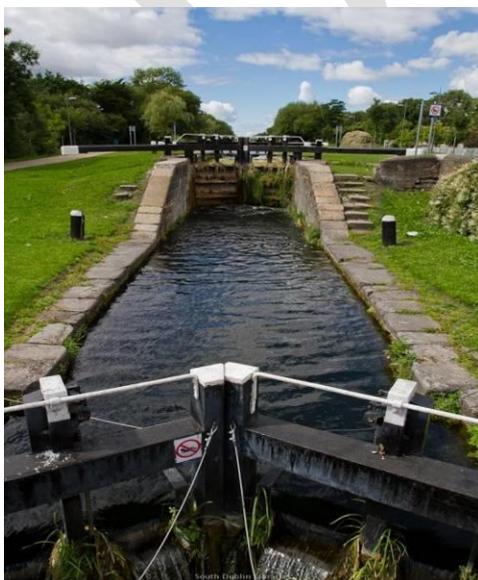
The ecological resources of the Liffey Valley and River Dodder are also very significant. The Dodder valley is another important ecological corridor, particularly as it links a significant number of parks from Glenasmole, Kiltipper Park and the Dodder Valley Park. This enhances overall connectivity facilitating mobility of species as well as providing quality green spaces within heavily urbanised areas. Species including otter, kingfisher, badgers, bats and numerous bird species are supported through the habitats present here. These habitats include wet grassland, riparian woodlands, dry and calcareous meadows, and tufa forming calcareous springs. The River Dodder supports an excellent supply of fish; salmon are present in its lower reaches. Invasive species, in particular Himalayan Balsam and Japanese knotweed, are found throughout the river corridor. In addition part of the Dodder is designated an SAC as part of the Glenasmole SAC. The stretch from Firhouse Bridge to Oldbawn bridge is pNHA and is of particular importance as it the last stretch of remaining natural river bank vegetation of the Dodder within the greater Dublin area. 48 bird species have been recorded in the area including Kingfisher, Dipper and Little Grebe.



FIGURE 6 AERIAL PHOTO OF RIVER DODDER (SDCC LIBRARY)

The Grand Canal is another important habitat. The pNHA comprises the channel itself and banks on either side of it. A number of different habitats are found within the canal boundaries - hedgerow, tall herbs, calcareous grassland, reed fringe, open water, scrub and woodland. The hedgerow, although diverse, is dominated by Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). On the limestone soils of the Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) are present. The vegetation of the towpath is usually dominated by grass species. Where the canal was built through a bog, soil (usually calcareous) was brought in to make the banks. The contrast between the calcicolous species of the towpath and the calcifuge species of the bog is very striking. The ecological value of the canal lies more in the diversity of species it supports along its linear habitats than in the presence of rare species. It crosses through agricultural land and therefore provides a refuge for species threatened by modern farming methods.

FIGURE 7 GRAND CANAL (SDCC LIBRARY)



Finally, hedgerows and pockets of woodland, and former demesne lands are also important. Hedgerow patterns appear to be strongest in the hill and western area of the County. They contribute to a distinctive landscape pattern and also function as ecological corridors.

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## 2.3 HUMAN INFLUENCES

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### 2.3 OVERVIEW

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In this section, an overview is provided of past human activity in South Dublin County and the influence of past generations on the landscape is outlined. A particular focus is paid to elements from the past that remain tangible within the contemporary landscape and highlight the legacy that previous inhabitants of the county have left.

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#### 2.3.1 PREHISTORIC PERIOD (C7,000 BC TO AD500)

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The Prehistoric period is the longest period of human activity and is usually subdivided into the Palaeolithic (old stone age), the Mesolithic (middle stone age), and the Neolithic (new stone age), which together are also called Early Prehistory. Later Prehistory is formed of the Bronze and Iron Age, characterised by the introduction of metals, first copper and later bronze and iron. Despite the names of the later periods, stone continued to be used as a raw material in later prehistory and metal was considered a prestige, high status material. This early prehistoric period in the county is reflected more in the hidden landscape than in the tangible visible countryside. It is generally accepted that Mesolithic hunters 9,000 years ago provide the first archaeological evidence of human settlement in the country; they did not build any surviving monuments and are considered to have used coastal, river and lake resources for their hunting and foraging activities. Mesolithic finds to date are generally chance findings on bogs or drainage works.

Evidence for the Mesolithic period in this part of South County Dublin has been found at Cooldrinagh in the Liffey Valley near the northwest boundary of the South Dublin County. The site was situated within about one kilometre of the confluence of the Liffey with the Rye Water. A substantial collection of early Mesolithic flint assemblages were found during pre-development testing of low-lying fields.

Cooldrinagh was re-used in the Neolithic also as remnants of a passage tomb and cairn were also revealed. Bronze Age and medieval activity was also excavated. As it is known that Mesolithic peoples favoured river valleys, it is possible that the entirety of the Liffey Valley and the other smaller rivers, such as the Dodder (particularly at Glenasmole), the Poddle and the Brittas, are all possible locations of activity in the Mesolithic. Lithic scatters of an undetermined prehistoric date were also found during development works in the townlands of Glebe and Coolwater commons.<sup>9</sup>

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#### NEOLITHIC PERIOD (C.4,500-2,400BC)

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The Neolithic Period (4,500 to 2,400 BC) saw the first significant impact on the landscape when tree clearance was undertaken to facilitate crop production and animal husbandry. This began a process that led to the transformation and occasionally degradation of large tracts of land. The Neolithic saw the transition of the early settlers from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to a sedentary farming

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<sup>9</sup> 00E0788 and 99E0562. Throughout, these numbers refer to licenced archaeological investigations and are unique to each investigation. Full details of all investigations can be found through the portal [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) and using the number to search.

economy with the introduction of cattle, sheep, wheat and barley, possibly along with the introduction of a new group of peoples who brought this new way of life to Ireland. This period was characterised by land clearance and the establishment of field systems enclosing the newly cleared land. Permanent sites of habitation were established usually along river valleys. A Neolithic house has been excavated in the region at Kishoge. It returned dates of between 3941-3659 BC.<sup>10</sup> It also had evidence that the location was used in the Bronze Age. Other habitation sites known in the region dating to this period are at the complex at Piperstown,<sup>11</sup> where they are in association with several cairns, which may cover burial monuments. A Neolithic habitation site was excavated in the townland of Corkagh Demesne in advance of the north-eastern gas pipeline.<sup>12</sup> Excavations at Glebe near Clondalkin revealed Neolithic pottery, lithic artefacts and a blue glass bead, along with other material of early medieval date.<sup>13</sup>

Notwithstanding the landscape changes associated with early agricultural practices, the Neolithic introduced landscape elements most notably ritual or monumental features. A common feature of Neolithic tombs is that they were sited in particular and recurring locations. Gabriel Cooney has suggested that this repetition of location, construction and use over time '*provided communities with memories and histories*'. It can also serve as a reminder that what nowadays may be marginal lands were once important areas and regions in their own right.

These large permanent monuments are collectively termed megalithic tombs and represent a complex and well-structured social hierarchy in the population of the region at that time. Megalithic tombs were used for burial. The burials were usually cremated. They are usually, though not exclusively, situated on higher ground. As such, they are concentrated in the southern portion of the region in the uplands of the Dublin Mountains.<sup>14</sup> There are fourteen megalithic tombs recorded.<sup>15</sup> The region is interesting as it has examples of three of the four types of megalithic tomb known in Ireland. There are eleven passage tombs recorded in the townlands of Crockaunadrenagh, Slievethoul, Ballinascorney Upper and Mountpelier. There are two portal tombs- one at Woodstown and the other at Cunard. The different tomb types occupy slightly different locations in the landscape, the portal tombs tending to be lower in elevation than the passage tombs. It has been suggested that the various tomb types of this period form distinct patterns in the landscape, with portal tombs having a more lowland bias, which does not extend to the west to Tallaght Hill and Saggart Hills. This pattern may indicate the existence of co-eval communities, with territorial boundaries between the different tomb building communities. The passage tombs in particular form a coherent group in the southwest in prominent positions on the peaks at Tallaght and Saggart (there is an outlier at Fairy Castle on Two Rock Mountain outside the South Dublin County administrative area and they continue to dominate over the county boundary into Seefin and Seefinigan Co. Wicklow).<sup>16</sup> The extensive excavations at Cooldrinagh, however, in the northwest of the region revealed possible evidence of a passage tomb and a cairn with two cists. This may suggest

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<sup>10</sup> 01E0061. See appendix ??

<sup>11</sup> Rynne and Ó hEailidhe 1965, PRIA. Seven huts are recorded in tis townland. One site B may be a later hut site and not prehistoric.

<sup>12</sup> This excavation is recorded on the RMP. It is not included on [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie). Other later prehistoric activity was excavated in this townland but was undated. 00E0935, 01E0912, 01E0849.

<sup>13</sup> 00E0758

<sup>14</sup> It is likely that there are further unrecorded archaeological monuments in this area. See Davis and ??? 2014 for details of an upland survey recently conducted.

<sup>15</sup> One of these is classed a megalithic structure at Ballinascorney Upper.

<sup>16</sup> Stout and Stout 1992, 8.

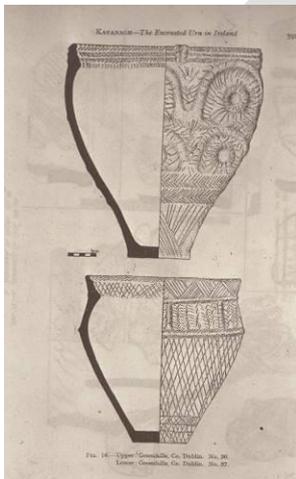
a wider distribution of passage tombs in the region than first thought, or, perhaps may be an important outlier.<sup>17</sup> A single wedge tomb is located at Killakee.<sup>18</sup> From evidence elsewhere, it has been suggested that wedge tombs are the latest type in the sequence of megalithic tomb construction in Ireland, and sometimes date to the early Bronze Age or Beaker Period.

A number of recorded stone cairns may also cover funerary monuments dating to this period or the early Bronze Age. There are seven in Piperstown (mentioned above) and examples are situated in the townlands of Coolmine, Crooksling, Crockaunadreenagh (golf course on Knockadinn Hill), Mountseskin, Ballinascorney Upper,<sup>19</sup> Ballymana, Raheen, Belgard Deer Park and Badgerhill.

There are a further ten monuments recorded, which are classified as 'mound'.<sup>20</sup> Without the benefit of excavation, it is impossible to further refine this classification. It is probable that at least a number of these mounds may cover burials dating to the Neolithic, Bronze or Iron Ages. In many cases, for example, the mound recorded at Rathcreedan has now no above ground register.

### BRONZE AGE (2,400 TO 500BC)

The Bronze Age (2,500 to 600BC) saw fundamental changes to the Irish landscape; settlement increased and towards the end of this period there is evidence of increasing conflict with more weaponry being found in excavations. This period is characterised by the introduction of metal and metal working technologies, first copper, to be followed by bronze. In addition to the introduction of a new raw material, a change in burial rites from the previous Neolithic period is marked. The Bronze Age of the region is well represented both in extant recorded monuments and in results from archaeological excavations. This data suggests that in the Bronze Age period there was a dispersed pattern of settlement which utilised the lower lands of the north- west and central parts of the county. Both domestic and ritual activity is represented in the archaeological record.



FFIGURE 8 DRAWING OF BRONZE AGE URN FOUND AT GREENHILLS (SDCC LIBRARY)

Megalithic monuments, noted for re-use overtime and communal burials, are replaced in this period by more simple pits and cists (pits lined with stone flags). Sometimes these burials, which might be cremations or inhumations, are accompanied by grave goods such as specific funerary pottery. These pits and cists may be placed in tumuli, mounds or cairns, and barrows. They may also be situated in more natural features such as sand or gravel ridges and collectively into so-called flat cemeteries, which do not have any above ground trace, such as the mounds and barrows mentioned. Some ring-ditches or ring-barrows may also date to this period, (although have been also known to

<sup>17</sup> C014/E2034.

<sup>18</sup> This should not be considered an isolated example as there are two further wedge tombs within 3.3km of each other (Stout and Stout 1992, 8), though outside the administrative area.

<sup>19</sup> This example was archaeologically investigated in order to reinstate it after damage related to timber haulage from forestry. This investigation does not appear to have an excavation number but can be found at 1988:13 in the excavations database.

<sup>20</sup> The crannóg at Glenaraneen has been classified a mound on the RMP, DU024-036---. It has been interpreted as a crannóg site and is considered in the Early Medieval Period section below.

be later in the Iron Age or indeed the very early part of the early medieval period). Cists have been recorded in Greenoge, Lugmore, Cruagh and Glassamucky.<sup>21</sup>

Nineteen ring barrows are recorded in South Dublin County. Some occur singly, as for example, Palmerstown Lower, Cooldrinagh,<sup>22</sup> Kilmahuddrick or Newtown Lower. Others are grouped into 'cemeteries', for example, Lugg (4 examples)<sup>23</sup>, Crooksling (3), Mountseskin (2) and Ballinascorney Upper (2). Other types of barrow are also recorded in the region. For example, there is a single stepped barrow recorded in Ballymount Great and two unclassified barrows in Athgoe/Highdownhill and Crooksling.

On the lower limestone lands, excavations at Grange Castle international business park near Clondalkin, revealed the single Kilmahuddrick example and revealed good evidence.<sup>24</sup> This excavation may suggest that the original distribution of barrows in South Dublin County could have been more extensive than at present, being distributed at both upland and lowland locations. However, due to the better soils and more intensive farming practice in the lowlands (including ploughing), the archaeological record is scant for this type of monument; conversely the more remote less intensively farmed foothills and uplands ensured a greater survival and higher visibility of such monuments.

Other ritual monuments which date specifically to this period are a range of stone arrangements including single standing stones, stone pairs, stone rows and stone circles. Some excavated examples from elsewhere have shown that sometimes these monuments were used for demarcation (such as territorial boundaries), or burial, but may have also had other ritual significance, for example, being aligned on a seasonal event such as a solstice. There are four standing stones recorded in the South Dublin County region at Kiltalown, Raheen, Ballymana and Killakee (to the east of the Hell Fire Club). The Kiltalown example was excavated, but nothing of an archaeological nature was found, which might suggest that it was a boundary marker.<sup>25</sup> There is a single example of a stone pair at Boherboy. Both stones are of granite and are locally known as the Adam and Eve stones.<sup>26</sup> A stone circle at Ballymana was recorded on the first edition six-inch map.<sup>27</sup>

Burnt mounds (and spreads) typically date to the Bronze Age. Burnt mounds and spreads comprise burnt stony material and charcoal but lack a trough. Usually when a trough is associated with a burnt spread or mound, it is specifically termed a *fulacht fiadh*, or ancient cooking place. They are usually situated near a water source or in low-lying wetter areas. Most evidence for these features has been gathered from archaeological investigations in the region. Eight *fulachta fiadh* are included in the record of monuments and places in Fonthill, Nangor,<sup>28</sup> Brownsbarn, Moneyatta Commons,

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<sup>21</sup> DU021-028, DU021-053, DU025-004, DU-057001- respectively. The example at Glassamucky was a cist burial and was found during quarrying. It contained a crouched inhumation of a 20 year old male and was accompanied by a pottery food vessel. Five metres away was a pit burial containing a cinery urn inverted over a cremation. 1977-79:0038 (no excavation number provided).

<sup>22</sup> This example was excavated 95E039 and artefacts of early medieval date were found as well as features which returned dates from the 7<sup>th</sup> century through to the thirteenth century. See 95E039.

<sup>23</sup> One of these was excavated by Kilbride-Jones in the 1930s.

<sup>24</sup> 00E0263 and 00E0448.

<sup>25</sup> 97E0029.

<sup>26</sup> McDix 1899, 125-9.

<sup>27</sup> Sheet 24. Monument no. DU024-027002-.

<sup>28</sup> Extensive excavations in advance of development were undertaken in the townland of Nangor. The evidence uncovered dated from the prehistoric, medieval and post medieval periods. See for example, 07E0230 and references therein.

Ballynakelly and Commons Little, Collegeland (plus three burnt mounds and one spread), Scholarstown and Newtown. Burnt mounds were excavated at Fonthill, Newtown, Ballynakelly and Rathcredon.

Settlement and burial evidence was also sometimes found in association. These excavations include those at Steelstown, Ballynakelly and Rathcreedan, Brownstown, Moneyatta Commons, Scholarstown, Nangor, Ballycullen, Newtown, Fonthill, Newtown (Templeogue House).<sup>29</sup>

### IRON AGE PERIOD (C.500BC-AD500)

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*'The close of the Bronze Age and succeeding Iron Age in particular were marked by woodland regeneration, the spread of bogs, and declining cultivation and strengthening pastoralism. These developments were accompanied and perhaps initiated by cooler, wetter conditions, as well as by soil misuse and degradation.'*<sup>30</sup>

Although the archaeological record provides significant evidence for Bronze Age activity, it declines substantially for the Iron Age (500BC to AD500). The archaeological evidence for this period is largely confined to ceremonial sites and metalwork. The Iron Age in Europe saw the deposition of weapons and metalwork in rivers and lakes, this seems to have been replicated in Ireland also<sup>31</sup>.

The transition between the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age is also difficult to define and those monuments which can be directly dated to the period are few. Within the study area there is one hilltop enclosure in area at Athgoe.<sup>32</sup> These can date to Bronze Age or Iron Age. The Athgoe example is about 44m in diameter and is associated with a barrow that lies to the north. A ceremonial enclosure was identified at Ballymount Great, first from aerial photography and later through extensive excavations in 1982, 1997 and 2002.<sup>33</sup> In other excavations in the region, where the sites show multi-period use, there are sometimes glimpses of the Iron Age in perhaps a stray artefact find or radio carbon date. In other parts of County Dublin, for example, Balbriggan, the Iron Age there is entirely represented by excavated evidence and there is no upstanding monument firmly dated to the Iron Age there.<sup>34</sup> It is quite possible that a number of the monuments already described in the Bronze Age section above, in particular the mounds and ring barrows, (especially one at Lugg on Saggart Hill) may actually date to the Iron Age. Further excavations would be required to confirm if this is the case.

Towards the end of the Iron Age, between 200 to 300 AD, a significant expansion in agriculture took place, which is likely to have been assisted by new agricultural technology. Associated with this was an increase in population and settlement and a subsequent rise in woodland clearance. There is also

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<sup>29</sup> 04E0858, 07E0245, 1999:161, 01E0329, 98E0518, 00E0718, 02E1374, 04E0940 and 99E0344, 00E0447, 03E1450ext and 98E0221.

<sup>30</sup> Atlas of Irish Rural Landscape (PAGE NE)

<sup>31</sup> O'Sullivan, 1998

<sup>32</sup> There is a similar enclosure on the adjacent Lyons Hill, which is in County Kildare.

<sup>33</sup> Investigations were carried out prior to development. Evidence of all periods was found. For summary see 00E0538.

<sup>34</sup> Deery and Goucher 2008 The Historic Landscape Characterisation in Fingal – Balbriggan and Environs. Unpublished Report for Fingal County Council.

a clear expansion in horse keeping during the Iron Age with relevant finds from this period including high status artefacts such as decorated horse tack<sup>35</sup>.

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### OTHER PREHISTORIC SITES

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There are a number of archaeological sites found, usually through archaeological excavation, that do not have a precise date assigned to them, but can be broadly categorised to the prehistoric period on the basis of the artefactual evidence and the features revealed. These would include features found at Cooldrinagh, Piperstown, Nangor and Kilmahudrick previously mentioned, along with other sites such as archaeological monitoring at Corkagh Demesne, the widening of the N4 at Lucan and investigations in the townlands of Kishoge, Grange, Newtown, Schollarstown and Ballymaice.<sup>36</sup>

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### 2.3.2 EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD HISTORIC(C 500 -1100)

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The characteristics of this period and what differentiates it from previous periods is the introduction of Christianity, and a range of technological and intellectual advances, such as the introduction of writing. The introduction of writing marks the beginning of the historic period in Ireland. These changes transformed the landscape of Ireland and South Dublin County is a particularly good example of this transformation. While it is usual for religious and secular monuments of this period (and subsequent periods) to be described separately, it is important to note that many would have been in use contemporaneously.

Stout (1997) identified spatial associations between ringforts and early ecclesiastical sites. The earliest church settlements were small, simple structures. The larger settlements were strategically located on major communications routes or along rivers. In addition to their religious function, monastic settlements were likely to be involved in significant levels of trade and communications. Early Irish laws often mention the use of ploughs and draught animals.

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### SECULAR ACTIVITY

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The period was one of population growth and the ringfort – a circular enclosure - was the classic early medieval secular settlement type, consisting of an internal circular area delimited by banks and external ditches.<sup>37</sup> They are considered as homesteads of wealthier farmers and their extended families. They followed a pastoral way of life, with cattle being particularly important. Place names that incorporate ‘rath’ or ‘lis’ in their townlands are usually indicative of a ringfort. However it has been noted for Dublin that this is not the case and 94% of ringforts occur in townlands that do not possess either term. For some places that do incorporate ‘rath’ such as Rathfarnham, the identification of the ringfort there has eluded scholars to the present day.<sup>38</sup>

Ringforts may be classified as univallate (one bank and ditch) or multivallate (more than one bank and ditch) and it is suggested that multivallate ringforts are indicative of high status family groups.

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<sup>35</sup> The Lismullin Enclosure: Design Beyond the Obvious in the Iron Age Frank Prendergast Dublin Institute of Technology, frank.prendergast

<sup>36</sup> 01E0849 and E002032, 00E0061 and 98E0206.

<sup>37</sup> Ringforts are also termed raths, especially when they are constructed of earth. In stonier regions cashels are employed and there are some areas where ringforts and cashels are used. Other non-circular enclosures, such as ‘plectrum-shaped’ enclosures can also be of this period. They are all considered contemporary monuments and share the same material culture.

<sup>38</sup> Stout and Stout 1992, 19.

They have a generally dispersed distribution, though can be positioned in discrete clusters. It is possible that the ringforts in these clusters had different contemporary functions, such as habitation and stock enclosure, or alternatively, that they were not in use contemporaneously. While ringforts are among the commonest monument types in the country, their density in county Dublin is relatively low. This may be due to the good quality soils of the locality, the durability of later medieval settlement in the region, and the intense tillage agriculture undertaken in the region overtime, which ploughed out many of the earthen ringforts.

It has been noted that there is a marked contrast in early medieval settlement between the north and south in county Dublin.<sup>39</sup> There are eight ringforts known within the South Dublin County administrative area in the townlands of Lucan and Pettycanon, Ringwood, Newcastle Farm, Baldonnell Little, Belgard, Scholarstown, Bohernabreena and Badgerhill. There is one classified as a cashel at Ballymorefinn. The ringfort at Scholarstown was excavated and found to be D-shaped in plan and a range of early medieval material culture was found.<sup>40</sup> Further ringfort evidence has been found during intensive development-led excavations in the region. Portions of a possible rath or ring ditch was excavated at Nangor Castle,<sup>41</sup> while two ringforts, one with an associated field system, were uncovered at Ballynakelly.<sup>42</sup>

Underground passages known as souterrains, which can be quite elaborate, can be directly associated with ringforts and ecclesiastical enclosures; so-called enclosed settlements. They can also be found in more isolated lowland locations and are then interpreted as being unenclosed.<sup>43</sup> There are several different types of souterrain and their possible functions included storage, refuge or imprisonment.<sup>44</sup> It is a site type that is relatively rare in County Dublin.<sup>45</sup> Two souterrains are recorded for the study area; one associated with a ringfort in Lucan and Pettycanon, the other a possible souterrain in the townland of Bustyhill. An early map notes a 'cave site' in Bustyhill. Souterrains, due to their underground nature, have in the past been described as caves and this is a possible example.

There is just one crannog recorded in the study area, at Glenaraneen, and in fact this is the only crannog in the whole of County Dublin.<sup>46</sup> It is situated in the middle of Brittas Lake. Crannogs are artificial islands, perhaps with palisades, usually originally situated in lakes. They would have been in use at the same time as ringforts, although may have continued in use into later periods and are considered high status monuments.

## ECCLESIASTICAL AND OTHER RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY

As a result of the introduction of Christianity in the fifth century AD, many monastic centres (now more recently termed ecclesiastical centres) and smaller church sites were established throughout the earlier part of this period. Many of the larger ecclesiastical settlements later developed into

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<sup>39</sup> Stout and Stout, 1992, 17-20, with possible theories as to why this may have been the case.

<sup>40</sup> Keeley, V. 1986, Scholarstown Ringfort in Cotter, C. (ed.) *Excavations 1985*, 23.

<sup>41</sup> 96E0273

<sup>42</sup> 13E193

<sup>43</sup> It has been published that only four unenclosed souterrains were found in County Dublin, (Stout and Stout 1992, 20), though it is likely that further examples have been found since, but which have not shown up in the data for this project.

<sup>44</sup> For detail see Clinton, M. *The Souterrains of Ireland*.

<sup>45</sup> Deery and Goucher 2008, 16. Stout and Stout 1992, 20.

<sup>46</sup> This monument DU024-036--- is classified as a crannog in the RMP, it is classified as mound in the SMR. For the purposes of this discussion it is considered a crannog. For a national distribution of crannogs see Fredengren 2002, 5.

towns, although it is likely that at foundation they were not urban in character, and this characteristic probably developed over time as places increased in importance. Other features which indicate the relative importance of ecclesiastical sites include an enclosure or enclosures, a round tower, a high cross or other significant stone sculpture.

In total, there is some form of evidence for 11 ecclesiastical enclosures in the study area, some of which could be considered to have been significant sites, for example, Clondalkin and Tallaght. St Mochua/Cronan is thought to have founded Clondalkin and was its first abbot, in the first half of the seventh century.<sup>47</sup> St Maelruain founded Tallaght in the eighth century, c.769.<sup>48</sup> Both places continued to be places of settlement into the later medieval period (see below). The street pattern at Clondalkin still clearly retains the circularity of its early medieval enclosures and its round tower is still extant. (This is the only round tower in the study area.) Several are retained in later walls or boundaries of graveyards as at Tallaght, Colmanstown, Loughtown Lower, Kilmactalway, Kilbride and Saggart. It has been suggested that Kilnamanagh, to the northeast of Tallaght was itself an early monastery, Cell Manach Eascrach.<sup>49</sup> This site has been developed. Butterfield (near Rathfarnham) could be identified by a curve in the road and was subsequently confirmed by excavation to be an early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure. This also had a phase of early medieval occupation, copper production, iron slag, animal bone and human burials. The area was also occupied in later medieval period. Many of these sites would have functioned as service centres to the surrounding population.<sup>50</sup>



FIGURE 9 ROUND TOWER AT CLONDALKIN VILLAGE (SDCC LIBRARY)

Other features, which include crosses, cross-inscribed stones and cross slabs, are also indicative of an ecclesiastical function. There are nine crosses recorded, two at Clondalkin, one in Lucan

<sup>47</sup> See [www.southdublinhistory.ie/area.aspx?area=Clondalkin](http://www.southdublinhistory.ie/area.aspx?area=Clondalkin) with references.

<sup>48</sup> See [www.southdublinhistory.ie/area.aspx?area=Tallaght](http://www.southdublinhistory.ie/area.aspx?area=Tallaght) with references.

<sup>49</sup> Ball 1905, 3, 2001.

<sup>50</sup> Stout and Stout 1992, 13.

Demesne, one in Glebe, two in Saggart, one in Tallaght, one in Kilmashogue, and one in Crockaunadre (no location). There are two cross-inscribed stones at Crooksling, and Glassamucky, and two early cross slabs. The example at Saggart is one of three similar slabs with double headed crosses and is suggested as being of tenth-century date.<sup>51</sup> Whitechurch is the second example and is one of a group of ten with early features.<sup>52</sup>

Excavations in the study area have produced a wealth of new information on this period of settlement in south county Dublin. Investigations in the modern town of Tallaght have produced evidence of its ecclesiastical enclosure and activities such as corn-drying.<sup>53</sup> Investigations at Baldonnell Lower also revealed a figure-of-eight shaped kiln with an associated structure.<sup>54</sup> An early medieval cemetery was uncovered at Gallanstown.<sup>55</sup> An unusual double-ditched early medieval enclosure, possibly for habitation was excavated at Ballynakelly.<sup>56</sup> Extensive excavations at Nangor produced early medieval material.<sup>57</sup> Smaller quantities of early medieval features and artefacts, including pottery were found at Cooldrinagh.<sup>58</sup>

Holy wells and sacred trees, classified as ritual sites, are notoriously difficult to assign a date to, but several may have originated in the early medieval period, perhaps to be abandoned and re-used overtime, some into the present day. Holy wells are also likely to indicate the presence of ecclesiastical sites in their vicinity. Some also suggest that wells may originate in a pre-Christian tradition of sacred springs that were subsequently Christianised. Many wells are associated with specific curative powers, for example, conditions relating to eyes, headaches etc. Holy trees can sometimes be associated with holy wells and are referred to in popular culture as 'rag trees' where votive deposits such as ribbons, rags, and religious items are hung on the tree.



FIGURE 10 ST COLMCILLE'S WELL, TALLAGHT (SDCC LIBRARY)

<sup>51</sup> Swords, K. 2009, 101. The other two examples are at Tipperkevin Co. Kildare and Templeogue Co. Dublin.

<sup>52</sup> Swords 2009, 72-73. Ó hEailidhe, P. 1982 Three unrecorded early grave slabs in county Dublin, *JRSAI* 112, 139-140.

<sup>53</sup> Excavations at Tallaght, 96E0188, 96E0054, 1990:043.

<sup>54</sup> 03E0374. No dates were available for this feature at time of writing. It is likely that it is early medieval in date based on morphology.

<sup>55</sup> 99E0108, 00E0267

<sup>56</sup> 06E0176

<sup>57</sup> 07E0588, 13E0435

<sup>58</sup> 97E0027

There are 15 holy wells in the study area<sup>59</sup> and two holy trees/bushes. The example at Balgaddy is no longer extant. It was a large bush at a road junction, named 'bush of Balgaddy' on the 1937 OS map. The other holy tree is a mature walnut in the grounds of the Dominican Priory in Tallaght and is associated with St Maelruain's. Many of the dedications of the holy wells are now forgotten but several remain. There is quite a variety in the saints remembered which include Ss John, Finian, Brigid, Catherine, Senan, Moling, and Columcille. Test trenching was carried out in the vicinity of the holy well at Tobermaclugg, where the remains of a small stone structure possibly relating to the well was identified in a wall.<sup>60</sup> Several of these holy wells are spring wells, and in later times, the spring waters were also utilised at several Spa destinations within the study area.

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### 2.3.3 THE VIKING AGE

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The Vikings (those who came to Ireland are thought to have been mostly from Norway and hence are termed Norse) began raiding the shores of Ireland in the very late eighth century and their first incursion is thought to have been on the island of Rathlin off the northeast coast in 795. By the late ninth and early tenth century, the Scandinavians had begun to settle in Ireland and their urban settlements became towns. Dublin itself was one of the most important Viking Age towns in Ireland and indeed Europe at that time. This importance has been internationally highlighted in the many Viking Age excavations that have taken place in the town over many years.<sup>61</sup> The study area of South Dublin County would have formed an important part of the hinterland of Viking Dublin. It was actually considered a distinct area in the Viking Age, known as *Dyflinarskiri* and is mentioned in contemporary sources such as the Icelandic sagas. This area broadly included lands outside Dublin extending into Kildare from Skerries in the north, to Ballygunner in the southeast, and Naas in the west.<sup>62</sup> It has been previously suggested that Norse or Hiberno-Norse peoples largely inhabited and worked *Dyflinarskiri* and pushed the native Irish into the Wicklow Mountains. This however, has been difficult to prove archaeologically, as the material culture employed by both groups in this period is very similar and so separating ethnic Hiberno-Norse from Gaelic Irish settlements on the basis of archaeological remains and artefacts has not yet been possible. Alternatively, it is equally possible that the hinterland of Dublin was farmed by Irish who then traded and supplied provisions for Viking Dublin.<sup>63</sup> Within the study area there is some placename and archaeological evidence of Scandinavian settlement. For example, Leixlip originates from the Scandinavian *Laxhlaup*, salmon leap. Documentary evidence includes the sacking of the ecclesiastical site of Clondalkin by the Vikings in 832/33. Archaeological evidence is currently sparse (notwithstanding what has been suggested above) but is known from Clondalkin and Brownsbarn.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Wells are found in the townlands of Tobermaclugg, Newcastle Farm, Castlewarden, Loughtown Lower, Bridewell Commons, Rathcoole, Crockshane, Slade, Boherboy, Corbally, Killinardan, Kilnamangh, Crooksling and Glassamucky Brakes. Several are recorded as spring wells.

<sup>60</sup> 01E1152

<sup>61</sup> For an overview see Wallace 2005, The archaeology of Ireland's Viking Age towns, 815-817.

<sup>62</sup> Bradley 1988, 55.

<sup>63</sup> For a much fuller discussion of this issue see Bradley 1988; Bradley 2009; Murphy and Potterton 2010, 58-60.

<sup>64</sup> For a fuller picture of Scandinavian influence and settlement evidence see Murphy and Potterton 2010, 62.

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### 2.3.4 LATER MEDIEVAL PERIOD (TWELFTH TO END OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY)

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The areas surrounding Dublin were brought under English authority and the rule of the Crown following the intervention of King Henry II in 1171-72. In 1171 Hugh de Lacy was granted the lordship of Meath which extended from the Irish Sea to the Shannon. This is commonly referred to as the Anglo-Norman invasion. Much of this land was formed into large estates which were then granted to secular and ecclesiastical peers in the form of manors. The first task was to erect castles as locations to centralise their new fiefs. The siting was highly strategic; *'Locations that were already focal points were sought out, particularly churches and monasteries, as well as crossroads, fording points and places where several routeways converged. The local physical environment was also a fundamental criterion – natural hillocks, ridges, eskers and other glacial features were preferred, whilst those in close proximity to rivers were favoured particularly<sup>65</sup>.'*

In the initial period of incursion, earthen castles (ringworks, mottes) were constructed for defence and consolidation of the new territories. Stone castles were introduced, such as hall houses and, towards the end of the period, tower houses. Lesser lords and wealthier farmers constructed moated sites, which were defended earthen rectangular structures.

In some cases, the nucleated settlements at manors may have been given the legal status of boroughs by the Crown, which allowed the settlements to hold fairs and markets, and these ultimately made these settlements more economically successful. Towards the end of the period, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, as tensions rose between English and Gaelic population, the English area of influence contracted to an area known as the English Pale. A ditch (or pale) was constructed around the Dublin region to provide a defensive feature for this.<sup>66</sup> The estimated route of the Pale ditch is thought to traverse South Dublin County passing to the south of Saggart and Tallaght and into Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. There are no extant remains of the ditch or boundary however. Indeed, Newcastle (Lyons), Rathcoole, Saggart, Tallaght, and Belgard are all mentioned in the 1488 Act relating to the administrative area of the Pale- places which would have facilitated in the defence of the Pale area itself.<sup>67</sup> Excavations at Kiltalown uncovered a late medieval earthwork interpreted by the excavator as a likely stretch of the Pale boundary, or alternatively an enclosure features of medieval parkland.<sup>68</sup>

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#### SECULAR ACTIVITY

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In the first instance castles were for defence and also later for prestige and status.<sup>69</sup> Interestingly there is only one earthen castle, a motte, a small and flat-topped example, within the administrative area of South Dublin County, in Newcastle North townland adjacent to the manor and later borough of Newcastle (see below).<sup>70</sup> It was built on crown lands and it is suggested that this is the castle after which the village is named. There are no ringworks within the study area. Hall houses are early

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<sup>65</sup> Murphy, M & Potterton, M The Dublin Region in the Middle Ages, p.111

<sup>66</sup> For extensive background into the later medieval period in Dublin see O'Keefe 1992, 57-78; Murphy and Potterton 2010.

