

## **Appendix 7: Landscape Character Areas**



## Landscape Assessment Study and Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) attempts to describe landscapes in terms of their character in an objective way. This can be used to inform decision making in relation to the protection of the environment, natural resources and heritage, to monitor change and to guide development. The Landscape Character Assessment for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown divides the County into 14 Landscape Character Areas. A description of each Landscape Character Area and principles for development for each are detailed. The original LCA was finalised in May 2002 and has subsequently been updated in the 2010 – 2016 Plan and also for this current County Development Plan. The Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaelteach's National Landscape Strategy for Ireland, 2014 – 2024, when finalised is likely to include new guidance on carrying out LCA. It is envisaged that the existing assessment will be reviewed in due course to ensure consistency with any new forthcoming Government guidance.

Description	Sensitivity/Strategy
<p><b>1.Kilmashogue Valley</b></p> <p>This enclosure is bounded by the M50 motorway to the north, Glendoo to the south, Tibradden Mountain to the West and Kilmashogue to the east. Because this is an area of high relief, the boundaries are actually landform features.</p> <p>The upper reaches of this enclosure – i.e. the upper valley between Tibradden Lane and Kilmashogue Lane is almost completely hidden from the view of the rest of the enclosure and indeed the outside world. This portion of the enclosure retains its rural feel with planned older hedges retained in the main. In the higher reaches, sheep graze in the fields. This is essentially an upland grazing area. Some field boundaries take the form of stone walls. The upper reaches have been afforested but not to the same extent as other upland areas in the County.</p> <p>Further down valley again, the field pattern becomes larger, the development more concentrated and the features of a large urban settlement in the form of pylons and the M50 motorway begin to impinge on the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kilmashogue Valley is currently one of the County's finest unspoilt valley landscapes, which is currently not protected by any particular status. Any development in this valley should be carefully considered and be in sympathy with the existing landscape. The upper portion of the valley has not been affected by large-scale afforestation.</li><li>Existing deciduous trees especially those around Larch Hill shall be afforded continuing protection.</li><li>Buildings – the rural character of the built fabric of the valley shall be maintained along with the avoidance of suburbanisation. Any permitted development shall be vernacular in design, mass and scale and in accordance with the policies of the Development Plan.</li><li>Roads - any plans for road realignment or improvements shall take account of the existing hedgerows.</li><li>Pylons and masts – careful consideration shall be taken of any proposals for pylon schemes to traverse the valley.</li><li>Afforestation (coniferous species) – careful consideration shall be given to the landscape impact of large scale afforestation on the upper reaches of either Kilmashogue or Tibradden Mountain.</li><li>Resist aspirations for large scale residential development.</li><li>Ensure protection of non-designated sites.</li><li>Protect existing hedgerows particularly those identified as</li></ul>

<b>Description</b>	<b>Sensitivity/Strategy</b>
	priority hedgerows in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown hedgerow survey.
<p><b>2. Western Half of Kellystown Road</b></p> <p>This enclosure is bounded by Kilmashogue Mountain to the west, Three Rock to the south, the M50 motorway to the north and a small rocky outcrop (the remains of a quarry) to the east.</p> <p>The area runs steeply upwards from the motorway. St Columba's school (originally Hollybrook House) is at the Northern end of the enclosure. The M50 Motorway effectively contains this enclosure. Some suburban development has infiltrated up the valley. Individual fields give way to Stackstown Golf Course which ends with the tree line of Kilmashogue Woods stretching upwards to Kilmashogue Mountain and eastwards to Three Rock Mountain. Views in the upper reaches have been obscured by coniferous plantations. At the bend on Kellystown Lane the view downwards to the city is obscured by a line of pylons traversing the enclosure. The Little Dargle River valley is delineated by deciduous trees along its reaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing hedgerows and stone walls shall be maintained.</li> <li>• Deciduous trees in the river valley shall be protected.</li> <li>• Roads - any plans for road improvements shall take account of the existing hedgerows.</li> <li>• Pylons and masts - careful consideration shall be taken of any proposals for pylon schemes to traverse the County.</li> <li>• Afforestation (coniferous species) - careful consideration shall be given to the landscape impact of large scale afforestation.</li> <li>• Protect existing hedgerows particularly those identified as priority hedgerows in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown hedgerow survey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.Ticknock Road</b></p> <p>From the top of the enclosure one obtains a panoramic view of the city. A line of pylons again traverses the view. From the upper reaches of the valley existing development appears to nestle discreetly in hollows or wooded areas. The coniferous treeline along Three Rock provides a stark boundary to the east. The traditional planned field pattern is delineated by stone walls and hedgerows. Afforestation has altered the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regard to be had to the restoration and conservation of field patterns.</li> <li>• Building - any permitted development shall be vernacular in design, scale and mass and shall nestle into the existing landscape.</li> <li>• Pylons and Masts - careful consideration shall be given to proposals for pylon schemes traversing the landscape.</li> <li>• Afforestation - careful consideration shall be given to landscape impact of large scale coniferous afforestation and resultant harvesting on the upper reaches of the Mountains bounding this enclosure. Closing off of the slopes shall be avoided.</li> <li>• Existing parklands associated with demesne houses shall be treated on an individual basis. It is recommended that historical survey and analysis be carried out prior to any alterations.</li> </ul>

