

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION TO
AN BORD PLEANÁLA

FOR APPROVAL OF THE FOYNES TO LIMERICK ROAD (INCLUDING
ADARE BYPASS) COMPRISING:

- (I) FOYNES TO RATHKEALE PROTECTED ROAD SCHEME,
2019;
- (II) RATHKEALE TO ATTYFLIN MOTORWAY SCHEME, 2019;
- (III) FOYNES SERVICE AREA SCHEME, 2019.

ABP Ref. ABP-306146-19 and ABP-306199-19

ORAL HEARING

Brief of Evidence

The Landscape

By Mark Boyle
Murray and Associates

February 2021

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1.1 My name is Mark Boyle and I am a Director and Senior Landscape Architect with Murray & Associates, Landscape Architecture. I have worked with Murray & Associates since 1998 and became a director of the practice in 2008. I have considerable experience in landscape and visual assessment studies, having worked consistently in this area since commencing employment and having completed more than 80 such studies for developments of varying scales, contexts and sectors including infrastructure, residential, commercial and industrial.

1.2 My qualifications are as follows:

- Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Landscape Horticulture), UCD, 1998
- Master of Landscape Architecture, UCD, 2002
- Corporate Member of the Irish Landscape Institute, 2005
- Graduate Diploma in Project Management, University of Dublin (Trinity College), 2010

2. ROLE IN PROPOSED ROAD DEVELOPMENT

2.1 For the Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass) EIAR I was the author of Chapter 11 - 'The Landscape' - which involved the assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the proposed road development and the identification of proposed landscape and visual mitigation measures.

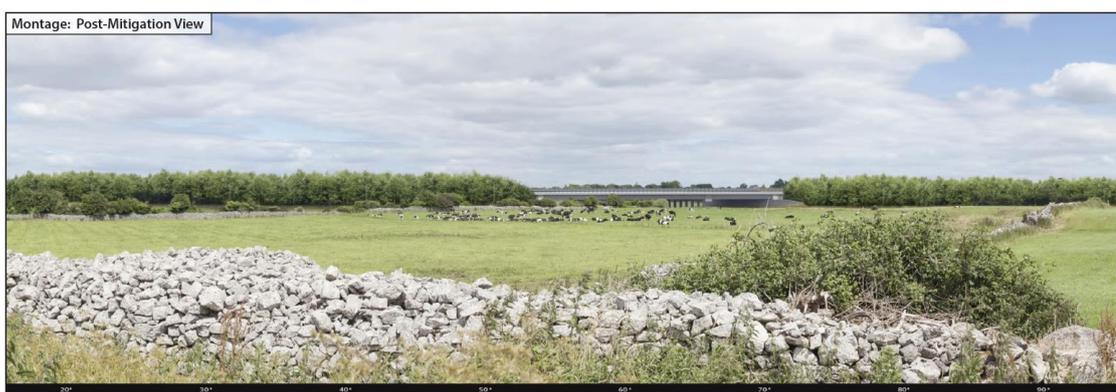
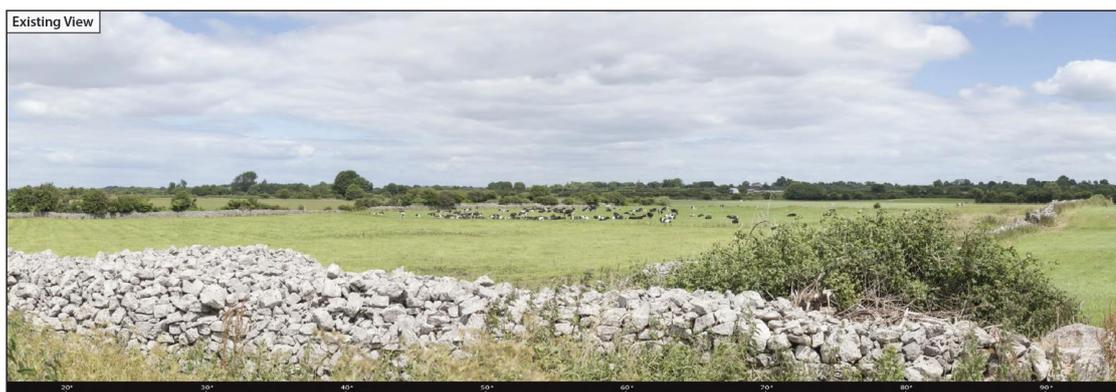
3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 Overview of Landscape and Visual Aspects.

- 3.1.1 The EIAR is to be taken as read and is not replicated here. To assist the Board in its consideration of the application and to put the response to objections and submissions in context, some of the key items pertaining to the landscape and visual assessment as detailed in Chapter 11 of the EIAR are summarised briefly in the following.
- 3.1.2 The landscape of the study area is predominantly rural and pastoral, dominated by fields divided by hedgerows and trees. Whilst the study area includes the coast around Foynes, the sea and coast, including the Shannon Estuary, are not visible in general from the route or most receptors, due to the landform and morphology of the landscape, including the town of Foynes and settlement pattern. The landscape is generally low-lying and undulating, and is crossed by several watercourses, the largest of which is the River Maigue in the east of the study area. Other substantial rivers include the Deel, Greanagh, Robertstown and Ahacronane and there are several small lakes in the study area.
- 3.1.3 The proposed road will contrast with the existing countryside so will generate negative landscape impacts, but overall, after the new planting which is proposed for mitigation of negative effects establishes and helps to integrate the proposed road and structures, this is considered a slight negative impact in the wider landscape context. Moderate impacts will remain at the Maigue and Deel river crossings (see photomontages VP25 and VP6, respectively, below taken from Volume 5 of the EIAR).



Photomontage VP25: View north of River Maigue Crossing (above – existing landscape; below proposed view, post-mitigation); from EIAR Vol. 5A Photomontages

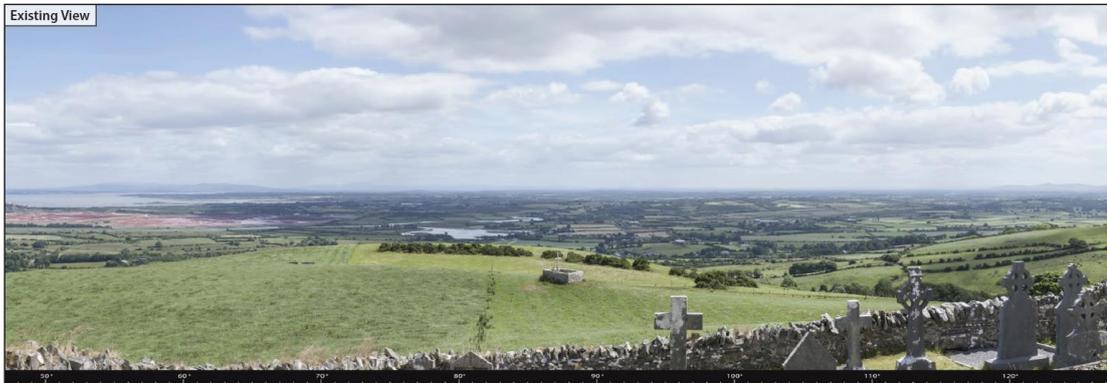


Photomontage VP6: View northeast from Milltown Cashel of Deel River Crossing (above – existing landscape; below proposed view, post-mitigation); from EIAR Vol. 5A Photomontages

