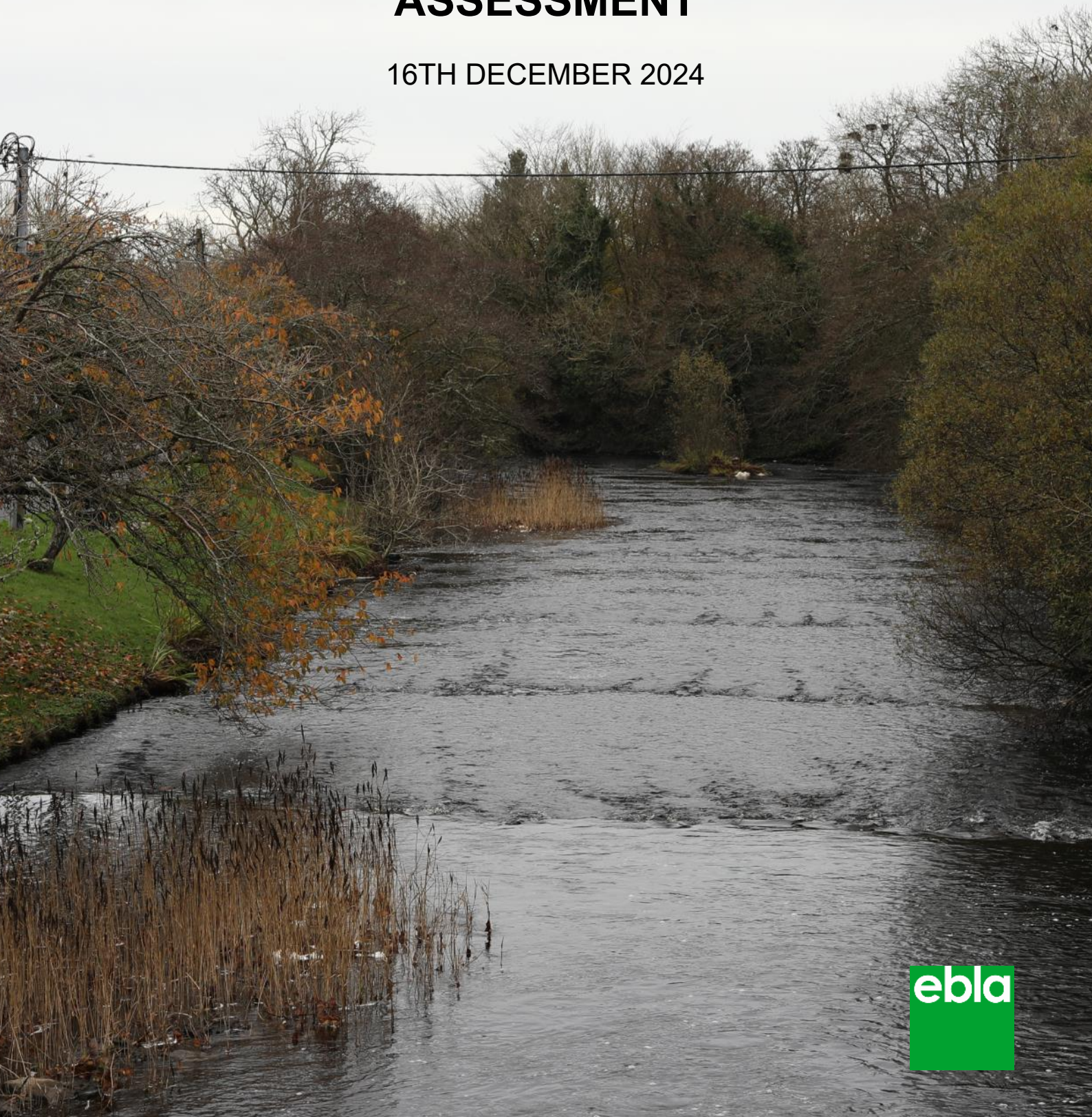


GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

**N59 OUGHTERARD FOOTBRIDGE,  
OUGHTERARD, CO. GALWAY**

**LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT**

16TH DECEMBER 2024





# N59 Oughterard Footbridge, Oughterard, Co. Galway

## Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been prepared by Eamonn Byrne Landscape Architects Ltd (EBLA), a Registered Practice of the Landscape Institute, regarding the proposed pedestrian bridge at Oughterard, Co. Galway.
- 1.2 LVIA is used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from a development. The two components of LVIA are:
- Assessment of landscape effects: assessing effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right;
  - Assessment of visual effects: assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
- 1.3 Landscape is defined by the European Landscape Convention<sup>1</sup> as 'an area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.
- 1.4 The study was carried out in November and December 2024 through a combination of desk studies and field surveys within and around the study area. The assessment was carried out in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition<sup>2</sup>. A detailed methodology is set out at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 A desk study was carried out to capture issues of importance relevant to landscape character and visual amenity. Sources consulted are included at Section 11, References.