<b>Description</b>	<b>Sensitivity/Strategy</b>
<p><b>4. Marlay Park</b></p> <p>This enclosure contains Marlay House and 18th century demesne which is one of the largest to remain intact in the entire County of Dublin. A portion of the original demesne is now a public park with much of the original estate wall still intact. Marlay Park provides a good buffer between the foothills of the Dublin Mountains and the built up area of the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To progress the Masterplan for Marlay Demesne with a focus on the conservation of the heritage of Marlay Park, the provision of quality recreational facilities, maintaining the highest standard of horticultural and landscape presentation and increasing accessibility of the Park, Marlay House and its amenities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Kiltiernan Plain</b></p> <p>This is a large enclosure which comprises the hillocky plain lying between Three Rock to the west, Newtown, Barnaslingan (The Scalp) and Carrickgollogan to the south, the disused lead mines and chimney to the east. The enclosure is curtailed to the north by the coniferous plantation on Three Rock. The edge of Stepaside Area Action Plan and Ticknick also forms a boundary to the north east.</p> <p>This enclosure is characterised by a series of smaller hillocks within a plain. Roads run between the undulations most notably the main Enniskerry Road running north-south from Stepaside and disappearing into the Scalp.</p> <p>This large hillocky plain which is part of the foothills of the Dublin Mountains accommodates much of the rural development in the County (Kiltiernan and Stepaside). Given its terrain and the number of routeways traversing this plain, it is likely to be subject to the most pressure for long-term development which would significantly alter the existing landscape.</p> <p>The area has accommodated much change generated by the pressures of being adjacent to a large urban area. New residential communities have been provided for and will continue to be provided for with the adoption of Stepaside Action Area Plan (2000) and the Kiltiernan/Glenamuck Local Area Plan 2013.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a risk that continued linear development along the road between Kiltiernan and Stepaside will simply merge the two villages into a continuous built up strip. Settlement strategy shall concentrate on the consolidation of these villages along with the provision of a substantial open space buffer zone between the two to prevent coalescence. To have regard to the policies and objectives of Kiltiernan/Glenamuck Local Area Plan 2013.</li> <li>Protect existing hedgerows particularly those identified as priority hedgerows in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown hedgerow survey.</li> <li>To have regard to the recommendations and findings of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Kiltiernan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Ballycorus</b></p> <p>This enclosure encompasses the valley along which runs the Ballycorus Road and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition of the important role of Ballycorus leadmines in the past.</li> <li>Dingle Glen is a sensitive landscape</li> </ul>