- 3.1.4 Most of the hedgerows in the study area are mature and contain considerable numbers of mature parkland trees, some forming substantial treelines in the landscape. There are also pockets of scrub vegetation and woodland throughout the study area, as well as individual parkland trees in fields. The mature trees are a strong feature of this landscape and include both native and non-native parkland trees. Agricultural hedgerows are generally composed of native species, with non-native hedging and windbreak trees bordering many gardens and farms in the area. Large amounts of trees, hedgerow and other vegetation will be removed as part of the proposed road development, but the amount of planting proposed along the fencelines, verges, etc. far outnumbers the amount removed. For instance, 36.67km of hedgerow is removed, with 45.18km proposed to be planted. However, as many of the trees to be removed are mature, and the new planting will take some time to reach a significant size, the overall effect on the tree cover in the landscape is considered to be a slight negative effect in the medium to long term.
- 3.1.5 In general, the scenic quality of the study area is considered to be high, with lower values around settlements where linear housing along the roads reduces the quality of the landscape. However, due to the low-lying and undulating landform and the presence of mature hedgerows and trees, long distance views are often blocked or restricted and are rare in this area. There are very few public viewpoints in this landscape with sensitive views, as there are no parks or public amenity areas adjacent to the proposed road. The cemeteries at Knockpatrick and Rathkeale are considered to be the most sensitive public areas. At Knockpatrick, see VP 1 below, the elevated view will be slightly negatively affected, as – although the proposed road will be visible – it only takes up a small part of the panorama from this location. At Rathkeale Cemetery, see VP 13 below, the proximity of the proposed road and Rathkeale

Junction means that moderate negative visual impact will persist into the medium to long term.

**Photomontage VP1 View east from Knockpatrick Graveyard
from EIAR Vol. 5A Photomontages**



Existing View



Montage: Pre-Mitigation View



Montage: Post-Mitigation View

**Photomontage VP13: View south on L-1203 at Rathkeale Graveyard
from EIAR Vol. 5A Photomontages**



Existing View



Montage: Pre-Mitigation View



Montage: Post-Mitigation View

- 3.1.6 The largest group of receptors are individual houses. In general terms, negative impacts will be greatest during construction stage, with the most substantial negative impacts on five dwellings at Sroolane, Robertstown, Gortnagrou and Tuogh (Receptor Ref. A02-007, A02-009, D57-007, D57-008 and D59-002), which are predicted to be profound for the short term during construction. A further 32 properties across the area will experience very significant negative impact during construction.
- 3.1.7 Once the proposed screen planting and other landscape design measures have established, after approximately 15 years, there are four dwellings rated as having a significant negative impact at Robertstown, Gortnagrou and Tuogh (Receptors A02-009, D57-008, D57-007, D59-002 – see photomontages below taken from Volume 5 of the EIAR) due to views of bridge structures associated with the proposed road

development. By year 15 the impact level will remain at moderate negative levels for 27 individual properties, due to the presence of the road and visibility of screen planting which may limit or frame previously open views. The proposed planting and screening will have the effect of reducing most visual impacts associated with the proposed road to slight negative or lower levels for all other local residential receptors.



*Photomontage VP4: View west on the N69 at Robertstown (receptor A02-009)
from EIAR Vol. 5A Photomontages*



*Photomontage VP22: View on L-8024 at Clonshire Beg (south) (receptor D57-007)
from EIAR Vol. 5B Photomontages*



*Photomontage VP21: View north on L-8024 at Clonshire Beg (receptor D57-008)
from EIAR Vol. 5B Photomontages*



*Photomontage VP24: View north on L-1422 at Tuogh (receptor D59-002)
from EIAR Vol. 5B Photomontages*

3.1.8 Some positive visual effects may also arise due to the proposed road development. The reduction of traffic through Adare Village will result in a slight visual improvement for the village, which is considered a positive impact for locals and tourists. Views from the proposed road development are also expected to have a positive impact for road users, particularly from raised parts of the road, or where monuments that are currently hidden in the inaccessible landscape become visible. This could particularly be the case around the River Deel bridge where there is a view of the riparian landscape and also of Milltown Cashel, a ringfort with distinct upstanding remains. Views may also be opened up of Clonshire Castle as a result of the proposed road development.

3.1.9 In terms of landscape amenity, the proposed road development has no impact on public access to the landscape as all local roads and accommodation tracks are reinstated or involve minor detours, including the Great Southern Greenway trail.



Adare Village – Photograph by the author taken in January 2021, illustrating the streetscape of the village with low traffic and no HGV's.

4. RESPONSES TO SUBMISSIONS

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Landscape and Visual aspects are raised in a considerable number of the submissions and objections submitted to An Bord Pleanála with respect to the application (December 2019). In total, 73 no. of submissions include a reference to some element of the landscape. Responses to these landscape and visual issues are included with this statement of evidence.

4.1.2 The topics raised in relation to landscape and visual aspects were as follows:

- Type and extent of landscape mitigation measures, including:
 - Detail of landscape measures or planting
 - Boundary treatments
- Landscape/visual effects on properties, including:
 - Landscape/visual impact concerns
 - Potential illumination of properties
 - Effect on natural light entering properties
 - Visual privacy

4.2 Type and Extent of Landscape Mitigation Measures

Issues raised in objections / submissions

4.2.1 61 no. of submissions / objections seek clarification on the details of landscape measures or planting, boundary treatment proposed, or have claimed that there are inadequate details of the boundary treatment or landscape planting proposals, or that these proposals are inadequate. These include submission / objection no's:

- SCH: 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 31, 32, 36, 39, 40, 41, 48, 49, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 61, 62, 66, 67, 68, 72, 73, 75, 76, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 90, 92, 96, 98, 99, 101, 104, 105, 106, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115 and 119.
- ENV: 4, 5, 18, 26.

Illustrations of the above locations referred to in the text following are contained in Appendix B to this brief.

Response

4.2.2 Landscape mitigation measures and landscape proposals are set out in Section 11.5 of Chapter 11 of the EIAR to mitigate against the negative impacts as a result of the proposed road development and to reinforce the positive impacts of the proposed road development. Figures 11.1 to 11.23 of Volume 3 of the EIAR illustrate the proposed mitigation measures.

4.2.3 The primary strategic objectives of the proposed landscape mitigation works are to re-integrate the proposed road development into the landscape through which it passes and to screen the road from affected visual receptors.

4.2.4 Section 11.5.2 states the following in relation to boundary treatments of individual properties:

Where boundaries or entrance routes to existing dwellings or private properties are altered as a result of the proposed road development, a specific scheme of mitigation will be agreed with the landowners at the appropriate time. For the

purposes of this assessment, the minimum level of mitigation will be taken to be the planting / building of similar boundaries to those existing. For example, where the proposed road development results in the realignment of a wall and removal of hedgerows and trees, these are assumed to be reinstated along the new boundary and entrance route to the same standard as the existing landscape.