<sup>67</sup> For an estimated route of the Pale see Murphy and Potterton 2010, 266.

<sup>68</sup> 98E0118.

<sup>69</sup> For an overview of defence and fortification in the Dublin region see Murphy and Potterton 2010, 111-168.

<sup>70</sup> Monitoring was undertaken adjacent to this site, no archaeological features were encountered at that time, 01E1214.

castles in stone. There is a single hall house recorded at Clondalkin (no longer extant).<sup>71</sup> This is a type of small castle or strong-house dating to the early years of the thirteenth century. They are usually two storied with the main entrance on the first floor, where the hall was situated.

Tower houses were typically the residences of wealthy Gaelic lords and/or Anglo-Norman/English gentry. They are the first type of stone castle built extensively by the Gaelic Irish and hence are represented in predominantly Gaelic areas; they are also generally located on the better lands. They have a broad date range but most appear to have been constructed between 1450 and 1620, though many have been demonstrated to be earlier or later than these dates. There are 20 tower houses recorded within the administrative area for South Dublin County.<sup>72</sup> And their distribution generally reflects this preference for better land. Whilst some survive in various conditions, others such as those at Adamstown and Tymon, are no longer here but were recorded in the eighteenth century by Berenger.<sup>73</sup> Tymon Castle gives an insight into how these functioned within the wider landscape. It was attached to the prebend of St Patrick's Cathedral and most likely built in the fifteenth century, forming part of the Pale Boundary. A Nicholas Reilly inhabited the castle in the seventeenth century with a household including plowmen, cowherds and gardeners<sup>74</sup>.

There are 12 castles recorded as 'Unclassified'. Most of these have been identified from early maps, early aerial photos or a documentary reference to a castle, all of which are no longer extant. For example, at Rowlagh, 'Rowlagh Castle Defaced' is noted on Duncan's 1821 map. A housing estate now stands at this location and there is no above ground trace of the castle. The castle at Neillstown was marked on the Down Survey map (1655-6) and later noted as being in ruins. Its site has been re-developed and no trace of the castle is now extant. Earthworks visible on an aerial photograph taken in 1971 suggest an earthwork castle at Jobstown. There are a number of references to this castle, but nothing now remains.

Moated sites are also a secular settlement type of this period. A moated site is an area enclosed by a rectangular or sub-rectangular ditch, which may hold water. These were the defended farmsteads or manor houses of the period and probably functioned in a similar way to the ringforts of the earlier period. They were used by the minor English gentry in Ireland and on occasion by the Gaelic Irish also. Additionally, it is likely that some moated sites mark the location of granges – outer farms of religious houses. These sites are associated with the time after castles, when more peripheral lands were being granted to new settlers in the second half of the thirteenth century. Their presence indicates rural settlement and that farming was taking place. There are four moated sites within the study area- at Kilmahuddrick, Corkagh Demesne, Rathcreedan and Tallaght. The Tallaght example was levelled in 1971, although the stream which originally fed the moat is still apparent.

In terms of their wider landscape setting, the research and evidence to date has been elusive; clearly as locations and demonstrations of wealth and power, elements of designed landscapes including features such as dovecots, fishponds have been recorded elsewhere in Ireland but combining these

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<sup>71</sup> Murphy and Potterton state that hall houses are rare in Leinster and that the only hall house in the Dublin region is Kindlestown Castle Co. Wicklow, 141, 144. They do not mention Clondalkin.

<sup>72</sup> Lucan Demesne, Adamstown, Irishtown, Grange, Deansrath, Glebe, Newcastle South (2), Athgoe, Colmanstown, Newcastle North, Cheeverstown, Belgard, Saggart (2), Kilnamanagh, Tymon North, Templeogoe, tallaght, Knocklyon. For a distribution map of tower houses in the Dublin region see Murphy and Potterton 2010, 148.

<sup>73</sup> See Murphy and Potterton 2010, 156 for images.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid*, page 158.

together to demonstrate a designed landscape surrounding these castles has not been undertaken to date in Ireland. There is documentary and placename evidence for the presence of Deerparks including Lucan, and this is supported by scientific research on remains that suggest that deer were more common at high status sites, particularly castles.

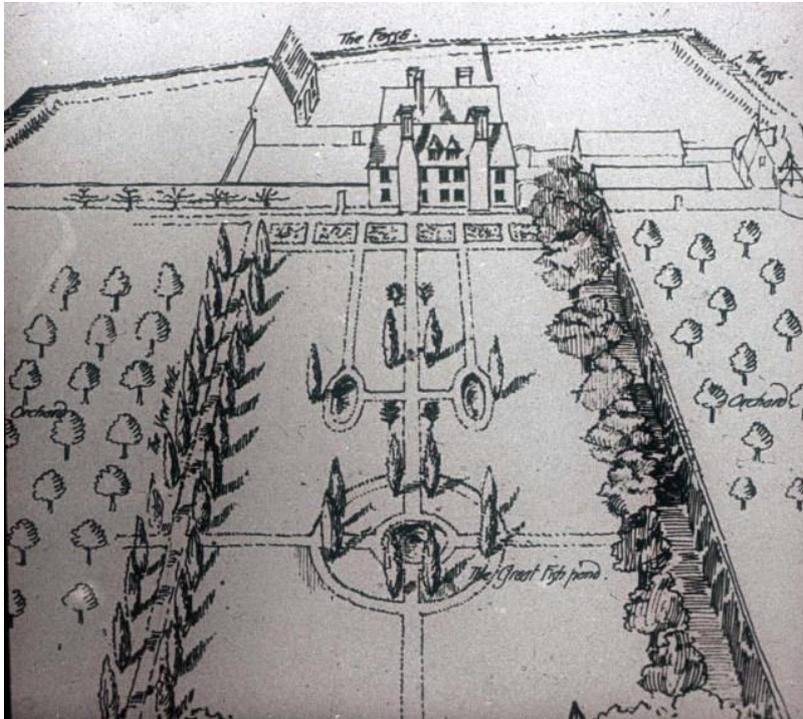


FIGURE 11 DRAWING OF OLD BAWN HOUSE, BUILT IN 1635 BY ARCHDEACON WILLIAM BUCKLEY



FIGURE 12 FIRHOUSE WEIR, THIS DIVERTED THE DODDER TO ENHANCE THE WATER SUPPLY TO 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DUBLIN; RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THIS WEIR WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE MONKS OF THE ABBEY OF ST THOMAS, THOMAS STREET, DUBLIN AND MODIFIED IN 1244 BY CITIZENS TO FURTHER ENHANCE SUPPLY (SDCC LIBRARY).

## URBAN SETTLEMENTS: MANORS AND BOROUGHS<sup>75</sup>

A borough was a nucleated settlement that enjoyed privileges as detailed in a borough charter. The majority were founded by the Anglo-Normans. Whilst some were new settlements such as Lucan, many originated from existing ecclesiastical centres- including Tallaght and Clondalkin. Several of these in the study area were royal manors, for example, Lucan/Esker, Saggart, Newcastle (Lyons).<sup>76</sup> While the colonising English and, in the case of the royal manors the King himself, founded these settlements, some native Irish were also to be found living and contributing in these settlements.<sup>77</sup> A clear distribution pattern of these boroughs can be seen on a corridor along the Liffey Valley. 'It suggests the importance that was attached to having access to the river and its floodplain as a primary communications routeway'<sup>78</sup>. These boroughs performed as important market centres, both utilising the agricultural surplus of the immediate hinterland but also functioning as a means to enter the larger markets and ports to the east. The borough charter also granted rights to use the surrounding lands, as in the case of Rathcoole, where burgesses were granted the privilege to graze their animals and cut turf on the mountain of Slievethoul.

In contrast to the rest of the country, a significant number of boroughs were founded by the Church and can be seen as a reflection of the dominant landholding position of the various ecclesiastical institutions in the Dublin region. The archbishops of Dublin created boroughs at Clondalkin, Rathcoole and Tallaght.



FIGURE 13 TALLAGHT VILLAGE (SDCC LIBRARY)

<sup>75</sup> Detailed histories for all the towns mentioned in this section can be found at [www.southdublinhistory.ie](http://www.southdublinhistory.ie). See also, for their origins and continued use into the modern period, Simms and Fagan 1992, 79-120. For background on manorial centres, their tenants and rural settlement in the wider Dublin region see Murphy and Potterton 2010, 169-208.

<sup>76</sup> For a detailed study of the royal manors of medieval Co. Dublin see Foley 2013. Crumlin was also a royal manor but is not entirely within the administrative area of South County Dublin.

<sup>77</sup> See Foley 2011.

<sup>78</sup> Murphy and Potterton, 2010 192.

Manors related to unenclosed nucleated settlements comparable to villages. These settlements are classified archaeologically as historic towns or deserted medieval settlements. Some have suggested that some of these settlements may have been enclosed with a wall. However, Thomas states that in all cases the evidence is at best doubtful.<sup>79</sup> Furthermore, important archaeological features can be associated with a manorial settlement. For example, at Clondalkin, a shingled chapel, 2 thatched houses, a garden, an orchard, a stone stable, a dovecot, a mill (type not recorded), and a borough of 33 burgages (plots) and 444 acres is recorded. At Lucan a messuage and garden, two dovecots, a fishpond, a warren (rabbit), and 120 acres 'in burgager' is recorded at the royal manor there.<sup>80</sup>

The extent and distribution of these nucleated settlements suggest a considerable degree of nucleated settlements within the wider Dublin region in the medieval period. Not all these boroughs achieved legal status and indeed not all survived or prospered. The loss of surrounding lands to Gaelic families in the fifteenth century meant boroughs like Rathcoole and Saggart were closed off to the agricultural produce in these hinterlands and could no longer function effectively as markets.

Lucan/Esker was a manor mentioned in 1248 and a medieval manorial borough from 1315. There is an extant copy of its extent dated to 1358. The document names various monuments within the manor such as dovecots and fishponds, as well as describing land use.<sup>81</sup> It has a linear street plan of one principal street. Burgage plots can be noted on early mapping stretching back from the street to the river. In the thirteenth century, the Archbishop of Dublin established a borough at Clondalkin. In 1326, 32 burgesses are noted in an inquisition. By the end of the 1300s there were at least five streets: Mill Street, Steeple Street, Pope Lane, New Street and Mahow Street, although it is difficult to accurately identify these streets today.

Tallaght was part of the lands owned by the Archbishop of Dublin in 1179. A borough was founded and in 1326 15 burgesses are mentioned. Tallaght was a very important borough, so much so that by the sixteenth century, it was the Archbishop's principal residence outside the city of Dublin. Its street pattern was linear and consisted of a main street which expanded at its western end to form a market place, where the road forked northwards at St Maelruain's church and southwards to Oldbawn. Long narrow plots to the south of this road may mark a burgage plot pattern.

Saggart is described as small borough which was located in the march (area near border with Gaelic Irish) and thus in an exposed location. This proved to be the case as in 1580 it was captured and burned by Fiach Mc Hugh O' Byrne. The street pattern was linear, the main street being intersected by a smaller road running northwest to southeast. It has been suggested that the marketplace was probably at this intersection and the plot pattern suggests a triangular market place.

Newcastle (Lyons)<sup>82</sup> was first mentioned as a royal manor in 1215 and by the late fifteenth-century had acquired borough status. The street pattern of the settlement was linear, based on one east-west orientated street. It is thought the marketplace was located in the roughly sub-triangular space in front of the church. Rathcoole is described as a manor by 1300, though according to the RMP, its precise location is unknown. The smaller settlements of Rathfarnham and Templeogue grew up

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<sup>79</sup> See Thomas 1992, volume 2, 243.

<sup>80</sup> This is provided in tabular form by Murphy and Potterton 2010, 173, Table 6.1.

<sup>81</sup> This extent is in the National Archives of the UK, TNA:PRO C47/10/22/15. Cited in Murphy and Potterton 2010, 47.

<sup>82</sup> A historic area assessment has been completed for Newcastle Lyons, which provides in detail the history and significance of this settlement. McDermott and Lyons 2011.

around earlier churches, and in the case of Rathfarnham also a castle and church. Palmerstown grew up around a medieval church of St Laurence, but one which was held by the religious order of the Fratres Cruciferi or Crutched Friars. It is thought that this establishment was a hospital.<sup>83</sup>

It can also be noted that in several of the manor settlements, there are townlands with the term 'commons' included. Commons were a medieval feature at some manorial settlements and it is quite possible that these townlands were once the commonage areas for the medieval nucleated settlements. Examples of this include Saggart, which is adjacent to Coldwater Commons, Moneyatta Commons and Cooldown Commons. Rathcoole is to the south of Commons, and the townland of Commons Little is to the east of Newcastle (Lyons), while another townland of Commons is to the north. A linear earthwork (a bank with contiguous internal and external fosses) has survived as a townland boundary between the townlands of Crooksling and Slade and it has been suggested that it is the remnants of the medieval boundary to Saggart Commons.<sup>84</sup>

### ECCLESIASTICAL AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY<sup>85</sup>

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The twelfth century also saw the introduction of monastic orders from continental Europe who were to have a significant impact on the organisation and landscape management in the county. Although they had arrived prior to the Anglo-Norman conquest, the Anglo Normans saw them as their own cultural allies. The Cistercian order was the first to arrive in Ireland. Cistercians played a significant role in agricultural development and divided monastic lands into farms or granges. The grange was essentially an economic unit and was applied generally to monastic farms.

The church was inextricably linked to secular settlement and many had a parish church in the midst of the manors and boroughs. In all, there are 25 later medieval churches, in all states of preservation. Many are founded in the medieval period and are used or re-used in later periods. Six were first medieval parish churches. At Glebe, the medieval parish church was associated with St Finian and re-used in 16C. The remainder of churches had a variety of functions, many associated with nucleated settlements of various sizes, and in some cases the status of the church remains unclear, as at Kilnamanagh. As already mentioned, the church in Palmerstown was held by a religious order- the Fratres Cruciferi. There are also a number of small churches classified as chapels, some of which may have a later medieval origin, for example, a medieval chapel of Simon-Tallaght attached to St Patrick's cathedral in the fourteenth century, was located in Coolmine.

There are a number of smaller features recorded that are likely to date to this period, or perhaps the early medieval period, many of which are associated with the churches. For example, eight fonts are recorded: at Clondalkin, Kilmactalway and Rathcoole, Whitechurch, Calliaghstown Lower, Cruagh and Glassavullaun. The font from Tallaght is a large granite basin formerly known as St Mullrooney's Lossit and it is now locally known as St Maelruan's Griddle and Loaf. Eight graveslabs are known from Rathcoole, Tempogue, Rathfarnham and Whitechurch and no fewer than 20 graveyards. Most of these graveyards have medieval origins at least and are usually associated with churches. There are two burial grounds specifically identified as children's burial places, one in Brideswell Commons and Newtown Upper. Usually these burial plots were for unbaptised children and are commonly associated with a medieval religious feature, such as a holy well as at Brideswell Commons. The

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<sup>83</sup> See Gywnn and Hadcock 1970, 208-216, 355.

<sup>84</sup> DU021-050--.

<sup>85</sup> For detail on the church and its structures and administration in this region see Murphy and Potterton 2010, 209-263.

crosses previously mentioned in the Early Medieval period may date to this later period. (There are several stone crosses recorded, for example the small Latin cross at Tallaght reputed to mark the grave of St Maelruan. The cross inscribed stones at Crooksling and Glassamucky Mountain may fit into this period also – these are difficult to closely date.)

There is just one location within the study area which may have been the location of a religious (or monastic) house. It is not known what order this religious house may have been and was situated in Calliaghtown Lower. It is possible on the basis of the townland name that this was a female religious house, or a nunnery. It has no above ground trace and is thought to have been situated near Sladmore House. The classification is based on information of a burial ground and font being located in what was called ‘the chapel field’. There is no contemporary historical evidence to shed light on this site.<sup>86</sup> Initially, this lack of religious houses locating in South Dublin County is puzzling. However, the majority of South Dublin County was already in the ownership of Dublin’s archbishops and of some religious houses, all of which were based in the city of Dublin.<sup>87</sup> This may be one of the factors why religious houses were generally not established in the area.

**Field systems** are recorded at Nangor, during excavations there, Glebe near Newcastle, Colmanstown, Hynestown, Collegeland and Cunard.<sup>88</sup> Without excavation, the date of these features cannot be confirmed though, from their descriptions, it is likely that the majority are medieval in date. There are over fifty archaeological excavations within the administrative area of South Dublin County that yielded archaeological evidence relating to later medieval occupation and activity. Significant features including medieval **field boundaries and other agricultural features** were excavated at Nangor, Saggart, Tallaght, Killinenny, Ballymount Great, near Grange Castle, Greenhills, Clondalkin, Kilmahuddrick, Templeogue, Newcastle North and South, Ballycullen and Lucan.<sup>89</sup> A corn drying kiln was found at Baldonnell Lower and a lime kiln at Ballymount Great. Four unclassified **mills** from the study area at Fairview, Corkagh Demesne, Tallaght and Templeogue all of uncertain date, do highlight the fact that many mills were used in the medieval period for various purposes, for example flour or fulling. In addition, three watermills are recorded, at Oldbawn, Rathfarnham, and Clondalkin but it is not certain what products were being made. A single windmill is recorded on Windmill Hill. The mill now standing is of eighteenth-century date but it stands on the site of an earlier mill mentioned in 1413. **Water and fishing rights** were particularly important in the medieval period and three fish weirs are recorded at Lucan and Pettycanon, Backweston Park, with the example at Yellow Walls perhaps being seventeenth century as it is mentioned in the Civil Survey. A water regulating weir and water course is recorded at Templeogue and these features serve as a reminder that much of the water that supplied the medieval and later city of Dublin originated in this part of the county.<sup>90</sup> No bridges are recorded in the RMP, but see post-medieval section below.

There is over fifty archaeological excavations within the administrative area of South Dublin County that yielded archaeological evidence relating to later medieval occupation and activity. Significant features including medieval field boundaries and agricultural features were excavated at Nangor,

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<sup>86</sup> For religious houses in the Dublin region see Murphy and Potterton 2010, 246-263.

<sup>87</sup> For a breakdown of land ownership in the region see Murphy and Potterton 2010, 76-94.

<sup>88</sup> It is probable that the field system at Cunard is prehistoric in date.

<sup>89</sup> See Appendices for full list and details.

<sup>90</sup> This feature is also included in the SDCIHS, entry no. 517. Carrig Conservation International and McMahon 2012.

Saggart, Tallaght, Killinenny, Ballymount Great, near Grange Castle, Greenhills, Clondalkin, Kilmahuddrick, Templeogue, Newcastle North and South, Ballycullen and Lucan.<sup>91</sup>

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### 2.3.5 POST MEDIEVAL (1540 -1850)

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This length of this period very much varies and it has been subject to much debate.<sup>92</sup> One significant break with the medieval period was the Dissolution of the monasteries which began in the 1530s and continued for quite a long period of time into the very late 1500s. This had a catastrophic impact on the church and religious houses of Ireland and the church was re-organised.<sup>93</sup> Also, by the 1650s much of Ireland was in ruins after twelve years of war which destroyed the country's infrastructure and resulted in the death of over one fifth of the population.<sup>94</sup> Despite the calamities, it was also the period when modernity took hold and there were several innovations in plantation, industry and urbanisation.<sup>95</sup>

For some settlements, a continuity can be demonstrated from the medieval period, including the royal manors of Crumlin, Esker (Lucan), Newcastle and Saggart, although by the eighteenth century some, like Newcastle, had declined to 'shabby village' status.<sup>96</sup> In some cases, the older families were able to retain their land throughout the period, or managed to re-gain it later in the period, while others lost out entirely to Cromwellian settlers. The church retained ownership of large tracts of land, for example Adam Loftus (?1533-1605), archbishop of Dublin and first provost of Trinity College, was an influential landowner in County Dublin, based around his estate at Rathfarnham.<sup>97</sup>

In several locations in the study area where figures are available population increased in the 1660s, for example Terenure, Ballyowen, Templeogue and Kilnamanagh. It has been suggested that localised migrations may account for these increases, as elsewhere a decrease in population is noted, for example Butterfield and Old Bawn. The population decrease at Tallaght and Newcastle at this time is suggested to relate to the role that these places played in the rebellion against the crown during the earlier part of this period.<sup>98</sup> Many of the early maps that are available for the study area were also produced at this time,<sup>99</sup> for example a Survey of Tallaght from 1654, and John Roque's mapping of Dublin. It has been pointed out that it is on this map that the first 'ribbon development' of settlement can be noted along main roads. The Civil Survey (1654/5) and the Down Survey (1656/8) were also compiled at this time.<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> See Annex B for full list and details.

<sup>92</sup> There are a number of archaeological monuments recorded in the RMP of this date, though significantly less than previous periods. Many monuments are included in the RPS rather than the RMP for this and the early modern period and these have been included in this section. There is much debate over the timespan of the pos-medieval period in Ireland. The timeframe of c.1550-1850 has been used here. For more detail see McNeill 2007.

<sup>93</sup> Bradshaw 1974. Gaimster and Gilchrist 2003. Ó Fearghail 1992, 229-250.

<sup>94</sup> [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie/index.html](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie/index.html).

<sup>95</sup> Gillespie 1996.

<sup>96</sup> Gillespie 2004. Smyth 1992, 175. Simms and Fagan 1992

<sup>97</sup> Aalen and Whelan 1992, 180.

<sup>98</sup> Smyth 1992, 174.

<sup>99</sup> See [gis.dublincoco.ie/historical\\_mapping/](http://gis.dublincoco.ie/historical_mapping/)

<sup>100</sup> [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie). Murphy and Potterton 2009, 316-344. Unfortunately, there is little data available for the baronies of Uppercross and Newcastle which comprise for the most part the South Dublin administrative area, see p319.

## SECULAR

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There are five **houses** recorded in the study area which have been dated to the sixteenth – seventeenth centuries, in the RMP<sup>101</sup> at Neillstown, Backwestonpark, Rathcoole, Oldbawn and Killinenny. It is possible that these may have had their origins in the later medieval period or the very early part of this period. Only the partial remains of Killinenny are extant. At Neillstown cottages were recorded as being associated with its stone castle there and these may be the same cabins mentioned in the Civil Survey. The Down Survey map records an earlier structure at Backwestonpark, (which is now a Georgian House) and the same map shows many structures in Rathcoole. The example at Old Bawn is of particular interest as it is shown in great detail on a map of Tallaght by Robert Newcomen dated to 1654.<sup>102</sup> A further three are classified specifically as **fortified houses** at Ballyowen, Ballymount Great and Rathfarnham Castle.<sup>103</sup> Other later secular features such as **gatehouses** are recorded, which date to the end of this period or just into the seventeenth century. For example, the gatehouse from the Archbishop's Palace at Tallaght thought to be sixteenth century survives incorporated into the modern Dominican Priory there, while at Newlands Demesne an arched gateway stood on the Belgard Road into Newlands House. It was dated 1577 and was removed in 1983. Ballymount Great is of particular interest due to the extensive archaeological excavation there which revealed evidence stretching back to the prehistoric period. In 1622 Sir William Parsons who was then the Surveyor General of Ireland, constructed a manor house, outbuildings and courtyard at Ballymount Great. A gatehouse forms the entrance to a manor house which was entered via Ballymount Lane, but by 1762 the gatehouse had been bypassed and was no longer in use. The manor house was burned down in 1646 and it was a ruin at the time of the first excavation in 1982. Ballymount House was associated with a designed landscape which included a Belvedere<sup>104</sup> situated on top of a steeped barrow of prehistoric date.<sup>105</sup>

Three further houses of importance are dated to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries: Killinenny, later Allenton House, which was demolished in 1984; a house at Tymon South which is now Sallypark Nursing Home; and the structure at Mountpelier, constructed as a hunting lodge and locally known as the Hell Fire Club. Archaeological excavation has also showed Templeogue House to have had post-medieval occupation and a medieval occupation phase which seemed to predate the building.<sup>106</sup> The demesne landscape which has substantially influenced the Liffey Valley in the study area for example, was also created in this period, most notably after 1750. There are numerous examples shown the first edition Ordnance Survey six inch map (1843), for example Hermitage, Lucan Demesne and Johnstown. Many of the smaller villages and towns of the study area continued to be used and several still retain remnants of vernacular structures.<sup>107</sup>

The RMP records five bridges within the study area.<sup>108</sup> Some of these were in use in the medieval period, for example the bridge at Esker South which spans the Griffeen River which is thought to

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<sup>101</sup> The RPS is also important in this regard, see appendix.

<sup>102</sup> Murphy and Potterton 2010, 195.

<sup>103</sup> Rathfarnham Castle is one of two National Monuments in State ownership in the study area, number 628.

<sup>104</sup> This is an alternative term for gazebo or summer house and is a structure usually set on an eminence to take advantage of vistas and prospects. See Howley 1993, 120-121.

<sup>105</sup> 97E0316.

<sup>106</sup> 04E1111.

<sup>107</sup> Simms and Fagan 1992. For list see RPS.

<sup>108</sup> They are at: Lucan Demesne, Esker South, Backwestonpark (Leixlip), Lugg, Old Bawn.

predate 1216. It fell into disuse sometime between 1773 and 1837 when the road was realigned.<sup>109</sup> The example between Lugg and Slade townlands has been dated to the seventeenth century.<sup>110</sup>

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## ECCLESIASTICAL

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The RMP records a number of structures relating to this period (and the RPS contains further examples). At Rathfarnham a mass house is dated to 1697 and St Mary's parochial house is now on the site. There are two children's burial grounds- one in Bridewell Commons and the other in Newtown Upper. There is a watchtower associated with a church and graveyard at Cruagh.<sup>111</sup> This is an interesting feature as when associated with a burial place they were frequently used as security in the graveyard to prevent the stealing of bodies from recent graves. They can date from the seventeenth-century onwards.

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### 2.3.6 THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

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Although South Dublin County had for hundreds of years provided agricultural produce and entry to the city of Dublin, this accelerated in the eighteenth century, in tandem with the drive for improvements in agriculture and the wider markets. The impression of the county in the early eighteenth century 'is of a landscape of old estates with semi-ruined houses or castles, and neglected villages where a few cabins straggled out along the roadway'<sup>112</sup>. This was to change during the Georgian boom of the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

New crop rotations, agricultural implements, and a focus on improving agricultural practice and land resulted in significant landscape changes. There was an emphasis on applications of lime for soil improvement, enclosure, and reclamation, and drainage projects of bogs, and indeed reorganisation of the farm outbuildings in line with this rational, improving spirit of agricultural change. Only one limekiln is recorded in the county, at Ballymount Great, although they are likely to have been used more extensively to burn limestone for mortar, limewashing or as a fertiliser. Drainage schemes were favoured as a means to improve waste or boggy land and reference is made in 1801 to extensive drainage works being undertaken in the Parish of Tallaght by George Grierson<sup>113</sup>. Given the greater drainage properties of the limestone lowland, such works probably had greater impact on the poorer, wetter soils in the southern part of the county.

*'Landuse in County Dublin in the eighteenth century was shaped by market forces unleashed by a rapidly growing urban population and large scale development of estates and associated parklands'. Butlin estimated that one eighth of the county was common land, the 'waste' of seventeenth century surveys, incorporating open mountain, salt marshes, tidal flats and twenty lowland bog commonages. Land devoted to demesnes amounted to fifteen to twenty percent of the county area according to recent estimates.<sup>114</sup>*

*'Tillage dominated in barony of Newcastle. A belt of dairy farming interspersed with market gardening ringed the city, stretching south-west of the foothills of the mountain and incorporating*

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<sup>109</sup> O'Keeffe and Simington 1991, 134-6.

<sup>110</sup> O'Keeffe and Simington 1991, 226-228. RPS no. 370.

<sup>111</sup> DU025-003003-

<sup>112</sup> An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of South Dublin County, not dated, 12

<sup>113</sup> A history of Irish Farming, Bell and Watson 2008

<sup>114</sup> Nolan, 1992, 188

*Kiltipper and Friarstown, where dry sloping fields on limestone drift produced high quality pasturage. By 1750 most land was enclosed and divided into individual farms marked by whitethorn hedges or three foot earthbanks. Agrarian arrangements of earlier systems survived in field systems as shown in eighteenth century maps around Rathcoole.<sup>115</sup>. This continuity of agricultural use is reflected in the current agricultural landuse with many fields tilled today around the Newcastle lowlands. An insight into the landscape and farming practices in the County a century later are provided by Lewis in 1837<sup>116</sup>:*

*Co Dublin::Rather more than one-half of the improvable surface is under tillage, chiefly in the northern and western parts, most remote from the metropolis: in the districts to the south of the Liffey, and within a few miles from its northern bank, the land is chiefly occupied by villas, gardens, nurseries, dairy farms, and for the pasturage of horses. Considerable improvement has taken place in the system of agriculture by the more extensive introduction of green crops and improved drainage, and by the extension of tillage up the mountains. The pasture lands, in consequence of drainage and manure, produce a great variety of good natural grasses, and commonly afford from four to five tons of hay per acre, and sometimes six.*

### BUILT HERITAGE AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

With the relative peace and prosperity, the requirement for defensive settlement declined. The move away from fortified houses to Georgian styles was reflected in a move from more formal gardens to naturalistic landscapes. Lake views, and slopes of hills that could offer commanding views over the surrounding areas were preferred sites for this new type of settlement. Not surprisingly, where resources permitted, this is the pattern that took place in the county over this period. *‘Because of the developing interest in pastoral, ‘natural’ landscapes with emphasis on water, river valleys were favoured locations for houses and demesne in the later eighteenth century; the Boyne and Liffey Valleys....where the park landscapes were laid out with a southerly aspect from the house who’s rooms, like their walled fruit and vegetable gardens were heated by the sun’.* This expansion can be particularly noted along the Liffey Valley at the northern end of the study area.<sup>117</sup>

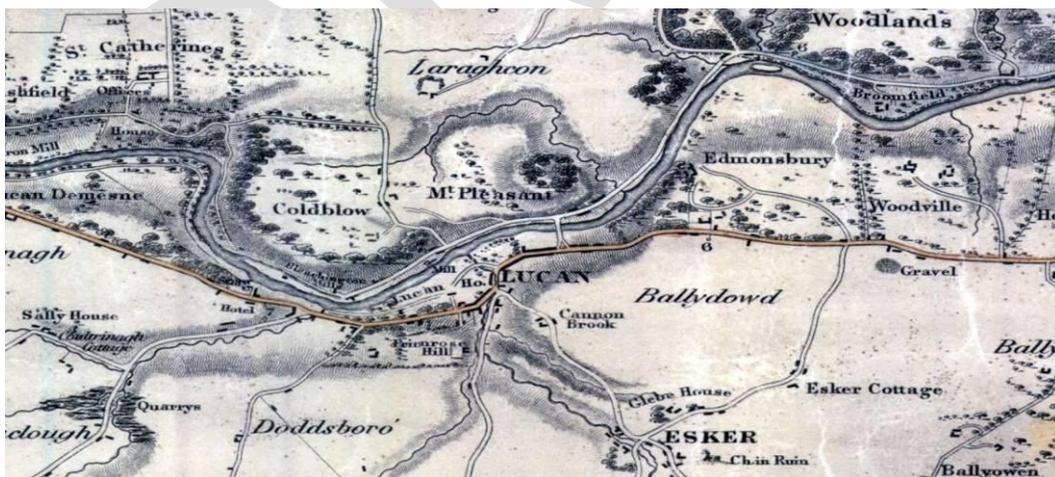


FIGURE 14 MAP OF LUCAN AND LIFFEY VALLEY IN 1821, THE ESTATES OF LARAGHON, EDMONSBURY, WOODVILLE AND LUCAN DEMENSE

<sup>115</sup> Ibid,

<sup>116</sup> Samuel Lewis, Topographical Survey of Ireland 1837

<sup>117</sup> Smyth 1992, 175.

Some landowners also sought to take advantage of the wilderness character of the still remote uplands. George Grierson (above), the kings printer in Ireland, was one such man, who built Heathfield Lodge (nowadays Glensamole Lodge); his daughters subsequently remodelled the lodge in the rustic style akin to a Swiss chalet. After it burnt down, the roof was replaced by slate. Other rural retreats in the Dublin hills and mountains included Ballinascorney Lodge (original built as a shooting lodge and a place of refuge for Robert Emmet after the 1798 rebellion<sup>118</sup>).



FIGURE 15 GLENSAMOLE LODGE (SDCC LIBRARY)

As Big houses and their demesne became one of the dominant landscape features during this time, the earliest planned farmyards were also associated with these - all part of the improving and remodelling processes taking place, although the levels of investment in Ireland were modest compared to England. The financial strategy for landlords was frequently to live off the rents collected by their agents.

What this means is that the surviving vernacular architecture, frequently not protected, became increasingly important to provide insight into the lives of the less prosperous inhabitants of South Dublin County; as Duffy writes:

*'Vernacular buildings, including fences, gate piers and other furniture of the local environment are especially important signatures of the local in landscape. In the absence of documentary evidence, vernacular buildings are often the only sources of information on life and landscapes of households of more modest or poorer circumstances.'*<sup>119</sup>.

In the County, cottages on or near estates were common, usually constructed of mud walls, which can also explain their lack of survival into the modern period. Hill farm houses may still be seen occasionally, see Figure 16 below at Piperstown.

<sup>118</sup> Bohernabreena, A Walk in Time, 1991 Bohernabreena ICA.

<sup>119</sup> Exploring the history and heritage of Irish Landscapes, Duffy, 2007, 124



FIGURE 16 KEARNEYS COTTAGE, PIPERSTOWN (SDCC LIBRARY)

Extensive church building was also a feature of this period. Numerous churches were built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to cater for the large population. The Board of First Fruits funded Church of Ireland buildings, and Catholic Emancipation ensured considerable church building for Catholics. For many of these churches, the gothic revival style was favoured.

The landscape legacy of this intensive period of church building is the numerous steeples seen associated with settlements throughout the county. As Maguire so elegantly puts it *'In the Irish rural landscape church steeples punctuate the skyline, disappearing and re-appearing with delightful surprise within a landscape of high hedges and small fields, each steeple in view of its neighbour'*.

### INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

South Dublin County is particularly rich in industrial heritage, much of which was constructed in this



period. This has been recognised by SDCC who commissioned a survey to record this valuable resource.<sup>120</sup> The Industrial Heritage inventory contains 517 entries and includes bridges, infrastructure relating to water and sewage, gas and electricity, waterways with a particular emphasis on the Grand Canal infrastructure and associated monuments, railways (c. 1846), tramways, roads, fire stations and gárda stations.

FIGURE 17 COTTAGES ALONG THE GRAND CANAL, CLONDALKIN (SDCC LIBRARY)

<sup>120</sup> An industrial heritage survey of the South Dublin administrative area was undertaken in 2012 by Carrig Conservation International and McMahon. This survey comprises a desktop survey report and database. This section is based on the results of that survey.