Description	Sensitivity/Strategy
<p>is bounded by the disused lead mines to the south and Ticknick and the Glenamuck Road to the north, Barnaslingan to the west with Three Rock in the background. This enclosure displays past and also present industrial/extractive works. The past is in the form of the old leadworks especially the lead mine's chimney. Quarrying/extraction has continued into the present with the activities of Cement Roadstone in the valley. The north western portion of this enclosure has altered considerably since the original Landscape Character Assessment. Considerable development has occurred along the Glenamuck Road in accordance with the Kiltiernan/Glenamuck Local Area Plan 2013.</p>	<p>and shall be afforded protection due to its rarity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance and restoration of field patterns and boundaries.</li> <li>To have regard to the recommendations and findings of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Kiltiernan.</li> <li>To have regard to the policies and objectives of Kiltiernan/Glenamuck Local Area Plan 2013.</li> <li>Protect existing hedgerows particularly those identified as priority hedgerows in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown hedgerow survey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Glencullen Valley</b></p> <p>The enclosure of the Glencullen Valley is possibly the most tranquil, unspoilt, high amenity area in the County which is further enhanced by the presence of the village of Glencullen at the crossroads in the valley. Although the river valley stretches beyond the boundary of this enclosure it was felt more appropriate - due to characteristics and distinctiveness - to divide the valley into two enclosures – No. 7 and No. 8.</p> <p>The village of Glencullen nestles at a crossroads in the middle of an upland valley contained by Glencullen Mountain to the west, Ballybrew (Co. Wicklow) to the south, the Scalp (Killegar) to the east and Newtown Hill and Two Rock to the north. When approached either from Kiltiernan or the Ballyedmondmonduff Road, there is a point along each road where one enters what can be termed 'Glencullen Valley'. The sense of a village at a height contained within an armchair of hills is evident. The village and the valley are possibly best viewed from the Killegar Road outside the County. From this view point the fact that the village is being gradually elongated due to one-off housing is also evident.</p> <p>Field patterns predominate and are delineated by stone walls in some cases. Coniferous forestation along with one-off housing has had the largest impact on the landscape. The upper reaches of Glendoo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a highly sensitive landscape in which any development must be handled with care. Linear elongation of the existing Glencullen village shall be avoided. Instead consolidation shall be encouraged.</li> <li>Building – any new development shall respect the vernacular in design, mass and scale. Development on ridges shall be avoided.</li> <li>Encouragement of tree planting of native species in low lying area and on hills.</li> <li>The impact of coniferous plantations on the hills shall be noted and further proposals assessed.</li> <li>Existing stone walls shall be restored and maintained. Protect existing hedgerows particularly those identified as priority hedgerows in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown hedgerow survey. To have regard to the recommendations and findings of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Glencullen.</li> <li>To have regard to the policies and objectives of the Glencullen Local Area Plan, adopted by Council in November 2007 (lifetime extended from 2013 - 2018)</li> <li>To concentrate all new housing development within the village core and specific identified rural</li> </ul>