- 4.2.5 The implementation of these location-specific schemes of landscape reinstatement measures will result in a neutral effect on the boundaries of most properties in the medium term following establishment of planting or in the short term in the case of constructed boundaries, i.e. reinstatement of fence or wall.
- 4.2.6 Please refer to section 5.6 'Boundary impact and boundary fence type' of the Brief of Evidence relating to *Material Assets and Land – Agriculture* and *Material Assets and Land – Non-agricultural Property* by Mr. John Bligh for further details with regard to boundary fencing.
- 4.2.7 The specific landscape measures applying to the property in respect of each relevant submission that raised this issue of landscape and boundary treatment is highlighted below. Once again, reference is made to Figures 11.1 to 11.23 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-68 states: *"The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council"* Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. See Figure 11.1 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
 - Submission / objection No. SCH-12 claims that *"No specific landscape design details have been provided for our client"* and states that *"Details of the landscape proposals are required"*. The landscape proposals include the following measures within the road landtake, where this property extends on both sides of the road (see Figure 11.1 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures):
 - Timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees is proposed to the field boundaries and will be provided.
 - SLM 2 is proposed on the road embankments, which is described in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR as: *"The provision of appropriate screen planting along the embankments of the proposed road development to provide a balance between screening, aesthetics and allowing light into the properties. Special design consideration given to integrating the bridge structure with the landscape in terms of finishes and landscape planting. Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species. Barn Owl mitigation planting (see Section 11.5.1) to be incorporated into landscape proposals along the embankments"*.
 - Additional Screen Planting Measures [i.e. a mix of native woodland trees and understorey species to mitigate visual impact] and an attenuation pond with native tree and shrub species / grassland.
 - See Section 11.5.1 of the Volume 2 of the EIAR for full details of planting mixes.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-5 requests “*Clarification is sought from the County Council that the existing boundary treatment and entrance to the property will not be affected by the proposed works*”: The alignment of the existing boundary will not be affected and there will be no change to the existing stone wall along the road frontage of the property. Timber post and rail fencing (or similar) is proposed along the landtake line to the sides and rear of the property. Hedgerow and treeline planting is proposed to a small part of the landtake line, with the remainder open as per the existing condition. See Figure 11.2 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-82 states: “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening/planting proposed in the affected area*” and “*An existing orchard which has been part of the holding for numerous years and holds immense sentimental value is being acquired and the County Council have not specified how this will be replaced in the future*”. SLM2 is proposed in this area and includes for the provision of appropriate screen planting (mixed native trees and shrubs, including evergreen species, as described in section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR and shown on Figure 11.2 of Volume 3) along the embankments of the proposed road development to provide a balance between screening, aesthetics and allowing light into the properties. With regard to the orchard, this is considered a matter for compensation.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-19 states: “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.*” This property does not have a direct boundary with the proposed road, but the proposed landscape and planting treatment in the area nearest this property is a mix of screen planting, wild grass/meadow (see section 11.5.1 of the EIAR) and SLM 2 which includes for appropriate screen planting along the embankments of the proposed road development and special design consideration for the integration the bridge structure with the landscape in terms of finishes and landscape planting. See Figure 11.2 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-96 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme*” and “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening/ planting proposed in the affected area.*” The boundary with this property will be defined with timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, as described in section 11.5.1 of the EIAR (Volume 2). SLM2 is proposed in this area, as shown on Figure 11.2 of Volume 3 of the EIAR and includes for the provision of appropriate screen planting (mixed native trees and shrubs, including evergreen species, as described in section 11.5.1 of the EIAR) along the embankments of the proposed road development to provide a balance between screening, aesthetics and allowing light into the properties.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-115 states that there are “*No details on boundary treatment.*” The proposed treatment along the boundary of this property is shown on Fig. 11.2 in Volume 3 of the EIAR and consists of timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, and further planted with Barn Owl Mitigation Planting as described in section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-72 claims that “*No specific landscape design details have been provided for our client*” and states that “*Details of the landscape proposals are required*”. The proposed planting on this small plot includes riparian and wetland planting along stream / drain channels to integrate

with the existing scrub and tree vegetation in the adjacent plots and on the banks of the stream and ditch. See Figure 11.3 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-86 states: *“The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme.”* The boundary with this property will be defined with timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, as described in section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 and shown on Fig. 11.3 of Volume 3 of the EIAR.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-119 states that there is *“Insufficient detail of screening / planting”* and *“Inadequate detail of boundary treatment”*. Fig. 11.3 in Volume 3 of the EIAR shows the proposed boundary treatment to this dwelling, which consists of timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, as described in section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR. Further screen planting is not considered necessary as the road in this area is in deep cut and will not be visible to the dwelling in question.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-61 claims that *“No specific landscape design details have been provided for our client”* and states that *“Details of the landscape proposals are required”*. The mainline in this location is in a large section of cut and is not visible to adjacent houses, but the overbridge is visible. The landscape proposals include primarily wildflower and natural regeneration to the sides of the cut, and screen woodland planting to the banks of the bridge, comprising of mix of native woodland tree and understorey species to create a layered canopy, and to address potential visual impacts to the dwellings nearby. See Figure 11.4 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. ENV-26 states concerns that mitigation measures to reduce the impact on retained property is not explained and that they have concerns regarding Planting / Screening / Landscaping in the vicinity of their property. It would appear that there is no direct impact on the property of this landowner. The property in question is understood to be north of Ch6+250 of the proposed road. Screen planting of a mix of native evergreen and broadleaf species is proposed in this area, as shown on Fig. 11.4 (Volume 3 of EIAR) and described in section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR. Boundary timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants and trees will also be provided, as described in section 11.5.1, including along Cooper’s Lane.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-32 states: *“The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council.”* Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. See Figure 11.5 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-80 states that *“No specific landscape design details have been provided”* and *“Screening & Planting details required”*. In section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR and on Fig. 11.6 (Volume 3), a range of measures are shown that relate to this landholding:
 - SLM 4 is proposed in the north of this area which will provide screen planting of native evergreen and broadleaf planting to screen the road and bridge from the dwelling and provide for new landscape features at the

- entrance roundabout to Askeaton. Barn Owl mitigation planting will also be integrated where needed.
- Additional native screen woodland planting is proposed along the eastern side to mitigate visual impact from dwellings on the outskirts of Askeaton.
 - Wild Grass / Meadow Areas are proposed on the western side of the proposed road.
 - Hedge planting with trees is proposed on the boundaries with the proposed road, with timber post & rail fencing (or similar) to define the boundary.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-105 seeks to know that the “*existing boundary treatment and entrance won't be affected.*” The boundary and entrance to the property will not be affected by the proposed road development, as shown on Figure 11.6 of Volume 3 of the EIAR.
 - Submission / objection No. SCH-49 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the County Council*” and also claims that “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.*” Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. SLM 4 in Section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR defines the proposed planting, where the relevant elements are as follows:
 - Planting, including parkland trees, will be provided in landscape spaces and the decommissioned area of N69 road to compensate for removal of trees and shrubs along existing N69 and hedgerows / treelines in fields to north.
 - This planting will also provide screening of the junction from adjacent properties and lands.
 - Biodiversity mitigation measures will be incorporated in this SLM including Barn Owl mitigation planting (see Section 11.5.1 of the EIAR for details of planting mixes).
 - Also proposed for the boundaries of this area is timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees is proposed to the boundaries and will be provided.
 - See Figure 11.6 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
 - Submission / objection No. ENV-4 from Askeaton-Ballysteen Community Council states: “*With the current concerns regarding biodiversity and the richness of the limestone area being removed provision should be made for areas where wild grasses, flowers and undergrowth can grow. Native Irish trees should predominate. Native wild vegetation will recolonise fallow ground but if wildflower seed is used it should be native.*” As noted throughout this Brief of Evidence, the intention of the landscape mitigation measures is to integrate the scheme into the existing landscape using native trees, grasses, wildflowers, etc. Proposals for this area are shown on Figure 11.6 of Volume 3 of the EIAR and comprise of SLM4 (see section 11.5.2 of Chapter 11 of Volume 2 of the EIAR) which provides for a variety of landscape and planting measures around the roundabout and connection with the existing N69. This submission has also been responded to in section 4.2.4 of Paul Murphy's Brief of Evidence.