The Grand Canal had a particular impact on the region when it was constructed between 1783 and 1805 when it reached the River Shannon. It allowed for several industries to be established. And the above inventory details evidence of industries such as fishing, lime production (limekilns), extraction such as stone, gravel and sand quarries and mining, various factories and mills, brick works and smaller industries such as smithies and forges. Most of the evidence (nearly 50%) for the South Dublin County area was related to extractive industries. There were other significant results for example, that paper manufacture was a significant industry in the region (associated with the creation of a parliament in Dublin) and concentrated on the Rivers Liffey, Camac and Dodder. Flour and corn mills (17) in addition to two windmills highlight the importance of tillage in the agricultural economy of the county. The numbers of smithies and forges also suggested an agricultural-influenced economy. The Survey drew attention to the two important sites that managed water for the city of Dublin. Both the weir and watercourse had substantial remains but required remedial attention for their continued survival.<sup>121</sup>

The transport network also saw significant improvements in this period; 1729 saw the construction of the first turnpike road from Dublin to Kilcullen; whilst other villages such as Lucan became a post town on the main Dublin to Galway Road that allowed a changeover of horses. Improvements to roads and canals brought their own landscape changes through provision of larger stables, toll collectors houses, and built development associated with the canal locks and bridges.

The introduction of the railways also had a further profound effect, again opening up the landscape, increasing communications, and shortening journey times between the main urban centres and markets. The landscape legacy relates to the great industrial heritage such as bridges, viaducts, cuttings and embankments and of course railway stations themselves.

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### 2.3.7 TWENTIETH CENTURY

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Although County Dublin was not affected in the same way as the midlands and western counties of Ireland with the famine, the post famine period saw an increase in population for the city and county of Dublin. Several estates were severely indebted and were sold under the Encumbered Estates Act of 1849 –these included Corkagh House, Athgoe Park, Friars Lands and St. Edmonsbury.

The Lands Commission in 1922 was given the power to purchase and break up large landholdings not being farmed by the owners. This resulted in other big houses and estates becoming derelict with only relict features such as gate entrances, lodges and ice houses surviving. With the various Land and Labourers Acts passed (c1880 to 1921) local authority houses were constructed; many influenced by the Arts and Crafts style and can be seen at Palmerstown, Whitechurch and Clondalkin. The growth of the suburbs was partly as a response to the persistent poverty within the Dublin slums. People who could afford it moved to larger houses during the Victorian period in areas such as Rathfarnham. Peripheral growth was seen as necessary to address population densities in the city and facilitate slum clearance. Allied with economic expansion in the late 1950s and 60s, Myles Wright's report proposed the development of four new linear towns focused upon existing small settlements at Tallaght-Saggart, Clondalkin-Milltown, Lucan-Palmerstown and

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<sup>121</sup> Survey codes: SDCIHS304 and SDCIHS517.

Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart<sup>122</sup>. The fact that development is constrained in the east by Dublin Bay and to the south by the mountains has continually meant that west (and north) of Dublin city have been seen as the only possible areas for future housing development; this is continuing challenge for South Dublin County in order to contain this urban sprawl westwards.

The introduction of the rural electrification and group water schemes had both landscape and social impacts on the rural parts of the county ; improving quality of life for people and introducing into the landscape water treatment features, (such as water towers), electricity poles (telegraph poles as they are called) and pylons. This mechanisation also affected farming practices, with the decline of horses and increasing use of tractors. Following membership of the European Community, greater investment has led to intensification of farm production methods and a significant expansion in mechanised farm activity. These developments have often resulted in the creation of larger, more intensively fertilised fields and larger scale farm buildings to accommodate machinery and livestock.

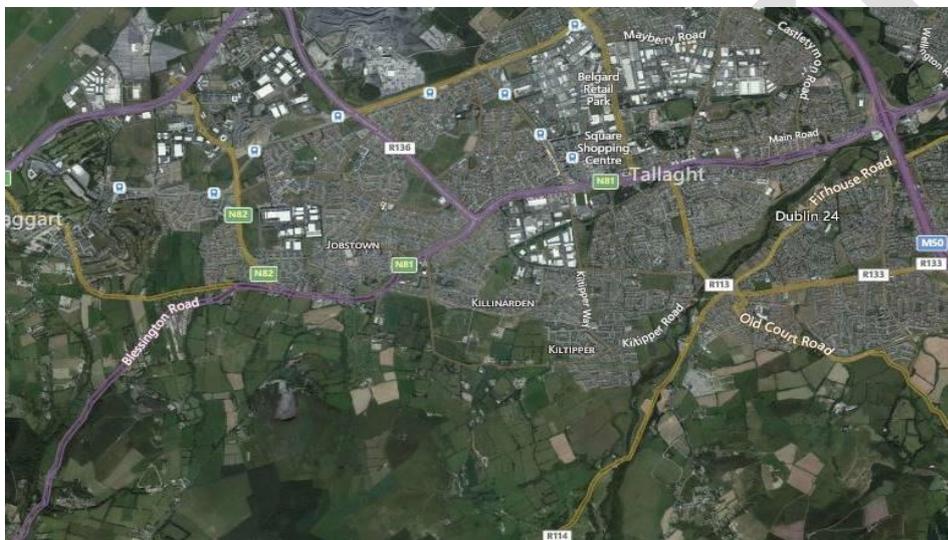


FIGURE 18 AERIAL PHOTO OF SOUTH DUBLIN TODAY SHOWING TRANSPORT CORRIDORS AND VARIETY OF LANDUSES (BING MAPS)

The role of South Dublin County as a communications corridor has continued well into the modern day with the construction of the M4 and M7 motorways (that broadly follow much more ancient routes) and the main orbital road around Greater Dublin the M50. Again the re- shaping associated with these has seen new vistas open up or the re-orientating of the landscape, and change from familiar to new landmarks in the landscape. What is important to note however that so much of the contemporary landscape is the result of generations of people working in the landscape. To conclude this section, Duffy writes:

*'At a superficial level in rural landscapes, much of the distinctive colour (of buildings and crops, for instance) and sounds (human voices, dogs barking, livestock) are part of our humanised landscapes, which are also inevitably distinguished by topographies of families linked by kinship, marriage and experience of the same place, lives taking place within the farmscapes and townlands of the landscape. Rural landscape reflected the unceasing labour which was involved historically in 'making'*

<sup>122</sup> Tallaght: The Planning and Development of an Irish New Town Andrew MacLaran Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin Michael Punch Departments Geography and Sociology. Trinity College Dublin, 2004

*landscapes, the large investments of time and energy by earlier inhabitants in constructing, reclaiming and 'taming' the landscape for subsequent generations; even more so with the material infrastructure of streets, pavements and drainage systems of urban landscapes. Later generations inherit a largely completed infrastructure which usually only required maintenance or minor modification. This is a universal aspect of all narratives of landscape evolution.'*

DRAFT

## 3 THE PRESENT DAY LANDSCAPE OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

In this section, the landscape character types are discussed in more detail.

A definition of a landscape character types (LCT) is provided below:

Landscape character types are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different localities throughout the county. Nonetheless, where they do occur, they commonly share similar combinations of geology, topography, landcover and historical landuse. For example, limestone farmland is a distinct landscape character types and is recognisable as such, whether they occur in South Dublin County or other counties.

Although the 2000 Draft Guidance in Ireland refer to Physical Units, LCTs are the preferred terms used throughout this report – in part as these are the more commonly accepted terminology, and also LCTS is the term used in the 2006 Wind Energy Guidelines utilised later in this report.

### 3.2 IDENTIFYING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

Based on previous professional experience and reflecting current guidance at national and European level<sup>123</sup> on the identification of LCTS, landcover and landform are considered the principal drivers of LCTS. Drivers are considered to be the principal physical influences that lead to the creation of different LCTs. Following fieldwork undertaken in February 2015, the following landscape character types and areas have been identified and were discussed at a meeting with the forward planning team on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Figure 19 illustrates the LCTs identified in the county and the table below describes the LCT as well as a driver of that particular landscape character type

TABLE 3A: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

Name	Drivers
<b>River Valley</b>	Principal rivers of the county with alluvium soils draining to Dublin bay. Generally rise in the foothills or mountains and ultimately drain north-easterly to Dublin Bay. Riparian vegetation and treelines including alluvial woodland are an attractive landscape and ecological feature Varies between wider, more mature river valleys and incised, narrow valleys that create more dramatic landscapes.
<b>Canal</b>	Manmade watercourses of historic importance. Embankments are a feature and frequently alignment is closely associated with the railway lines.

<sup>123</sup> Landscape and Landscape Assessment, consultation draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2000. Department of Environment and Local Government. Making Sense of Place- Landscape Character Assessment Guidance, 2002. Countryside Agency (now Natural England).

Name	Drivers
<b>Limestone farmlands</b>	<p>Woodlands and habitats associated with the canal are important ecological features. Offers an accessible recreational area for urban dwellers.</p> <p>Gently undulating low-lying (generally below 100m) with limestone bedrock. Land use includes tillage and pasture. Generally dispersed settlement pattern HISTORICAL???</p>
<b>Foothills</b>	<p>Generally located between 100 to 200 m. Bedrock largely sedimentary sandstones, shales and greywackes. Landcover largely pasture and rough grazing Dispersed rural housing with a variety of architectural styles and treatments interspersed with generally single story farmhouses with round gate pillars a vernacular feature Golf courses and forest walks present.</p>
<b>Hills</b>	<p>Located above 200m with similar bedrock to the foothills i.e.: sedimentary sandstones, shales and greywackes. Increasing forestry cover with coniferous plantations covering several hilltops Settlement increasingly sparse as elevation increases Recreational uses include forest walks.</p>
<b>Mountains</b>	<p>Located above 350 m Coniferous forests and heather moor/rough grazing are dominant land cover, with extensive blanket bog on summits Topography is variable, but core areas over 350m and rising to 757m Kippure on the Dublin/Wicklow Border Bedrock primarily granite and/sedimentary.</p>
<b>Transport Corridors</b>	<p>Major transport routes that are typically of low permeability in that they often provide few places where the route can be crossed safely. This includes railway lines, motorways, dual carriageways and by-passes. Some transport corridors are closely associated with Green Corridor/Area</p>
<b>Green spaces</b>	<p>Green spaces in this LCT refers primarily to the large parklands that contain a variety of habitats and recreational uses; some such as the Dodder Valley park are diverse and very important ecological corridors; other parks include more amenity and sports space. Others again are the former demesnes associated with estates.</p>
<b>Urban</b>	<p>Includes built land around historic settlements within the larger urban areas. Primarily composed of established nucleated villages and towns that have developed historically many of which saw significant improvements in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in terms of streetscapes. These are surrounded by residential development of various origins but primarily 20<sup>th</sup> century, with significant recent development in the past two decades.</p>
<b>Historic urban</b>	<p>These are the nucleated settlements that have a distinctive historic core. Many date to either early Christian or medieval origins. The ACA boundaries are used to indicate these historic urban centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clondalkin Village</li> <li>Lucan Village</li> <li>Palmerstown Lower (Mill Complex)</li> <li>Rathfarnham Village including Willbrook</li> <li>Tallaght Village</li> <li>Saggart</li> <li>Newcastle</li> </ul>

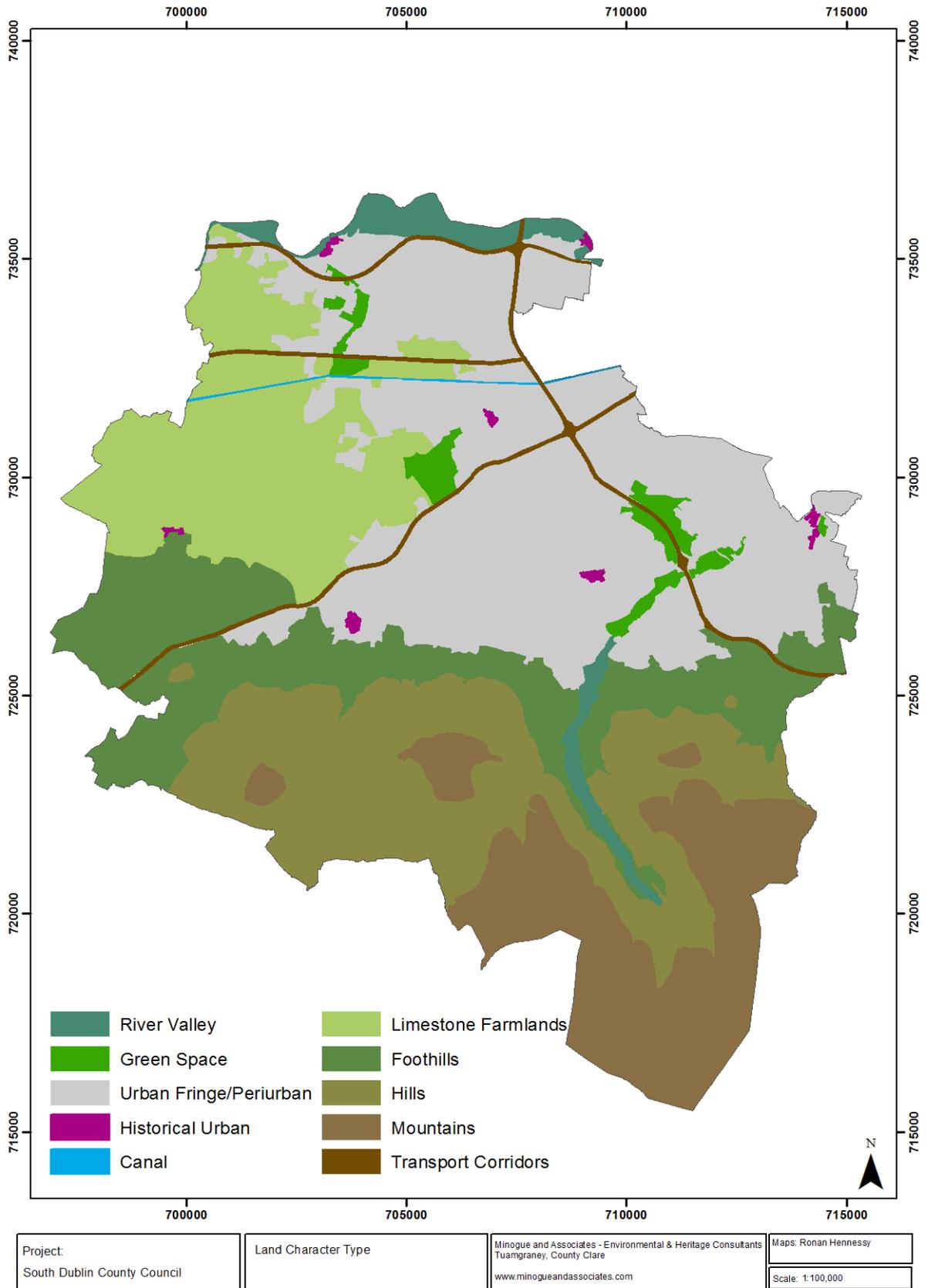


FIGURE 19 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

## 4 RELICT LAND USE TYPES: AN OVERVIEW OF THE EMERGING HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

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The historic character of South Dublin County has been mapped and archaeologically assessed by first using current land use character types and areas, current mapping and aerial photography<sup>124</sup> and by attempting to 'going back in time' through the available cartography to ascertain if any historic character has remained in the current pattern of the landscape. Due to the size of the area, a townland approach was used, as this is the basis on which archaeological data is collected.<sup>125</sup> For each townland in the study area (n.234) the topographical files, RMP, RPS, IHS, excavations data, aerial photography, first and subsequent editions of the OS six-inch mapping and 25-inch mapping were consulted to build up a picture of that townland and its relict land uses over time.<sup>126</sup> Care was taken to use a landscape approach and not to be overly-concerned with individual monuments, but to try to gain a picture of the overall relict land use. Of particular importance was to capture and map relict land use and its impacts on current land uses, if indeed any impacts were recordable. Due to the intense development which has already occurred in parts of the lowlands of the county, history, historical mapping and archaeology, especially excavated evidence, was important in assessing and capturing relict land use. It is important to note at this juncture that, throughout history, the City of Dublin, situated to the northeast of the study area can be identified as a driving force in the historic character of South Dublin, at least from the end of the Early medieval period, when this entire region was identified as the hinterland for the Hiberno-Scandinavian settlement at Dublin. In the medieval period, much of the land in South Dublin County was in the control of ecclesiastics, predominantly the Archbishop of Dublin, and religious houses that had their main houses in the City of Dublin.<sup>127</sup>

Having undertaken this data collection and analysis, the predominant relict land use for parts of the study area were assigned.<sup>128</sup> Ten discrete relict land use areas were realised. The relict land use of the northern portion of the administrative area was designated the **post-medieval** period (mid to late sixteenth century to mid nineteenth century, i.e. c. AD 1550-1850) due to the density of demesne landscapes in this area, coupled with the early transport links of the Grand Canal and railway. The proximity to the River Liffey and Valley was first an incentive to both locate demesnes and their associated 'Big Houses' in this location. Secondly, the river was also a draw for industries such as mills, as was the canal. This post-medieval demesne landscape can be clearly identified as a palimpsest in the current land use and character types in this location. An important post-medieval

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<sup>124</sup> LIDAR is available for South Dublin though this was not used in this study. It is feasible that this resource could be used for future further analysis of the landscape.

<sup>125</sup> The administrative area of South Dublin comprises for the most part the two baronies of Newcastle and Uppercross.

<sup>126</sup> For a chronological overview of the monuments associated with each period of relict land use see biography of settlement in County Dublin section of this report.

<sup>127</sup> See Bradley 1988; Clarke 2002; Murphy and Potterton 2010.

<sup>128</sup> While an evidence-based approach was applied, it must be noted that there is a level of subjectivity in the process and finalisation of predominant relict land uses. It is also to be noted that this part of county Dublin has been settled since prehistoric times and has been land use has been intensive in certain portions, for example the Liffey Valley and the lowlands for hundreds of years.

feature in the landscape of South Dublin County and one which merited its identification as a post-medieval relict land use is the Military Road.<sup>129</sup>

Most of the lowlands of South Dublin County have been characterised as having a predominantly **medieval** (twelfth to mid sixteenth century, i.e. c. AD 1100-1550) relict use, from the uplands in the south (approximately at the 150m contour to the Grand Canal in the north). The relict character and land use of the medieval period was derived from recorded upstanding and excavated archaeological features of the period and townland name evidence. In addition, the majority of archaeological excavations in this area yielded evidence dating to this period. Most of the rural manors and boroughs were established here, for example Rathcoole, Saggart<sup>130</sup> and Newcastle (Lyons) and had townlands named 'commons' associated with them.<sup>131</sup> Field enclosure was particularly examined to ascertain if relict plots could be identified as representing medieval usage of the land. While there was some tentative evidence of long narrow burgage plots associated with the manors, for example at Newcastle,<sup>132</sup> at only two locations was possible medieval agricultural activity perceived (on the first edition six-inch map). These were in the townlands of Crockshane, to the southwest of Rathcoole and Moneyatta Commons to the south of Saggart. Rathfarnham<sup>133</sup> has also been designated as a medieval relict land use, based on excavation evidence but also the presence of Rathfarnham Castle, a National Monument in State ownership.

Due to continuity of use over time, particularly in the lowlands and north of the study area, the relict land use relating to the **early medieval** period (c. AD 400-1100) is possibly smaller than might be expected. Despite the fact that there are 11 early medieval ecclesiastical enclosures and several ringforts known from the study area, they do not dominate the landscape. Clondalkin has been designated an early medieval relict lands use, which is based on its important history as an ecclesiastical centre, its extant round tower, which is a National Monument, and most especially its retention of an early medieval street pattern. The second early medieval relict use was noted at Tallaght and Kilnamanagh. Again this designation was arrived at when historical and archaeological evidence was taken into consideration. Tallaght has an important history as an ecclesiastical centre, established fairly late in the early medieval period in 769, but with strong connections to the Culdee (Cél Dé) monastic reform movement, along with the archaeological extant evidence visible in St Maelruan's.

Three areas have been designated **prehistoric** relict landscape. The term prehistoric, (7,000 BC-AD 400) which covers all periods (Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Ages) has been used as in two of the three areas, important evidence for two or three of these periods are present, none of which was predominant. Extant monuments, finds, lithic scatters and excavated evidence have been considered in the formulation of these relict land use zones. For example, the entire southern portion of the study area, i.e. the Dublin Uplands, and for the most part above the 150m contour, has been designated as a prehistoric relict landscape, due to the high concentration of megalithic

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<sup>129</sup> The R115. Alexander Taylor was the engineer in charge of its construction. The road was constructed between 1800 and 1809 in the wake of the 1798 rebellion to open up the mountains to the British army to assist them in finding insurgents.

<sup>130</sup> Saggart has an early medieval origin but when all evidence and pattern of the manor was considered it was concluded that the dominant relict land use was medieval.

<sup>131</sup> This association was also noted in the Balbriggan HLC see Deery and Goucher 2008, 60.

<sup>132</sup> McDermott and Lyons 2011.

<sup>133</sup> Like Saggart there is some early medieval evidence from the environs of Rathfarnham, particularly at Butterfield. However, it was concluded that the dominant relict land use was medieval.

monuments and its continued use into the Bronze Age. In particular there is a preference for this location to be used for funerary and ritual activity throughout both periods. Three out of the four types of megalithic monument found in Ireland are present in this landscape, which should be considered of national importance.<sup>134</sup> Vistas and prospects from the uplands into the lowlands of Dublin and to Dublin Bay was probably an important factor in the choice of location for these monuments. More lowland locations to the east of this zone have also been designated prehistoric (for example Edmondstown) as archaeological excavated evidence has shown that this location was also used for burial in the Bronze Age and should be considered as part of this prehistoric landscape. Similarly, the townland of Cooldrinagh has been considered a prehistoric relict landscape due to the importance of the prehistoric excavated evidence from there, particularly early Mesolithic and Neolithic. It is one of the rare places in the study area that has yielded Mesolithic material. The Mesolithic is a period during which settlement and ritual is not thought to have been monumental and due to the nomadic lifestyle leaves little trace in the archaeological record or on the landscape. However, it was thought worthy of designating this location as prehistoric as it further identifies the Liffey Valley (and other river valleys in the study area) as potentially important for the discovery of further early prehistoric material. The final area which has been designated prehistoric is Athgoe Hill. This is due to the presence of an important extant hilltop enclosure at the summit of the hill, again showing that upland locations in this region were favoured by prehistoric peoples. It is also significant, as recent study of LIDAR imagery has suggested, previously unrecorded archaeological features on the hill and perhaps on the nearby Windmill Hill<sup>135</sup>. It is currently designated as a medieval relict landscape due to the presence of the only medieval windmill site in the study area.

Some areas in the region have little or no relict land use types at all visible and are defined by large scale high density developments such as housing and industrial estates, where neither the historical or archaeological evidence is sufficiently dominant to suggest a relict land use type. In these cases, they have been designated 'none'. This area corresponds broadly with the highly developed area to the east of the M50 routeway. It is possible in the future that it would be appropriate to carry out an urban character assessment(s) of this area.

Figure 20 shows the Historic landscape types identified for South Dublin County and Table 4a presents a summary of these.

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<sup>134</sup> Ní Lionáin and Davis 2014.

<sup>135</sup> Ní Lionáin and Davis 2014, 86.

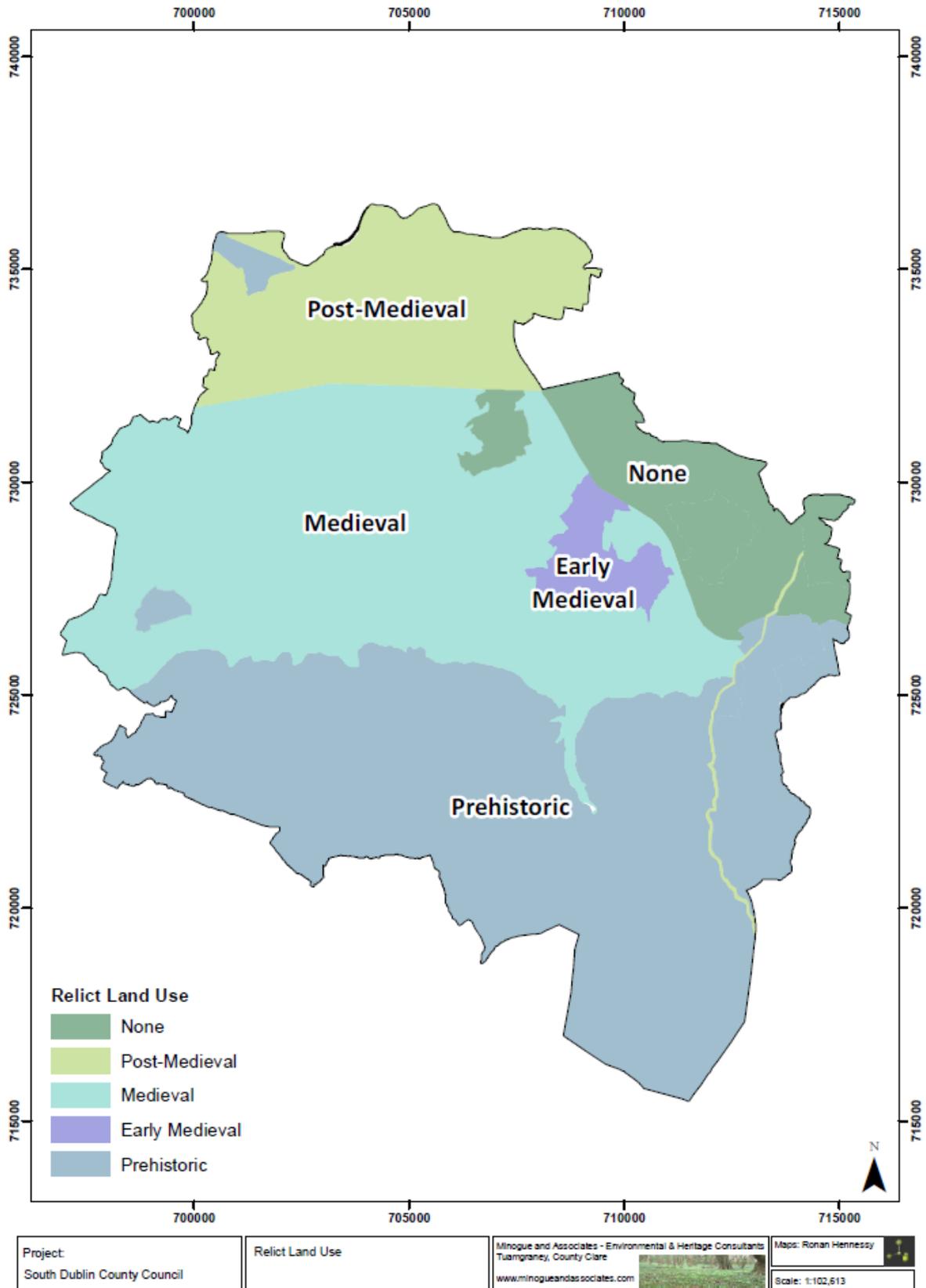


FIGURE 20 RELICT LANDUSE TYPES OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

TABLE 4A HISTORIC/RELICT LANDSCAPE TYPES

Relict Land use	Areas in SD	Reasoning for Designation
<b>Prehistoric</b>	Cooldrinagh Td (NW corner)	Earliest evidence in region found in this townland, early Mesolithic Lithic Scatter. Location adjacent to River Liffey highlights prehistoric uses of the river valley.
<b>Post-Medieval</b>	All townlands from River Liffey to Grand Canal and slightly to the South of the Grand Canal (to show that both sides of Canal is in this area)	Highlights density of Demesnes along the River Liffey which have really shaped the current layout of this part. Canal and railway also added to landscape in this period, the canal facilitating many industries here too.
<b>Early Medieval</b>	Clondalkin Td Tallaght Td Kilnamanagh Td	These are the 3 big early medieval ecclesiastical sites in the region, Clondalkin still retaining its early medieval street pattern and round tower – which is a National Monument. Integrity of other two not as intact but archaeological and historical evidence when taken together make these important EM features in that landscape. Their proximity to each other is interesting too- ecclesiastical sites are usually further apart than this.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	Boundary for Dublin Uplands from Steelstown in SW (actually bounded by N7 here) and following 150m contour Eastward to Kiltipper and across to Bohernabreena and including Glenasmole as a valley but still in uplands, then continuing E along 150m contour, to the R115 (Military Rd)	Dublin uplands is a nationally important prehistoric landscape, both in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages- see report by Ni Lionain and Davis (2014). They use 150m contour as mark of upland region and so it is applied here. Due to fairly intensive use in both periods it is difficult to sub-divide into Neolithic and Bronze Age relict land use, so the broader term Prehistoric is used.
<b>Post-Medieval</b>	The line of the R115 Military Rd in study area from Rathfarnham to Wicklow	While this through a prehistoric relict land use, the precise date for this road's construction is known and it is an important historical feature in this landscape and needs to be highlighted.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	All the study area E of the R115 to the M50 to the N. These are the	This designation is based on the height of the land and the fact that it is considered Dublin Uplands, only separated from the rest of the uplands by the Military Rd.

Relict Land use	Areas in SD	Reasoning for Designation
	tds of Cruagh, Jamestown, Newtown.	
<b>Prehistoric</b>	To the N of the M50 tds of Edmondstown and Whitechurch	This designation is based on prehistoric archaeology in these tds.
<b>Medieval</b>	Central Study Area Block, To S of Canal, from Hazel Hatch and Ringwood in west to the M50 and southwards to the Prehistoric boundary with the Dublin Uplands, this block includes Saggart and Rathcoole.	This designation is based on the archaeological evidence excavated, and the density of medieval manors and other medieval features such as castles in this area.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	Athgoe Hill	The hilltop enclosure suggests an Iron Age Date – and is one of the few places in the study area where the Iron Age is represented.
<b>Medieval</b>	Rathfarnham Templeogue	These particular places are clearly associated with medieval structures (castle national monument)
<b>None</b>	E edge of Study area to E of M50 from Grand Canal at North td of Gallanstown southwards to but not including Edmondstown.	The remainder is so designated as it is recognised that relict land use has also been affected by modern land use. These areas are now defined by developments of large scale high density housing and industrial estates and the archaeological monuments, excavated evidence and early mapping does not provide a clear relict land use.

## 5 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

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The following sections describe in detail four of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified through this study. The fifth area, Urban Lowlands, occurring as it does in the built up sector of the county, would require a separate townscape assessment, to be undertaken at a smaller scale and provide a more detailed evidence base for townscape management issues in the future. Figure 21 shows the LCAs within the County. Following fieldwork, it was determined that the LCA boundaries prepared for the earlier South Dublin County Development Plan were not reflective of the landscape character today and some were better considered as parklands (i.e. Tymon Park) rather than LCAs. Therefore this reduces the overall LCAs to five primary areas.

During the lifetime of the current South Dublin CDP 2016-2022 there have been two Variations to the plan that relate to land being rezoned as follows:

### 5.1.1. VARIATION NO 1 GRANGE WEST – CHANGE IN ZONING FROM AGRICULTURE TO ENTERPRISE AND EMPLOYMENT. AREA 193.47HECTARES

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It is recommended that the boundary of the LCA 2 Newcastle Lowlands be amended to reflect this change in use from agriculture to enterprise and employment. More broadly the pressure on this LCA relates to urbanisation and given its remaining agricultural landscape, retaining and enhancing this function is critical. More generally for food security, ecosystems services and the retention of this agricultural landscape within South Dublin County, clear policy and objective measures that marry the green and blue green infrastructure considerations with landscape recommendations would be of benefit.

There may be further merit in considering buffer zones to protect these agricultural lands from urban generated pressures.

The following measures were identified in the SEA for this Variation relating to landscape and these should be integrated to the updated LCA Report as follows:

MM12	<p>A landscape management framework (Green Infrastructure Guidelines) for the rezoning will be prepared that will address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil sealing</li> <li>• Incorporation of SUDs into overall design that offers biodiversity enhancement where possible</li> <li>• Boundary treatments and retention of hedgerows where possible</li> <li>• Management regime for retained hedgerows and treelines</li> <li>• Buffer area between lands and the Grand Canal.</li> <li>• Open space</li> <li>• Lighting proposals particularly in areas close the Grand Canal.</li> </ul>
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MM15	All development proposals along the Grand Canal shall be accompanied by a detailed landscaping plan, prepared by a suitably qualified landscape architect. The landscape plan shall address the varying topography of the site and shall have regard to the proposed Natural Heritage Area and the Protected Species using this corridor. The plan shall also include details of hard and soft landscaping, proposed species and sensitive lighting. Where new canal crossings (i.e footbridges/cycle bridges) are proposed, they shall be designed so as to avoid fragmentation of linear habitats associated with the Grand Canal Corridor
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### 5.1.2 VARIATION NO3

Variation 3 related to the rezoning of 178 hectares of the Employment and Enterprise (EE) zoned lands in the Naas Road / Ballymount area for Regeneration (REGEN).

These lands are within the LCA 5 Urban South Dublin which was not the subject of the County LCA in 2015. One of the actions of the Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2015-2020 related to assessing the landscape character along the rivers and canals that Waterways Ireland manage. The Grand and the Royal Canals within Dublin were selected for this pilot project to identify and assess the landscape character of these historical manmade features that have been subject to extensive changes - both positive and negative since their construction commenced in the eighteenth century. In 2016, Waterways Ireland commissioned a local scale landscape character assessment of the Grand and Royal Canals from the Dublin Docks to the first lock past the M50 motorway. Given that the Grand Canal traverses part of South Dublin County and that the 2015 County LCA recommended the Grand Canal be considered for scenic quality designation, the relevant section of the Waterway Ireland study is replicated below for consideration as an addition to the larger report.

It is noted that stretches of the Grand Canal would benefit from landscape interventions to improve and enhance the visual and landscape quality of same. This may be of particular relevance given the Variation No 3 to the South Dublin CDP .

As the Grand Canal forms the northern boundary of this Variation however, it is recommended that the LCA report be updated to reflect the Grand Canals LCA (2016, Waterways Ireland). These can provide greater detail and recommendations to forward planning in relation to the Grand Canal within this Variation.

Each LCA description comprises the following:

The description comprises:

- A typical photograph
- A list of the LCTs found in the LCA
- A list of the HLTs found in the LCA
- A written description of landscape character (including geology and landform, landcover and landuse, ecology and human influences).
- An indication of landscape values
- An assessment of landscape character condition

The HLT has informed the discussion of landscape character, especially when discussing historical and human influences.