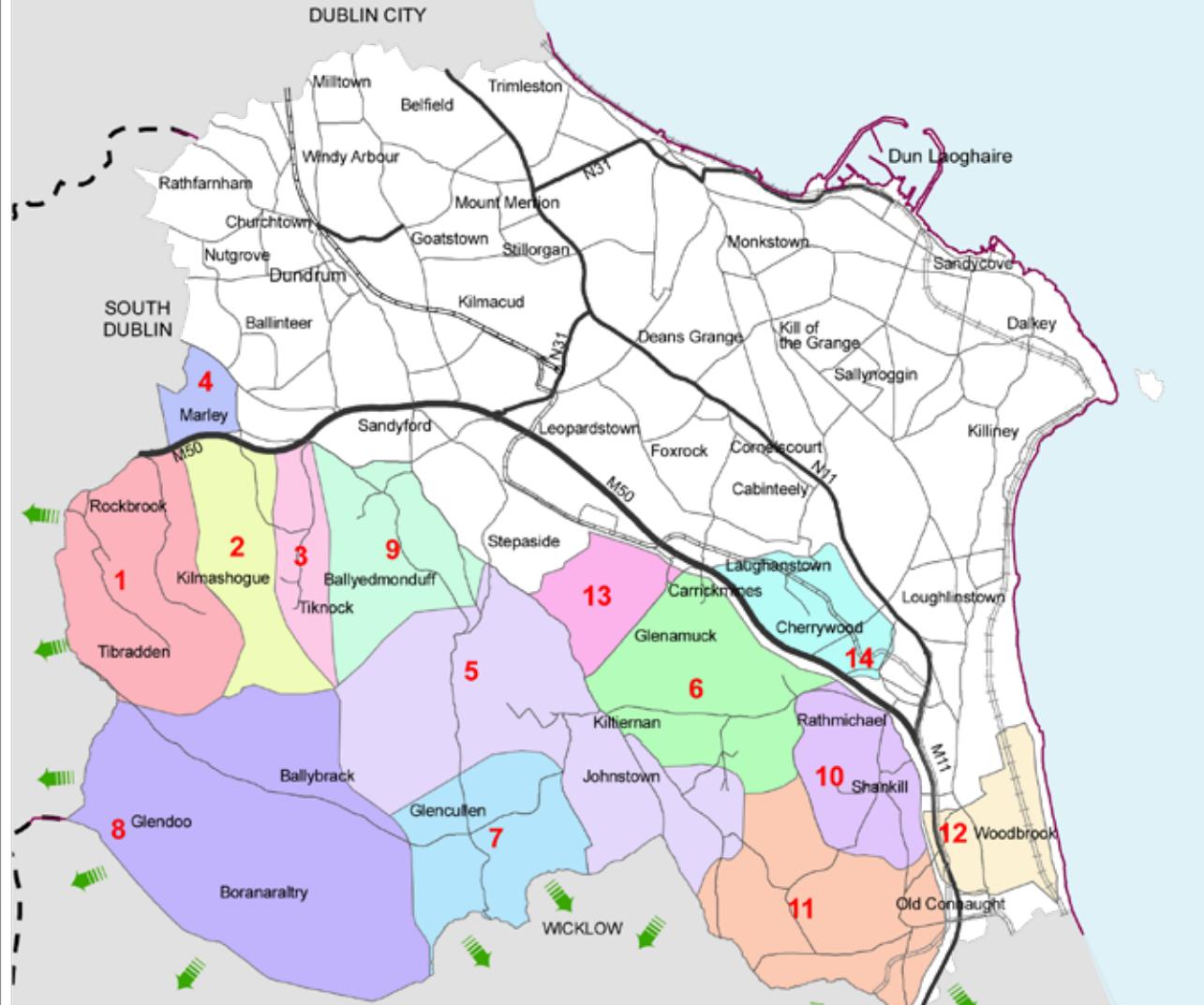
Description	Sensitivity/Strategy
<p>are afforested -as is the east portion of Newtown Hill. The valley contains a wealth of archaeological sites and artefacts of importance. In the lower reaches of the valley the course of the river is delineated by native scrubland and deciduous woodland.</p> <p>The pNHA Ballybetagh bog lies within this enclosure. Ballybetagh bog includes three separate areas of marsh land situated approximately 5 km north-west of Enniskerry.</p> <p>Knocksink Wood, a proposed Natural Heritage Area of international importance, is situated in the south of this enclosure, just north west of Enniskerry. The steep sided valley falls down to the Glencullen River which meanders over granite boulders along the valley floor.</p>	<p>clusters. Residential development in the form of new dwelling houses will not be permitted outside the designated village core and rural clusters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement the Source Protection Plan at Glencullen and to prohibit any development which would conflict with the objectives of the Source Protection Plan which was completed in November 2005.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Glendoo Valley</b></p> <p>This enclosure encompasses much of the Glencullen river valley and is bounded on either side by Glendoo Mountain and Two Rock Mountain. The upper reaches of Glendoo Mountain which are forested but underlain with peat form part of the proposed Wicklow Uplands Park. From the northern end of this enclosure the view is one of an unspoilt rural landscape with traditional field boundaries delineated by stone walls. Scrubland and deciduous species predominate in this river valley. Development is sparse and the land use is still predominantly agricultural (sheep grazing).</p> <p>To the west, Glendoo Mountain has been altered by dense coniferous afforestation and the resultant forest tracks which are part of the Wicklow Way are clearly visible snaking up the hillside. Looking northwards from the same point the view is again of a rural landscape – predominantly peat on the upper reaches.</p> <p>The Uplands Park which covers much of upland Wicklow, contains an area of approximately 20,000 hectares. Part of this vast area falls within the Glendoo enclosure and the County boundary. This includes large areas of mountain blanket bogs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to support the amenity/recreational value of the Wicklow Way as it passes through the Glendoo Valley.</li> <li>Field patterns and stone walls shall be conserved. To have regard to the recommendations and findings of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Glencullen</li> <li>The nature of this valley landscape renders it a sensitive landscape. Extensive planting of forestry would be detrimental to this landscape.</li> <li>Pylons and masts – careful consideration shall be taken of any proposals for pylon schemes to traverse the valley.</li> </ul>