- Submission / objection No. ENV-5 from Askeaton-Ballysteen Community Council states concerns that “*photomontages show that vast swathes of land will be laid bare, trees and their undergrowth will be removed to be replaced by a post and rail fence at a number of listed areas...*” and that the “*effect of such actions will be devastating on wildlife and aesthetically uninteresting to the human eye.*” The submission goes on to voice concern about compensatory planting for mature trees being removed as being “*trees of a decorative nature*” and recommends that “*native vegetation to be used and that fallow areas should be left to allow wild vegetation to recolonise at will*”. Whilst it is true that large numbers of trees and hedgerow will be removed, the quantum of proposed planting exceeds that removed. However, as the submission rightly points out, the level of maturity of some of the planting to be removed will not recover in the short to medium terms and there will be slight to moderate levels of residual negative impact. Over the longer term, this impact will reduce further. In relation to the nature of the new planting, “decorative” planting is not generally recommended and the vast majority of the proposed mitigation planting measures are composed of native species, with some parkland trees such as Beech, Chestnut and Lime which are extant in the landscape at present where appropriate. Planting measures have been coordinated with the project Ecologist to ensure that they are appropriate to the habitats being removed. In areas where screening and scrub planting is not a requirement of the EIAR for mitigation, section 11.5.1 of the EIAR states that “*semi-natural grasslands are to be allowed to establish using bare-earth regeneration techniques or hay-strewing (gathering seed from appropriate areas adjacent to the scheme)*” which is as suggested in the submission, where they suggest that fallow areas should be left to allow wild vegetation to recolonise. Proposals for this area are shown on Figure 11.6 of Volume 3 of the EIAR and comprise of SLM4 (see section 11.5.2 of Chapter 11 of Volume 2 of the EIAR) which provides for a variety of landscape and planting measures around the roundabout and connection with the existing N69.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-62 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council*” and also claims that “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.*” Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. The proposed planting adjacent to this property includes hedgerow/treeline along the landtake boundary fence, scrub and tree planting for Barn Owl mitigation and other ecological goals, and wet woodland and riparian planting of native species adjacent to the proposed attenuation pond. SLM 6 is proposed over part of this area which includes for appropriate wetland planting of Willow and Birch, and sensitive treatment of the fen habitat at this location. SLM 5 also covers part of this area includes additional ecological and cultural heritage mitigation measures, as well as compensatory planting for hedgerow/trees removed by planting similar species mix to those removed on the embankments of the road. See Figure 11.7 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-48 states that “*Landscaping and boundary Treatment*” are of “*particular concern*”: Some existing hedgerow will be removed due to the proposed road. Timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees is proposed to the field boundary and will be provided. (See Section 11.5 of the EIAR for details of plant mixes.) Much of the

treatment comprises of meadow with Scrub and Tree Planting [mix of native plants for Barn Owl Mitigation]. SLM 6 is proposed over part of this area which includes for appropriate wetland planting of Willow and Birch, and sensitive treatment of the fen habitat at this location, in accordance with the recommendations of EIAR Chapter 7 - Biodiversity. See Figure 11.7 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-81 states that “*Landscaping and boundary Treatment*” are of “*particular concern*”: Some existing scrub vegetation will be removed along the boundary some 70m to the east of the dwellings on this property due to the proposed ditch and overbridge, but most of the existing vegetation in this area is retained. Timber post and rail fencing (or similar) will be provided along the proposed boundary. SLM7 is proposed to mitigate impacts in this area and consists of the provision of screen planting (mixed native trees and shrubs, including evergreen species, as described in section 11.5.1 of the EIAR) to screen the bridge structure and to integrate the proposed road development into landscape. Replacement planting will be provided at entrances to properties where they are impacted / realigned, similar to the existing landscaping. See Section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR for full details of planting mixes and Figure 11.8 of Volume 3.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-67 states that “*Landscaping detail*” is of “*particular concern*”: The proposed planting includes the planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 7 in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, which will be implemented. SLM 7 is described as follows: “*The provision of screen planting to screen the bridge structure from visual receptors to north and south and to integrate the proposed road development into landscape. Redundant road sections also to be planted with hedgerow and landscape planting. Replacement planting will be provided at entrances to properties where they are impacted / realigned, similar to the existing landscaping.*” See Figure 11.8 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-90 states: “*Data provided is too general, in particular: ...Visual Impact... Landscaping and boundary treatment*”. As there is no dwelling on this landholding, this was not considered to be a sensitive visual receptor and was not included in the visual impact assessment. The boundary with this property will be defined with timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, and further planted with screen woodland planting as described in section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 and shown on Figs. 11.8 and 11.9 of Volume 3 of the EIAR.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-66 claims that “*No specific landscape design details have been provided for our client*” and states that “*Details of the landscape proposals are required*”. The proposed planting includes the planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 9 in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, which will be implemented. SLM 9 includes for protection of existing trees where possible, appropriate riparian and wetland planting along stream / drain channels as well as planting for bat and barn owl mitigation, specific screening for property C24-001 (the dwelling in this landholding) and to screen noise barriers. See Figure 11.9 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-16 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council.*” The existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and

hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. This submission further claims that “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.*” The proposed planting includes screen planting (see section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of EIAR) and the planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 9 in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, which will be implemented. SLM 9 includes for protection of existing trees where possible, appropriate riparian and wetland planting along stream / drain channels as well as planting for bat and barn owl mitigation and to screen noise barriers. See Figure 11.10 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-54 claims that “*No specific landscape design details have been provided for our client*” and states that “*Details of the landscape proposals are required*”. The landscape proposals include scrub and tree planting for Barn Owl mitigation (see Section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR for details of planting mixes) on both sides of the proposed road and also screen woodland planting to the south of the road, comprising of native tree and shrub understorey species, to address potential visual impacts to the dwelling. See Figure 11.10 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-79 states: “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.*” In section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR and on Fig. 11.10 (Volume 3), SLM 10 is proposed for this area which will provide screen planting of native evergreen and broadleaf planting to screen the road and bridge from the dwelling. Native riparian planting around an attenuation pond to the northwest of the property is also proposed, which will screen the pond from view and contribute to the screening of the road. This submission also states: “*Clarification is sought from the County Council that the existing boundary treatment and entrance to the property will not be affected by the proposed works.*” The works associated with the proposed road will not affect the existing boundary treatment and entrance.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-92 states that “*No specific landscape design details have been provided*” and “*Screening & Planting details required*”. In Section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 and on Fig. 11.11 of Volume 3 of the EIAR, a range of measures are shown that relate to the relevant landholdings:
 - SLM11 is proposed in this area which will provide screen planting of native evergreen and broadleaf planting.
 - Native screen woodland planting to mitigate visual impact on dwellings on adjacent lands.
 - Grass (maintained to maximum 100mm ht.) and Wild Grass / Meadow Areas are also proposed on the verges of the proposed road.
 - Barn Owl mitigation planting will be implemented where needed.
 - Hedge planting with trees is proposed on the boundaries with the proposed road, with timber post & rail fencing (or similar) to define the boundary.
 - See Section 11.5.1 and 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR for detailed descriptions of the above measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-76 states that there is “*No detail on the type and nature of screening / planting proposed.*” In section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR and on Fig. 11.13 (Volume 3), SLM 12 is proposed for this area which will provide screen planting of native evergreen and broadleaf planting to screen the road and underpass from the dwelling. Native riparian planting around an