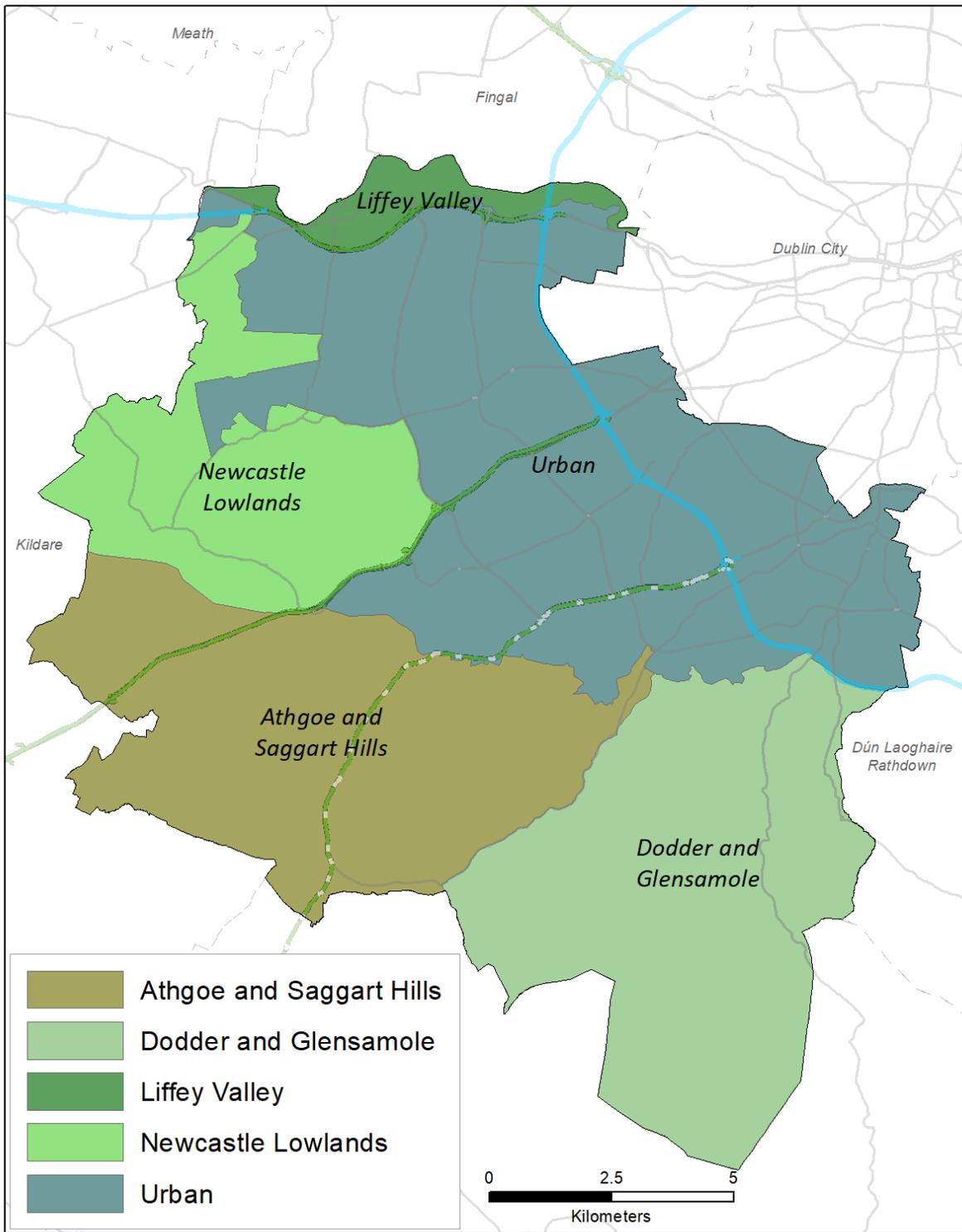
In the subsequent chapters, each LCA is assessed in terms of its sensitivity to development and capacity to accommodate development activities including rural housing, wind energy and general development.

A landscape character area may be defined as follows:

Landscape character areas are units of the landscape that are geographically specific and have their own character and sense of place. Each LCA has its own distinctive character, based upon patterns of geology, landform, landuse, cultural, historical, and ecological features. Commonly, a landscape character area may be composed of a number of landscape character types –for example, the Dodder and Glenasmole comprise three LCTS –river valley, hills and uplands. However, the settlement patterns, historical and cultural associations of this area contribute to the distinctive character of this LCA.

**Figure 21 Landscape Character Areas of South Dublin County**

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**Landscape Character Areas**

Map: RH  
 Date: 2021  
 CRS: ITM IRENET95  
 Data: South Dublin County Council; Copernicus DEM;  
 OSI Open Data

N  
 1:100,000

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**LCA 1 LIFFEY VALLEY**



FIGURE 22 RIVER LIFFEY COPYRIGHT: TOM HEALY

### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- River valley of significant historical importance
- Important ecological corridor associated with the river Liffey;
- Incised valley for much of its journey through South Dublin County, the wooded and pasture slopes combined with riparian vegetation create an attractive landscape setting
- Enclosed and intimate with views to river from the Strawberry Beds and at river crossings
- Ridgelines of low hills adjoining valley form attractive setting to settlements
- Settlements of Lucan and Palmerstown with important built heritage and attractive townscapes present
- The urbanised areas contrast with pockets of rural character along the Strawberry Beds
- Major transport corridors of N4 and M50
- Visual and landscape quality reflected in designation as Special Area Amenity Order.

Extent: From western boundary, along N4 corridor to county boundary close to Chapelizod.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES, HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE TYPES AND HABITAT TYPES PRESENT.

LCT	HLT	Corine Data	hectares
<b>River Valley</b>	Early medieval	discontinuous urban fabric	141.41206
<b>Historic Urban</b>	Post medieval	industrial and commercial units	12.406388
<b>Urban</b>		road and rail	2.851889
<b>Green space</b>		green urban areas	109.13901
<b>Transport corridor</b>		sports and leisure facilities	51.683828

	arable land (non irrigated)	120.48041
	pasture	76.694704
	broadleaf forest	41.667287

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## GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM

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This LCA is underlain primarily by the carboniferous limestone formed within the deep marine basin 340 million years ago. This lower carboniferous limestone is a muddy, shaley limestone type also known as Calp limestone and used extensively in buildings in the greater Dublin area.

The Lucan esker that shows the retreat of the ice sheet north westwards at the end of the last ice age can be seen in certain areas of this LCA and is reflected in townlands bearing the same name.

Due to the limestone bedrock the area is generally low lying. The river valley of the Liffey has created an attractive river valley which creates more topographical variety and provides low hills that slope down to the river itself. These ridges form the backdrop to the river valley in South Dublin County. These ridges generally only rise to around 50m OD but create a more diverse and interesting landform within this LCA. This combines with the more incised slopes associated with the river valley and the valley floor itself.

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## VEGETATION AND ECOLOGY

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Landcover is quite diverse for this relatively small LCA; the historical nucleated settlements of Palmerstown and Lucan are surrounded to the south and west by more modern residential development. The habitats present along the river are the most ecologically significant and create an important green space and ecological corridor within a largely urbanised area.

The river valley of the Liffey between Palmerstown and Lucan include the proposed NHA which stretches from Glenaulin weir at Palmerstown upstream to the county boundary. In addition to the river itself, the parallel millrace is another significant feature. Parklands associated with large houses are a feature and this section of the river is a designated salmonid river. The main terrestrial habitat around this stretch of the river is mixed deciduous woodland on fertile, limey alluvium and boulder clay, in which Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is dominant in some areas. The threatened Green Figwort (*Scrophularia umbrosa*), a species listed in the Irish Red Data Book, is recorded from a number of stations along the river within the site. This stretch of the River Liffey has the greatest number of recently recorded populations of this species in Ireland.

The Strawberry Beds are another ecological feature within the pNHA. They occupy the north bank of the river between Knockmaroon Hill in the east and the Lucan Bridge in the west. The soil of the area is very fertile and up until the middle of the last century the predominant industry was agriculture. The topography of the Beds was intensively managed, with the construction of terraces for the cultivation of a variety of crops. Invasive species have been recorded along the mill race including very aggressive plant types such as Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and Russian Vine (*Fallopia baldschuanica*).

In addition to the above, this LCA enjoys three parks which again are a variety of designed landscapes and more naturalistic planting these parks – the Lucan Village Park, Vesey Park and Esker comprise the Griffeen Valley park and contain a variety of habitats including mature deciduous trees, wet woodland, hedgerows, remnant of the esker and habitats associated with the watercourses themselves.

FIGURE 23AERIAL VIEW OF THE LIFFEY VALLEY (BING MAPS)



## HISTORICAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCES

Given the importance of rivers as both a source of freshwater and a transport route, it is likely that human activity in this area dates from the prehistoric period. The River Liffey itself would have attracted activity and settlement from the earliest period, for example the early Mesolithic material found in the nearby townland of Cooldrinagh. This is the earliest settlement evidence in the region as a whole and is significant. The excavations at Cooldrinagh showed that this location was also in use in the Neolithic era when ritual monuments, such as a passage tomb were constructed, and it continued to be used in the later prehistoric and into the historic period. Later material evidence relates to a ringfort surrounded by a souterrain near Vesey Park known locally as the cave. However it is from the Anglo-Norman period that this LCA and particularly nucleated settlements such as Lucan originate.

Lucan Demesne (better known nowadays as St Catherine's) was settled by the Normans and in 1204 lands were granted to Warisius de Pech. The first reference to a borough is dated 1316 when David Styward granted to William de Styward and Robert de Notyngham' *one burgage in Lucan lying between the burgages formerly belonging to William Styward and Robert de Notton stretching in length from High Street (regia strata) of the town to the water of Avenlyffe*'. The citation indicates that the modern main street remains on the site of its medieval predecessor.

The oldest surviving buildings in the village include Sarsfield's Castle and the ruins of a 13<sup>th</sup> century church. King John's Bridge spanning the Griffeen River dates from c.1200 and is thought to be the oldest in Ireland. The Vesey Bridge also crossing the Griffeen was constructed c. 1733 and the Lucan Bridge over the Liffey was erected in 1814. The name Lucan is thought to relate to Leamhchán' – Place of the Elms.

The other principal historic settlement is Palmerstown, of monastic origins. In 1180 Aalred the Palmer founded the Augustinian monastery on Thomas Street (Mill Lane). All the lands belonged to

the Hospital of St John the Baptist without Newgage and were held as grange lands until the dissolution of the monasteries.

Striking landscape features of this LCA include the estates and their associated parklands that sought to take advantage of the scenic qualities of the river, as 'borrowed landscape'. Today, Lucan House, and St Edmonsbury represent good examples within this LCA.



FIGURE 24 SPA HOUSE, LUCAN (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)

The Liffey Valley, and Lucan village in particular, also has a historical association with tourism and recreation, most notably with the sulphur spa waters that were frequented by Dubliners and was known for its curative powers. The Lucan Spa hotel was built in 1758 and the terrace of Georgian Houses known as the Crescent were used by visitors to the area and the hotel. The provision of railways and trams to the village increased its accessibility further. The southern facing slopes of the Strawberry Beds were used to grow strawberries as a commercial enterprise but also as a location for day trippers to come and eat the strawberries and cream on cabbage leaves whilst enjoying the scenic qualities and rural character of the area.



FIGURE 25 VIEW WEST ALONG LIFFEY VALLEY AND THE STRAWBERRY BEDS WITH GUINNESS BRIDGE CROSSING THE RIVER

This LCA also had an active industrial history as the centre of linen, cotton, corn and flour milling in the 18<sup>th</sup> c. These mills were powered by the millrace opposite the Wren's nest pub.

The Griffeen River as it joins the Liffey is also mentioned briefly in James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*. It is thought that he was familiar with the area as his father worked in neighbouring Chapelizod.

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### LANDSCAPE VALUES

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This LCA has a number of designations including natural heritage area, presence of protected species and potential annex 1 habitats in alluvial /wet woodlands. Historical features are numerous and rare, reflected in Architectural Conservation Area designations, sites and monuments records extending from Mesolithic artefacts to industrial heritage. Scenic qualities are reflected in part designation of Special Area Amenity Order and the contribution this part of the Liffey Valley makes to the Greater Dublin area as an ecological and amenity area.

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### FORCES FOR CHANGE

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- Increased residential or urban development
- Fragmentation of habitats and invasive species control
- Traffic pressures
- Loss of smaller vernacular features such as gateposts

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### LANDSCAPE CONDITION

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Overall, the LCA is in good to moderate condition. The habitats and river areas, particularly around the Strawberry Beds, retain a rural sense despite the proximity of the M50. This rural character contrasts with the more active urban character that comprises much of the rest of the LCA.

The historical settlements of Lucan and Palmerstown combined with a number of large houses and their parklands increases landscape interest and diversity.

The views into the river valley and across the ridges to the north are attractive features, provide a landscape setting and context and contribute significantly to the distinctive character of this landscape. It is an interesting, diverse LCA and the landform generally creates an intimate and enclosed landscape that offers occasional rather than consistent views to the river such as at river crossings or from the slopes of the valley.

The habitats, in particular mature trees and alluvial woodland, add further interest and screening opportunities.

Noise associated with the major transport corridors can detract from the rural character around the Strawberry Beds.

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## LCA 2 NEWCASTLE LOWLANDS



FIGURE 26 NEWCASTLE MOTTE (SDCC LIBRARY)

### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Low-lying and gently undulating agricultural lands over limestone
- Established communication corridors include the Grand canal and railway corridor traverse east to west and two aerodromes at Weston and Baldonnel
- Agricultural land use primarily pasture and tillage
- Increasing influence of urban activities closer to the motorways, national roads and regional roads
- Long history of historic settlement and human activity with medieval landscape complex associated with Newcastle village and surrounds.
- Number of demesnes associated with former country houses and institutions including reuse of older country houses at sites such as Peamount and Baldonnel

Extent western boundary from N4 encompassing Grand Canal, south of Newcastle and extending eastwards to the R136.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES, HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE TYPES AND HABITAT TYPES PRESENT.

LCT	HLT	Habitats based on Corine	hectares
Canal	Prehistoric	discontinuous urban fabric	201.75936
Historic urban	Medieval	Industrial and commercial units	313.46287
Urban		road and rail	11.987336

LCT	HLT	Habitats based on Corine	hectares
Limestone Farmland		airports	331.55933
		sport and leisure facilities	136.15869
		arable land (not irrigated)	1492.7583
		pasture	538.96006
		complex cultivation (mixed)	449.98578
		water bodies	1.388986

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## GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM

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This area is underlain by Lower Carboniferous Calp limestone. It is an overwhelmingly low lying, gently undulating landscape, the limestone eroded over millennia to create this landform that supports a rich agricultural use. The embankment of the canal provides a minor elevated feature that is notable traversing the landscape especially when travelling from the east.

The landform is generally between 60m to 90m OD rarely rising above 90m. This creates a largely flat, open landscape with little enclosure offered by the landform. As a result the views from the neighbouring hills such as Athgoe are expansive looking into this large low landscape and as one travels south in this LCA the foothills of the Dublin Mountains provide visual interest and a wider setting to the LCA.

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## LANDCOVER AND ECOLOGY

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This LCA represents the most productive soils within the county and is the only LCA that supports arable as well as pasture landuse. Field boundaries are generally walls, or hedgerows enclosing large, rectangular fields that date largely from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century and reflect the agricultural tradition in this area.

Some former demesnes with parkland and stone walls are present but the most significant ecological feature in this LCA is the Grand Canal, a proposed Natural Heritage Area. A number of different habitats are found within the canal boundaries - hedgerow, tall herbs, calcareous grassland, reed fringe, open water, scrub and woodland. The hedgerow, although diverse, is dominated by Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). On the limestone soils, Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) are present. The vegetation of the towpath is usually dominated by grass species. The ecological value of the canal lies more in the diversity of species it supports along its linear habitats than in the presence of rare species. As the canal crosses agricultural land it also provides a refuge for species threatened by modern agricultural practices.

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## HISTORICAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCES

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This LCA has evidence of long historical activity and settlement by humans. The low-lying good soils combined with proximity to freshwater, including Griffeen River, would have increased its attractiveness to early settlers. Close to Belgard Road, Tallaght (urban area adjoining this LCA), a mesolithic flake was found derived from a layer dated to the Later Mesolithic.

A Neolithic house was excavated in 2001 in Kishogue townland adjoining the most easterly boundary of this LCA. The house was dated to 3759–3659 BC. Other site excavations have found evidence of

Bronze Age funerary activity around Newcastle in Newcastle South, Ballynakelly and Rathcreedan townlands.<sup>136</sup>

Newcastle (Lyons)<sup>137</sup> was first mentioned as a royal manor in 1215 and by the late fifteenth-century had acquired borough status. The street pattern of the settlement was linear, based on one east-west orientated street. It is thought the marketplace was located in the roughly sub-triangular space in front of the church. The landholding system and pattern around Newcastle Lyons has been identified as of regional if not national significance.

FIGURE 27 GLEBE CHURCH, NEWCASTLE (SDCC LIBRARY)



*'This significance is due to a cluster of upstanding monuments, which includes a motte, church and two tower houses, as well as the remnant field-systems which encapsulate the historic fabric of the village. The burgage plots, open- or three-field system and the commons beyond can still be traced in the hedgerows which surround and comprise the historic core of the village. This land-holding system was the product of a form of farming common on the European Continent which was introduced into Ireland by the Anglo-Normans<sup>138</sup>.'*

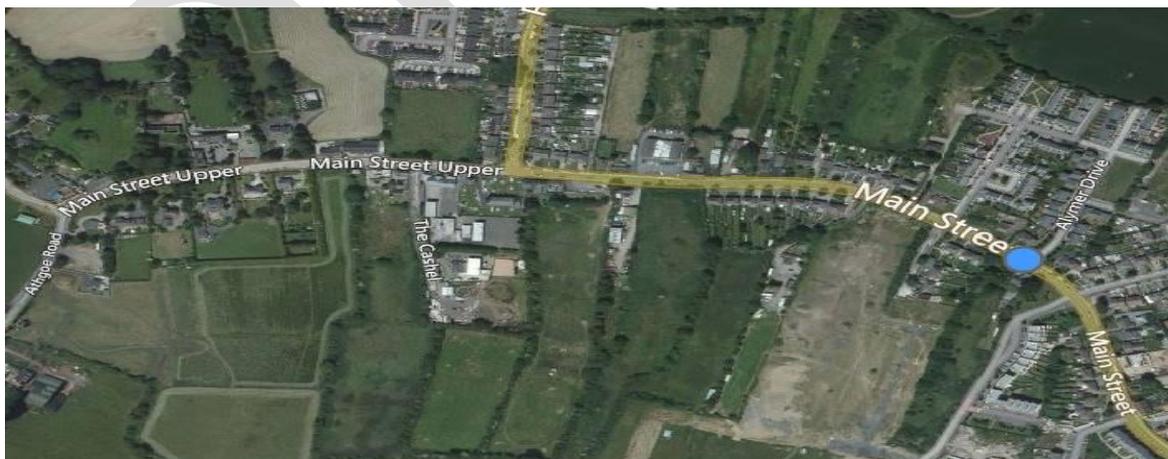


FIGURE 28 AERIAL PHOTO SHOWING MEDIEVAL BURGAGE PLOTS AROUND NEWCASTLE (BING MAPS)

<sup>136</sup> Newcastle Lyons Historic Area Assessment

<sup>137</sup> A historic area assessment has been completed for Newcastle Lyons, which provides in detail the history and significance of this settlement. McDermott and Lyons 2011.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid, page

The productive limestone soils and proximity to the markets of Dublin city have contributed to an active agricultural tradition in this LCA, Lewis in 1837 described Newcastle thus:

*'Agriculture is in a high state of improvement: the principal crops are wheat, oats, and potatoes. There are good quarries, the stone of which is used for building and repairing the roads. The Grand Canal passes through the parish.'*

The field pattern in this LCA is traditionally composed of blocky dense hedgerows and the field pattern is of predominately medium to large geometric field boundaries. In many places this pattern has been modified through boundary removal and land rationalisation to facilitate modern agricultural methods including machinery associated with tillage.

Generally the settlement pattern is dispersed, though increased settlement is noted closer to the regional roads; housing styles tend to be quite diverse though vernacular styles including hedgerow boundaries, rounded gate pillars, single story farm houses and stone and plaster associated with canal related buildings are in evidence. In certain areas, west of Newcastle stone walls associated with estate lands are present.

This area along with the Liffey Valley contains a number of Big Houses; some of these have been converted to other uses, notable examples include the Peamount Hospital, previously a country home dating from the 1800s. It was converted to a TB hospital in 1912. Baldonnell military aerodrome was also formerly a country house. Colganstown House is a good example of the Palladian Style that so enamoured architects in Ireland. It is located close to Newcastle.

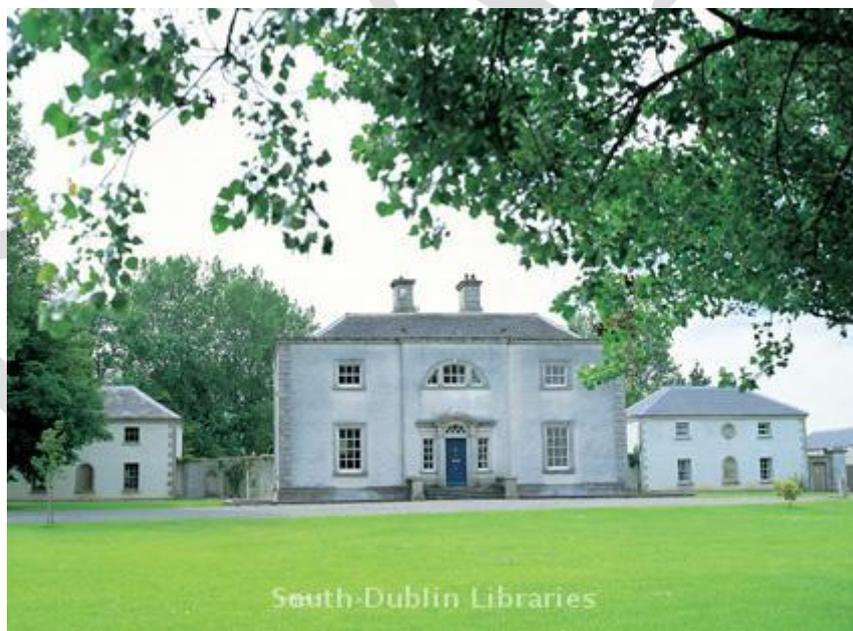


FIGURE 29 COLGANSTOWN HOUSE, NEWCASTLE (SDCC LIBRARY)

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## LANDSCAPE VALUES

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- pNHA designation of Grand Canal
- Designed lands and former estates as shown on NIAH
- Newcastle –significance of archaeological resources present.

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## FORCES FOR CHANGE

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- Increasing urban influences that impact on the rural landscape character
- Fragmentation of agriculture -related habitats through piecemeal development
- Rural housing pressures
- Loss of separation distance between established urban and rural character
- The relatively flat and open landscape is vulnerable to adverse visual and landscape impacts of development

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## LANDSCAPE CONDITION

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Condition is quite variable across this LCA. The landscape closer to the urban fringe and major transport corridors tends to be more fragmented in character with hard engineering and new infrastructure (e.g. Hazelhatch train station) that have not benefitted from planting schemes that would assimilate them more sympathetically into the surrounding landscape.

Within the generally flat landscape, vertical structures such as existing pylons can be seen across quite long distances.

The Grand Canal at Hazelhatch is evidently an important recreational route but the bridge crossing is subject to high volumes of traffic including HGV's, which detracts from the recreational value of the canal as well as making crossing the canal bridge riskier for pedestrians and cyclists.

Further west in this LCA, the rural character is more intact and cohesive, probably due to distances from major transport routes and larger urban centres.

Overall the settlement is dispersed with increased ribbon development noted around major and regional roads. The core of Newcastle is attractive and of significant historical importance; stronger design requirements in terms of new developments would enhance the relationship between the historic core and surrounding character.

The remaining rural character of this LCA fulfils both landscape ecological and economic functions and merits a considered approach.

## LCA 3 ATHGOE AND SAGGART HILLS



FIGURE 30VIEW FROM STONYHILL ROAD ACROSS TO WINDMILL HILL.

### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Enclosure varies between open and expansive on hills such as Athgoe, Saggart hills to more enclosed, intimate areas defined by narrow rural lands on slopes with high earth banks and hedgerows.
- Long views across surrounding lowlands to the north and east
- Round pillars associated with vernacular style
- Sheep grazing
- Field boundaries medium to large rectangular pattern and evidence of removal and rationalisation of boundaries relatively recently

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES, HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE TYPES AND HABITAT TYPES PRESENT.

LCTs	HLt	Habitats identified under Corine	hectares
<b>Foothills</b>	Prehistoric	discontinuous urban fabric	169.95455
<b>Hills</b>		road and rail	75.700404
<b>Historic urban</b>		mineral extraction sites	52.991832
<b>Transport corridor</b>		green urban areas	3.200318
		sport and leisure facilities	203.22131
		arable land (non-irrigated)	299.04989
		pasture	3495.9959

LCTs	HLt	Habitats identified under Corine	hectares
		complex cultivation (mixed)	301.44417
		Land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation	152.36689
		broadleaf forest	27.574319
		coniferous forest	360.04374
		transitional woodland scrub	73.528735

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## GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM

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The oldest rocks in the county are present in the foothills including Athgoe and Saggart Hills. These are volcanic and sedimentary rocks formed on the ancient sea floors of the Iapetus Ocean around 470 to 440 million years ago (Ordovician volcanic rocks and Silurian sedimentary rocks).

This LCA is dominated by the hills and foothills, elevation ranges from around 150m OD in the lower areas around Rathcoole rising to a series of rounded hills such as Saggart (395m) and Knockannavea (396m).

The southern part of this LCA comprises more landform diversity with a glacial hanging valley associated with the area around Brittas, and former glacial deposits giving rise to gravel extraction; the southern area also comprises some small, incised valleys associated with rivers and streams.

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## LANDCOVER AND ECOLOGY

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Landcover is a mosaic of pasture with sheep and horse grazing, with many of the upper foothills and hill tops covered in mostly coniferous plantations. Recreational uses including golf courses are also present.

The Camac River rises at Mountseskin in the foothills. It flows through another glaciated valley known as the Slade of Saggart, then runs southwest of Tallaght, through Corkagh Demesne and onto Clondalkin. It ultimately joins the Liffey upstream of Heuston Station. Other rivers include the Griffeen River rising on Saggart Hill, which traverses northwards and flows under the Grand Canal entering the Liffey close to Lucan.

Within this LCA, a number of areas are proposed for Natural Heritage Designation; these include the Slade of Saggart and Crooksling- this comprises both a river valley (the Slade) with steep sides covered with planted trees such as of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Oak (*Quercus spp.*) and Birch (*Betula spp.*), as well as well-developed ground flora including Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Wood Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). Higher up the valley at Crooksling Glen the vegetation is more natural with shrubs including goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*). The Brittas ponds, south of Crooksling add further ecological

interest in the form of a small wetlands that includes freshwater marsh and wet grassland as well as being a wildfowl sanctuary supporting a variety of birds including mallard, teal and tufted duck.

Lugmore Glen, near Tallaght Hill is a narrow valley with a small stream. Woodland cover is dense Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The herb layer is quite rich, especially towards the stream, with species such as Woodsorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*). The importance of this site is that it is a fine example of a wooded glen with a good representation of woodland plants. This type of semi-natural habitat is now scarce in Co. Dublin. The presence of a rare plant species adds to the interest of the site.

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### HISTORICAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCES

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The importance of these hills and foothills for ritual activity in the prehistoric period has been recently researched and acknowledged.

*‘Throughout this 1,500 year period there is evidence for human activity, not only in the vicinity of the Dublin Uplands, but also on its peaks. The burial monuments that these people and their descendants built in the uplands are still visually dominant, and continue to overlook our lives in the plains below to this day.’<sup>139</sup>*

Passage tombs are located on the summit and slopes of Saggart Hill (Slievethoul), and Ballinasocrney woods also supports a cluster of prehistoric monuments. Given the extensive views afforded north from these hills, encompassing both the limestone lowlands and east over to the Irish Sea, the views and vistas must have informed the selection of these sites in prehistory.

FIGURE 31 VIEW TOWARDS FOOTHILLS (SDCC LIBRARY)

A bronze age burial was found at Coolmine (Lugg) Hill and the Raheen standing stone, known locally as Adam and Eve can be seen in a field at Boherboy.

Settlement has generally concentrated on the lower elevations with Saggart and Rathcoole being the principal nucleated settlements; Saggart dates to the 7th Century as the site of a monastery founded by St Mosacra. The name changed from Teach Saggart to Saggart over time. It was described in the medieval period as being a small borough located in the march (area near border with Gaelic Irish) and thus in an exposed location. This proved to be the case. In 1580 it was captured and burned by Fiach Mc Hugh O’ Byrne. The street pattern is linear- the main street being intersected by a smaller

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<sup>139</sup> UCD Archaeology Upland Report

road running northwest to southeast. It has been suggested that the marketplace was probably at this intersection and the plot pattern suggests a triangular market place.

Rathcoole was described as a manor by 1300, though, according to the RMP, its precise location is unknown. Rathcoole village derives its name from “Rath Cumhaill”, the fort of Cumhaill – the father of Finn Mac Cumhaill.

This LCA is predominantly agricultural in character with quite distinctive areas of contrasting character; the foothills overlooking the Newcastle Lowlands includes former villages such as Rathcoole and Saggart, which have expanded considerably in recent decades. Outside these towns, there is an increasingly rural character, though certain areas such as Redgap have seen considerable rural housing development activity.

Outside the towns of Saggart and Rathcoole, settlement is largely dispersed with some clusters (former clachans?) present. The older buildings tend to be constructed from stone and rough plaster and some shelterbelts are associated with the older houses. Otherwise, the housing style is mixed with a notable concentration of 1990s style bungalows and two storey houses present around Redgap.

The field systems are generally medium to large geometric with a variety of field enclosures ranging from earth banks and hedgerows to post and rail fencing. The exception to this pattern are the smaller fields with stone walls and hedgerows on the valley around Brittas.

Other than the N7 which bisects this LCA, a network of roads traverse this LCA around and over the hills.

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### LANDSCAPE VALUES

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- pNHA designations
- prehistoric megalithic ritual landscape
- scenic routes and extensive views
- recreational uses - golf course, equestrian and walking activities.

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### FORCES FOR CHANGE

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- Rural housing
- Expansion of existing settlements with housing styles not reflective of vernacular townscape character
- Flytipping on upper slopes
- Declining hedgerows
- Energy infrastructure

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### LANDSCAPE CONDITION

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Condition is variable within this LCA. The area of strongest landscape character and integrity, which presents as a cohesive landscape, are the southern hills adjoining Counties Wicklow and Kildare and including Brittas and the surrounding area. This retains a very agricultural character with working

farms and is generally well maintained. Field patterns are stronger and are smaller than elsewhere in the county; settlement is very dispersed within this part of the LCA.

On the northern part of this LCA, housing pressures have in some areas detracted from the landscape character with a variety of boundary treatments, housing styles and siting locations that do not reflect the former agricultural vernacular. This contrasts again with areas that have retained a more rural and intact character, for example around Stonyhill Road.

The hilltops are commonly covered with coniferous plantations some of which are open to walkers such as Saggart Hill; on the lower slopes there is an increase in housing some of which are unsympathetic to local landscape character and comprise a variety of non-vernacular imported styles that do not generally integrate well with the surrounding area and cumulatively detract from the landscape character.

The character around Rathcoole and Saggart is busy and active with noise from the N7 and flight paths a constant feature. The urban fringe and access roads into Rathcoole have a variety of landscape and boundary treatments.

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## LCA 4 RIVER DODDER AND GLENASMOLE VALLEY



FIGURE 32 GLENSAMOLE VALLEY (SDCC LIBRARY)

### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Key characteristics:

- Highly scenic and distinctive glacial valley
- River Dodder and natural heritage designations
- Extensive views over the greater Dublin area
- Attractive and diverse topography and landuse
- Field patterns and agricultural use contrasts with open blanket bog areas
- Distinctive cluster of stone built cottages along the valley
- Important archaeological clusters including Neolithic and Bronze Age cluster at Piperstown.
- Extent: western boundary of the regional road R114 to foothills around Bohernabreena to Oldcourt, comprising the eastern and southern county boundary.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES, HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE TYPES AND HABITAT TYPES PRESENT.

LCTs	HLT	Habitats identified under corine	Hectares
<b>River Valley</b>	Prehistoric	discontinuous urban fabric	52.592566
<b>Mountains</b>		road and rail	9.027848
<b>Hills</b>		mineral extraction	35.709006

LCTs	HLT	Habitats identified under corine	Hectares
		sites	
		sport and leisure facilities	53.907256
		pasture	1128.424
		complex cultivation (mixed)	36.893503
		Land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation	695.98594
		broadleaf forest	67.604889
		coniferous forest	780.91563
		mixed forest	59.695141
		moors and heathland	528.23943
		transitional woodland scrub	232.6438
		peat bogs	1648.3144
		water bodies	25.487262

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## GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM

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The collision of ancient continents around 419 million years ago led to the great mountain building period known as the Caledonian period. Following this, large masses of granite were injected into the underlying crust during the Devonian Period around 405 million years ago. Today these granites form the largest area of upland granite in the British Isles and comprise the highest mountains found in South Dublin County including Seefingan, Corrig and Kippure (the highest mountain in Leinster- the summit is located in Wicklow but the southern slopes form part of the South Dublin County uplands).

These resistant granite uplands form their own distinctive landform, Seefingan at 722m, Corrig (617m OD) and Seahan (647m) are amongst the highest peaks in the mountain range; these mountains include incised river valleys that add further interest to the landform as they rise steeply from the Dodder River.

Glenasmole itself comprises two valleys, the upper valley being formed by glaciation, whilst the lower valley is a river valley where the River Dodder eroded the glacial debris.

Once the bedrock changes to the more common shales and greywackes found in the hills and foothills, the landform alters again, comprising gentler hills of lower elevations and more rounded landform.

The terminal moraine of the midlandian glaciation rests on the western slopes of Piperstown Hill and glacial drift deposits fanned out up valley sides, which increased the limits of cultivation. The highest elevations of glacial till marks the differentiation between enclosed and open land<sup>140</sup>.

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<sup>140</sup> Nolan, 1992

This landform and changing bedrock gives rise to a very interesting and diverse topography with mountains and hills enclosing the valley on all aspects except to the north towards Dublin.

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## LANDCOVER AND ECOLOGY

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A mosaic of habitats are present in this LCA increasing overall biodiversity; landuse is primarily agricultural with rough grazing on the uplands and improved, enclosed pasture on the lower elevations and river valley floor. Coniferous forestry plantations are present more on the western area adjoining the Athgoe and Saggart Hills LCA. The uplands proper are unenclosed and are primarily blanket bog and associates habitats. Further diversity is added by the numerous streams that feed into the River Dodder, rising on the southern slopes of Kippure and entering the Dodder at Glenasmole Reservoir.

Marrens Brook, Cod's Brook and Slades Brook all feed into the Dodder and along the blanket bog further springs rise from the wet soil and contribute further to this large watershed.

Wicklow Mountains SAC is an extensive, upland site covering much of the Wicklow Mountains and a portion of the Dublin Mountain range. Within the boundaries of South Dublin County, the SAC encompasses the mountains of Ballymorefinn, Corrig, Kilakee, and Cruagh, stretching south to the summit of Kippure Mountain at the border with County Wicklow. The mountains in the county generally represent good examples of upland habitats including blanket bog, heath and upland grassland. Several rare, protected plant and animal species also occur in this SAC.

Glenasmole Valley Special Area of Conservation contains three habitats listed on Annex 1 of the EU Habitats directive -petrifying springs with tufa formation, seminatural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites), and Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty, or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinia caerulea). Both petrifying springs and orchid-rich calcareous grasslands also qualify as Priority Habitats under the Habitats Directive. The presence of four Red Data Book plant species further enhances the value of the site as does the presence of populations of several mammal and bird species of conservation interest.

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## HISTORICAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCES

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Historically this LCA is primarily a prehistoric landscape type with evidence of human activity from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. There is a significant archaeological complex at Piperstown, which has been excavated, and includes ritual and domestic monuments. The southern slopes of Piperstown make it relatively dry and protected from the colder north winds which may explain its location. Archaeological research has indicated a field wall to the east of Piperstown, running across Piperstown Hill. This dates to before the formation of the blanket bog.

Ballinascorney Upper, Montpelier, Killakee, Woodtown and Cunard have megalithic tombs (two passage tombs, a wedge tomb and two portal tombs respectively). There seems to be distinctive phase of Bronze Age activity evidenced by barrows, pits and cists at Ballymorefinn, Glassamucky, Ballinascorney Lower, Cruagh and possibly Castlekelly, with a possible record of a dugout canoe from there.