### Study Area

- 1.6 The Study Area for the assessment was devised as an area sufficient to enable the potential effects of the proposals on landscape character and views/ visual amenity to be analysed. The area is within 250m of the proposed development and includes the Visual Envelope of the proposed development as well as the site itself. Refer to Visibility Drawing, Appendix 3.

### Study Constraints

- 1.7 The field study was undertaken in November 2024 when deciduous vegetation was mostly not in leaf; therefore, the worst-case scenario in terms of visibility was largely assessed. A panoramic viewpoint image was not taken from Oughterard Bridge due to lack of a safe space to set up a tripod, instead a single frame viewpoint image only was taken at this location.

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Europe Landscape Convention as amended by the 2016 Protocol (2000), Council of Europe.

<sup>2</sup> Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), Oxon: Routledge.



## 2.0 Project Description

- 2.1 The proposal relates to the development of a proposed pedestrian bridge over the Owenriff River located northeast of the existing N59 Oughterard Bridge. Details of the proposed development including site plans, are included in Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The proposed development will comprise; a bow sting truss pedestrian bridge, pedestrian/zebra crossings at Clifden Road and Carrowmanagh and associated landscaping. A path will connect the bridge to Main Street and a ramp and steps will connect the bridge to the riverside walk and local road at Carrowmanagh.
- 2.3 The purpose of the N59 Oughterard Footbridge project is to provide a safe and convenient crossing for vulnerable road users (VRU's) over the Owenriff River in Oughterard and to minimise the number of VRU's crossing over the existing N59 road bridge, which is narrow and has no footpaths.
- 2.4 AtkinsRéalis prepared the 'Location Option Appraisal' Technical Note (doc. ref. 0088798DG0014) which documents a multi criteria analysis (MCA) of several different location options for the proposed footbridge. A copy of the report will be submitted with the planning application. The report concluded that a single span crossing of the river approx. 150m downstream of the existing N59 road bridge is the preferred location option. This location aligns with the main pedestrian desire line between Carrowmanagh and the town centre, allows substructures to be setback from the riverbank crest, and enables tie-into adjacent existing footways via zebra crossings over the roads.
- 2.5 A section of existing stone wall will be removed to facilitate the bridge crossing at Main Street. Some existing trees at the subject site will be removed and replaced with new planting. The proposals will provide a new link between Main Street and Carrowmanagh and improvements to pedestrian circulation.

## 3.0 Planning Context

- 3.1 This section summarises relevant local landscape planning policy and landscape designations. Information on landscape character is described under the landscape baseline at Section 4.0 below.
- 3.2 The following policies from the **Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028**, adopted June 2022 relevant to the application site are as follows;
- 3.3 *Policy Objective PM1: Placemaking.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference to the following: 'To promote and facilitate the sustainable development of a high-quality built environment where there is a distinctive sense of place in attractive streets, spaces, and neighbourhoods that are accessible and safe places for all members of the community to meet and socialise.'

- 3.4 *Policy Objective PM8: Character and Identity.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following: 'Ensure the best quality of design is achieved for all new development and that design respects and enhances the specific characteristics unique features of the towns and villages throughout the County.'

- 3.5 *Policy Objective PM12: Permeability.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following: 'Encourage improved permeability in town centres including the connection of blueways and greenways to adjacent towns. Ensure appropriate signage strategies are in place to direct visitors and residents to key public spaces and attractions.'

- 3.6 *Policy Objective PM13: Public Realm Opportunities.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following: 'Promote enhanced and increased public realm opportunities including the shared use of spaces, for outdoor experiences, with a priority on pedestrian uses.'

- 3.7 *Policy Objective CGR9: Delivering Improved Public Realm.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following: 'Provide for a high-quality public realm and public spaces in towns and villages by promoting quality design that accommodates creative patterns of use having regard to the physical, cultural, and social identities of individual settlements.'

- 3.8 *Policy Objective LCM1: Preservation of Landscape Character.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following; 'Preserve and enhance the character of the landscape where, and to the extent that, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area requires it, including the preservation and enhancement, where possible of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest.'

- 3.9 *Policy Objective PVSR 1: Protected Views and Scenic Routes.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below, together with its effects upon the design of the proposals in italics underneath each requirement.

Includes reference the following; 'Preserve the protected views and scenic routes as detailed in Maps 8.3 and 8.4 from development that in the view of the Planning Authority would negatively impact on said protected views and scenic routes. This shall be balanced against the need to develop key infrastructure to meet the strategic aims of the plan.'