<b>Description</b>	<b>Sensitivity/Strategy</b>
<p><b>9. Barnacullia</b></p> <p>This enclosure encompasses the elevated slopes rising from Stepaside village up towards Three Rock Mountain. Three of the boundaries are man made features – the roadway, the plantation forest and the edge of the built up area of the city. The enclosure can be almost subdivided into two separate enclosures by the Barnacullia Road. To the west of this road the land slopes steeply upwards to the summit of Three Rock Mountain. The most significant feature is the granite quarry which is clearly visible from a number of viewpoints within the County and from 2 kilometres off shore in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>One-off housing is dotted up the mountainside with almost continuous ribbon development along the road. To the east of the Barnacullia Road the landscape is gentler in slope and characterised by irregular fields broken up by deciduous tree belts. One-off housing is again prevalent along the lower side of the roadway although views down the valley are currently protected. The noise of traffic in Sandyford Village is audible and a line of large pylons traverses the enclosure. This enclosure also includes the area containing the pNHA Fitzsimons Wood which occupies an area of approximately 8 hectares near Lamb's Cross.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area has already absorbed considerable residential development along its main routeways. At present the Enniskerry Road R117 acts as a boundary between urban and rural developments as the land begins to rise steeply to the west of this roadway.</li> <li>• The impact of any further pylon schemes on the landscape shall be carefully assessed.</li> <li>• Any new residential development shall maintain the rural character of the area and should not be obtrusive on the horizon.</li> <li>• The impact of further extractive industries on the elevated slopes of Three Rock shall be carefully assessed.</li> <li>• Possible road improvement schemes including the Stepaside Relief Road shall not adversely affect hedgerows and walls.</li> <li>• To have regard to the recommendations and findings of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Barnacullia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Rathmichael</b></p> <p>This enclosure encompasses the area between the Rathmichael Road and Carrickgollogan. At present the area slopes gently westwards up to Carrickgollogan. A number of roads with virtually intact hedgerows criss-cross the area giving a rural ambience, despite the fact that the area is dotted with enclaves of low density residential units – often 3 or 4 units, 17 in one case - all set in their own large sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of natural ambience.</li> <li>• Protection of deciduous tree belts.</li> <li>• To have regard to the recommendations and findings of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Rathmichael</li> <li>• The Rathmichael Groundwater Protection Study contains a policy in relation to the Crinken catchment and has deemed that certain parts of this area are not suitable for further development due to the cumulative effect of septic tanks on ground water.</li> </ul>