Within this LCA, the highest passage tombs are found on Seahan mountain and this could be considered a passage tomb cemetery in its own right, the summit containing at least three passage

tombs in close proximity<sup>141</sup>. The views from here are panoramic including views south to the Seefin passage tomb in Co. Wicklow. The siting of such tombs along and on top of these mountains and hills suggest a significant amount of social organisation to construct such tombs and that the situation of these must have been significant given the extensive views and their location in such a liminal locations.

The standing stone at Killakee is located close to the much later Military Road, which suggest this route may have been in use in the prehistoric period assuming that standing stones functioned as a mark of boundaries and routes.

Interestingly the townland names around Glenasmole suggest associations with the Fiannaíocht, the quasi-military and hunting men who assisted early Irish kings with administration of justice and defence of boundaries<sup>142</sup>. This area is also the reputed location of the one of the Royal hostels on the road from Tara to the east coasts – Bruidhean De Dhearg on the Dodder was reputedly where Cormac Mor, king of Ireland was slain by invading Britons and the hostel was destroyed. The word bruidhean (pronounced breen) is understood throughout Ireland to mean a fairy place, but it appears from ancient Irish tales that the word was used to signify any splendid house. The road from Glenasmole to Bohernabreena is still known as the ‘road to hospitality’.

Evidence of medieval activity within this area is less strong with a ringfort at the most northern tip at Bohernabreena and a holy well at Glassmucky Brakes. Oldcourt on the lower ground was the only nucleated settlement and is just outside this LCA; Archbishop Deacon constructed his manor at Oldbawn in 1635 and dominated the local economy; contemporary accounts state how he altered this area from a ‘*rude desolated and wild land*’ to ‘*most delightful patrimony*’<sup>143</sup> „ Evidence from the 1641 depositions following the rebellion suggest very limited inhabitation around Glenasmole and a mixed agricultural economy; these records also show the perception that the mountains south of Tallaght were hostile, lawless and harmful to the settled farmers of the limestone lowlands. These mountains continued to function as a stronghold of Gaelic rebels and were the prime reason for the construction of Military Road after the 1798 rebellion; built with the purpose of improving access between these mountain regions, with their hostile populations, to the capital city, and supported by a network of barracks.

The most notorious site within this LCA is probably the Hell Fire Club, a hunting lodge built in 1725 and reputedly the site of the appearance of the devil; this site was however already been used significantly in earlier times. Two prehistoric monuments are present in neighbouring Massy Woods and within the Hell Fire Woods with the stone from the passage tombs being utilised for the construction of the hunting lodge.

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<sup>141</sup> Uplands Study UCD

<sup>142</sup> Nolan, 1992

<sup>143</sup> Quoted in Nolan 1992



FIGURE 33HELLFIRE CLUB (SDCC LIBRARY)

Killakee, Massy and Cobbe estates were the major landholding estates within this LCA. Interestingly this LCA saw the appropriation of the wilderness landscape into a contrived vision of wilderness in line with the naturalistic fashions of estate design in the eighteenth and nineteenth century; Ponsonby Shaw's estate at Friarstown and Grierson's developments within this LCA were examples of these kind of designs.



FIGURE 34KILLAKEE HOUSE (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)

In the nineteenth century, the productive value of the watershed and two valleys were recognised and the Bohernabreena Reservoir was constructed between 1883 and 1887 to supply drinking water to Rathmines and also to the numerous mills that were located on the River Dodder –at that time there were fifteen flour mills, in addition to thirty other mills including paper, cotton, cardboard as well as distilleries, foundries and tanneries.



FIGURE 35 DODDER WATERWORKS (RATHMINES WORKS), NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Field patterns remain quite strong in this LCA with generally medium sized fields enclosed by stone walls or hedgerows. This contrasts with the unenclosed commonage areas associated with the blanket bog uplands.

Today settlement is dispersed along the Dodder valley floor and strung along the narrow roads that run parallel to the Dodder valley (Allagour Road being an example). Along the valley floor, the housing styles retain a strong vernacular character, largely comprising single storey houses of plaster and stone, built into the slopes; this housing stock is associated with the Cobbe estate and dates from around 1832. In this area, there is an enclosed intimate character with vernacular style houses along narrow, curved lands enclosed with stone walls, trees and riparian vegetation. These houses give way to more recent bungalows heading north and out of the valley.

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### LANDSCAPE VALUES

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- Reflected in designations of European importance
- Importance of watershed and water supply
- High number of scenic routes
- Archaeological and prehistoric cluster
- Recreational use

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### FORCES FOR CHANGE

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- Recreational
- Rural housing
- Coniferous plantation
- Changing agricultural practices
- Climate change.
- Traffic
- Tourism.

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## LANDSCAPE CONDITION

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This LCA has a distinctive character that results from the landform, habitats, landuse and history of human settlement and activity. The topographical diversity increases the interest of the landscape with glacial and river valleys, the reservoir and multiple streams and rivers draining into the Dodder, as well as the upland slopes that frame the southern end of the valley. Adding to the overall diversity is the variety of landuse and habitats that offer greater visual interest and variety within the LCA.

The landscape becomes increasingly dramatic as one travels along the valley with the open areas of blanket bog uplands become increasingly influential; as one returns northwards this is replaced by a more managed farming landscape that offers extensive views over to Dublin bay.

The LCA is overall in very good condition. The variety of landscape features and elements that contribute to character are well maintained and intact; the long history of human activity and settlement in this area and particularly the retention of prehistoric features increase its value as a landscape character area. Its highly attractive character and diversity of scenic qualities is appreciated by the many recreational uses and it functions as an area of county and/or regional significance for recreational uses.

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### LCA 5 SUBURBAN SOUTH DUBLIN

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**Please note, the urbanised areas of South Dublin County was not assessed in detail as this would require a finer scale assessment, normally undertaken as a townscape character assessment. However the urban covers a significant part of the county and the following section summarise the consultants preliminary assessment of character.**



FIGURE 36 RIVERSIDE COTTAGES TEMPLEOGUE (COPYRIGHT: [HTTP://NDL.HANDLE.NET/10599/6589](http://ndl.handle.net/10599/6589))

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## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

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- Built – up urban area with extensive housing estates and industrial /commercial parks. Variety of house styles and layouts dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to late 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Settlements of Rathfarnham, Templeogue and Clondalkin with important historical legacy and remnants
- Major traffic corridors with M50 traversing north- south through the area, and LUAS line travelling north from Tallaght, parallel to the M50, to city centre
- Corridors of natural and semi natural vegetation, notably along the River Dodder ( a linear park) and the Camac River
- Grass open spaces in gardens, industrial parks, golf courses, school playing fields, and miscellaneous spaces in housing areas
- Street trees planting
- Recreational facilities – public parks and golf courses - provide amenities and ecological resources

The area extends east from Tallaght/Oldbawn to Rathfarnham, and north/ north- west along the county boundary to Clondalkin.

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## LANDSCAPE VALUES

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- Public Parks with recreational and ecological resources
- Dodder River Valley
- 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial heritage
- Views out to Dublin Mountains and agricultural hinterland

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## FORCES FOR CHANGE

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- West boundary is set against agricultural and mountain hinterlands. Untidy urban developments can adversely impact on the character of the hinterlands.
- Urban developments can impact on open views to the hinterlands.
- On- going urban infrastructure developments notably road improvements generate increasing volumes of traffic and detract from opportunities to create or maintain tranquil settings
- New infill or other built developments can be insensitive to remnant historical or vernacular features

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## LANDSCAPE CONDITION

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***(n.b Further detailed appraisal as part of a townscape assessment recommended).***

The older settled urban areas such as Rathfarnham have matured into relatively leafy suburbs, whereas more recent developments have created a sense of anonymity. They do not appear to have benefited from comprehensive master planning which would have considered housing, roads and open space provision in an integrated manner.

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## MITIGATION MEASURES

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***(Some pointers, but Guidelines on Mitigation: Detailed sensitivity and capacity assessment recommended)***

- Grassland and other amenity area open spaces should be managed for the dual benefits of public access and biodiversity
- Tree and shrub planting should be an integral component of amenity grasslands (schools recreational grounds, golf courses and playing fields)
- The development of green infrastructure to connect different habitats within the urban context.
- Tree planting on streets and open spaces – particularly on ‘miscellaneous ‘open space in housing areas- to improve their character
- Enhance connectivity between open spaces as a means of enhancing biodiversity while providing off road connections for pedestrian and cyclists.
- Proposed developments should be audited for their impact on views particularly those to the rural hinterland of the county

DRAFT

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS AND TYPES -  
RECOMMENDATIONS

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DRAFT

## 6 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS –SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

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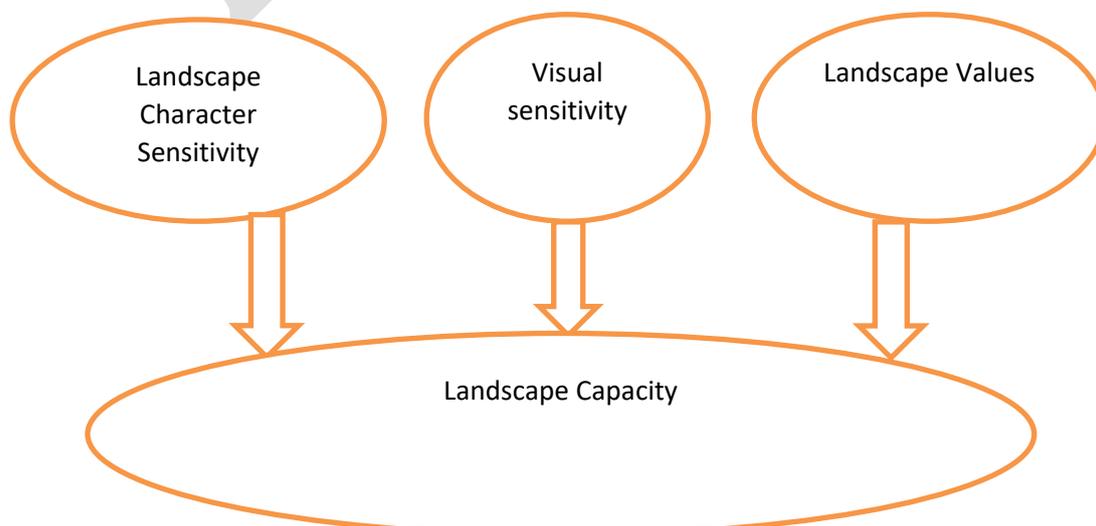
### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

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This assessment aims to be transparent and to demonstrate clearly how the recommendations for landscape management for each LCA and LCT have been arrived at. Following desktop research, GIS mapping and analysis and fieldwork, the descriptions for each LCA have been written. This section now uses a range of defined criteria that assesses the following:

- **Landscape Character Sensitivity** – judging the sensitivity of the landscape as a whole in terms of landscape character features and how robust they are, for example: the scale of the landscape; the topography and settlement pattern. Sensitivity refers to the inherent sensitivity of the landscape irrespective of the type of change being considered. Assessment of sensitivity takes account of the overall landscape character, quality and condition of the landscape and considers its potential ability to adapt to change without losing its intrinsic character
- **Visual Sensitivity** – consideration of general inter-visibility, population in terms of residents, visitors and transport, proximity to high ground, topography and landform, and how the landscape is defined by valued views. In terms of visual receptors (properties or groups of properties, and users of roads and other access routes, including residents, visitors and tourists) that are likely to be affected by developments within the visual envelope of a development
- **Landscape Value** – the experiential qualities of the landscape in terms of tranquillity, remoteness, natural qualities and designations.
- **Landscape Capacity** -means the ability of a landscape to accommodate different amounts of change for a development of a specific type without adversely affecting the intrinsic character of the landscape. Thus a high sensitivity landscape would have a low capacity but the level of the capacity will vary according to the type of development concerned. An evaluation of capacity derives from a combination of landscape sensitivity, visual sensitivity and landscape value.

This then informs the recommendations and advice for each LCA in terms of overall development.



The following table shows how the above three criteria can then be ascribed a capacity statement<sup>144</sup>:

**TABLE 6A: COMBINATION TO DETERMINE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE DEVELOPMENT.**

Landscape sensitivity	High	Low /medium capacity	Low	Negligible/ Low	Negligible	None
	Medium/High	Medium capacity	Low/medium	Low	Negligible/low	Negligible
	Medium	Medium/High capacity	Medium/high	Medium	Low	Negligible /Low
	Low/medium	High capacity	High	Medium/High	Low/Medium	Low
	Low	Very high capacity	High	Medium/High	Medium	Low /Medium
		Low	Low/Medium	Medium	Medium/High	High
<b>Landscape Value</b>						

For example, if the LCA is assessed as having a medium landscape sensitivity and a low landscape value, it would be determined that the LCA would have a medium/high capacity to accommodate development. If the LCA was assessed as having a high landscape sensitivity and medium landscape value, it would be determined that the LCA had a negligible or low capacity to accommodate development. The following table provides an explanation of these different capacity terms.

**TABLE 6B: LANDSCAPE CAPACITY DEFINITION**

Term	Definition
<b>Negligible/None</b>	Key Characteristics of the landscape are highly vulnerable to development. Development would result in a significant change in landscape character and should be avoided if possible.
<b>Low</b>	Key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. There may be limited opportunity to accommodate development without changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in locating development.
<b>Medium</b>	Some of the key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. Although the landscape may have some ability to absorb some development, it is likely to cause some change in character. Care would be needed in locating development.
<b>Medium/High</b>	Few of the key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate development with only minor change in character. Care is still needed to avoid adversely affecting key characteristics where they occur.
<b>High</b>	Key characteristics of the landscape are robust and would not be adversely affected by development. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate development without a significant change in landscape character

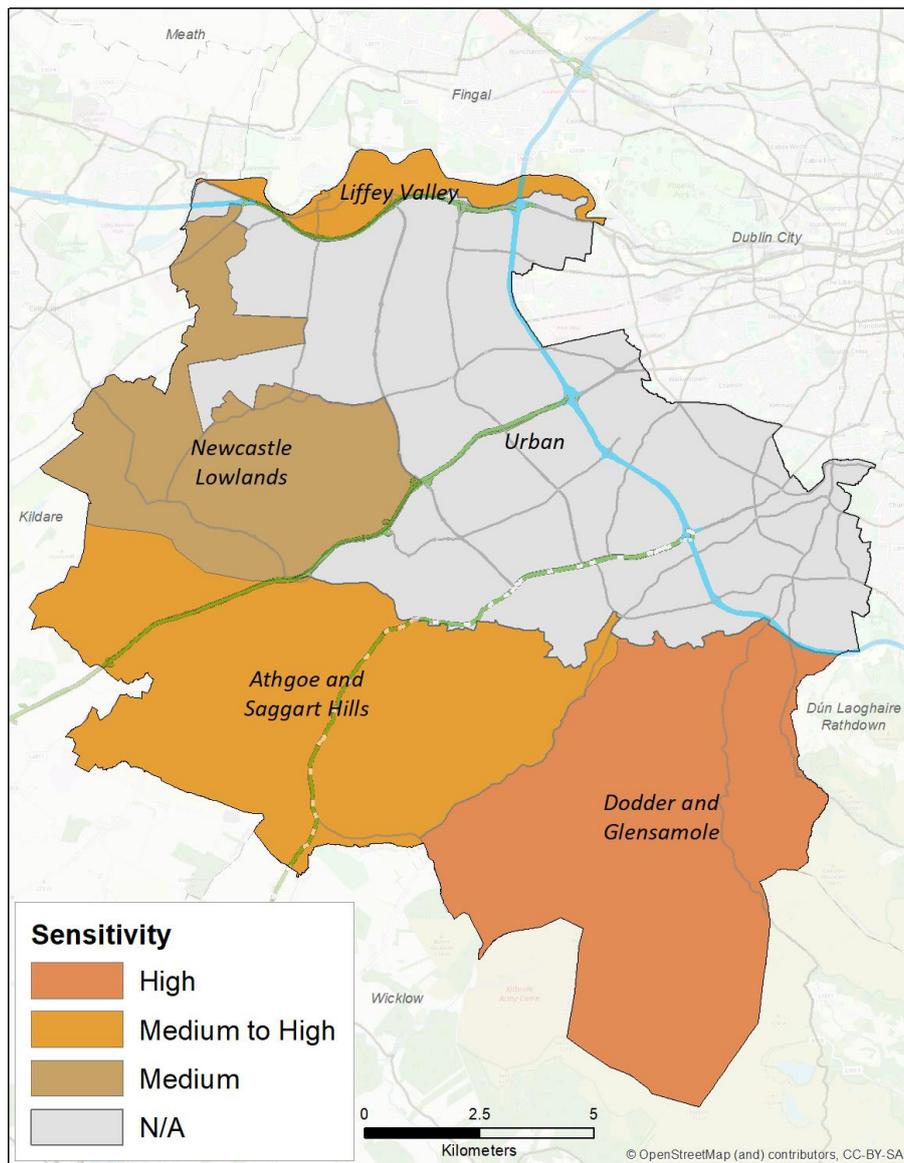
<sup>144</sup> This particular capacity assessment and criteria are adapted from the South Downs National Park Petersfield Area capacity assessment, 2013.

## 6.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY, CAPACITY AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This section presents an overview of a more detailed assessment undertaken for each LCA. Annex B presents the assessment in more detail. Each table below is accompanied by a number of mitigation measures that aim to enhance the distinctive landscape character of each area.

### 6.2.1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS- SENSITIVITY AND PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Figure 37 LCA Sensitivity Map



<b>Landscape Character Areas and Sensitivity</b>	Map: RH Date: 2021 CRS: ITM IRENET95 Data: South Dublin County Council; Copernicus DEM; OSI Open Data	N  1:100,000
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TABLE 6C LCA SENSITIVITY AND PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT

LCA	Summary	Landscape character sensitivity
LCA 1 Liffey Valley	<p>The landscape characteristics and landscape value of this LCA confer on it a distinct sense of place. The elements that are key include historic and cultural heritage exemplified by Lucan and Palmerstown, and the variety of preserved naturalistic and rural landscapes in the area. This sense is potentially at risk due to urbanisation. Recommendations are thus made aimed at preserving that sense of place and relate to conservation, protection and enhancement where possible of those key landscape elements and values.</p>	Medium to High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retaining rural character of this LCA where present is important; contain urban expansion</li> <li>• The architectural descriptions contained within the Lucan ACA should be used to inform new or existing developments and demonstrate consistency with same</li> <li>• Support the Village Design Statement prepared for Lucan and its environs;</li> <li>• Those existing demesne lands associated with estates that are not currently Protected Structures should be maintained and their integrity protected.</li> <li>• Those existing demesne lands that form part of a Protected Structure site shall be safeguarded in accordance with their statutory protection (Part IV Planning and Development Act 2000).</li> <li>• Improve conditions for public access through the area taking cognisance of ecological needs</li> <li>• To support ecological linkages, a woodland management programme to facilitate ongoing maintenance and replacement tree planting should be considered.</li> <li>• Support the recommendations contained in the Liffey Valley Park Strategy (OPW)</li> <li>• Traffic calming and planting measures of appropriate species should provide co benefits and contribute to local character.</li> </ul>		
LCA 2 Newcastle Lowlands	<p>The Newcastle lowlands function as an important agricultural resource but vulnerable to urbanising pressures. In addition, its character as a rural landscape provides a distinct and important identity to this area of western Dublin. To conserve its sense of place requires measures protecting the integrity of the agricultural landscape by controls on urban expansion, ribbon development and other sources of erosion and fragmentation, and requires site planning guidance on the use of appropriate vernacular styles and treatments in new developments.</p>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcastle is of significant historical importance and the surviving field patterns should be protected. Consideration should be given to designating Newcastle as an Architectural Conservation Area.</li> <li>• Existing developments around Newcastle would benefit from greater consistency in boundary treatments and greater use of natural planting</li> <li>• Guidelines including those contained in the Urban Design Manual, Local Area Plan and, the County Development Plan provide relevant site planning advice and should be complied with for new development and enhancing existing development where possible.</li> <li>• Boundary treatments including screening through appropriate tree planting (of native provenance) would sympathetically absorb development.</li> <li>• Traffic calming measures would benefit and increase the recreational and amenity value of the Grand Canal, the bridges of which are subject to heavy traffic flows reducing safety for non-vehicular users, and cause negative impacts through noise, and disturbance.</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the potential to establish a linear park to enhance green infrastructure and appropriate recreational space from the Grand Canal to the foothills and uplands.</li> <li>• Give recognition to the demesnes associated with country houses as important contributors to the historic landscape identity of the area-</li> <li>• When the opportunity arises, planting and other landscape design measures, including planting with native hedgerows, and/or installing limestone walls, should be used in laybys, and at new developments such as the railway station.</li> <li>• This LCA functions as the rural landscape that frames western Dublin and retaining both separate distances and its agricultural character is very important.</li> <li>• The productive limestone soils and their agricultural importance should be acknowledged and links between local landscape character and food production should be promoted where possible.</li> </ul>		
LCA 3 Athgoe and Saggart Hills	The integrity of the landscape character is derived from agriculture combined with other rural land uses including coniferous plantations. It forms a strong and valuable backdrop to the extensive and densely urbanised areas of the county. The integrity of its character, and of its value as a landscape setting have been compromised by housing developments in the area and through the use of non-vernacular styles very much in conflict with the local character	Medium to high
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These foothills frame the greater Dublin area to the south and are the first hills people encounter travelling from the west; the high number of viewers and the context these hills provide to the county are important and merit a coordinated approach to ensure their management and enhancement</li> <li>• The importance of views and prospects, designated in the County Development Plan, are integral to the landscape context of the character area and their protection should be ongoing.</li> <li>• Rathcoole and Saggart constitute valuable components of the landscape as historic centres (royal demesnes). Their legacy has been muted by contemporary developments and steps should be taken to ‘salvage ‘ some recollection of their former historical importance.</li> <li>• In preparing any new Local Area Plans for Saggart and Rathcoole, landscape context and function should be a key consideration.</li> <li>• Guidelines including those contained in the Urban Design Manual, Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan, provide relevant site planning advice and should be complied with for new development and enhancing existing development where possible. Boundary treatments including screening through appropriate tree planting (of native provenance) would sympathetically absorb development.</li> <li>• Similarly rural housing should reflect vernacular design principles and retain and augment existing boundary treatments.</li> <li>• The network of roads retains a rural character and this character, subject to traffic safety, should be maintained rather than eroded.</li> <li>• Field enlargements have altered the landscape character and should be discouraged. Replanting and maintenance of hedgerows would increase both ecological connectivity and improve gappy, old or degraded hedgerows.</li> <li>• Improve conditions in the area for safe and convenient access to the countryside by pedestrians and cyclists.</li> <li>• Careful consideration to extension of the urban centres, particularly at Rathcoole and Saggart, is merited to avoid the two settlements merging – maintenance of the separation distance contributes to the countywide Green Infrastructure network.</li> <li>• Development should reflect local landscape character and more use of native hedgerows in schemes would assist screening and bring positive local ecological benefits.</li> <li>• Laybys and viewing points would benefit from appropriate planting consonant with local</li> </ul>		

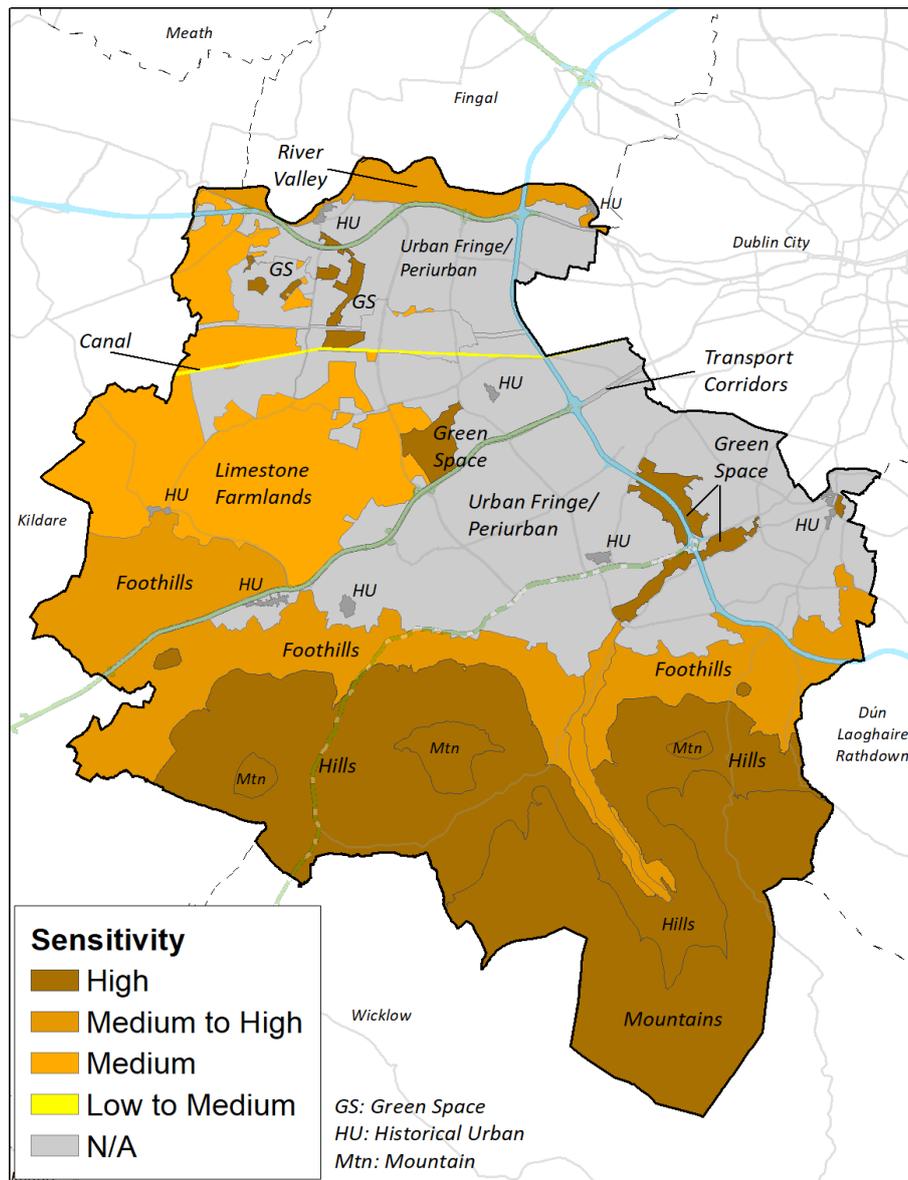
character.		
LCA 4 Dodder and Glensamole	This is a rich and distinctive landscape of national importance. Its values embrace history, archaeology, ecology, culture, landscape form, and scenery. It is highly visible with extensive views and landmarks. It forms a significant backdrop to the greater Dublin area, and is a remarkable landscape in its wildness and remoteness so close to heavily urbanised areas. Its character and integrity is of importance to local residents, and it is a very significant resource for recreation users and for tourism. The objectives of managing this LCA is to preserve its overall character and the features and values that contribute to its uniqueness	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued agricultural activities should be encouraged</li> <li>• Requirements that coniferous plantations should be managed in sympathy with the landscape include siting, coupe formation (not crudely geometric), harvesting (not clear felling), species mix (conifer /broadleaf mix where feasible)</li> <li>• Existing woodlands, shelterbelts and copses should be preserved and renewed</li> <li>• Inappropriate developments (including commercial scale wind energy, and other developments that would be highly visible and intrusive should not be permitted. Their impact on the unique character of the landscape would be significant and give rise to negative impacts on landscape character and visual amenity.</li> <li>• Access routes for pedestrian, cyclists and other recreational users including tourists should be enhanced taking cognisance of ecological needs to facilitate their comfort, safety, and enjoyment.</li> <li>• Access to selected historical and archaeological resources should be developed as feasible, and should include provision of suitable signage e.g. Piperstown</li> <li>• Provide for a network of ecological corridors to provide both landscape functions, contribute to green infrastructure and enhance overall landscape character.</li> <li>• The vernacular style of siting structures into the landform and use of local granite stone and rough plaster contributes significantly to landscape character and integrity and use of same should be encouraged</li> <li>• Opportunity for environmental education should be exploited.</li> <li>• Enhancement of laybys and viewing points to increase their attractiveness by using native hedgerows and local granite as landscaping materials where possible</li> <li>• Consider extension of Wicklow National Park to southern part of this LCA</li> </ul>		
LCA 5 Suburban South Dublin	Built – up urban area with extensive housing estates and industrial /commercial parks. Variety of house styles and layouts dating from the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century to late 20 <sup>th</sup> century. The settlements of Rathfarnham, Templeogue and Clondalkin with important historical legacy and remnants. Major traffic corridors with M50 traversing north- south through the area, and LUAS line travelling north from Tallaght, parallel to the M50, to city centre. Corridors of natural and semi natural vegetation, notably along the River Dodder ( a linear park) and the Camac River. Grass open spaces in gardens, industrial parks, golf courses, school playing fields, and miscellaneous spaces in housing areas. Street trees planting and recreational facilities – public parks and golf courses - provide amenities and ecological resources.	n/a
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grassland and other amenity area open spaces should be managed for the dual benefits of public access and biodiversity</li> <li>• Tree and shrub planting should be an integral component of amenity grasslands (schools recreational grounds, golf courses and playing fields)</li> <li>• The development of green infrastructure to connect different habitats within the urban</li> </ul>		

context.

- Tree planting on streets and open spaces – particularly on ‘miscellaneous’ open space in housing areas- to improve their character
- Enhance connectivity between open spaces as a means of enhancing biodiversity while providing off road connections for pedestrian and cyclists.
- Proposed developments should be audited for their impact on views particularly those to the rural hinterland of the county

## 6.2.2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

FIGURE 38 LCTS AND SENSITIVITY



Landscape Character Types  
and Sensitivity

Map: RH  
Date: 2021  
CRS: ITM IRENET95  
Data: South Dublin County Council; Copernicus DEM;  
OSI Open Data

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Table 6D Landscape Character Types and Sensitivity.

LCT	Summary	Sensitivity
River Valleys	Principal rivers of the county with alluvium soils draining to Dublin bay. Generally, rise in the foothills or mountains and ultimately drain north-easterly to Dublin Bay. Riparian vegetation and treelines including alluvial woodland are an attractive landscape and ecological feature Varies between wider, more mature river valleys and incised, narrow valleys that create more dramatic landscapes	Medium to high
<b>Principles for Development</b>		
<p>The natural and cultural characteristics of this LCT should be recognised and enhanced. New development in this LCT if necessary, should reflect and contribute to character, avoiding overly engineered approaches and seek to add rather than detract through appropriate planting regimes. Nature based solutions should be a principal design consideration. New development adjacent to these LCTs should avoid extensive overlooking and effects of lighting on these river valleys in terms of landscape and wildlife should be a consideration. Enhance and encourage riparian planting Reduce fragmentation of habitats and corridors Facilitate controlled or appropriate access to the river for a variety of users Recreational infrastructure such as walking paths, and signage should be low impact, discrete and consistent.</p>		
Canals	Manmade watercourses of historic importance. Embankments are a feature and frequently alignment is closely associated with the railway lines. Woodlands and habitats associated with the canal are important ecological features. Offers an accessible recreational area for urban dwellers	Low to medium
<b>Principles for Development</b>		
<p>Enhance ecological connectivity. Develop plans for providing, where feasible continuous access routes for recreational uses and others Appropriate levels of recreational infrastructure that are not overly engineered, reflective of local landscape character and provide discrete low key signage Enhancement of built heritage associated with the canal. Consider and minimise effects on wildlife associated with increased recreational infrastructure and in particular lighting New development adjacent to this LCT should seek to contribute and enhance the canal landscape character. Additional planting of appropriate tree and shrub species and where possible measures from the All Ireland Pollinator plan should inform landscape treatments along the canal.</p>		
Limestone Farmland	Gently undulating low-lying (generally below 100m) with limestone bedrock. Land use includes tillage and pasture. Generally dispersed settlement pattern	Medium
<b>Principles for Development</b>		
<p>This LCT represents a significant agricultural resource but is vulnerable to urbanising pressures. It represents an important agricultural and green infrastructure buffer between the heavily urbanised eastern parts of the county. Enhance and support the agricultural character by maintaining the integrity of this type.</p>		

LCT	Summary	Sensitivity
<p>Controls on urban expansion, ribbon development and other types of erosion and fragmentation of landscape character. Its' character as a rural landscape provides a distinct and important identity to this area and requires site planning guidance on the use of appropriate vernacular styles and treatments in new developments</p>		
<p><b>Low Foothills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally located between 100 to 200 m.</li> <li>• Bedrock largely sedimentary sandstones, shales and greywackes.</li> <li>• Landcover largely pasture and rough grazing</li> <li>• Dispersed rural housing with a variety of architectural styles and treatments interspersed with generally single story farmhouses with round gate pillars a vernacular feature</li> </ul> <p>Golf courses and forest walks present.</p>	<p>Medium to high</p>
<p><b>Principles for Development</b></p>		
<p>Form an important backdrop to the lowlands and large scale development would diminish their landscape and visual value. Hedgerows of native species remain a feature so should be encouraged as a boundary treatment will improve screening and locally enhance biodiversity. Viewpoints and laybys – better boundary treatments would enhance these</p>		
<p><b>Foothills</b></p>	<p>Foothills Bedrock largely sedimentary sandstones, shales and greywackes. These foothills rise well above 150m Landcover increasingly rough pasture with coniferous plantations at hilltops. Recreation use with forest walks</p>	<p>Medium to high</p>
<p><b>Principles for Development</b></p>		
<p>Form an important backdrop to the lowlands and large scale development would diminish their landscape and visual value. Hedgerows of native species remain a feature so should be encouraged as a boundary treatment will improve screening and locally enhance biodiversity. Viewpoints and laybys – better boundary treatments would enhance these Opportunity to replant with more appropriate woodland species and reduce blocks of coniferous plantations Support ecological linkages for wildlife into uplands and lowlands and onwards to National Park</p>		
<p><b>Mountains</b></p>	<p>Coniferous forests and heather moor/rough grazing are dominant land cover, with extensive blanket bog on summits Topography is variable, but core areas over 200m and rising to 757m Kippure on the Dublin/Wicklow Border Bedrock primarily granite and/sedimentary.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p><b>Principles for Development</b></p>		
<p>Maintain and enhance remote and rural character The uplands and associated hills form a key backdrop to the greater Dublin region, framing the southern boundary and their importance merits recognition Clustering of archaeological features at summits reflects long cultural heritage association with these uplands. Opportunity to replant with more appropriate woodland species and reduce blocks of coniferous plantations Support ecological linkages for wildlife into uplands and lowlands and onwards to National Park. Increased recreational related development or infrastructure should be carefully designed, not overly engineered and use appropriate local materials.</p>		

LCT	Summary	Sensitivity
<b>Potential effects of development on natural and cultural heritage should be assessed by professionally qualified experts.</b>		
<b>Greenspace</b>	<p>This refers specifically to the larger areas of parkland that function as both ecological refuge and green space for the urbanised lowlands. These can comprise former demesnes as in the case of Corkagh Demesne or Tymon Park or the green space associated with rivers such as the Dodder Valley Park. Essential for recreation and health of the population, quality of life and image of the county.</p> <p>Key characteristics are variety of habitats, some include formal amenity space such as pitches and playgrounds, other spaces are more naturalistic and comprise a variety of habitats including water courses, ponds, woodlands.</p>	High
<b>Principles for Development</b>		
<p><b>Plan to enhance connections between areas of open space to former continuous networks of open space. In addition to enhancing ecological corridors and recreational experiences, such a plan would integrate fragmented developments.</b></p> <p><b>Consider the multi-functional potential of these spaces.</b></p> <p><b>Retention and enhancement of variety of habitats</b></p> <p><b>Key component of green and blue infrastructure network frequently functions as a buffer for rivers</b></p> <p><b>Opportunities to enhance wildlife and ecological value through appropriate planting and management informed by ecological surveys</b></p> <p><b>Balance needs of informal and formal recreation</b></p> <p><b>Lighting effects should be carefully considered and designed to avoid adverse effects on wildlife.</b></p>		
<b>Built Landscape Character Types</b>		
<b>Transport Corridors</b>	Major transport routes that are typically of low permeability in that they often provide few places where the route can be crossed safely. This includes railway lines, motorways, dual carriageways and by-passes.	
<b>Principles for Development</b>		
<p><b>Stronger boundary treatments and greater screening through planting when appropriate/possible</b></p> <p><b>Consider green infrastructure measures adjacent to/alongside such corridors where practical</b></p>		
<b>Urban</b>	Includes built land and historic settlements within the larger urban areas. Primarily composed of established nucleated villages and towns that have developed historically- many of which saw significant improvements in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century in terms of streetscapes. These are surrounded by residential development of various origins but primarily 20 <sup>th</sup> century with significant recent development in the past two decades	
<b>Principles for Development</b>		
<p><b>Siting and boundary treatments of new residential developments.</b></p> <p><b>Demonstrate through design statement /masterplan/planting plan how it relates to historic core where present.</b></p> <p><b>Stronger use of hedgerows and trees as a visual screening.</b></p>		
<b>Historic Urban</b>	<p>Historic urban: settlements that originated from ecclesiastical (early Christian) or medieval origins. Clondalkin Village</p> <p>Lucan Village</p> <p>Palmerstown Lower (Mill Complex)</p> <p>Rathfarnham Village including Willbrook</p> <p>Tallaght Village</p>	

LCT	Summary	Sensitivity
	<p>Saggart Then also the core of: Newcastle village – Local Area Plan boundary Saggart</p>	
<b>Principles for Development</b>		
<p><b>Enhancement of the historic fabric of these villages</b> <b>se of appropriate building forms and materials in public realm</b> <b>relevant designations such as Architectural Conservation Areas</b> <b>Compliance with the above in new developments and public realm projects.</b> <b>Soft landscape treatments to enhance green infrastructure at smaller scale</b></p>		
<b>Urban Fringe</b>	Summary	
	<p>Transitional lands that were largely rural, transforming into suburban or urban derived landuse. Radiate from established settlements and close to transport links Landuse is built land comprising transport, retail/business parks, quarries and urban derived housing</p>	
<p><b>Screening through appropriate native broadleaf planting to provide a stronger visual boundary and definition as well as enhancing ecological connectivity.</b> <b>Coherent approach to boundary treatments and design</b> <b>Prepare plans to integrate transitional lands into landscape through appropriate planting and boundary treatments</b></p>		

## 7 LANDSCAPE CAPACITY AND WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

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### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

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The Wind Energy Guidelines 2006 state that ‘*factors that can inform landscape sensitivity to wind energy development include scenic quality, rarity, uniqueness and natural and cultural heritage considerations.*’ The approach below expands on these factors and is based on best practice guidelines produced elsewhere, most particularly Scottish Natural Heritage studies; this approach has also been used in the preparation of wind energy strategies in Counties Clare (adopted 2009) and Galway (adopted 2011), plus the Northern Ireland Supplementary Planning Guidance (2010).