*There are no protected views within the study area.*

- 3.10 *Policy Objective TWHS 1: Trees, Hedgerows, Natural Boundaries and Stone Walls.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following; 'Protect and seek to retain important trees, tree clusters and tree boundaries, ancient woodland, natural boundaries including stonewalls, existing hedgerows particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, where possible and replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary. Ensure that new development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands and that all planting schemes developed are suitable for the specific site and use suitable native variety of trees of Irish provenance and hedgerows of native species. Seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments..'

- 3.11 *Policy Objective: TWHS 2 Planting of Trees and Woodlands.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following; 'Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and other organisations, the planting of trees and woodlands, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County's biodiversity, natural resources, amenity, landscape and developing tourism product. Encourage community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes..'



- 3.12 *Policy Objective: AH 2 Protected Structures.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following; '(a) Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of structures including their curtilage and attendant grounds included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.

(c) Ensure that development proposals are appropriate in terms of architectural treatment, character, scale and form to the existing protected structure and not detrimental to the special character and integrity of the protected structure and its setting.

(d) Ensure high quality architectural design of all new developments relating to or which may impact on structures (and their settings) included in the Record of Protected Structures.

- 3.13 *Policy Objective: AH 4 Architectural Conservation Areas.* The relevant wording of this policy is reproduced below.

Includes reference the following; 'Protect, conserve and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation

Areas (ACA) included in this plan through the appropriate management and control of the design, location and layout of new development, modifications, alterations or extensions to existing structures, surviving historic plots and street patterns and/or modifications to the character or setting of the Architectural Conservation Area. Works within the ACA shall ensure the conservation of traditional features and building elements that contribute to the character of the area. The special character of an area includes its traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscape, shop fronts, landscape and setting. New proposals shall have appropriate regard to scale, plot, form, mass, design, materials, colours and function..'

## Designations

- 3.14 The proposed footbridge and Oughterard Town Centre are located within the Oughterard Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). There are no designated archaeological heritage sites within the area of the proposed bridge. There are designated built heritage assets in the study area; none of which are located in the area of the proposed bridge, and include: Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kilcummin Church of Ireland Church, Oughterard Courthouse, National School: Oughterard National School, Oughterard Bridge and a Water pump.
- 3.15 The Western Way trail travels along Main Steet and over Oughterard Bridge and north through Carrowmanagh.
- 3.16 The N59 Road is designated as a scenic route and referred to as the Galway Clifden Scenic Route in the Galway County Development Plan. There are no protected views within the study area.

- 3.17 Designated nature conservation sites within the study area include the Owneriff River which is within Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

## 4.0 Baseline Study-Landscape

### **Landscape Character Assessment**

- 4.1 The study area is within the settlement boundary of Oughterard and therefore is not included within the Galway County Council, Landscape Character Assessment, June 2022, Appendix 4 of the Galway County Development Plan. The study area is outside but adjacent to the Urban Environs Landscape Character Type. This Type occurs throughout the county outside of the administrative boundaries of settlements of all sizes and includes urbanised environs immediately outside of settlements.

### **Oughterard Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)**

- 4.2 The study area includes Oughterard Architectural Conservation Area. Architectural Conservation Areas, Appendix 7 of the Galway County Development Plan summarises the architectural heritage and significance that relates to the designation of Oughterard ACA as follows:

#### *Architectural Heritage*

- 4.3 'Claremount (or Clareville) on the west of the river was the home of the Martin family who acquired immense lands following the Cromwellian upheavals. Road improvements between Galway and Clifden in the 1820s, directed by the famous Alexander Nimmo, included a triple arch masonry stone bridge over the Owenriff River. It would appear that most of the lots around Main Street were developed during this period. Main Street continues west from the square; Kilcummin Church of Ireland church was built along its length on the south side, in 1808, with the courthouse nearby, built c.1840. The vista to the west along the street was closed in 1829 with the erection of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The school in its foreground dates from 1888. The railway station, built in 1862, failed to attract significant development towards it, situated as it was to the southwest of the town. Adjacent to it was the large area occupied by the Union Workhouse. The further extension to Clifden did not occur until 1895. While parts of the original Station building and platform structure still remain, the Galway/Clifden line fell into gradual disuse after the closing of the line in the 1930s. The town retains many significant buildings which reflect the circumstances and the period in which they were built, whilst others, such as the workhouse, have disappeared. Other important buildings such as the railway station have been adapted to other uses. Oughterard's location as a gateway to tourist based enterprises, dating from the mid-19th century, is reflected in the survival of significant three storey buildings, with rendered exterior decoration. Terraces of two storey houses (some with basement) reflect a coherent approach to development in the mid to late 19th century along the north side of Main Street. Interspersed amongst these are single storey houses' (Galway County Council, 2022).