attenuation pond to the east of the property is also proposed, which will screen the pond from view.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-4 states that *“The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the County Council.”* Some existing boundary hedgerow will be removed due to the proposed accommodation track to provide access to this field. Timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees is proposed to the field boundary and will be provided.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-85 states that *“No specific landscape design details have been provided”* and *“Screening & Planting details required”*. On Fig. 11.14 of Volume 3 of the EIAR, a range of measures are shown that relate to the relevant landholdings:
 - Native screen woodland planting to mitigate visual impact from dwellings on adjacent lands. (Note: there are no houses on the lands in question.)
 - Grass (maintained to maximum 100mm ht.) and Wild Grass / Meadow Areas are also proposed on the verges of the proposed road.
 - Barn Owl mitigation planting will be implemented where needed.
 - Hedge planting is proposed on the boundaries with the proposed road, with timber post & rail fencing (or similar) to define the boundary.
 - See Section 11.5.1 of the EIAR for detailed descriptions of the above measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-111 states that the EIAR has *“No details of boundary treatment. Replacement hedge requested.”* The landscape drawings (Fig. 11.15, Volume 3 of EIAR) show that this boundary will be defined with timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, as described in section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-87 states: *“The landowner's boundary treatment consists of a natural stone wall and mature stock-proof hedge. Requesting it is replaced on a like-for-like basis.”* The proposed landscape mitigation measures at this location include planting along the proposed boundary as per Fig. 11.15 of the EIAR.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-39 states: *“The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council”* and also claims that *“No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.”* Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. The proposed planting adjacent to this property includes hedgerow/treeline along the landtake boundary fence, scrub and tree planting for Barn Owl mitigation and other ecological goals, and wet woodland and riparian planting of native species adjacent to the proposed attenuation pond. See Figure 11.15 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-56 states that *“Landscaping and boundary Treatment”* are of *“particular concern”*: Some existing hedgerow will be removed

due to the proposed road. The proposed planting adjacent to this property includes:

- hedgerow/treeline along the landtake boundary fence;
 - scrub and tree planting for Barn Owl mitigation and other ecological goals; and
 - wet woodland and riparian planting of native species adjacent to the proposed attenuation pond.
 - See Figure 11.15 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-106 states an objection to the proposed landscape and boundary treatment. The proposed treatment along the boundary of this property consists of timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, and further planted with screen woodland planting and riparian planting to the adjacent attenuation pond as described in section 11.5.1. It is considered that this treatment addresses the identified impacts to the landscape and visual environment, but it is acknowledged that some residual visual impact will remain for this dwelling. This impact is considered to be Moderate and Negative in Year 1, reducing to Slight and Negative by Year 15. This submission also states a concern about "*Proximity to attenuation pond to the south west of the dwelling*". The pond is approximately 50m from the dwelling (Ref. D54-012) and will be fenced and screened with planting so will not be visible or accessible from this property, as shown on Figure 11.15 of Volume 3 of the EIAR.
 - Submission / objection No. SCH-7 states that "*Landscaping and boundary Treatment*" are of "*particular concern*": Some existing hedgerow will be removed due to the proposed accommodation tracks and overbridge. Timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees is proposed to the field boundary and will be provided. Screen Planting Measures [i.e. a mix of native woodland trees and understorey species to mitigate visual impact] and Scrub and Tree Planting [mix of native plants for Barn Owl Mitigation] are also proposed throughout this section along the edge of the road and will be provided. See Section 11.5.1 of the EIAR for full details of planting mixes. See Figure 11.16 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
 - Submission / objection No. SCH-8 requests "*a) That an agreed landscaping schedule be confirmed*" and "*b) Confirmation that all boundary fences/walls erected by the Acquiring Authority... will remain the responsibility of the said authority...*" The proposed landscaping treatment comprises of timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees to the field boundary and will be provided. Screen Planting Measures [i.e. a mix of native woodland trees and understorey species to mitigate visual impact] and Scrub and Tree Planting [mix of native plants for Barn Owl Mitigation] are also proposed throughout this section along the edge of the road and will be provided. See Section 11.5.1 Volume 2 of the EIAR for full details of planting mixes and Figure 11.16 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
 - Submission / objection No. SCH-36 states: "*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council*" and also claims that "*No detail has been provided by the*

County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area. Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. The proposed planting includes screen planting to the northwest of the boundary and further screen planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 14 in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, which will be implemented. SLM 14 screens the proposed Croagh link road from the property and includes the following relevant elements: *“The link road will be planted according to a specific landscape scheme taking into account the local landscape character and historic designed demesne landscapes nearby. Parkland trees (see section 11.5.1) and hedgerows / treelines (Hedgerow Type 2 – see 11.5.1) are proposed to reflect the character of the nearby demesne landscapes (note that no demesne is directly affected here) and to compensate for those removed in the construction of the proposed junction. Barn Owl mitigation planting (see Section 11.5.1) is to be incorporated into landscape scheme also.”* See Figure 11.16 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-110 states: *“Data provided is too general, in particular: ...Visual Impact... Landscaping and boundary treatment”*. As there is no dwelling on this landholding, this was not considered to be a sensitive visual receptor and was not included in the visual impact assessment. The boundary with this property will be defined with timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, as described in section 11.5.1. SLM14 is also proposed in this area to integrate the Croagh Roundabout into the landscape and includes for a specific landscape scheme taking into account the local landscape character and historic designed demesne landscapes nearby, including parkland trees and hedgerows / treelines. See section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR for a full description of SLM14 and refer to Figure 11.16 in Volume 3.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-55 states: *“The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the County Council”* and also claims that *“No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.”* Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. The proposed planting includes screen planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 14 in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, which will be implemented. SLM 14 planting screens the proposed Croagh junction from the property and includes the following relevant elements: *“Parkland trees (see section 11.5.1) and hedgerows / treelines (Hedgerow Type 2 – see 11.5.1) are proposed ... to compensate for those removed in the construction of the proposed junction. Barn Owl mitigation planting (see Section 11.5.1) is to be incorporated into landscape scheme also.”* Wet woodland and riparian planting is also proposed on part of the lands within the landtake. See Figure 11.16 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures and Photomontage VP17 – Aerial View Northeast of Croagh Junction in Volume 5B of the EIAR.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-52 states that *“An existing stone wall which forms the boundary of the property is being acquired and the County Council have not clarified what boundary treatment will be replaced.”* The stone wall will be reinstated with a similar stone wall to be built along the realigned boundary line.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-114 states: “*Data provided is too general, in particular: ... Landscaping and boundary treatment*”. The proposed treatment along the boundary of this property is shown on Fig. 11.18 in Volume 3 of the EIAR and consists of timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, and further planted with screen woodland planting as described in section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-99 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme.*” The boundary with this property will be defined with timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, as described in section 11.5.1 and further planted in accordance with SLM17, as shown on Figure 11.19 of Volume 3 of the EIAR. The main provisions of SLM17 as they relate to this property include for appropriate riparian planting around the river, screen planting to mitigate visual impacts and parkland trees within hedgerows.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-101 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme.*” The boundary with this property is located along the River Maigue and will be defined with timber post and rail fencing (or similar) which will be planted with a mix of native hedgerow plants, and further planted with screen woodland planting as described in section 11.5.1 (Volume 2) and as shown on Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-41 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the County Council*” and also claims that “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.*” Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. The proposed includes hedgerow/treeline along the landtake boundary fence, and scrub and tree planting for Barn Owl mitigation. An attenuation pond is also located here and will be planted with native wet woodland and riparian species. See Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-40 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the County Council*” and also claims that “*No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.*” Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. There are two areas of land relevant to this submission. The proposed planting on the westernmost plot includes hedgerow/treeline along the landtake boundary fence, and scrub and tree planting for Barn Owl mitigation. The eastern plot is defined by SLM 15, described in Section 11.5.2 of the EIAR and include the following measures within the road landtake, where this property extends on both sides of the road:
 - The provision of appropriate planting to screen the bridge structure from visual receptors on both sides of proposed road development and integrate into landscape.

- Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.
- Also proposed for the boundaries of this area is timber post and rail fencing (or similar) with hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees to the boundaries and this will be provided.
- See Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-26 claims that “*No specific landscape design details have been provided for our client*” and states that “*Details of the landscape proposals are required*”. The landscape proposals are defined by SLM 15, described in Section 11.5.2 of the EIAR and include the following measures within the road landtake, where this property extends on both sides of the road:
 - The provision of appropriate planting to screen the road on fill and bridge structure from visual receptors on both sides of proposed road development and integrate into landscape.
 - Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.
 - Section of front wall to northern corner of front garden is proposed to be removed and will be replaced on a like-for-like basis.
 - Also proposed for the boundaries of this area is timber post and rail fencing (or similar) with hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees to the boundaries and this will be provided.
 - See Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-98 states that “*No specific landscape design details have been provided*” and “*Screening & Planting details required*”. In this location, the landtake line is in line with the existing property fence and it is not expected that there will be any landscape works in direct connection with this property as there will be no direct impact on the fence or vegetation at the front boundary of the property. Screen planting is proposed closer to the proposed road to the north of the property (outside the property boundary) as shown on Fig. 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR. This screening is part of SLM15 which will consist of native screen woodland planting and riparian planting to integrate the road crossing of the Greanagh River into the landscape.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-23 claims that “*The landscape design is too general and not specific*”. The landscape proposals are defined by SLM 15, described in Section 11.5.2 of the EIAR and include the following measures within the road landtake, where this property extends on both sides of the road:
 - The provision of appropriate planting to screen the bridge structure from visual receptors on both sides of proposed road development and integrate into landscape.
 - Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.
 - Also proposed for the boundaries of this area is timber post and rail fencing (or similar) with hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees to the boundaries and this will be provided.
 - See Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.

- Submission / objection No. ENV-18 states concerns with regard to the landscape and visual impact of the proposed overbridge structure at the Greanagh River and states that a “*satisfactory landscape mitigation, which would be in line with best practice guideline, as set out by the NRA [sic] is required*” and specifically references the TII publication: ‘*A Guide to Landscape Treatments for National Road Schemes in Ireland*’. The mitigation proposed for this area is defined by SLM 15, described in Section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR and shown on Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 and includes the following measures within the road landtake:

- The provision of appropriate planting to screen the bridge structure from visual receptors on both sides of proposed road development and integrate into landscape.
- Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.

It is considered that this proposal is compliant with TII Guidance (including ‘*A Guide to Landscape Treatments for National Road Schemes in Ireland*’) and best practice and will integrate the proposed bridge into the surroundings.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-73 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council*” Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. See Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-51 claims that “*No specific landscape design details have been provided for our client*” and states that “*Details of the landscape proposals are required*”. The landscape proposals include scrub and tree planting for Barn Owl mitigation (see Section 11.5.1 of the EIAR for details of planting mixes) and also part of SLM 15, described in Section 11.5.2 of the EIAR and include the following measures within the road landtake, where this property extends on both sides of the road:
 - The provision of appropriate planting to screen the accommodation tracks and underpass structure from visual receptors on both sides of the proposed road development and integrate into landscape.
 - Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.
 - Also proposed for the boundaries of this area is timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow / treeline planting comprising of a mix of primarily native tree and hedgerow species with some parkland trees is proposed to the boundaries and will be provided.
 - See Figure 11.19 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-75 states: “*The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council*” Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. See section 4.2.6 of this document with regard to responsibility for maintenance. See Figure 11.19 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-10 states: *“The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the county council.”* The existing hedgerows and trees on the existing road boundary and within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar), together with the planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 16 in section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR, will be implemented. SLM 16 is described as follows: *“The realigned local road will be planted with boundary hedges and treated to acknowledge Curraghbridge House demesne to the north. Redundant sections of road to be removed and planted with screen woodland and scrub planting for biodiversity mitigation. Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.”* See Figure 11.19 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-60 states: *“No details have been provided for landscaping and screening in the vicinity of the property to reduce visual impacts, both the motorway and the realigned side road, have on the retained property.”* The landscaping and screening proposed for the realigned side road are defined by SLM 16 in Section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, the most relevant elements of which to this property are as follows: *“The realigned local road will be planted with boundary hedges and treated to acknowledge Curraghbridge House demesne to the north... Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.”* Further visual screening to the mainline will be achieved with the proposed scrub and tree planting for Barn Owl mitigation. See Figure 11.19 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-31 claims that *“No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.”* The proposed planting includes screen planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 16 in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, which will be implemented. SLM 16 is described as follows: *“The realigned local road will be planted with boundary hedges and treated to acknowledge Curraghbridge House demesne to the north. Redundant sections of road to be removed and planted with screen woodland and scrub planting for biodiversity mitigation. Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.”* See Figure 11.19 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-104 seeks *“Clarification that the existing boundary treatment and entrance won't be affected.”* This property is a field on the western side of the L-1423 Station Road south of the proposed motorway at Ch. 60+250 where the L-1423 Station Road will be realigned for a bridge over the motorway. The boundary will not be affected by the proposed road development as the local road will be realigned into the field on the opposite eastern side of the road. See Figure 11.19 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plan of proposals.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-113 states that there are *“No details of screening / planting”*. The property on this land is partially enclosed by existing vegetation. The proposed landscape measures that are adjacent to this property are shown on Fig. 11.19 in Volume 3 of the EIAR and include the following:
 - SLM16 is proposed in the west of this landholding which will provide screen woodland and scrub planting of native evergreen and broadleaf species to screen the road and bridge from the dwelling.
 - Barn Owl mitigation planting will be implemented where needed.