The sensitivity of landscape character areas to wind turbines is unrelated to statutory landscape designations and is based on an assessment of landscape character using carefully defined criteria.

It is considered that the criteria and approach below provide a more procedural basis for assessing wind energy capacity in terms of landscape character. An explanation of these sensitivity criteria is provided in the following Table 5a.

### 7.2 CORRELATION BETWEEN SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LCTS AND LCTS IDENTIFIED IN THE WIND ENERGY GUIDELINES 2006.

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Please note that for several areas of the county, wind energy speeds are not considered commercially viable, the exception to this being on the hills and mountain areas.

In terms of siting advice, the LCTS identified through this study most accurately correspond to the 2006 Wind Energy Guidelines landscape character types as follows:

<b>Landscape Character Type identified for South Dublin County</b>	<b>Landscape Character Types identified in Wind Energy Guidelines</b>
<b>Limestone farmland</b>	Hilly and Flat Farmland
<b>Foothills</b>	Transitional marginal landscapes
<b>Hills</b>	Transitional marginal landscapes
<b>Mountains</b>	Mountain Moorland
<b>Urban</b>	Urban and Industrial

**Transport corridor, canal, green space and historic are not specifically addressed in 2006 wind energy guidelines.**

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**Table 7a: Landscape sensitivity criteria**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Aspects indicating lower sensitivity to wind farm development</b>		<b>Aspects indicating higher sensitivity to wind farm development</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Lower sensitivity</b>		<b>Higher sensitivity</b>
<b>Landform and scale: patterns, complexity and consistency</b>	Large scale landform	↔	Small scale landform
	Simple		Distinctive and complex
	Featureless		Human scale indicators
	Absence of strong topographical variety		Presence of strong topographical variety
<b>Landcover: patterns, complexity and consistency</b>	Simple	↔	More complex,
	Predictable		irregular or intimate landscape patterns (for example ancient, irregular field systems)
	Smooth, regular and convex or flat and uniform		
<b>Settlement and manmade influence</b>	Concentrated settlement pattern	↔	Dispersed settlement pattern
	Presence of contemporary structures e.g.; utility, infrastructure or industrial elements		Absence of modern development Presence of small scale, historic or vernacular settlement
<b>Visual</b>			
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple predictable skylines	↔	Complex unpredictable skylines
	Presence of existing vertical features		Uninterrupted horizons
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>	Limited views into and out of landscape	↔	Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes
	Neighbouring landscapes of low sensitivity		Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity
	Weak connections, self-contained areas and views		Contributes to wider landscape
	Simple large scale		Complex or distinctive backdrops

	backdrop		
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>	Obscured landmarks, views toward/from landmarks, absence of vistas	↔	Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas  Distinctive settings or public viewpoints
<b>Receptors</b>	Unpopulated or few receptors  Inaccessible	↔	More densely populated or many receptors  Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>	Limited association between landscape(s) and/or features	↔	Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features
<b>Cultural Associations</b>	Limited connection between cultural associations and the landscape		Strong associations (i.e.: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>	Limited access to high quality and/or recreational landscapes		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>	Close to visible or audible signs of human activity and development	↔	Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.

In assessing landscape sensitivity to wind development, the assessment uses reference wind turbines as examples, including 3MW turbine with a hub height of 120m with a blade radius of approximately 60m (total height of 150m).

It also considers groupings and height of turbines as follows:

<b>Groupings</b>	<b>Turbine Height</b>
<b>Small group – up to 3 turbines</b>	Domestic/community – 25m or less
<b>Medium wind farm – 6-10</b>	Medium commercial – 80m
<b>Large: 11-20 turbines</b>	Large commercial -80-125m

Very Large: 21-30 turbines

LIFFEY VALLEY WIND ENERGY SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY

LCA 1: Liffey Valley	
Landscape	Sensitivity to Wind energy Development
Scale Generally small scale influenced by the River Liffey	Overall Sensitivity
Landform The landform comprises a mixture of incised river valley towards the east and more sloping landform to the west.	High sensitivity
Enclosure Enclosed, small scale with ridges providing an enclosed character	
Complexity of landcover and features Complex variety of landcover including golf courses, urban settlement both contemporary and historical as well as deciduous woodland.	
Man-made influence Considerable man -made influence is present due to variety of historical landuses, settlement form.	
Visual	
Skylines and settings The ridges of the river valley both north and south provide visual interest and frame the river Liffey; they also provide an important context and setting to the historic core of the nucleated settlements such as Lucan. The river provides the contributing landscape characteristic to the LCA	
Inter- visibility with adjacent landscapes This varies throughout the LCA; from the slopes of the valley and the road network, views can be extensive eastwards and northwards. There is a strong relationship between the river at this area and eastwards towards the city and the Phoenix Park.	
Key views, vistas and landmark features It will be an objective of the Council to preserve and enhance views and prospects of special amenity value or special interest, in particular views from Lower Road, Rugged Lane, Tower Road and from the Head of the Glen.	
Landscape Quality Generally a high quality landscape that retains a strong character and integrity. Clearly defined, generally well maintained and distinctive landscape character	
Scenic Quality High, reflected in part through the designation as a Special Area Amenity Order	
Wildness and Tranquillity Variable –active character around the settlements, interspersed with greater areas	

### LCA 1: Liffey Valley

of tranquillity and riparian and amenity character. This is not a wild area but benefits from areas of tranquillity that provide a strong counterpoint to the more active and busy urbanised areas.

#### Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)

Views overlooking the valley with the treelines a particular feature

#### Cultural Associations

Numerous historical cultural associations are found along the Liffey Valley

#### Recreation and Amenity

#### Capacity Assessment

##### Turbine groupings and height:

This LCA has very limited capacity for commercial wind energy development.

Given the limited height of the valley and the importance of this area as an entrance to the city and the historical and scenic qualities of the Liffey Valley, turbines of domestic scale are considered the only appropriate type for this area.

Turbines of this size could be accommodated on the lower areas only where they would not affect open skylines or interrupt ridgelines associated with the valley. As the area has a history of mills, chimney stacks are present along the valley floor; sympathetic siting of domestic scale turbines may complement these if carefully addressed at site level.

##### Cumulative/trans-boundary Issues:

As this LCA shares a boundary with counties Kildare, Fingal and Dublin City, there would be potential for cross boundary impacts.

NEWCASTLE LOWLANDS WIND ENERGY AND CAPACITY

LCA Newcastle lowlands	
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Sensitivity to Wind energy Development</b>
<b>Scale</b> Large to medium scale landscape generally quite open in character.	<b>Overall Sensitivity</b>
<b>Landform</b> Flat and gently undulating low-lying landform	Medium to high
<b>Enclosure</b> Generally this is an open LCA with expansive and large skies present. Screening is generally minimum and is associated with treelines or hedgerows.	
<b>Complexity of landcover and features</b> Relatively simple landcover comprising large fields of tillage and pasture, nucleated settlements of Newcastle, otherwise dispersed settlement.	
<b>Man-made influence</b> Influence quite strong as evidenced through long history of human settlement and agricultural activity within this LCA. Combination of historic and contemporary features such as railways and pylons.	
<b>Visual</b>	
<b>Skylines and settings</b> Generally this area is expansive with large open skylines.	
<b>Inter- visibility with adjacent landscapes</b> These lowlands comprise much of the view from the higher hills and mountains to the south.	
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b> Grand Canal is a landmark feature; neighbouring hills of Athgoe and Lyons Hill provide local landmark features.	
<b>Landscape Quality</b> Quality varies across LCA; areas further west retain a stronger rural and agricultural character, whilst towards the east and north urban derived pressures and development impact on landscape quality.	
<b>Scenic Quality</b> Relates to the agricultural and historic landscape character; more of a working agricultural landscape than an area of significant scenic quality.	
<b>Wildness and Tranquillity</b> Tranquillity is more present in rural areas to the west. No sense of wildness in this LCA.	
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b> Views from this LCA are drawn towards the hills and uplands to the southern part of this LCA. Views along the Grand Canal are also attractive.	
<b>Cultural Associations</b> Historic town of Newcastle	
<b>Recreation and Amenity</b> Grand Canal is primary recreational area.	

## LCA Newcastle lowlands

### Capacity Assessment

#### Turbine groupings and height:

This LCA has very limited capacity for commercial wind energy development. Given the low lying landform, turbine height would have to be significant to capture appropriate speeds; in addition, given the low lying landform, vertical structures such as turbines and existing pylons can be viewed from some distance.

Domestic turbines may be appropriate if viable wind speeds are possible but associated only with existing farm buildings.

#### Cumulative/trans-boundary Issues:

As this LCA shares a boundary with counties Kildare, there would be potential for cross boundary impacts.

## ATHGOE AND SAGGART HILLS WIND ENERGY SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY

### LCA Athgoe and Saggart Hills

Landscape	Sensitivity to Wind energy Development
Scale	Overall Sensitivity
Scale varies through this LCA with open expansive hills contrasting with more intimate valleys.	
Landform Varied landform comprising rounded hills and foothills combined with narrow and broad valleys.	High
Enclosure This also varies within this LCA; earth banks and narrow roads along with extensive coniferous plantations on hills create a more enclosed, intimate landscape; however from elevated areas, very expansive and open views are present.	
Complexity of landcover and features Landscape pattern is diverse with range of land uses including agriculture, forestry and recreation in addition to residential and nucleated settlements. Cluster of historic ritual/religious landscapes particularly associated with summits of hills.	
Man-made influence Generally quite a strong influence as evidenced through historical settlement pattern and archaeological features, active agricultural practices and busy towns of Rathcoole and Saggart.	
Visual	
Skylines and settings Extensive views from upper slopes of Saggart, Athgoe hills etc. –views are both north across the wider Dublin area and into neighbouring counties and the Wicklow mountains. These hills also provide the context and setting for the lower areas of the Greater Dublin region.	
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes High levels of inter-visibility overlooking agricultural lowlands, urban areas of	

## LCA Athgoe and Saggart Hills

Dublin, and over to surrounding hills and mountains.

### Key views, vistas and landmark features

Numerous views and prospects are identified within this area including views at Saggart Hill, Windmill Hill, and Verscholes Hill.

Cluster of telecommunication towers identify Saggart Hill.

### Landscape Quality

Rural and coherent agricultural landscape with characteristics including field patterns, hedgerows and dispersed settlement is integral part of the landscape; views to and from the hills are of great significance also.

### Scenic Quality

Varied, but overall an area of considerable scenic quality with strong contrast between more active northern slopes and more rural, quiet southern slopes.

### Wildness and Tranquillity

Tranquillity is more present in south of this LCA and in pockets of the northern slopes. Greater sense of tranquillity at hill tops, and views southwards to wider mountains and hills.

### Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)

Prehistoric ritual monuments attest to significance of the views from the slopes and hilltops in this LCA.

Views overlooking the agricultural areas contribute greatly to landscape character. pNHA designations present.

### Cultural Associations

Slade Valley and early Christian settlements

### Recreation and Amenity

Walking routes including walking at Slievethoul and wider recreational use of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains.

### Capacity Assessment

#### Turbine groupings and height:

Domestic turbines may be appropriate if viable wind speeds are possible but associated with existing farm buildings.

#### Cumulative/trans-boundary Issues:

As this LCA shares a boundary with counties and Wicklow, there would be potential for cross boundary impacts. In addition, the neighbouring counties have identified the adjacent landscape as Mountains and Lakeshores of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Co Wicklow) and not normally permissible for wind energy.

Part of county Kildare identifies the neighbouring area as the northern hills LCA, identified as high sensitivity to Development (not specifically wind energy).

The introduction of wind energy within this LCA would introduce a vertical and industrial element particularly on the southern area of the LCA and would impact beyond the South Dublin county boundary. Given the importance of this area for the setting of greater Dublin and one of the access areas into the wider mountain area, this should be a key consideration when planning for wind energy.

**RIVER DODDER AND GLENASMOLE VALLEY WIND ENERGY SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY**

River Dodder and Glenasmole Valley Wind Energy	
Landscape	Sensitivity to Wind energy Development
Scale	Overall Sensitivity
Contrasting scales with small enclosed areas and large expansive uplands and open moors and mountains.	
<b>Landform</b> Diverse landscape with rolling hills, valleys and uplands	High
<b>Enclosure</b> Variable, enclosure and screening provided by topography and vegetation with intimate, enclosed lanes along valley floor; contrasting with much more expansive elevated areas with extensive views and open character.	
<b>Complexity of landcover and features</b> Significant variety of landcover and habitats including blanket bog, riparian vegetation, streams and rivers, reservoirs, farm dwellings and buildings, and historical and archaeological features amongst others.	
<b>Man-made influence</b> Evident in dispersed settlement, agricultural and forestry activities; contrasts with more wild character of unenclosed uplands of blanket bog.	
<b>Visual</b>	
<b>Skylines and settings</b> Views, both directional and panoramic, contribute significantly to this LCA. The slopes and ridges provide immediate landscape setting to the Glenasmole valley and also the context for the more urbanised lowlands.	
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes</b> High levels of inter-visibility to other mountains, to the valley and overlooking the greater Dublin area.	
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b> Numerous views and prospects are identified within this area including views at Piperstown, Seahan, and Montpelier amongst others. Landmark features include the reservoir, the slopes of the mountains and the Hellfire Club.	
<b>Landscape Quality</b> High quality rural landscape with mosaic of habitats and variety of historical settlement and activity contributing to an interesting and varied landscape character; views to and from the hills are of great significance and contribute to landscape character.	
<b>Scenic Quality</b> High scenic quality largely derived from landscape character.	
<b>Wildness and Tranquillity</b> Wildness and tranquillity more present on mountains and southern parts of this LCA.	
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b> Prehistoric ritual monuments attest to significance of the views from the slopes and hilltops in this LCA. Views overlooking the two valleys, and over Dublin City and Bay contribute greatly	

### River Dodder and Glenasmole Valley Wind Energy

to landscape character.

Two Special Areas of Conservation present within this LCA.

#### Cultural Associations

Associations with the Fianna folklore, 1798 rebellion,

#### Recreation and Amenity

Very important area for recreation and amenity including the Dublin Mountains Walking Route.

#### Capacity Assessment

This LCA has no capacity for commercial wind energy development as it would introduce an industrial element and most likely require siting on the summits or upper slopes of mountains and hills that contribute significantly to landscape character.

#### Turbine groupings and height:

n/a

#### Cumulative/trans-boundary Issues:

As this LCA shares a boundary with County Wicklow, there would be potential for cross boundary impacts. In addition the neighbouring counties have identified the adjacent landscape as Mountains and Lakeshores of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Co Wicklow) and not normally permissible for wind energy.

The introduction of wind energy within this LCA would introduce a vertical and industrial element particularly on the southern area of the LCA and would impact beyond the South Dublin county boundary. Given the importance of this area for the setting of greater Dublin and one of the access areas into the wider mountain area, this should be a key consideration when planning for wind energy.

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## 7.3 CONCLUSION

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As the above assessments demonstrate, landscape character capacity for commercial scale wind energy in the county is very low. Greatest sensitivity lies in the foothills and uplands which are highly sensitive to commercial wind energy development given their ecological, archaeological, recreational and landscape importance and their function as the landscape setting to South Dublin County and much of the greater Dublin area. This is not to conclude that opportunities for wind energy do not exist, some potential for small scale wind technology developments may exist within some of the lowland LCA's, more that the areas with the highest wind energy potential correlate to areas of greatest landscape character sensitivity. There is likely to be much greater scope for micro or domestic scale turbine developments that can integrate within existing business or industrial parks that already have an established urban use and modern character. Additionally, where domestic turbines can be used in the context of farm buildings, again at domestic scale, this is considered to be the most appropriate.

## 8 SCENIC QUALITIES, VIEWS AND PROSPECTS

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### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

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The most iconic landscapes in the county are those associated with the hills and uplands and the rivers of the County. From prehistoric times the views north and east over the rich limestone lowlands, the east coast and Dublin Bay have been recognised as being of great significance. Through history these views and scenic qualities have fulfilled both cultural and spiritual functions to the various inhabitants and travellers through this part of the greater Dublin region.

The pre historical passage tombs and cairns all over the Dublin and Wicklow mountains may be some distance but their inter -visibility is the critical factor and an element that is increasingly recognised in landscape archaeology (eg: Orkney World Heritage Site setting study, recent research on the hill of the Uisneach, County Westmeath). Down through history these areas provided both a refuge and opportunities to oversee activities on the lowlands and coast; no different to the experience of climbing ritual mountains in Ireland, these areas also present as a liminal or place of transition, close to the skies.



FIGURFIGURE 37 LANDSCAPE PAINTING OF THE SOUTH DUBLIN FOOTHILLS (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND/SDCC LIBRARY)

The character of these areas and their function as an ecological refuge, a place where one could escape the active, busy, modern lowlands were reflected in the construction of shooting and country lodges in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, most notably around Glenasmole and Ballinascorney Lodges. Lewis's description of the County in 1837 highlights the scenic qualities of the mountains and rivers and acknowledges the quality of the views from the hills.

*The county stretches in length from north to south, and presents a sea-coast of about thirty miles, while its breadth in some places does not exceed seven. Except in the picturesque irregularities of its coast, and the grand and beautiful boundary which the mountains on its southern confines form to the rich vale below, it possesses less natural diversity of scenery than many other parts of the island; but it is superior to all in artificial decoration; and the banks of the Liffey to Leixlip present scenery of the most rich and interesting character.*

*The mountains which occupy the southern border of the county are the northern extremities of the great group forming the entire adjacent county of Wicklow : the principal summits within its confines are the Three Rock Mountain and Garrycastle, at the eastern extremity of the chain, of which the former has an elevation of 1586 feet, and the latter of 1869 ; Montpelier hill; the group formed by Kippure, Seefinane, Seechon, and Seefin mountains, of which the first is 2527 feet high, and Seechon 2150 ; and the Tallaght and Rathcoole hills, which succeed each other north-westward from Seechon, and beyond the latter of which, in the same direction, is a lower range, composed of the Windmill, Athgoe, Lyons, and Rusty hills.*

*From Rathcoole hill a long range diverges south-westward, and enters the eastern confines of Kildare county, near Blessington. In the mountains adjoining Montpelier and Kilmashogue are bogs, covering three or four square miles ; but the grandest features of these elevations are the great natural ravines that open into them southward, of which the most extraordinary is the Scalp, through which the road from Dublin to the romantic scenes of Powerscourt enters the county of Wicklow .*

*From their summits are also obtained very magnificent views of the city and bay, and the fertile and highly improved plains of which nearly all the rest of the county is composed, and which form part of the great level tract that includes also the counties of Kildare and Meath.*

This character is arguably even more significant and important today, given the extent of urbanisation in the lowlands and the increasing recognition of the role that these areas play in making Dublin City and its region an attractive place to live, work and play. For the urban dweller, engagement with the natural world increasingly comes from outdoor recreation, whether that is access to local parks, the canal, rivers or the uplands. Research is increasingly reaffirming what many have intuitively known- access to green space and high quality rural environments have positive effects on human health<sup>145</sup> .

## 8.2 VIEWS AND PROSPECTS FOR PROTECTION

The 1977 publications Inventory of Outstanding Landscapes in Ireland which marked one of the earliest official attempts to identify landscapes of outstanding quality identified the uplands as outstanding: This extended from Saggart and Stepside over to Rathdrum and Baltinglass in Co.

<sup>145</sup> For discussion on health benefits see ;<http://www.hphcentral.com/>. Also recent review of cultural ecosystem services in Plieninger, T et al, 2015. Current Opinions in Environmental Sustainability.

Wicklow. Interestingly, many of the hazards identified remain today nearly forty years later – infrastructure, housing and recreational development, modification of hill land, and refuse dumping.

The second area identified was the Liffey Valley where housing development was identified as a threat.

The Special Area Amenity Order dates from 1990 and a number of specific objectives are included in the existing SDCDP 2010-2016.

Views that are identified for protection and preservation are identified on the Development Plan maps. Prospects are listed in Table 8.1 and relate to prominent landscapes or areas of special amenity value or special interest that are widely visible from surrounding areas.

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**TABLE 8.1: PROSPECTS TO BE PRESERVED AND PROTECTED**

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1. Kilakee Mountain
  2. Cruagh Mountain
  3. Sliamh na mBánóg
  4. Ballymorefinn Hill
  5. Knockannavea
  6. Lugmore/Tallaght Hill
  7. Mountpelier Hill
  8. Piperstown Hill
  9. Kippure Mountain
  10. Seefingan Mountain
  11. Corrig Mountain
  12. Seahan Mountain
  13. Glenasmole Valley
  14. Knockannavea Hill
  15. Athgoe Hill
  16. Verschoyle's Hill
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## 8.2 REVIEW OF EXISTING ROUTES

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### 8.2.1 INTRODUCTION

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Fieldwork was carried out over three days in September and October 2020. As outlined in the methodology, a criteria based assessment was undertaken on the existing scenic routes and prospects. Please see Section 3.2 for the field survey forms and accompanying photos. These provide a description of the quality and aspect of the view and a rationale for their designation.

In summary it was found that the existing views with some minor exceptions remain valid. Where recommendations are made for removal of views, these are presented in the survey forms in Annex C.

The prospects from the summits of hills remain significant, and merit retention. These alter between the easterly prospects that comprise panoramas that encompass the city, the hills and significantly views over Dublin Bay and Howth.

The southerly and westerly prospects frequently comprise hill and mountain vistas with long views southwards to the remote hills, mountains and valleys associated with the Wicklow Mountains. The inter-visibility between summits, the sea and sense of remote character are all key characteristics of these prospects and frequently the elevated extent of the scenic routes.

A number of the scenic routes specifically relate to views over valleys and these contribute further to scenic quality. These are significant as they comprise largely agricultural valleys with a combination of intact hedgerows, agricultural landuse, riparian vegetation and dispersed largely vernacular farmhouses and buildings. The principal routes associated with the valleys relate to Slade Valley and Glensamole.

In relation to the Liffey Valley, the existing two small scenic routes at the N4 appear valid though these were only possible to survey via driving given the traffic conditions.

Finally, there are a number of individual scenic routes identified in the plan as a single triangular symbol at the following locations:

- West of Newcastle (overlooking farmstead and close to estate)
- Rathcoole (west of Rathcoole, looking towards Athgoe Hill in distance)
- Saggart, overlooking Citywest Golf Club.
- Junction 11, M50 and Tallaght. View to overlook the River Dodder.

As these are points on the map rather than scenic routes, their function and application is not clear. It may be more appropriate to convert these to prospects.

## 9 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

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### 9.1 INTRODUCTION

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This section summarises the principal recommendations at broad landscape character scale. For more detailed policy/mitigation measures based on the character of each LCA please see the preceding Sections 7 and 8 that provides detailed landscape character mitigation measures for each LCA. At more local level, advice and recommendations are also provided in Section 6 in relation to landscape character types and integrating these recommendations is also advised.

### 9.2 KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

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1. Green Infrastructure recognises landscape scale functions and to support both green infrastructure and landscape management, provision should be made for a network of ecological corridors to provide both landscape functions, contribute to green infrastructure and enhance overall landscape quality.
2. Guidelines including those contained in the Urban Design Manual, Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan provide relevant site planning advice and should be complied with for new development and enhancing existing development where possible.
3. The extension of current ACAs such as at Lucan Village, as well as proposed designation of other urban settlements as ACAs the draft CDP is supported through this LCA.
4. Boundary treatments including screening through appropriate tree planting (of native provenance) would sympathetically absorb development. This applies to all built development activities including council viewing points, laybys and infrastructure where possible.
5. In preparing new local area plans, landscape context and function should be a key consideration.
6. The landscape character of South Dublin County is a defining quality and provides a sense of place and identity for the county; this should be supported and enhanced through promotion and marketing including tourism, recreation and agricultural activities.
7. South Dublin County provides the landscape setting from the west and south of Dublin City and maintaining this character and quality is of significance for the greater Dublin area and arguably is of national significance. Recognition of this through policy and programmes is recommended.
8. The landscape resources are both diverse and of varying quality, the uplands, river valleys and canals are very rich in both natural and cultural heritage; recognising, enhancing and protecting these resources is recommended through policies and support for local landscape initiatives.
9. South Dublin County has long functioned as an area providing services to the urbanised eastern part of Ireland; these services include agricultural, recreational, ecological and landscape; recognition, maintenance and enhancement of these services will sustain the

environmental resource base of the County whilst providing opportunities to sustainably develop tourism, recreation and agricultural activities.

10. The wind energy capacity of the county is severely constrained, to facilitate commercial wind energy in the uplands area would result in a significant impact to landscape character, introduce an industrial element to a strongly rural and agricultural landscape and result in cross county impacts to Wicklow and Kildare in particular; both local authorities have identified the uplands within their area as being not normally permissible for wind energy specifically (Co Wicklow) or highly sensitive to certain developments (Co Kildare). A co-ordinated approach to landscape management is recommended to ensure landscape impacts both positive and negative are managed appropriately.
11. To enhance both ecological connectivity and provide for greater recreational use consideration should be given to both a linear park from the Grand Canal to the foothills and extension of the Wicklow National Park.
12. The rural economy of the county merits stronger recognition as it provides a range of services to the more urbanised east and central parts of the County. Development should be designed to maintain or where possible enhance the quality of the rural and landscape character of the county.
13. Containing urban sprawl by providing for higher density and high quality residential development that accommodates different demographic needs, and reflects and enhances local landscape character is a key consideration.
14. Existing and new business and retail parks should provide for greater landscaping treatment that is more sympathetic to the landscape and less visually intrusive; considerable opportunities exist to use various green design options as well as planting schemes.
15. Where the County Development Plan requires landscape and visual impact assessments these should be undertaken by an appropriately qualified professional and carried out in line with the Landscape Institutes Guidelines for undertaking landscape and visual impact assessment (2013).
16. Community awareness raising and engagement relating to landscape through educational initiatives, village design statements, local landscape partnerships would help meet the requirements of the European Landscape Convention.
17. Assessment of Townscape Character for the urbanised areas of South Dublin County, ideally carried out at a regional level including Dublin City, Fingal and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown would facilitate a co-ordinated approach to urbanised areas and provide detailed guidance in terms of local townscape character, and maintenance and enhancement of same.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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An explanation of how the terms are being used in the context of the **South Dublin Landscape Character Assessment**.

**Analysis** - the process of breaking the landscape down, usually in descriptive terms, into its component parts in order to understand how it is made up.

**Approach** - the step-wise process by which a landscape assessment is undertaken.

**Assessment** - an umbrella term used to encompass all the many different ways of looking at, describing, analysing and evaluating landscape.

**Character** - a distinct pattern or combination of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape.

**Character Area (Image Unit)** - a unique geographic area with a consistent character and identity.

**Character Type (Physical Unit)** - a generic term for a landscape with a consistent, homogeneous character. Landscape character types may occur in different parts of the county, but wherever they occur, they will share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation or human influences.

**Characteristic** - an element that contributes to local distinctiveness (e.g. narrow winding lanes, vernacular building style).

**Classification** - a process of sorting the landscape into different types, each with a distinct, consistent and recognisable character.

**Description** - verbal description of what a landscape looks like. This is usually carried out in a systematic manner, but it may also include personal reactions to the landscape.

**Element** - a component part of the landscape (e.g. hedges, roads, woods).

**Feature** - a prominent, eye-catching element (e.g. wooded hilltop, church spire).

**Land cover** - combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.

**Landform** - combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land surface.

**Landscape** - the term refers primarily to the visual appearance of the land, including its shape, form and colours. However, the landscape is not a purely visual phenomenon; its character relies on a whole range of other dimensions, including geology, topography, soils, ecology, archaeology, landscape history, land use, architecture and cultural associations.

### OTHER TECHNICAL TERMS

**AOD** - abbreviation for 'above ordinance datum'

**Aeolian** – wind-blown sediment (mainly sands)

**Alluvium** – water transported sediment (river muds and flood deposits)

**Barrow** – a general term for burial mound dating from Neolithic up to early medieval period.

**Bawn** - (babhun) Irish word generally taken to mean a fortified enclosure or bulwark of mud or stone walls. These are a particular feature of the Plantation Period. One of the conditions of obtaining a large land grant was that settling landlords construct a manor house or strong house surrounded by a bawn.

**Biogeography** - the study of plant and animal distributions together with the geographical relationships with their environments over time.

**Bronze Age** - (2500 BC to 500 BC) during this period, Bronze became the primary material in tools and weapons, enabling settlement to expand into lowland areas. Burials were in pits and cists,

sometimes in cemeteries and much simpler than in the Neolithic period. Greater emphasis was placed on worship of the living with the construction of ceremonial megalithic stone circles.

**Blanket bog** - a bog that drapes all features of the terrain such as filling hollows. It is composed essentially of peat on which rough wet moorland or marshland vegetation prevails. It is formed in high rainfall and low evapotranspiration conditions.

**Bluffs** – steep headland, promontory, riverbank, or cliff, inland a prominent spur from a large hill

**Carboniferous Period** - period of the Palaeozoic era, which ranged from 345 million years to about 280 million years BP (Before Present). The Carboniferous can be divided into the Lower Carboniferous and the Upper Carboniferous separated by a boundary dated at about 325 million years BP.

**Cashel**- a stone fort

**Cairn**- a mound of stones

**Chert** - a hard siliceous rock, which occurs as bands or layers in sedimentary rocks. Flint is a variety of chert.

**Clachan** - nucleated group of farm houses where landholdings were organised communally, frequently on a townland basis and farmed by communities with strong kinship ties. Houses were surrounded by a permanently cultivated infield, defined by a study wall outside which lay the outfield and commonage.

**Clint** - flat topped rock features, which together make up a limestone pavement. Each clint is bounded by a grike.

**Crannog**- An Island, partly or wholly artificial, built up by dumping timber, earth and stones onto a lake or river bed often revetted with timber piles or palisade.

**Colluvial** –deposition of sediment or rock particles accumulating from overland flow at the base of a slope and originating from higher slopes where sheet erosion is in progress.

**Demesne** - lands held by the manor for its own use and occupation incorporating farmland, gardens, woods and buildings. With medieval origins the concept survived until the break-up of the estate system in last present century.

**Devonian** - the fourth geological period of the Palaeozoic era extending from 395 to 345 million years. It comprises marine and continental deposits, the latter being referred to as the Old Red Sandstone.

**Drumlin** - an Irish term widely accepted to describe a streamlined, elongated egg-shaped hillock of glacial drift formed under a moving glacier during the ice age. The long axis of the hillock is aligned parallel to the direction of the ice flow. Drumlins usually occur in swarms or 'fields'.

**Erratic** - a large rock fragment which has been transported by moving ice away from its place of origin and deposited in an area of dissimilar rock types.

**Esker** - long, sinuous ridge of sand and gravel deposited by sub-glacial stream.

**Eutrophic** - the state of a water body when it has an excess of nutrients usually derived from agricultural fertilisers. The process by which a water body becomes overloaded with nutrients is known as eutrophication and leads to a dense plant population, the decomposition of which kills animal life by depriving it of oxygen.

**Fault** - a rupture or fracture of rock strata due to strain.

**Flush** - an area of soil enriched by transported materials, either dissolved mineral salts or rock particles. Wet flushes are found surrounding springs and rivulets and appear as bright green, rushy areas on a hill slope.

**Fluvio-glacial** - a term referring to the processes and landforms related to the action of glacial meltwater.

**Fulachta fiadh** - a Bronze Age cooking site. The method of cooking involved the heating of stones in a fire until they were hot enough to drop into a trough of water to bring it to the boil at which point a parcel of food could be dropped in. The shattered stones were thrown into a pile surrounding the

trough on three sides, which over time formed the distinctive horseshoe-shaped mound, which may be identified today.

**Geomorphology** - the scientific study of the origin of landforms based on a cause and effect relationship.

**Gley soils** - Soils characterised by being affected by periodic or permanent saturation by water in the absence of effective artificial drainage. Various gley soils exist.

**Infield** - large open field surrounding houses within a clachan. This large open field was situated on the best ground and was divided up into a multiplicity of strips separated by sods or stones in which potatoes were grown. Each family used a variety of strips, which were periodically re-distributed (rundale). The infield was permanently cultivated and nutrients were replenished by the use of lime, seaweed and dung.