<b>Description</b>	<b>Sensitivity/Strategy</b>
<p><b>11.Ballyman</b></p> <p>This enclosure encompasses the large plain between the Scalp and the Little Sugar Loaf and Great Sugar Loaf. This enclosure stretches beyond the geographical boundary of the County and beyond the area defined as Ballyman. The area has a distinctively rural feel with an open landscape and agricultural activities. It is a regular landscape with the fields generally larger than in the rest of the agricultural part of the County. This is possibly due to the upland nature of much of the rural area of the County. Fields are delineated by low hedges and trees. Moving away from the rolling plain afforestation prevails on the upper reaches of Killegar and Barnaslingan which rise on either side of The Scalp.</p> <p>Dún Laoghaire Golf Course is located on the Ballyman Glen on either side of Ballyman Road.</p> <p>Between Carrickgollogan and the Ballyman Road a line of pylons traverses the site and crosses the Ballyman Road amidst residential development. This enclosure also includes the village settlement of Old Conna and the area around this settlement which is zoned for future development but which is currently unserviced in terms of water and waste water infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area is distinctively agricultural and low lying in nature with views across to Bray Head and the Sugar Loaf.</li> <li>• Some of the area falls outside the County and as such the Council shall work with Wicklow County Council on formulating policy for this area.</li> <li>• Prevention of unauthorised dumping.</li> <li>• To have regard to the recommendations and findings of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Old Connaught.</li> <li>• Protect existing hedgerows particularly those identified as priority hedgerows in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown hedgerow survey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Shanganagh</b></p> <p>This enclosure is essentially the area between Shankill and Bray which takes in the cemetery at Shanganagh, Shanganagh Park and Woodbrook golf course. This enclosure also includes the land to the west between the Dublin Road and the N11. The Dublin Road from Shankill to Bray traverses this enclosure. Big houses include The Aske, Beauchamp, Wilford, Woodbrook and Shanganagh House.</p> <p>When viewed from Killiney Hill and also from Carrickgollogan this area belt is effectively indistinguishable from the overall plain. The entire expanse appears to be dominated by low-density housing. When viewed from the Dublin Road, the trees prevent any sense of a vista but</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The functioning of this area, as a green belt is reassessed in light of its proximity to the DART line and also given that the vista nature of Crinken can be retained while allowing further development.</li> <li>• The sylvan character of the Old Dublin Road shall be maintained.</li> <li>• To have regard to the policies and objectives of the Woodbrook/Shanganagh Local Area Plan 2006-2016 adopted in November 2006.</li> </ul>

<b>Description</b>	<b>Sensitivity/Strategy</b>
instead provide for a tree lined Avenue.	
<p><b>13. Carrickmines</b></p> <p>This enclosure encompasses the area east of the Stepaside Action Area and is bounded by the motorway to the north, the Glenamuck Road to the South and the Enniskerry Road to the west. The most dominant visual feature of this enclosure is the new 50 acre Retail Park at Carrickmines intersection of the M50. The former Ballyogan landfill which is earmarked for future development as a park is located at the edge of the built up area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and functions as a buffer between the more densely built-up area of Leopardstown/Stepaside and the lower density suburban generated housing area of Kiltiernan.</p> <p>This enclosure is best viewed from a height adjacent to Dingle Glen pNHA. From this viewpoint one gets a clear view of the enclosure. The impact of the multitude of urban uses – the tiphead, retail park, pylons and houses on the landscape is evident.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This enclosure sits between the urban and the rural landscapes and is capable of accommodating development.</li> <li>• The future vision for this area offers an opportunity to enhance and restore a portion of the landscape as a public park (former Ballyogan tiphead). It is envisaged that this area will serve as an amenity/recreation area for new communities at Stepaside and Carrickmines. To have regard to the policies and objectives of Kiltiernan/Glenamuck Local Area Plan adopted in July 2007 and extended in 2013 until 2018.</li> <li>• To have regard to the recommendations and findings of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Kiltiernan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>14.Cherrywood/Rathmichael</b></p> <p>This area was originally outlined in the Landscape Character Assessment Study as it was an area undergoing significant change with the introduction of the Luas B1 line and the development of the Cherrywood Science and Technology Park. This area is now subject to the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) Planning Scheme which was adopted by An Bord Pleanála in April 2014.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development in this area will be in accordance with the adopted SDZ Planning Scheme.</li> </ul>

## Appendix 7



## Landscape Assessment Study and Landscape Character Areas

### Legend

1, KILMASHOGUE VALLEY	6, BALLYCORUS	11, BALLYMAN
2, WESTERN HALF OF KELLYSTOWN RD	7, GLEN CULLEN VALLEY	12, SHANGANAGH
3, TICKNOCK	8, GLENNOO VALLEY	13, CARRICKMINES
4, MARLEY PARK	9, BARNACULLIA	14, CHERRYWOOD/RATHMICHEAL
5, KILTIERNAN PLAIN	10, RATHMICHAEL	↑ INDICATES AREA EXTENDS BEYOND COUNTY BOUNDARY