- Grass (maintained to 100mm ht.) is proposed on the verges of the proposed road.
- Hedge planting is proposed on the boundaries with the proposed road, with timber post & rail fencing (or similar) to define the boundary.
- See Section 11.5.1 and 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR for detailed descriptions of the above measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-58 states: *“The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme. The type and specification of fence proposed and the responsibility and maintenance of same into the future has not been clarified by the County Council”* and also claims that *“No detail has been provided by the County Council for the type and nature of screening / planting proposed in the affected area.”* Existing hedgerows and trees within the landtake will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar) and hedgerow/treelines will be implemented along the boundary. The proposed planting includes screen planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 17 in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, which will be implemented. SLM 17 is aimed at protecting the ecology of the river Maigue and the visual amenity of nearby dwellings. SLM 17 includes the following planting measures: *“...appropriate riparian planting, taking into account the Project Ecologist’s recommendations... Screen planting to mitigate the visual impacts of the road will, where possible, be in keeping with the riparian character of this location and parkland trees should be included in hedgerows. Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species.”* See Figure 11.19 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-83 states: *“The County Council has not explained how it proposes to replace the new boundary treatment affected by the proposed scheme.”* Some existing hedgerows and trees on the road boundary will be removed and the proposed timber post and rail fencing (or similar), together with the planting and landscape treatments proposed in SLM 18 in section 11.5.2 of the EIAR, will be implemented. SLM 18 includes for integration of the proposed Adare Junction and road into the landscape with site-specific planting and design measures. See Figure 11.20 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.

4.3 Landscape/Visual Effects on Properties

4.3.1 30 no of submissions / objections seek clarification on the visual impact assessment or clarifications regarding a specific aspect of visual impact, such as illumination or privacy. These include submission / objection no’s:

- SCH: 16, 19, 28, 31, 33, 44, 48, 55, 58, 60, 62, 64, 70, 76, 81, 82, 90, 91, 96, 106, 110, 114, 115, 123.
- ENV: 9, 13, 18, 19, 29.
- FI: 8

Illustrations of the above locations referred to in the text following are contained in Appendix B to this brief.

4.3.2 With regard to concerns around “illumination”, 13 no of submissions refer to this issue, as follows: SCH: 16, 19, 31, 33, 55, 58, 60, 62, 76, 82, 91, 96, 115. All of these properties will be screened from the proposed road by screen or other planting, which will minimise headlight glare from illuminating the lands in question. In locations which

will have road lighting, such as junctions, the lights will be designed to minimise lightspill onto surrounding properties and will also have screen planting behind so there will be no additional illumination in these properties.

4.3.3 One submission refers to concerns regarding privacy (SCH-70). This relates to the Great Southern Trail Greenway walking / cycling route passing close to the boundary of the property in question. Hedgerows are proposed along this interface to ensure that the privacy of the property is maintained.

4.3.4 2 no of submissions / objections claim that the proposed road development will impact on the sunlight reaching their dwellings. These include submission / objection no's ENV: 13 and 18.

- i. The dwelling referred to in Submission ENV-13 (ref. D57-015, shown on Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR) is located 200m northwest of Railbridge RB02, where the elevation of the road is 7m above the ground level of the house. The vertical angle from the house to the proposed road is therefore just 3 degrees above the horizontal towards the southeast, which cannot cause any loss of sunlight at this house. At present, there is a two storey house in the neighbouring property to the south (approximately 20m from the dwelling) and a line of mature trees along the rail line, the height of which is greater than the proposed railbridge in this location.
- ii. The dwelling referred to in Submission ENV-18 (ref. D59-007, shown on Figure 11.18 of Volume 3 of the EIAR) is to the south of the proposed road development, so the sunlight falling on the house cannot be affected by the proposed road development.

4.3.5 The specific visual effects applying to each submission that raised the issue of visual impact (see 4.2.7 above) is highlighted in the following.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-28: The house in question, Corgrig House, is set in a mature landscape of hedgerows and trees and was not identified as a sensitive receptor in the study as it is not considered to have any appreciable views of the proposed road or roundabout nor will the road interfere with any existing views from the property. SLM 1 (see full description in Section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR and Figure 11.1 in Volume 3) which is proposed along the boundary of this landholding and includes screen woodland planting will screen any views from the landholding of the roundabout and new roads to a greater extent than the existing N69 is currently screened.
- Submission / objection No. ENV-9 states concerns with regard to the landscape and visual impact of the proposed overbridge structure located near their dwelling (Ref. A02-007). The dwelling is located on the edge of the existing N69. In section 11.6.2 and Table 11.9 of Volume 2 of the EIAR the assessment acknowledges that there will be visual impact and assesses the short term impact as significant and negative, which will mitigate over time, giving the medium-term impact as moderate and negative. The submission also requests that a "thorough landscape mitigation plan would be provided in the detailed design" and that this plan should be in line with TII best practice guidelines. The finalised landscape mitigation plan which shall, at the very least, incorporate the scheme of landscape reinstatement measures identified in the EIAR, will be provided at the detailed design stage. This submission also states that "*no photomontage has been made available to show the finished proposed development view post mitigation.*" Photomontage VP3 in Volume 5A of the EIAR shows the proposed development in the context of this dwelling's views and Figure 11.2 of Volume 3 shows the proposals in plan.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-91: The house on the property in question, north of the existing N69 and at least 400m from the proposed road is set relatively low in the landscape and there are hedgerows and trees and rolling topography in the existing intervening landscape. It was not identified as a sensitive visual receptor in the landscape study as it is not considered to have any appreciable views of the proposed road or associated elements and the landscape as viewed from this property is highly unlikely to change in a manner that would injure visual amenity. This location was reviewed again on site in January 2021 in advance of this hearing and there has been no change since which would alter this assessment.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-19: The house on the property in question, north of the existing N69 and at least 400m from the proposed road, with hedgerows and trees in the existing landscape, was not identified as a sensitive visual receptor in the landscape study as it is not considered to have any appreciable views of the proposed roads nor will the road interfere with any existing distant views to the south from these properties. See Figure 11.2 of Volume 3 of the EIAR for plans showing the proposed landscape measures.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-64: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. C20-001, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Realigned L-1220 and mainline sections B & C both visible on fill from dwelling in elevated position" where the dwelling currently has open views to west and north across an agricultural landscape. Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.7 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a slight negative residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new road and overbridge will become less visible.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-48: As there is no house on the property in question, at Ch.21+000-22.200, this landholding was not identified as a sensitive visual receptor in the landscape study.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-81: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. C22-001, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Realigned L-1236 on fill over mainline visible to north-east <100m and mainline on fill visible to north c.200m from property." Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.8 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a slight negative residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new road and overbridge will become less visible.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-90: The house on the property in question, is at least 500m south of the proposed road, with large outbuildings to the north and hedgerows and trees in the existing landscape. It was not identified as a sensitive receptor in the study as it is not considered to have any appreciable views of the proposed road nor will the road interfere with any existing views from these properties.
- Submission / objection No. FI-8: This submission refers to noise pollution and makes specific reference to noise barriers having "huge aesthetic implications blocking views". The specific landholding to which this submission relates is from Ch24+350 to 25+150 and there are no noise barriers proposed here. Please see Figure 11.9 of Volume 3 of the EIAR which illustrates this point. The concern appears to be more general across the landscape. There are approximately 15.5km of noise barriers proposed along the proposed road development, which is c.22% of the length of the total length of the route. While it may be the case that the proposed noise barriers may contribute to restricting views in some situations, they will also add to the visual screening effects of road traffic from visual receptors and are usually located in combination with landscape mitigation