**Iron Age** - (600 BC to Early Christian Period) A period of antiquity in which iron metallurgy was used for tools and weapons. Elsewhere in Europe Iron Age communities succumbed to Rome. However, in Ireland the 'celts' survived for many centuries. The Iron Age saw the emergence of kingdoms and the consolidation of territories defended by hilltop fortifications and earthworks.

**Kame** - kames can result from the accumulation of glaciofluvial sediments in a supraglacial position whence they are lowered by ice melting until they form a tumultuous hummocky terrain after the ice has disappeared.

**Kame terrain** - an undulating landscape composed of groups of kames and/or kame terraces interspersed or pitted with kettle holes. This type of landform is sometimes termed a kame complex and is created when glaciofluvial sediments are lowered onto the sub-ice surface as the glacier or ice-sheet decays, especially when it can be established that the kame sediments were formed in separate basins of accumulation on the ice surface.

**Karstic** - term referring to the terrain created by limestone solution and characterised by a virtual absence of surface hollows, depressions and fissures and an extensive subterranean drainage network.

**Lazy bed** - garden like method of farming used in marginal areas to maximise the capacity of thin or nutrient poor soils. Manure was laid out in lines on which sods were lapped over using a thin bladed spade (loy) to create a series of ridges and furrows of equal width.

**Lower Palaeozoic** - first of the eras of geological time lasting from about 600 million years to 240 million years BP. In Europe it comprises the Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian (which together constitute the Lower Palaeozoic) and the Devonian, Carboniferous and Permian that form the Upper Palaeozoic.

**Lough** – a term for a body of water, either enclosed as a fresh-water lake or a long, narrow penetration of sea water extending inland from the ocean.

**Lumper** - a high bulk variety of potato, which tolerates poor soils and requires little manure.

**Limestone pavement** - a glacially planed and smoothed surface of bare limestone, which has subsequently been dissected by vertical joints (grikes) to produce clints.

**Megalithic tomb** - a construction made of large stones, dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Four types of megalithic tombs have been identified on the basis of architecture, excavation artefacts and distribution patterns: court, portal, passage and wedge. The various tomb types have been interpreted as a chronological sequence, starting with court tombs and ending with wedge tombs. However the extensive age range provides evidence for a considerable overlap and other explanations for their distribution in the landscape is required.

**Mesolithic** - (9000 BC - 4000 BC) an archaeological term meaning 'middle stone age' and used to describe the culture of the early Post Glacial period. It is a period of transition when mankind moved from the hunter gathering practices of the Palaeolithic of the last glaciation and the farming and pottery of the post glacial Neolithic. Mesolithic inhabitants frequently lived along coasts, rivers or lake shores and may have used fire to clear forested land for semi-permanent villages. Mesolithic

tool kits reflect a need to adapt to the changing environment and are characterised by the presence of microliths and stone axes.

**Metamorphic rocks** - rocks that have been altered from their original state by various metamorphic processes, generally as a result of mountain building and the intrusion of magma.

**Midlandian glaciation** - the name given to the final glacial stage of the Pleistocene.

**Moraine** – accumulation of rock debris carried by glacier or ice sheet and deposited by ice to become a depositional landform.

**Motte-and-bailey castle** - the earliest form of Norman castle established along key communication routes after the conquest. An inner courtyard was protected by simple earth and wood defences.

**Mudbanks** - masses of fine grained limestone that were formed by the production of huge amounts of calcium carbonate by organisms. These rose above the general level of the sea floor in a manner similar to modern day coral reefs.

**Neolithic** - (4000 BC - 2500 BC) an archaeological term meaning 'new stone age' which describes the period of antiquity in which people began to use ground stone tools, cultivate plants and keep domestic livestock. The gradual spread of farming through Europe brought with it the custom of communal burial in megalithic tombs.

**Outcrop** - the area where a particular rock type, stratum or vein appears at the surface.

**Outfield** - poorer, more marginal or boggy ground where occasional reclamation might be made for the purposes of growing potatoes.

**Plantation**- a newly established settlement generally associated with a period of subjugation of the native Irish elite and colonisation by a Protestant and British landed class in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century.

**Rath** - a type of ring fort found in Ireland mainly dated to the early Christian period, c. 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

**Raised bog peat** - under suitable climatic conditions this is built up on top of fen peat. As the depth of the fen peat increases, its living vegetation is less influenced on ground water and becomes more dependent on atmospheric precipitation as a source of moisture. This change in moisture supply results in the growth and development of a raised bog with its characteristic convex surface and acid plant remains.

**Riparian habitat** - riverbank habitat.

**Rundale** - periodic re-distribution of strips of land in the infield of a clachan practically universal throughout the poorer lands of the west of Ireland. The re-distribution of strips of land ensured a fair distribution of all soil types to each family of the clachan.

**Semi-natural vegetation** - any type of vegetation that has been influenced by human activities, either directly or indirectly.

**Silurian period** - third period of the Palaeozoic lasting from 440 million years ago to about 395 million years ago. Its rocks comprise thick layers of sandstones, shales, mudstones and limestones.

**Souterrain** – in most cases a long stone-built chamber sunk into the ground and roofed with stone slabs, usually beneath a house and intended for cold storage.

**Turbary** - the right of digging turf on another man's land or the ground where turf is dug.

**Tundra** - the tundra lies between the polar region of perpetual snow and ice and the northern limit of tree growth. The term is used to describe landscapes that are characterised by treeless vegetation consisting of mosses, lichens, sedges and stunted shrubs growing on permafrost. During the quaternary, tundra like conditions were translated south as continental ice sheets expanded.

**Vernacular** - buildings constructed in the local style, from local materials. Concerned with ordinary rather than monumental buildings.

**Veteran tree** - a tree that is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition.

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## ANNEX A DETAILED LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA ONE: LIFFEY VALLEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
The landform associated with the river valley, combined with ridges and slopes increase the diversity of the landscape and creates a quite complex landform.					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
Landscape patterns varies somewhat within the LCA; it is largely coherent close the valley with the river, mature trees associated with parklands, alluvial woodland and some evidence of older agricultural practices. Further away the river corridor, pattern increasingly urban but historic core of settlements such as Lucan and Palmerstown as well as evidence of industrial heritage increase historic landuse pattern.					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g. recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
Landscape has heavily influenced settlement pattern historically in this area; landscape contributes significantly to settlement separation, especially between Lucan and Palmerstown, and through the Strawberry Beds to county boundary. West of Lucan to Leixlip, river still provides a natural separation but less clearly defined and greater urban sprawl present between N4 to historic cores					

Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into landscape	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape pattern
<p>The N4 provides the primary settlement edge to this LCA from the south and due to landscape treatment including planting and stone walls along extensive stretches of this road the settlement edge from the road is often quite well defined.</p> <p>As one exits the N4 and enters the villages proper there is some variety and less coherent approach to historic cores.</p>					
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including medieval, or designed landscapes.
<p>Close to the river corridor, historical landscape features, including designed landscapes, industrial heritage, stone arched bridges, vernacular cottages including millhouses and former farm cottages contribute to landscape character and reinforce sense of historical settlement. Modern twentieth century residential development (1960s onwards) now presents as more settled and mature residential areas.</p> <p>The River Liffey itself would have attracted activity and settlement from the earliest period, for example the early Mesolithic material found in the nearby townland of Cooldrinagh. This is the earliest settlement evidence in the region as a whole and is significant. The excavations at Cooldrinagh showed that this location was also in use in the Neolithic when ritual monuments, such as a passage tomb, were constructed, and it continued to be used in the later prehistoric and into the historic period. While prehistoric activity has not left any trace of the landscape due to re-use overtime, it is possible that the riverbed and banks still have the potential to yield prehistoric material.</p> <p>The predominant relict landuse type in this LCA is post-medieval in date influenced by the many large demesnes present along the river banks and particularly noted on the first edition six inch map, for example, Edmondsbury House, and Hermitage. The medieval historic centres of Lucan and Palmerstown have some relict remains of their medieval origins, in for example street pattern and property boundaries. Industrial activity, in the form of quarry pits and mills noted also. The road which bounds this LCA is one which has been in use since the medieval period and is shown on the earliest mapping.</p>					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
<p>River corridor and network of treelines and parklands combined with proximity to the north of the Royal Canal and potential links to the Phoenix Park increase ecological value in an area that has seen considerable urbanisation.</p>					
<p>Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: medium/high to high sensitivity</p>					

#### LIFFEY VALLEY VISUAL SENSITIVITY

Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over	Occasional	Some	Strong visual	Extensive views into

	landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	area. Major component of wider landscape views
<p>Visibility varies quite a lot within this LCA. From bridges and river valley floor, views are directed up and downstream of the river with the mature treelines an attractive feature such as at Broomfield. . Views from more elevated areas are occasional but are informed by presence of mature woodland and can be extensive eastwards and northwards. . There is a strong relationship between the river at this area and eastwards towards the city and the Phoenix Park.</p>					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
<p>Generally settlement is on slopes and towards valley floor, the low hills across the river valley are less than 1km away and form part of the landscape context to these settlements.</p>					
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
<p>Landmarks include built heritage features such as chimneys associated with former mills (just over bridge); mature woodlands associated with the river; at townscape level spires of churches. Village Design Statement for Lucan Village identifies additional views and landmarks within village context</p>					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and rights of way	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. Some views from rights of way. Some visibility from transport routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from rights of way	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
<p>As part of a large river corridor the wider area is visited and enjoyed by a large number of people; given the heavily urbanised area south of the LCA and the M50 and N4 corridors providing views over the LCA and in the case of the M50 crossing over the Liffey a significant number of people experience this LCA.</p>					
<p>Overall Visual Sensitivity: Medium to high</p>					
<p>Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCA (landscape character sensitivity + visual sensitivity): medium/high to high</p>					

#### LIFFEY VALLEY LANDSCAPE VALUES

Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity,	Limited tranquillity, significant human	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some	Relatively tranquil with strong sense	Tranquil and remote in character,

	limited natural beauty	detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	sense of remoteness	of remoteness. Distant human activity.	natural beauty with limited human influences
With the exception of parks and former agricultural areas which remain within the LCA it is an active landscape; however the scenic quality of the river corridor is high as is the overall integrity of this LCA.					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Numerous historic features are present along and within this LCA including cut stone bridges, vernacular and urban cottages, industrial heritage and recreational features.					
Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
pNHA, designated salmonid waters and one of only two Special Area Amenity Orders in the country					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
High levels of recreational use including running, cycling particularly at Lucan Demesne and also significant area for canoeing in particular the annual Liffey Descent which has been taking place since 1960 and is now an international event; it normally takes place in conjunction with the Liffey Swim					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Combination of landscape features both natural and cultural and historical combine to create a highly scenic, attractive and interesting LCA. Given the surrounding heavy urbanisation including major transport corridors this makes the enhancement and maintenance of this LCA more significant.					
Overall landscape value: High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium/high to high) with overall landscape value (high) =capacity assessment is none/negligible capacity.					
Key Characteristics of the landscape are highly vulnerable to development. Development would result in a significant change in Landscape character and should be avoided if possible.					

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA TWO NEWCASTLE LOWLANDS

NEWCASTLE LOWLANDS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
The landform is generally low-lying and gently undulating.					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	Intricate, varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
Landscape pattern is relatively simple in this LCA; agricultural areas largely consistent mix of pasture and tillage comprising medium to large fields enclosed by hedgerows; some variety is added through the demesnes, stone walls and historical features including the Grand Canal and the main settlement of Newcastle. Some fragmentation associated with urban fringe and transport corridors generally towards the north and north east.					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting eg: recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
In the case of Newcastle, landscape is better connected from the north and west as development pressures exert from the eastern area. Other settlement is dispersed in pattern, with a variety of architectural and boundary styles noted. Vernacular features, where present, integrate better with the wider landscape.					
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape

				landscape	pattern
Again this relates primarily to Newcastle, settlement edge is stronger to the north and west. Recent residential developments from the east do not relate strongly to historic core					
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including medieval, or designed landscapes.
A variety of historical periods are present, most significantly around the historic settlement of Newcastle where its medieval plot layout and street pattern is still in evidence, and a detailed historic area assessment of this settlement has been undertaken (see McDermott and Lyons 2011). From archaeological evidence found in this LCA, activity in prehistory has been noted from archaeological excavation, particularly on the eastern boundary of the LCA where modern development has been most intense. A medieval agricultural use for much of the land around Newcastle is tentatively suggested; however, it no longer leaves a signature in landscape enclosure in the wider LCA, which is now dominated by fields, amalgamated over time for use as large farms, probably established in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as part of the designed landscape of the Demesne estates; also 20th century conversion of former estates that confer their own character now these include Peamount former TB hospital and Baldonnell aerodrome.					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
Pasture, tillage with hedgerows and treelines, Grand Canal is most significant ecological and habitat feature					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: Medium					

#### NEWCASTLE LOWLANDS VISUAL SENSITIVITY

Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
Flat open character of the landscape means vertical structures are visible over wide areas. Inter-visibility with hills to the south of this LCA					
Ridges and	No higher	Distant (>5km)	Settlement is	Location on	Landscape

high ground	ground within 15km	ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Extensive views from neighbouring Athgoe Hill and Dublin foothills overlooking the Newcastle Lowlands.					
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Local hills such as Athgoe and Lyons Hill in County Kildare. Attractive views from canal locks and bridges along the canal.					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and walking routes	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. . Some visibility from transport routes and walking routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from walking routes.	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
Quite high numbers of recreational users look over this landscape from the Dublin hills and Grand Canal.					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: Medium					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCA: medium					

#### NEWCASTLE LOWLANDS LANDSCAPE VALUES

Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
This varies quite considerably within this LCA with some areas having a much stronger rural character, although still a working agricultural landscape –this erodes towards the east and north. The canal corridor retains a more tranquil character.					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Medieval burgage plots around Newcastle of regional importance, and presence of older estates, demesnes and country houses as well as archaeological sites					
Ecological/	No	Limited local	Some local	Statutory	Statutory

geodiversity designation	designations within vicinity	designations	designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	designations are prominent in the landscape
Grand Canal is designated a pNHA.					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
Grand Canal most significant recreational resource within the area. A number of golf courses are also present.					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Agricultural landscape informs the local landscape character and has influenced a long human settlement in the area					
Overall landscape value: Medium/high					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium) with overall landscape value (medium/high) = a capacity assessment of low..					
Low: Key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. There may be limited opportunity to accommodate development without changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in locating development.					

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA THREE ATHGOE AND SAGGART HILLS

### ATHGOE AND SAGGART HILLS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
Landform is quite diverse with hills, river valleys and glaciated valleys.					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed.	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and	Intricate, varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
	Fragmented landcover		in pattern of landuse and cover	coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	cover and historic layout.
Landscape pattern is diverse with range of landuses including agriculture, forestry and recreation in addition to residential and nucleated settlements. Cluster of historic ritual/religious landscapes particularly associated with summits of hills.					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting eg: recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
Relationship to settlement pattern varies considerably within this LCA. The southern part of the LCA including Brittas would be more highly sensitive as its surrounding countryside informs and provides the context for the settlement; within this part of the LCA settlement is very dispersed with few modern intrusions. The rural landscapes between Rathcoole and Saggart and certain parts of the LCA contribute to settlement separation but these two villages have seen quite extensive development on the edges. The access roads to Rathcoole comprise a variety of different boundary treatments that detract from the entrance to the town.					
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into landscape	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape pattern
Variable; settlement edge is quite poor around Rathcoole and Saggart.					
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including prehistoric landscapes.
This LCA retains more of its historic character as it has not yet been as intensively developed as other areas, though it will undoubtedly come under pressure as development land becomes unavailable in the rest of the region. There is some evidence to suggest that this LCA was in use in the prehistoric period, in the form of lithic scatters from the townlands of Glebe and (just outside the LCA to the NE) Coolwater Commons. The predominant relict landuse in this LCA is prehistoric, particularly dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. This use is distinctly funerary and ritual in nature. Megalithic tombs cairns and barrows are still extant on the upper					

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
<p>land, for example at Mountseskin, Crockaunadreenagh, Slievethoul, Lugg, Crooksling, Belgard Deer Park, and Badgerhill. Bronze Age burials were excavated at Aghfarrell and Steelstown. Stone monuments dating to the Bronze Age are found at Boherboy (Adam and Eve Stones) and Ballymana. The only possible Iron Age evidence still in the landscape is at the hilltop enclosure at Athgoe (notwithstanding the undated cairns, mounds, and barrows some of which may also date to this period).</p> <p>The evidence for medieval occupation is not as predominant as the prehistoric evidence. There is some early medieval evidence in the form of the ecclesiastical settlement at Saggart, a ringfort at Badgerhill, and the crannog at Glenaranreen (Brittas Lake). This is the only crannog recorded in County Dublin as a whole. Medieval occupation is also concentrated on the lower slopes and lowlands, around Saggart, Rathcoole, Windmill Hill (medieval windmill) and Coolmine. Evidence for medieval field systems could still be identified at Crockshane and Rathcoole in the nineteenth century, and the townlands of commons and Moneyatta Commons, which was the location of a fair green, indicates medieval usage of the landscape around the settlements at Rathcoole and Saggart. Some evidence for demesnes, but much less than the previous LCAs, for example Colmanstown, and Johnstown, with large tracts of farmland at for example, Badgerhill, Framersvale, Bustyhill, Banshee and Castlewarden.</p>					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
<p>Variety of landuse increases overall habitat diversity; there are a number of important habitats present within this LCA such as Lugmore, and Slade valleys, as well as coniferous forests and grassland. Rivers including Griffeen and Camac rise in these foothills increasing ecological diversity. There are a number of geological heritage sites within this LCA also.</p>					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: Medium/High					

#### ATHGOE AND SAGGART HILLS VISUAL SENSITIVITY

Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some inter-visibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
<p>The foothills associated with this LCA create the setting to the Dublin area and are a key visual link within the surrounding landscape.</p>					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant inter-visibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over

Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
					areas as part of landscape views
Extensive views from upper slopes of Saggart, Athgoe hills etc. –views are both north across the wider Dublin area and into neighbouring counties and the Wicklow mountains.					
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Numerous views and prospects designated in current County Development Plan and views feature strongly within the landscape context.					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and walking routes	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. . Some visibility from transport routes and walking routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from walking routes.	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
The hills are seen from transport corridors primarily the N7 and M50; residents of the lower lying urban areas view these foothills. Recreational uses including golfers, walkers and cyclists.					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: High					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCA: medium/high to high					

#### ATHGOE AND SAGGART HILLS LANDSCAPE VALUES

Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
Again this aspect is contrasting within this LCA, with the more remote hills and southern parts of the LCA being remote and having a tranquil character; this contrasts with the more urbanised areas around Rathcoole and Saggart that are very active					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Archaeological landscapes associated with the hill tops and valleys most significant historic features in addition to historic core of settlements.					

Ecological/ geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
Two pNHAs are present within this LCA					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
The hills are used by a variety of recreational users and form part of the wider, larger Dublin and Wicklow mountains which are of national importance.					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Rural and coherent agricultural landscape with characteristics including field patterns, hedgerows and dispersed settlement is integral part of the landscape; views to and from the hills are of great significance also.					
Overall landscape value: High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium/high to high) with overall landscape value (high) = a capacity assessment of negligible to low:					
Negligible: Key Characteristics of the landscape are highly vulnerable to development. Development would result in a significant change in landscape character and should be avoided if possible.					
Low: Key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. There may be limited opportunity to accommodate development without changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in locating development.					

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS FOUR RIVER DODDER AND GLENASMOLE VALLEY

RIVER DODDER AND GLENASMOLE VALLEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
Diverse landscape with rolling hills, valleys and uplands.					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	Intricate, varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
Complex and varied landscape pattern with contrast between farmed pasture lands and expanse of blanket bog on uplands; incised valley with river valley vegetation and mix of riparian woodland and commercial forestry.					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g.: recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
Settlement pattern is dispersed and scattered along more accessible valley floor or along lower elevations. Stronger character of vernacular housing styles present with more consistent use of local granite stone on buildings.					
Quality of Settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into landscape	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape pattern
Dispersed settlement generally sited on sheltered slopes or valley floor					

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including prehistoric landscapes.
<p>The relict landuse of this LCA is predominately prehistoric, from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. There is a significant archaeological complex at Piperstown, which has been excavated, and includes ritual and domestic monuments. Ballinascorney Upper, Montpelier, Killakee, Woodtown and Cunard have megalithic tombs (two passage tombs, a wedge tomb and two portal tombs respectively).</p> <p>There seems to be distinctive phase of Bronze Age activity evidenced by barrows, pits and cists at Ballymorefinn, Glassamucky, Ballinascorney Lower, Cruagh and possibly Castlekelly, with a possible record of a dugout canoe from there. It is interesting that the standing stone at Killakee stands close to the much later Military Road constructed between 1800-1809 (R115) in order to provide a direct route through the mountains – this juxtaposition of monuments suggests that this route was in use in the prehistoric period, if one accepts that standing stones mark boundaries and routes. There is some indication of medieval activity, but this is quite ephemeral. At the very northern tip of the LCA, a single ringfort is recorded at Bohernabreena. Post-medieval activity in this LCA is the aforementioned Military Road and the ‘Hell Fire Club’, a hunting lodge built in 1725, and the Killakee estate.</p>					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
<p>Glenasmole is a European Site (SAC) and part of this LCA lies within the Wicklow Uplands SAC also. Variety of habitats including mountain streams, rivers, blanket bog, wet grassland, riparian vegetation contributes to ecological diversity.</p>					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: High					

#### RIVER DODDER AND GLENASMOLE VALLEY VISUAL SENSITIVITY

Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some inter-visibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
<p>High number of scenic route and views and prospects. Views into the valley as well as south to the extensive upland areas; equally views on the hills to the north generate extensive views over Dublin city and Bay.</p>					
Ridges and	No higher	Distant (>5km)	Settlement is	Location on	Landscape forms

Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
high ground	ground within 15km	ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant inter-visibility	part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Extensive views from higher ground.					
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Numerous views and prospects designated in current County Development Plan and views feature strongly within the landscape context.					
Visual receptors	low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and walking routes	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. . Some visibility from transport routes and walking routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from walking routes.	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
Recreational use primarily associated with walking					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: High					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCA: medium/high to high					

#### RIVER DODDER AND GLENASMOLE VALLEY LANDSCAPE VALUES

Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
Generally this is a highly rural, tranquil LCA with increasing sense of remoteness as one travels south towards Kippure. Human activity is associated with agricultural practices and the road network and rural housing					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Archaeological landscapes associated with Piperstown amongst others as well as well-known sites such as the Hell Fire club and the Massy estate.					

Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
Two SACs as well as watershed associated with uplands					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
The hills are used by a variety of recreational users and form part of the wider, larger Dublin and Wicklow mountains which are of national importance.					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Rural and coherent agricultural landscape with characteristics including field patterns, hedgerows and dispersed settlement is integral part of the landscape; views to and from the hills are of great significance also.					
Overall landscape value: High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (high) with overall landscape value (high) = a capacity assessment of negligible:					
Negligible: Key Characteristics of the landscape are highly vulnerable to development. Development would result in a significant change in Landscape character and should be avoided if possible.					

Landscape Character Type: River Valley Landscape Character Sensitivity

<p>River Valley :</p> <p>Principal rivers of the county with alluvium soils draining to Dublin bay.</p> <p>Generally rise in the foothills or mountains and ultimately drain north-easterly to Dublin Bay.</p> <p>Riparian vegetation and treelines including alluvial woodland are an attractive landscape and ecological feature</p> <p>Varies between wider, more mature river valleys and incised, narrow valleys that create more dramatic landscapes</p>					
Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
The landform associated with river valleys, combined with ridges and slopes increase the diversity of the landscape and creates a quite complex landform.					

Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and/or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
Landscape patterns can vary amongst this landscape type; greater naturalistic character can be seen in parts of the river valleys associated with the Liffey and Dodder, whilst other river valleys such as the Camac have been subject to greater interventions.					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g. recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
Settlement patterns have frequently been affected by topography, access to freshwater etc.					
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into landscape	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape pattern
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including medieval, or designed landscapes.
Close to the river corridor, historical landscape features, including designed landscapes, industrial heritage, stone arched bridges, vernacular cottages including millhouses and former farm cottages contribute to landscape character and reinforce sense of historical settlement. Modern twentieth century residential development (1960s onwards) now presents as more settled and mature residential areas.					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
River corridors and existing/potential network of treelines and parklands combined with proximity to canals increase ecological value in an area that has seen considerable urbanisation.					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: medium/high to high sensitivity					
Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high

Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
Visibility varies within this type. From bridges and river valley floor, views are directed up and downstream of the river with presence of mature treelines an attractive feature of some of these LCTs. Views from more elevated areas are pronounced over certain river valleys, such as Glensamole, Boherbreena, Slade valleys and very attractive views at river and low valleys associated with the Liffey and occasionally Dodder.					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Generally settlement is on slopes and towards valley floor					
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Landmarks include built heritage features such as chimneys associated with former mills as seen at Lucan bridge, Waterstown Park. Riparian and mature woodlands associated with river.					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and rights of way	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. Some views from rights of way. Some visibility from transport routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from rights of way	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
Generally these river valley LCTS include recreation and amenity either through public park provision, walking routes, informal access and/or kayaking. Generally an important resource for citizens to access green and blue space.					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: Medium to high					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCT (landscape character sensitivity + visual sensitivity): medium/high to high					
Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
Generally these LCTs are refuge, tranquil areas and whilst close to busy active areas in some parts, are generally noted for tranquil character..					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape

Numerous historic features are generally associated with this LCT including cut stone bridges, vernacular and urban cottages, industrial heritage and recreational features.					
Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
Liffey valley, Dodder and Slade form part of pNHAs/NHAs and drain to Dublin Bay Biosphere and South Dublin Bay SAC and SPA					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
High levels of recreational use including running, cycling, kayaking and informal recreation					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Combination of landscape features both natural and cultural and historical combine to create a highly scenic, attractive and interesting LCT overall. All of county significance, others of national significance					
Overall landscape value: High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium/high to high) with overall landscape value (high) =capacity assessment is none/negligible capacity. Key Characteristics of the landscape are highly vulnerable to development. Development would result in a significant change in landscape character and should be avoided if possible.					
Principles for development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The natural and cultural characteristics of this LCT should be recognised and enhanced.</li> <li>• New development in this LCT if necessary, should reflect and contribute to character, avoiding overly engineered approaches and seek to add rather than detract through appropriate planting regimes.</li> <li>• Nature based solutions should be a principal design consideration.</li> <li>• New development adjacent to these LCTs should avoid extensive overlooking and effects of lighting on these river valleys in terms of landscape and wildlife should be a consideration.</li> <li>• Enhance and encourage riparian planting</li> <li>• Reduce fragmentation of habitats and corridors</li> <li>• Facilitate controlled or appropriate access to the river for a variety of users</li> <li>• Recreational infrastructure such as walking paths, and signage should be low impact, discrete and consistent.</li> </ul>					

Landscape Character Type: Canals

<p>Canal                  Manmade watercourses of historic importance.                  Embankments are a feature and frequently alignment is closely associated with the railway lines.                  Woodlands and habitats associated with the canal are important ecological features.                  Offers an accessible recreational area for urban dwellers</p>					
Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
<p>Generally flat with only gently increasing topography further west.</p>					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
<p>Relatively simple landscape pattern with locks offering a feature point; this remains nonetheless an important historical urban linear landscape feature.</p>					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g. recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
<p>In SDCC much of the adjoining landscape was largely rural in character until early-mid 20th Century. Historic industrial features remain such as the Guinness ponds and some areas of recreational playing fields along with greenway. Neglected and some extensive areas of light industrial use in parts</p>					
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into landscape	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape pattern
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but	Mixture of medieval or	Large proportion medieval or	Predominantly historic including

		predominantly late modern large scale expansion	designed landscape and early modern	designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	medieval, or designed landscapes.
Adjoining the canal corridor some of the older industrial features remain primarily locks, bridges, lockhouses, mills etc but extensive areas have been developed over 20th century and include residential, officer, industrial uses.					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
The Grand Canal pNHA functions as a very significant east-west ecological corridor that increases its overall ecological significance.					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: low-medium					
Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
Visibility varies within this type. The views from most of the arched canal bridges allows for long linear views east and west that are highly attractive in places. At canal towpath can be more constrained linear views framed by canal vegetation or more open, depending on landuse..					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Landmarks include built heritage features and some areas of established riparian vegetation.					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and rights of way	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. Some views from rights of way. Some visibility from transport routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from rights of way	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
Canal is popular for walking and cycling in particular with high numbers of recreational and commuting use					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: Medium to high					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCT (landscape character sensitivity + visual sensitivity): low-medium					
Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High

Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
Varies between more tranquil, vegetated character to more heavily urbanised					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Some historic features					
Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
Grand Canal pNHA					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
High levels of recreational use including running, cycling, kayaking and informal recreation					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Combination of landscape features both natural and cultural and historical combine to create a highly scenic, attractive and interesting LCT overall. All of county significance, others of national significance					
Overall landscape value: medium to High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (low-medium) with overall landscape value (medium high)=low capacity assessment Key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. There may be limited opportunity to accommodate development without changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in locating development.					
Principles for development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance ecological connectivity. Develop plans for providing, where feasible continuous access routes for recreational uses and others</li> <li>Appropriate levels of recreational infrastructure that are not overly engineered, reflective of local landscape character and provide discrete low key signage</li> <li>Enhancement of built heritage associated with the canal.</li> <li>Consider and minimise effects on wildlife associated with increased recreational infrastructure and in particular lighting</li> </ul>					

Landscape Character Type: Limestone Farmlands

<p>Limestone Farmlands</p> <p>Gently undulating low-lying (generally below 100m) with limestone bedrock.</p> <p>Land use includes tillage and pasture.</p> <p>Generally dispersed settlement pattern</p>					
Landscape Character sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
<p>Generally flat/gently undulating.</p>					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
<p>Predominantly good agricultural land with a relatively simple landscape pattern, closer to older historical settlements the field pattern is more diverse eg Newcastle burgage plots</p>					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g. recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
<p>In SDCC much of the adjoining landscape was largely rural in character until early-mid 20th Century. Historic industrial features remain such as the Guinness ponds and some areas of recreational playing fields along with greenway. Neglected and some extensive areas of light industrial use in parts</p>					
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into landscape	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape pattern

Varies again ,this LCT is under pressure from urban generated development. Links to historic settlement visible in extensive parts of this LCA particularly the areas further south and west					
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including medieval, or designed landscapes.
Historical settlements associated with agricultural activity that also includes demesnes and larger houses.					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
Better integrity of natural habitats and landscape features at the west, south of these types showing the lower development pressure in recent years.					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: medium					
Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
Relatively lowlying with views of surrounding landscape possible from more elevated areas; large skies frame part of this character type.					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Landmarks include spires of churches, communications and electricity infrastructure, some demesne woodland fring..					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and rights of way	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. Some views from rights of way. Some visibility from transport routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from rights of way	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
Generally local receptors					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: Medium to high					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCT (landscape character sensitivity + visual sensitivity): -medium					

Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
Some parts retain a strongly rural agricultural character, this contrasts with areas subject to more recent development including expansion of existing historic settlements, industrial/commercial units and infrastructure.					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Some historic features associated with the historic core settlements as well as larger historic estates.					
Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
Grand Canal pNHA					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
Generally local access for recreation					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Whilst understated this type retains significant historical features and examples of older agricultural field patterns. Its overall contribution to green infrastructure through retained hedgerow network, woodland fragments and value of limestone soils for ecosystem services increased the overall value of this type.					
Overall landscape value: medium to High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium to high) with overall landscape value (medium to high)=medium capacity assessment. Some of the key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. Although the landscape may have some ability to absorb some development, it is likely to cause some change in character. Care would be needed in locating development Few of the key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate development with only minor change in character. Care is still needed to avoid adversely affecting key characteristics where they occur. .					
Principles for development:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This LCT represents a significant agricultural resource but is vulnerable to urbanising pressures.</li> </ul>					

- It represents an important agricultural and green infrastructure buffer between the heavily urbanised eastern parts of the county.
- Enhance and support the agricultural character by maintaining the integrity of this type. Controls on urban expansion, ribbon development and other types of erosion and fragmentation of landscape character.
- In addition, its character as a rural landscape provides a distinct and important identity to this area and requires site planning guidance on the use of appropriate vernacular styles and treatments in new developments.

#### Landscape Character Type: Low Foothills

##### Foothills:

- Generally located between 100 to 200 m.
- Bedrock largely sedimentary sandstones, shales and greywackes.
- Landcover largely pasture and rough grazing
- Dispersed rural housing with a variety of architectural styles and treatments interspersed with generally single story farmhouses with round gate pillars a vernacular feature
- Golf courses and forest walks present.

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria			Medium	Medium/high	High
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
Foothills rising over lowland urban areas, forming the lower backdrop to the Dublin mountains.					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and/or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
Mixture of agricultural and forestry with some recreational uses as well as considerable scattered, ribbon development of houses.					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g. recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.

		development			
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into landscape	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape pattern
Housing styles vary along with boundary treatment, tend to be dispersed along rural network of roads overlooking the lower lands.					
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including medieval, or designed landscapes.
Agricultural landscape with some areas of intact hedgerows present; increasing afforestation from 20th century at higher levels. Some archaeological features present within these foothills.					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
Smaller streams and valleys with riparian vegetation are important, as are the existing hedgerow network.					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: medium-medium high					
Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
Expansive views to and from this LCT is a defining feature					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Views rather than distinctive landmarks are generally associated with this landscape type...					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and	Occasional isolated views from local	Some visibility for local residents and	Frequent views from residential properties,	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility

	local transport routes	properties, transport routes and rights of way	visitors. Some views from rights of way. Some visibility from transport routes.	visitors enjoying the landscape and from rights of way	from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
Popular for local walkers, access to mountains and where present public woods and golf courses.					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: Medium High					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCT (landscape character sensitivity + visual sensitivity): -medium- high					
Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
More remote and intimate parts are tranquil and retain strongly rural character; this is in some contrast to the lower parts subject to greater activity associated with settlements and urban edge					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Principal historic features include bridges, churches, some vernacular architecture and hedgerows					
Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
Not within immediate area					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
Generally local access for recreation					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Overall landscape value: medium to High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium to high) with overall landscape value (medium to high)=medium capacity assessment.					

Few of the key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate development with only minor change in character. Care is still needed to avoid adversely affecting key characteristics where they occur. .

Principles for development:

- Form an important backdrop to the lowlands and large scale development would diminish their landscape and visual value.
- Hedgerows of native species remain a feature so should be encouraged as a boundary treatment will improve screening and locally enhance biodiversity.
- Viewpoints and laybys – better boundary treatments would enhance these

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Landscape Character Type: Foothills

Foothills Bedrock largely sedimentary sandstones, shales and greywackes. These foothills rise well above 150m Landcover increasingly rough pasture with coniferous plantations at hilltops. Recreation use with forest walks					
Landscape Character sensitivity criteria			Medium	Medium/high	High
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
Rounded hills that front the uplands					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
Mixture of agricultural and forestry with some recreational uses, settlement becomes more dispersed					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g. recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but predominantly abrupt	Variable edge, some historic but modern larger scale also evident	Variable edge, some modern influence but predominantly well filtered into landscape	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape pattern
Housing styles vary along with boundary treatment, some attractive vernacular farms and boundaries present.					
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including medieval, or designed landscapes.

Agricultural landscape with some areas of intact hedgerows present; increasing afforestation from 20th century at higher levels. Some archaeological features present within these hills.					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
Increasing presence of some heath, grasslands with smaller stream network and some hedgerows.					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: medium-medium high					
Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
Expansive views to and from this LCT is a defining feature From key eastern views at this LCTS, glimpse of Dublin Bay and long views northwards overlooking greater Dublin are possible, generally above 250m contour.					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Long views possible in all directions via country roads, these can be blocked by forestry and character of lanes, but comprise an important character of this LCT					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and rights of way	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. Some views from rights of way. Some visibility from transport routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from rights of way	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents
Popular for walkers, access to mountains, increasing availability of recreational trails, although settlement is scattered and more remote character, important recreational area. .					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: Medium High to high					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCT (landscape character sensitivity + visual sensitivity): -- high					
Experiential qualities and	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/	High

landscape value criteria				high	
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness . Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
Increasing remote and tranquil character with this LCT, reflecting lower residential and settlement, longer views and more remote character.					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Principal historic features include bridges, churches, some vernacular architecture and hedgerows					
Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
Archaeological and built heritage features increasingly associated with these elevated foothills;					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
Generally local access for recreation					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Overall landscape value: medium to High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium high to high) with overall landscape value (medium to high)=low capacity Key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. There may be limited opportunity to accommodate development without changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in locating development.					
Principles for development:					

- Form an important backdrop to the lowlands and large scale development would diminish their landscape and visual value.
- Hedgerows of native species remain a feature so should be encouraged as a boundary treatment will improve screening and locally enhance biodiversity.
- Viewpoints and laybys – better boundary treatments would enhance these
- Opportunity to replant with more appropriate woodland species and reduce blocks of coniferous plantations
- Support ecological linkages for wildlife into uplands and lowlands and onwards to National Park.

#### Landscape Character Type: Mountains

Coniferous forests and heather moor/rough grazing are dominant land cover, with extensive blanket bog on summits  
 Topography is variable, but core areas over 200m and rising to 757m Kippure on the Dublin/Wicklow Border  
 Bedrock primarily granite and/sedimentary.

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria			Medium	Medium/high	High
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
Diverse topography dominated by more rolling uplands					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
Increasing rough pasture, heath and open moorland interspersed with extensive tracts of predominantly coniferous forestry					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g. recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
Settlement is very sparse					
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but	Variable edge, some historic but modern	Variable edge, some modern influence but	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic

		predominantly abrupt	larger scale also evident	predominantly well filtered into landscape	landscape pattern
Spare settlement where present includes bungalows, older farms and occasional hunting lodges.					
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including medieval, or designed landscapes.
Again association of archaeological features on higher summits of considerable significance. This could be considered a wider historical landscape of liminal space as evidenced in the archaeological record..					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
Increasing presence of rough grassland, heath/peats, coniferous forestry, smaller, higher streams with incised valleys supporting native trees are occasionally present.					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: medium high					
Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
Expansive views to and from this LCT is a defining feature From key eastern views at this LCTS, glimpse of Dublin Bay and long views northwards overlooking greater Dublin are possible, generally above 250m contour.					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Long views and extensive panoramas possible					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and rights of way	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. Some views from rights of way. Some visibility from transport routes.	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from rights of way	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents

Popular for walkers, access to mountains, increasing availability of recreational trails, although settlement is scattered and more remote character, important recreational area linking to national way marked ways and Wicklow National Park					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: High					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCT (landscape character sensitivity + visual sensitivity): -- high					
Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
Strong remote, isolated and tranquil character in parts; visually contrasts with urbanised and more active lowlands. Large sense of scale present.					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Principal historic features associated with archaeological landscape, vernacular features					
Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
SAC, SPA, close to National Park, clusters of sites and monuments plus views and scenic routes in South Dublin CDP					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
Generally local access for recreation					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Overall landscape value: High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium high to high) with overall landscape value (medium to high)=low/negligible capacity					
Key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. There may be limited opportunity to accommodate development without changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in locating development.					
Principles for development:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and enhance remote and rural character</li> <li>• The uplands and associated hills form a key backdrop to the greater Dublin region, framing the southern boundary and their importance merits recognition</li> <li>• Clustering of archaeological features at summits reflects long cultural heritage association with these uplands.</li> </ul>					

- Opportunity to replant with more appropriate woodland species and reduce blocks of coniferous plantations
- Support ecological linkages for wildlife into uplands and lowlands and onwards to National Park.
- Increased recreational related development or infrastructure should be carefully designed, not overly engineering, using appropriate local materials.
- Potential effects on natural and cultural heritage should be assessed by professionally qualified experts.

#### Landscape Character Type: Greenspace

This refers specifically to the larger areas of parkland that function as both ecological refuge and green space for the urbanised lowlands. These can comprise former demesnes as in the case of Corkagh Demesne or Tymon Park or the green space associated with rivers such as the Dodder Valley Park. Essential for recreation and health of the population, quality of life and image of the county.

Key characteristics are variety of habitats, some include formal amenity space such as pitches and playgrounds, other spaces are more naturalistic and comprise a variety of habitats including water courses, ponds, woodlands.

Landscape Character sensitivity criteria			Medium	Medium/high	High
Topography	Simple, large scale, predominately flat	Simple, large to medium scale, predominantly flat to mildly undulating	Occasional variety but lacking strong complexity	Complex topographical variety	Very complex with strong topographical variety
This LCT is commonly associated with river valleys such as Liffey or Dodder or have form part of older estates and demesnes. This creates a varied, complex topography for this LCT					
Landscape pattern	Simple, large scale pattern, and /or regularly disturbed. Fragmented landcover	Largely simple, some disturbance, largely fragmented landcover and landuse	Some variety. Limited disturbance, a degree of consistency in pattern of landuse and cover	Varied pattern with some intricacy. Largely undisturbed and coherent landcover. Some historic landuse pattern	varied pattern, undisturbed consistent pattern of land cover and historic layout.
Again given historical uses, this LCT can include formerly designed landscapes associated with demesnes or parkland associated with river valleys.					
Relationship to settlement pattern	Landscape associated with medium to large scale settlement. No associated landscape setting or breaks in settlement pattern	Landscape is well connected to settlement on at least 2 sides. Some associated landscape setting e.g. recreation grounds, cemetery. Settlement has a historic core surrounded by more recent development	Landscape is connected to settlement. Some contribution to settlement separation and/or partial extension into surrounding countryside. Settlement has some modern development.	Landscape is poorly connected to settlement. Surrounding countryside has some historic pattern. Few modern intrusions on landscape	Dispersed settlement, characterised by small scale vernacular or historic buildings.
Settlement if present is commonly on edge/fringe of such spaces; these can be historical buildings or more recent 20th housing developments associated.					
Quality of settlement edge	Harsh, abrupt and unfiltered settlement edge	Occasionally filtered edge but	Variable edge, some historic but modern	Variable edge, some modern influence but	Dispersed settlement edge filtered into historic landscape

		predominantly abrupt	larger scale also evident	predominantly well filtered into landscape	pattern
Variable					
Historic landscape	Modern large scale expansion	Some historic elements but predominantly late modern large scale expansion	Mixture of medieval or designed landscape and early modern	Large proportion medieval or designed landscape interspersed with more recent layout.	Predominantly historic including medieval, or designed landscapes.
Again this varies considerably with villas built overlooking rivers or historic landscape features associated with parkland etc.					
Extent and variety of natural habitats	Denuded agricultural monoculture	Mainly monoculture but some habitats present	Some variety in habitats some high value	Some variety in habitats some of which are extensive and/or well connected	Large variety of well-connected extensive habitats of high ecological value.
This can be both diverse and significant at county level, watercourses, riparian vegetation as seen as Waterstown Park, Lucan Demense and older parkland habitat can contribute to local biodiversity. More open spaces for formal recreation and sports of lower value.					
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity: medium high					
Visual sensitivity criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	high
Visibility	Views over landscape screened by existing features (trees, topography etc.)	Occasional views into landscape where gaps in existing features allow	Some intervisibility with surrounding landscape. Landscape forms part of view structure	Strong visual links with surrounding landscape. Forms part of wider landscape views.	Extensive views into area. Major component of wider landscape views
Key views and landmarks particularly strong at the Liffey LCTS views across ridges in Fingal and Phoenix Park are highly attractive and key local landmarks. Dodder Valley Park, Rathcoole and Tymon park all afford views to Dublin Mountains.					
Ridges and high ground	No higher ground within 15km	Distant (>5km) ridgeline or higher ground offering some visibility	Settlement is on elevated ground, or surrounding higher ground (<5km) offers some visibility	Location on elevated ground or surrounding higher ground creates significant intervisibility	Landscape forms part of a visible ridgeline, or surrounding higher ground offers extensive visibility over areas as part of landscape views
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in local views	Limited significance in views and/or local landmarks	Significant in locally important landmarks or views	Some important views or landmarks are available	Important views and landmark sites are part of the landscape context
Long views and extensive panoramas possible					
Visual receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and local transport routes	Occasional isolated views from local properties, transport routes and rights of way	Some visibility for local residents and visitors. Some views from rights of way. Some visibility from transport	Frequent views from residential properties, visitors enjoying the landscape and from rights of way	High numbers of visitors to the landscape; visibility from long distance, major transport routes and high numbers of local residents

			routes.		
This LCT is highly popular, smaller parks providing local recreational opportunities; larger spaces allowing for longer walks and recreation and very popular with a range of users.					
Overall Visual Sensitivity: High					
Overall landscape sensitivity of this LCT (landscape character sensitivity + visual sensitivity): -- high					
Experiential qualities and landscape value criteria	Low	Low/medium	Medium	Medium/high	High
Perceptual aspects (scenic beauty, tranquillity, intactness)	Not tranquil, much human activity, limited natural beauty	Limited tranquillity, significant human detractors from natural beauty and rural qualities	Some human activity, affecting tranquillity, some sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil with strong sense of remoteness. Distant human activity.	Tranquil and remote in character, natural beauty with limited human influences
Important refuge space for humans and wildlife; access to blue and green space for well being and recreation.					
Historic environment	No significant historic features	Historic features but not strongly related to landscape	Some landscape related historic features	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Varies from park, with several include historic landscape features.					
Ecological/geodiversity designation	No designations within vicinity	Limited local designations	Some local designations on or immediately adjacent. Statutory designation in vicinity	Statutory designations present or adjacent over a significant area.	Statutory designations are prominent in the landscape
Some are close to or include natural heritage designations					
Recreation	No recreational value	Local informal use for recreation	Locally important recreational value	Well used for recreation, attracts some visitors from outside the area	More than local importance for recreation; attracts visitors from outside area
Very high recreational value for variety of people					
Contribution to local landscape character	No contribution to local landscape character	Limited local landscape character contribution	Some contribution to local landscape character	Significant contribution to local landscape character	Key local characteristics forms integral part of the landscape and its setting
Very significant contribution of local and county landscape character					
Overall landscape value: High					
Combination of overall landscape sensitivity (medium high to high) with overall landscape value (high)=negligible capacity Key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to change. There may be limited opportunity to accommodate development without changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in locating development.					
Principles for development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to enhance connections between areas of open space to former continuous networks of open space. In addition to enhancing ecological corridors and recreational experiences, such a plan would integrate fragmented developments.</li> <li>Consider the multi-functional potential of these spaces.</li> <li>Retention and enhancement of variety of habitats</li> <li>Key component of green and blue infrastructure network frequently functions as a buffer for rivers</li> </ul>					

- Opportunities to enhance wildlife and ecological value through appropriate planting and management informed by ecological surveys
- Balance needs of information and formal recreation
- Lighting effects should be carefully considered and designed to avoid adverse effects on wildlife.

## Built Character Types: principles for development only

LCT	Pressures	Principles for development
<p><b>Transport Corridors:</b></p> <p>Major transport routes that are typically of low permeability in that they often provide few places where the route can be crossed safely. This includes railway lines, motorways, dual carriageways and by-passes.</p>	<p>Increasing traffic and associated pressure to widen/expand traffic lanes</p> <p>Increasing noise and loss of permeability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger boundary treatments and greater screening through planting when appropriate/possible</li> </ul>
<p><b>The following character areas are indicative only and would be better addressed through further assessment of townscape character as part of Local Area Plans or other relevant studies.</b></p>		
<p><b>Urban: Includes built land and historic settlements within the larger urban areas.</b></p> <p>Primarily composed of established nucleated villages and towns that have developed historically- many of which saw significant improvements in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in terms of streetscapes. These are surrounded by residential development of various origins but primarily 20<sup>th</sup> century with significant recent development in the past two decades.</p>	<p>Loss of greenspace and poor ecological connectivity</p> <p>Increase soil sealing</p> <p>Overreliance on private transport</p> <p>Challenge of providing sufficient and appropriate green space within the urban environment.</p> <p>Poor reference to built heritage of historic core.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siting and boundary treatments of new residential developments.</li> <li>• Demonstrate through design statement /masterplan/planting plan how it relates to historic core where present.</li> <li>• Stronger use of hedgerows as a visual screening.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Historic urban: settlements that originated from ecclesiastical (early Christian) or medieval origins.</b></p> <p>Clondalkin Village</p> <p>Lucan Village</p> <p>Palmerstown Lower (Mill Complex)</p> <p>Rathfarnham Village including Willbrook</p> <p>Tallaght Village</p> <p>Saggart</p> <p>Then also the core of Newcastle village – Local Area Plan boundary</p> <p>Saggart</p>	<p><i>Loss of integrity</i></p> <p><i>Renovation/ restoration challenges</i></p> <p><i>Maintaining function for contemporary uses</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement of the historic fabric of these villages</li> <li>• use of appropriate building forms and materials in public realm</li> <li>• relevant designations such as Architectural Conservation Areas</li> <li>• Compliance with the above in new developments and public realm projects.</li> <li>• Soft landscape treatments to enhance green infrastructure at smaller scale</li> </ul>
<p><b>Urban fringe: Transitional lands that</b></p>	<p>Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening through</li> </ul>

**were largely rural, transforming into suburban or urban derived landuse. Radiate from established settlements and close to transport links Landuse is built land comprising transport, retail/business parks, quarries and urban derived housing**

pressures associated with road schemes including residential, business and retail parks. Poor boundary treatment and lack of clear identity reinforced by transitional/dynamic character.

appropriate native broadleaf planting to provide a stronger visual boundary and definition as well as enhancing ecological connectivity.

- Coherent approach to boundary treatments and design
- Prepare plans to integrate transitional lands into landscape through appropriate planting and boundary treatments

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## ANNEX B.FIELD SURVEY FORMS OF EXISTING SCENIC ROUTES.

### RATHCOOLE HILL ROAD (V SMALL STRETCH OF ROAD DESIGNATED)

Visual	Ref in CDP Rathcoole Hill Road	South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view in	Comment- describe view Very short stretch of road designated looking northwest at road junction
			
Skylines		Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	
Inter-		Prospects into and out from high ground or open	Established treeline along southern boundary of road reduces any views or prospects from this

<b>visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>		landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	elevated position. Gaps allow some views through the treeline
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Occasional view through gaps in trees viewing northwards over lower hills with city/suburbs in lowlands. This nonetheless is an attractive stretch of treelined roads on the edge of Rathcoole.
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Rural edge with housing pressure noted. Whilst low density and one off housing quite a busy road
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	No
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	None
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Easy access to upper slopes with more intact remote and rural character.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Quite tranquil overall. This can be interrupted by volume of cars.

SLADE VALLEY BETWEEN GOLF COURSE AND SLIEVETHOUL WALK AND HILL

Visual	Ref in CDP	South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view in	Comment- describe view
			
		View south east over valley from Slievethoul layby/access	View south over valley from Slievethoul layby/access
Skylines		Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	Yes, strong rolling hill and mountain profile present
Inter- visibility with adjacent landscapes		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	View south east overlooking intact agricultural landscape valley with good hedgerow network present

<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? View southeast from road overlooking the small valley with agricultural landscape and hill /mountain profile.
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Low population density but given its location at start of Slievethoul mountain and trails, it is a popular walking and recreational route.
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Yes. Strong intervisibility and links between the agricultural valley and hills/uplands and forest. Passage Tomb at Slievethoul Slade Valley and early Christian settlement
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Slade Valley and Slievethoul. Significant folklore (Laoghaire), and important archaeological associations such as Adam and Eve stone, Bronze Age
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Formal access via parking bay and upto woods with Coillte information on walking routes etc.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	On day of survey motorbikes accessing the area reduces tranquil character. However, perceptually this is a remote, tranquil, rural and good quality landscape.

JUNCTION MCDONAGHS LANE/ SAGGART HILL/SLADE VALLEY

Visual	Ref in CDP	Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:	Comment- describe view
			
<p><b>Panorama view west and north from entrance to Saggart Hill</b></p>			
Skylines		Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	Southern views are formed by rolling hills of Wicklow Large horizons from western aspect.
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	Yes, from this point, long views afforded south, west and north. Extending into Counties Wicklow and Kildare Creates wider and more expansive upland landscape Generally, quite a simple backdrop dominated by rough grazing, farm buildings and coniferous plantations.
Key views, vistas and landmark		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Panoramas with long views south, west dominated by rural, remote views. Views north are possible over to rural Dublin and the densely urban lowlands.

<b>features</b>			
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Popular recreational walk – receptors associated with recreational use. Settlement is dispersed.
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Griffeen River rises at Saggart Hill Bronze age monuments at Lugg, Saggart Hill
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Archaeological importance of Saggart Hill
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Recreational access to Saggart Hill; this area forms part of the Slade valley and allows access south to Wicklow and east to Kildare
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Generally, quite tranquil, elevated and somewhat remote character.

## HORAN'S LANE KILLINARDEN

Visual	Ref in CDP Horans Lane Killinarden	South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view in	Comment- describe view
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<b>Skylines</b>		Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	Uninterrupted horizons from top of lane.
<b>Inter- visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity	Extensive views northwest, north and northeast across city and Howth with close views of Tallaght

		Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Northwards expansive panorama
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Rural scattered settlement. Considerable evidence of fly tipping on lower elevations. No evidence of established recreational use. Lane at deadend.
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Notwithstanding the above, this is an impressive, expansive, elevated view northward primarily, eastwards in clear conditions, views of Dublin Bay possible.
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	None apparent
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	None apparent
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Perceptually remote, elevated isolated character at highest accessible level.

MCDONAGH'S LANE BRITTAS

Visual	Ref in CDP	Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:	Comment- describe view
 <p data-bbox="831 1150 1541 1177"><b>View southwards towards Wicklow from McDonaghs Lane</b></p>			
<b>Skylines</b>	Mcdonagh's lane Brittas. Both sides of road	Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	From Brittas to junction upto scrap yard remove designation. Low scenic value with enclosed views, diverse housing, some unauthorised development. Thereafter much higher visual and scenic amenity

<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	Yes view south across valley farmland forestry, behind is hill South facing view but this expands especially at elevated ground. This becomes a wider panorama south towards Wicklow mountains and sweeping north towards Dublin City and suburbs.
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? South view across valley
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Rural recreational
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Yes good visibility
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Walking and general recreational activity associated with Saggart Hill, Slievethoul, Slade Valley
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Remote and tranquil character here Also long views south west to Wicklow

L7045 AND SCENIC ROUTE ON LANE PARALLEL WEST OF L7045

Visual	Ref in CDP	Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:	Comment- describe view
			<p data-bbox="1332 1193 2101 1222"><b>View across Dublin Bay and Howth from L7045 Knockannavea</b></p>
Skylines	L7045 And scenic lane parallel	Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	Large horizons as you rise to summit. Eye is drawn to the east and west en route. At summit, views east over Dublin bay with Howth dominate.

	west		
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	From higher ground views both west and east Large panoramic view from top of 17045, should be key prospect Note: both these roads offer sea views with Dublin Bay and Howth notable.
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? At top massive panorama On way up to hill, the eye is drawn towards views east and west, though view to East is tempting with sea
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Remote with dispersed population
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Yes sea and summit Land and hills
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Knockaveean -cairns present
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Yes. Walking popular generally within this area and the possibility of sea views and Dublin Bay are a key element to the attraction of this.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Remote, tranquil character.

BOHERNABREENA RESERVOIR LOWER ROAD

Visual	Ref in CDP	Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:	Comment- describe view
			
Skylines		Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	Large sky and rolling hills in distance create a large scale landscape
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	Elevated position of road allows long views into the valley with views of the reservoir possible. Views into the Bohernabreena ad Glensamole area of high sensitivity# Longer views across to rolling hills of Co. Dublin and Wicklow. Intact, complex lower landscape comprising agricultural landscape with field boundaries, pasture on lower slopes and riparian vegetation
Key views, vistas and		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Long views south east along this road

<b>landmark features</b>		Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Rural agricultural but popular area of walking
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Yes
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Yes
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Yes access routes into Glensamole and Dublin and Wicklow Mountains.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Remote character, elevated and tranquil,

CUNARD ROAD GLENSAMOLE

Visual	Ref in CDP	Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:	Comment- describe view
			
Skylines	Cunard Rd upper Glensamole	Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	From elevated road this route has a distinctive skyline comprising the rolling uplands and hills associated with Wicklow and the ridge of the valley itself.
Inter-visibility with adjacent		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape	Yes good prospects overlooking Glensmole valley Highly sensitive and close to Wicklow National Park. Natural heritage designations. Distinctive and varied slopes. The upper slopes grazed and open character, combining with the valley floor -very intimate narrow roads with stone bridges

<b>landscapes</b>		Complex or distinctive backdrops	Sheep grazing good riparian wood in parts
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Here view across to western hill tops with Ballyscorney. The eye is also drawn down towards the valley floor which is an intricate and complex landscape. View essentially west and south
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Rural agricultural
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Yes
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Yes
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Yes access routes into Glensamole and Dublin and Wicklow Mountains.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Highly remote character, elevated and tranquil, strong sense of height overlooking the valley and on level with heath uplands

BALLYSCORNEY UPPER -

Visual	Ref in CDP	Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:	Comment- describe view
<b>View west and north from Ballyscorney Hill</b>			
			
<b>Panorama sweeping west and north</b>		<b>View southwards to Wicklow from Ballyscorney</b>	
<b>Skylines</b>		Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	Road upwards Ballyscorney hill is framed predominately by coniferous forestry owned by Coillte. This alters towards summit with considerable expanse and longer views possible
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	At height, good inter visibility between this hill and hills summits west (eg can see masts etc)
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Primarily views that are oriented southwards to Wicklow hill and valleys, conversely heading northwards long expanses possible over the city  Revealing mountain views as you access the summit these are very attractive

<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Remote but evidence of walking and dumping/flytipping at laybys
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Famine cross, rolling hills, historical remote character Ava's Obelisk at Friarstown. Passage tomb at Ballyscorney Ballyscorney Lodge.
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Yes- refuge area for centuries. Archaeological landscape with liminal character to this upland area and good inter visiblity.
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Popular recreational use. Access to Ava's Obelisk.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Perceptually remote, tranquil, scenic quality particularly views south are of high quality

### ROCKBROOK AND MOUNT VENUS (R114)

<b>Visual</b>	<b>Ref in CDP</b>	<b>Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:</b>	<b>Comment- describe view /attractors/detractors</b>
<b>Skylines</b>	Cunard Rd upper glensamole	Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	A series of points relating to scenic routes are present on the mapping for this route. The views are predominantly northward overlooking the lower hills and urban lands.
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	Prospects from this road north and eastwards. The road itself retains a somewhat rural character.
<b>Key views, vistas and</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Sweeping views over the northern and eastern lower lands. These are interrupted by existing

<b>landmark features</b>		Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	hedging for some of the route.
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Rural housing predominates
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Views across to lowlands and as the road increases in elevation, the route goes through a more rural character albeit under pressure in some parts from housing.
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Yes, this links across to the other hills and access to the uplands.
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Tibradden Wood, and zipline is close by and the wider area supports walking routes.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Quite tranquil, not strong remote character.

## B1FIELD SURVEY FORMS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONS

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These views were identified in the LCA (2015) and put forward for consideration.

The following views are put forward for consideration with updates in bold.

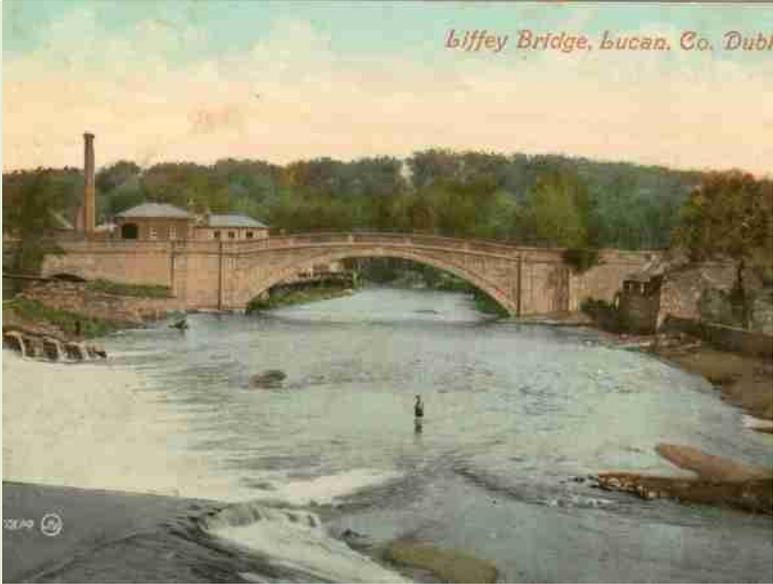
- Views to the Dublin Mountains from major parks – **not possible during fieldwork**
- Views of Phoenix Park and Liffey Valley from County eg. View from Waterstown Park across to Fingal and Dublin City and taking in the Clock/Water Tower in Farmleigh and the Toll Bridge- **completed see survey below**
- Views of Skerries and Howth. From high points in the county- **addressed in preceding sections particularly L7045 scenic route.;**
- View from any point along the Grand Canal (all canal length) - **See Section 3 of this Report (Grand Canal local LCA extract, Waterways Ireland, 2016)**
- View of Lucan Weir and cottages; **completed -see survey below.**
- View from M50 interchange at Knocklyon, towards the Dublin mountains and Orlagh Retreat Centre; **not possible during field survey**
- Ridge line of the Dublin Mts, Montpelier to Tallaght Hills eg. From Dodder Valley Park , Old Bawn and others- **this may be better reflected in a zoning classification. For discussion.**
- Views to and within Glensmole -**these are largely reflected in the existing scenic routes east and west of Glensmole.**
- **There may be merit in considering the whole valley of Glensmole -see Survey form below.**
- Views across Ballinascorney valley, Dublin Bay, Wicklow Mts, Co. Kildare.-**see preceding section, these are largely reflected in existing views and scenic routes.**

## RIVER LIFFEY, LUCAN DEMENSE PARK

Visual	Lowlands and River Valleys South Dublin	
		
<b>River and Valley form</b>	Valley landform comprising southern banks of the River Liffey (S Dublin) with steep landform associated with glacial processes framing the northern banks.	
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>	Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	At river crossings and views northwards highly scenic river corridor with mature woodland present. Forms part of the longer River Liffey network of open space
<b>Key views, vistas and landmark</b>	Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Views are dominated by water and flow of the River, in this part the weir creates high volumes of water . Framed by mature woodland on slopes to the northern

<b>features</b>		bank. Southern part retains open parkland/demesne character. Key landmarks and vistas are associated with the weir, woodland and demesne. Key river crossing across to St Catherine's Park (Fingal)
<b>Receptors</b>	More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Popular with walkers, cyclists and presence of kayaking/rafting course at the wier.
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>	Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Intact and highly scenic, accessible river valley. Strong associations between the key landscape elements of water, woodland and landform. Historical elements (lucan demsen and built heritage) contribute further.
<b>Cultural Associations</b>	Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Demense landscape associated with Lucan Demense
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>	Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	Well established for recreational use.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>	Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Peaceful and tranquil in stretches, other parts more active associated with the dynamic flow of the river around the Weir.

## LUCAN BRIDGE, WEIR AND COTTAGES, LIFFEY

<b>Visual</b>	<b>Lowlands and River Valley</b>		
 <p style="text-align: right; color: red;"><i>Liffey Bridge, Lucan, Co. Dubl</i></p>			
<b>River and Valley Form</b>			<p>River valley is broader at this crossing though the sloping topography remains particularly to the north.                  Good riparian vegetation on both sides</p>
<b>Inter- visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>		<p>Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes                  Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity                  Contributes to wider landscape                  Complex or distinctive backdrops</p>	<p>Lucan Bridge is the key crossing of the River and a focal point of the town of Lucan. This crossing is of historical and architectural merit. The crossing of the Liffey at this point allows for long river views westwards in particular and views across to Fingal also                  The more elevated northern banks of the river frame this view.                  An interesting, diverse view that combines natural and architectural heritage.</p>
<b>Key views, vistas and</b>		<p>Prominent landmarks, views towards/from</p>	<p>Articulate which orientation or panorama?</p>

<b>landmark features</b>		landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Views tend to be drawn along the western aspect of the bridge; an existing older building adjacent to the bridge limits eastwards views somewhat. Key landmarks include the Lucan weir, the bridge (the longest single span masonry bridge in Ireland) the cottages and the river itself
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Lucan is a long established village. Access to the river is possible at Lucan Residents, and recreational use.
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	The bridge replaced several earlier versions. It contributes significantly to the architectural heritage of the town centre and combines with the other features facilitates highly scenic views of the River Liffey.
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Sarsfield associations. Mills and industrial heritage features Architectural interest and significance Riparian vegetation Weir
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	This crossing allows views along the River, particularly westwards and the scenic quality of same is well established. The Liffey Valley, and Lucan village in particular, also has a historical association with tourism and recreation, most notably with the sulphur spa waters that were frequented by Dubliners and was known for its curative powers
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Active with a busy road but highly scenic.

RIVER LIFFEY, FARMLEIGH VIEWS AND WATER TOWER, FROM WATERSTON PARK, PALMERSTOWN

Visual	Ref in CDP	Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:	Comment- describe view
			
<b>River and Valley Form</b>			From car park at Waterstown Park, River is not visible due to topography and extensive riparian vegetation.
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes</b>		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	Views northwards across the park and onto the Phoenix Park and Farmleigh estate. Key landmark in this view is the water tower of Farmleigh. This is a key local landscape that shows the remains of larger villas and estates that fronted the river with demesne and parkland habitats as well as the woodland and architectural features.

<b>Key views, vistas and landmark features</b>		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	Articulate which orientation or panorama? Views are drawn northwards over to the woodland and the tower.
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	Popular recreational park adjacent to swimming pool.
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	Yes, the demesne landscapes associated with former estates is prominent here. The visual connection to the Farmleigh estate and the Water tower is strong.
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	Numerous associated with the historical landscape and families associated with such estates.
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	This park is well used and a popular recreational area.
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	Tranquil, soothing landscape. This is particularly significant given its proximity to the busy N4 road close by.

GLENSAMOLE VALLEY ITSELF

Visual	Ref in CDP	Hills and Uplands South Dublin LCA Scenic routes and prospects review. Does the route/view include:	Comment- describe view /attractors/detractors
			 <p data-bbox="1160 1090 2045 1118"><b>'Green tunnel' at floor of Glensamole Valley</b></p>
Skylines		Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons	
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes		Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops	
Key views,		Prominent landmarks, views towards/from landmarks or	Articulate which orientation or panorama?

<b>vistas and landmark features</b>		key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints	
<b>Receptors</b>		More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/or visitor attraction	
<b>Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/from)</b>		Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features	
<b>Cultural Associations</b>		Strong associations (ie: historical, folklore, literary or artistic) relating to the landscape	
<b>Amenity and Recreation</b>		Access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, special experiences and opportunities for open air recreation	
<b>Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)</b>		Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil.	

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## ANNEX C DATA SOURCES

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### **CORINE 2012 Landcover**

EU-DEM Digital Elevation Model (25m)

### **Geology**

Geological Survey of Ireland 1:500,000 Bedrock

Geological Survey of Ireland Quaternary Geology

### **NPWS**

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Natural Heritage Areas (NHA)

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA)

### **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

### **National Monuments Service**

Recorded Monuments/SMR

### **Teagasc-EPA**

Irish National Soil Map 1:250,000

### **SDCC CDP Data**

CDP Areas of Archaeological Potential

CDP Townlands

CDP Transport (Road, Rail, Waterways)

CDP County Boundary

CDP Lakes and Rivers

OSI Discover Map 50; 56

CDP Industrial Heritage

CDP OSI 10m Contour

CDP Reservoir Catchment

CDP Architectural Conservation Areas

CDP Views and Prospects

CDP Regional Parks

### **Central Statistics Office**

Parish boundaries

The Heritage Council provides a comprehensive list of data sources that might be used in a HLC project. Those which have been used in this HLC are listed in the table below.<sup>146</sup>

TABLE ANNEX B: DATA SOURCES USED IN HLC OF SOUTH COUNTY DUBLIN.

Existing Land use Information (as part of LCA)	
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<sup>146</sup> Best practice guidance suggests that for stage A and B of HLCs other recommended sources such as planning application mapping and detailed place names data. These were not used in this study. The underwater and shipwreck inventory resources were not required in this study.

Study Area Outline	Predefined study limits (administrative area of South Dublin)
OS Mapping Digital Aerial Photography Digital Elevation Model	Current edition OS Discovery mapping series (1:50,000) AP supplied by SDCC
Google Earth and Bing	Visual Inspection for supplementation of digital APs and OS mapping
Soils Mapping	GSI Ireland
Geology Mapping	GSI Ireland
Land Division (sourced from OS mapping)	Townland, parish, barony boundaries, field boundaries
Pre-existing GIS mapping Layers	Previous Development Plans
Development and Local Area Plan Mapping	Previous Development and Local Area Plans
<b>Relict Land use Information</b>	
Topographical Files	National Museum of Ireland records <sup>147</sup>
RMP for Dublin	Archaeological Survey of Ireland <a href="http://www.archaeology.ie">www.archaeology.ie</a> and paper RMP constraint map and list <sup>148</sup>
RPS data	South Dublin County Council NIAH data
OS Mapping	1 edition six-inch scale (1837-1843) Subsequent editions of six-inch maps 25-inch map (c. 1900)
Historical Mapping	Down Survey 1654 <sup>149</sup> Tallaght by Robert Newcomen 1654 <sup>150</sup> Rocque 1760 <sup>151</sup> Taylor and Skinner c.1777 and c.1783 <sup>152</sup> Taylor 1816 <sup>153</sup> Duncan 1821 <sup>154</sup>
Licensed Archaeological Work in Study Area	Excavation database <a href="http://www.excavations.ie">www.excavations.ie</a> <sup>155</sup>
Historical and archaeological overviews of region	See references section <a href="http://www.southdublinhistory.ie">www.southdublinhistory.ie</a>

<sup>147</sup> The assistance of the National Museum of Ireland Antiquities Division is gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>148</sup> Acknowledgement is made to the records on each RMP monument and the descriptions which are attached.

<sup>149</sup> [www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)

<sup>150</sup> Murphy and Potterton 2010, 195, figure 6.10.

<sup>151</sup> [www.gis.dublincoco.ie/historical\\_mapping/](http://www.gis.dublincoco.ie/historical_mapping/)

<sup>152</sup> [www.digitalcollections.tcd.ie](http://www.digitalcollections.tcd.ie) and Royal Irish Academy (RIA) 1983.

<sup>153</sup> [www.gis.dublincoco.ie/historical\\_mapping/](http://www.gis.dublincoco.ie/historical_mapping/)

<sup>154</sup> [www.gis.dublincoco.ie/historical\\_mapping/](http://www.gis.dublincoco.ie/historical_mapping/)

<sup>155</sup> Acknowledgement is made to the records maintained on [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) and to the individual excavators who held archaeological licences and carried out the work.