measures so they themselves will be screened and the effect that they have on the views is considered in the landscape and visual assessment.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-16: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. C25-003, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Mainline on fill partially visible to north and east from [a distance of greater than] 300m away." Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.10 (Volume 3) this is considered to be an imperceptible residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new road will not be visible.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-106: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. D54-012, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Mainline in cut partially visible to south & east; access road in cut visible to side of property. Existing walls, trees and hedgerows partially screen access roads. Views over landscape to northwest, north, northeast unaffected." Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.15 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a slight negative residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new road and overbridge will become less visible.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-110: As there is no house on the landholdings in question, near the proposed Croagh Roundabout, this was not identified as a sensitive visual receptor in the landscape study.
- Submission / objection No. ENV-19: This submission relates to a site for future development at Ch.56+600 so was not identified or included as a sensitive visual receptor in the landscape study. An adjacent house in this area, Ref. D56-013, was assessed and the residual impact on the dwelling following establishment of planting shown on Figure 11.17 of Volume 3 of the EIAR will be moderate and negative, so it is reasonable to assume that this would be the same for an adjacent property in a similar context. Photomontage VP20 in Volume 5 of the EIAR taken at this location.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-114: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. D57-013, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Road on fill / embankments likely to be partially visible where it crosses railway, with existing trees creating screening." Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.18 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a slight negative residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new infrastructure will become less visible.
- Submission / objection No. ENV-13: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. D57-015, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Road on fill / embankments likely to be visible where it crosses railway, with existing trees removed." Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.18 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a slight negative residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new infrastructure will become less visible.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-123: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. D57-016, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Road on fill / embankments likely to be partially visible where it crosses railway, with existing trees creating screening." Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.18 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a slight negative residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new infrastructure will become less visible.
- Submission / objection No. ENV-18 states concerns in relation to landscape and visual impact with particular emphasis on the height of the proposed bridge over

the Greanagh River at 9.2m above existing ground level and states that this “*will remain a major eye sore and ugly development of a permanent structure.*” The bridge is a substantial structure and will contrast with the existing landscape, particularly in the short term, and the EIAR states in Table 11.8 (Chapter 11, Volume 2), that there will be slight negative residual landscape impacts on the area of the river around the bridge when mitigation measures are fully established. Particular reference is made in submission ENV-18 to the impact on the view from the L-1422 road and the fact that no photomontage was prepared to illustrate this view. This view from a public road was not considered a particularly sensitive viewpoint in accordance with the methodology of the visual assessment and was not assessed specifically in the EIAR. This submission also includes a photograph taken from the L-1422 road showing the landscape with mark-ups estimating the height of the Greanagh River Bridge. There is no comparable photomontage from this location, but based on a review of Photomontage VP25 (Volume 5B of EIAR) which shows the River Maigue Bridge from a similar distance and angle it is very likely that the bridge will not be as prominent as the marked-up photograph suggests. (Both bridges are approximately 9m above the river banks and 250m from the camera location; but it should be noted that the Maigue Bridge is a significantly longer structure.) The views from dwellings adjacent were assessed and significant or slight negative residual impacts were found from three nearby dwellings, although the dwelling of the author of this submission (Ref. D59-007) is 240m from the bridge and views of the bridge are partially screened by trees and river embankments in the intervening landscape so the residual impact is considered slight and negative. SLM15 in Section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 of the EIAR is proposed to address the impacts identified at the Greanagh River crossing and includes for provision of appropriate planting to screen the bridge structure from visual receptors on both sides of the proposed road development and integrate into landscape and riparian planting (see section 11.5.1 of Volume 2 of the EIAR and Figure 11.18 of Volume 3) to the river area. The submission also requests that a “*satisfactory landscape mitigation*” should be provided. Please see further response to this submission under section 4.2.7 for full response to this item (under Submission / objection No. ENV-18).

- Submission / objection No. SCH-31: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. D60-004, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: “L-1423 realignment pulled away from property giving more space but is on fill so will be more visible. Mainline partially visible to north.” Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.19 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a moderate (winter) or slight (summer) negative residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new road overbridge will become less visible.
- Submission / objection No. ENV-29 states an objection as they “have no details of provisions made to consider the impact this will have on [their] property.” This dwelling (ref. D60-013) was assessed in Chapter 11 of the EIAR and it was noted at the time of the assessment that the property was “partially enclosed by vegetation to all sides” which would have had the effect of reducing the exposure of views from the house to the north towards the proposed road and east to the proposed accommodation track. Based on this analysis, in the EIAR (Table 11.9, Chapter 11, Volume 2), it was concluded that impacts on this dwelling would be imperceptible. Upon recent review of field work in advance of this hearing, there appears to have been change in the landscape of this property since the assessment was carried out, with some hedgerow or trees which were to the north of the property having been removed, which means that views of the property are now more open to the north across the existing agricultural

landscape and it will have more open views of the proposed mainline on fill to the north, some 165m from the property. Views of the bridge over the River Maigue to the northeast and an accommodation track to the east are screened by an existing hedge and tree line. SLM 17 (see section 11.5.2 of Volume 2 and Figure 11.19 of Volume 3) is proposed and includes the following planting measures: "...appropriate riparian planting, taking into account the Project Ecologist's recommendations... Screen planting to mitigate the visual impacts of the road will, where possible, be in keeping with the riparian character of this location and parkland trees should be included in hedgerows. Noise barriers to be screened with hedgerow or shrub species." In this instance, taking these measures into account and the distance of this dwelling from the mainline (165m), the effects on views from this dwelling are considered to be permanent, slight and negative.

- Submission / objection No. SCH-33: The visual impact on the house in question, Ref. D61-005, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Mainline on fill will be partially visible to north & visible to west. Bridge over Maigue River and rail line also visible at c.300m distance. Existing trees and hedgerows partially screen road on fill." Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.20 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a slight negative residual impact as the new trees will merge with the tree cover in the area and the new infrastructure will become less visible.
- Submission / objection No. SCH-44: The visual impact on the houses in question, Ref. D62-012, D62-015, is stated to be as follows in Volume 2 of the EIAR, Table 11.9: "Mainline on fill will be partially visible to north. Existing trees and hedgerows screen road on fill." Following establishment of screen planting, as shown on Figure 11.21 (Volume 3), this is considered to be a "not significant" negative residual impact as the new trees will screen the new road effectively.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 It is acknowledged in the landscape and visual assessment presented in the Chapter 11 of the EIAR that the proposed road development will give rise to significant landscape and visual impacts for residents, communities, properties, etc. located along the corridor. These impacts are accurately and fully assessed in the EIAR.
- 5.2 It is understandable that the proposed road development has attracted observations, objections and submissions in relation to landscape and visual aspects from the public and other stakeholders.
- 5.3 While significant impacts have been identified, it must also be noted that appropriate and comprehensive landscape and visual mitigation measures have been detailed in Section 11.5 of Chapter 11 of the EIAR. As set out in this statement of evidence, these measures address the significant impacts identified in the assessment and raised in the objections/submissions to An Bord Pleanála.
- 5.4 With the exception of the update to the visual assessment of receptor D60-013 (Submission Ref. ENV-29) as noted above, the findings of the landscape and visual assessment presented in the EIAR, and as clarified in this brief of evidence, have not been altered by the contents of the objections and submissions.

Appendix A

The following submissions have been responded to in this Brief of Evidence:

Submissions Responded to in the Brief of Evidence	
ENV-	4, 5, 9, 13, 18, 19, 26, 29.
SCH-	4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, 48, 49, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 61, 62, 64, 66, 67, 68, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 90, 91, 92, 96, 98, 99, 101, 104, 105, 106, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 119, 123.
FI-	8

APPENDIX B

ILLUSTRATIONS