#### *Statement of Significance*

- 4.4 'Oughterard's significance lies in its development as a town on the intersection of the limestone based farmland to the south and east with the rugged Connemara landscape to the north and west. Its development was influenced by its location at a river crossing and



on a road network which was significantly improved in the early 19th century. It retains buildings of architectural significance built for administrative purposes, such as the courthouse, and for religious needs, such as the two churches. Oughterard's special significance lies in its development in response to the early presence of a landlord's house, Claremount, on the west of the river, and the efforts during the early 19th century to open up Connemara, by the development of the road to Clifden, the bridge spanning the river, and the presence of the army barracks. The street pattern and architectural variety of buildings, both designed and vernacular, creates a streetscape which reflects its history' (Galway County Council, 2022).

- 4.5 The field survey noted the visibility of the site from within the Oughterard Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is limited by intervening vegetation and built development.

### **Site Description**

- 4.6 The proposed bridge will be sited in Oughterard town centre at the Owenriff River and northeast of the existing N59 Oughterard Bridge.
- 4.7 At the northern river bank the bridge crossing will be located opposite a dwelling and near the junction of the local road at Carrowmanagh and a riverside track.
- 4.8 At the southern river bank the bridge crossing will be located opposite Claddagh Credit Union.
- 4.9 The southern riverbank within the site consists of part of the N59 Main Street, and part of the domestic curtilage to a private dwelling called 'the Old Barracks' which includes a stone boundary wall, hard standing and groups of trees.
- 4.10 The northern riverbank (at Carrowmanagh) within the site consists of groups of trees and hardstanding to a riverside walk and part of the local road within Carrowmanagh.

### **Landscape/ Townscape Character Study**

- 4.11 The key characterises of local landscape/ townscape character recorded following desk top study and field survey is summarised below:

#### Physical

##### *Architecture & Urban Form*

- 4.12 The historic centre of Oughterard retains the form, scale and the grain of a small mid-19th Century village. The western end of Main Street includes a combination of small scale single, two storey and three storey buildings, mostly of traditional vernacular character. The western view along Main Street is terminated at the Church of Immaculate Conception. The north-western part of Oughterard on the northern bank of Owenriff River includes semi-detached and detached houses often on large plots with front gardens, including a mix of modern and historic dwellings (John McLaughlin Architects, 2024).

- 4.13 Traditional building materials within Oughterard include slate/ thatched roofs, rendered buildings, stone masonry boundary walls and historic ironwork railings.

#### *Natural Systems*

- 4.14 Oughterard is on the intersection of the limestone based farmland to the south and east with the rugged Connemara landscape to the north and west (Galway County Council 2022).
- 4.15 The bedrock geology of the town centre and main street includes dark limestone with thin shales. The bedrock geology of the north of the Owenriff River includes dolomitic limestone, shale (Geological Survey Ireland 2024).
- 4.16 Landform within the town is gently undulating, there is noticeable level difference between the south bank of the Owenriff River and the north bank, this is reflected in the sloped vertical alignment on Oughterard Bridge.
- 4.17 West of Oughterard Bridge is Owenriff Falls, a river section, 800 m in length, with outcrops in river and in cliff (Geological Survey Ireland 2024).
- 4.18 The Owenriff River runs between Lough Adrehul and Lough Corrib. The Owenriff River flows through the town and into the nearby Lough Corrib which is situated northeast of the town.
- 4.19 The banks along the Owenriff River includes much woodland. The Owenriff River is within Lough Corrib SAC (National Parks and Wildlife Service 2024).
- 4.20 There are areas of mown amenity grass adjacent to the Owenriff River and also at the public open space at Carrowmanagh Park.

#### Cultural Social & Economic

##### *Function*

- 4.21 Oughterard is a small town including commercial, residential, religious and educational buildings, and also functions as a base for tourism into Connemara.

##### *Historical development*

- 4.22 Oughterard is located along the Galway to Clifden Road at the crossing of Owenriff River. It's is laid out along two streets, Main Street and Camp Street.
- 4.23 'Oughterard's development was influenced by its location at a river crossing and on a road network which was significantly improved in the early 19th century' (Galway Development Plan 2022).
- 4.24 'The O'Flaherties built a 15th century castle on Ross Lake, just outside Oughterard. The Martin family, which was one of the 14 tribes of Galway City, took over a large portion of

the land formerly occupied by the O'Flaherties and built a 17th century mansion on the former castle foundation. This mansion is known as Ross Castle. With the English conquest came forced suppression of all Norman and Gaelic culture and the destruction of many of the mansions and castles (many have since been restored). Over this time the prevalence of the native Irish (Gaelic) language had declined. There were then several "landlord" dwellings built and the locals began the first settlement of modern Oughterard' (Oughterard Tourism 2024).

- 4.25 'Taylor and Skinner's 1777 map depicted a star-shaped barracks located to the south of a bend in the Owenriff River. Fough Castle was torn down prior to construction of the barracks and its stones were used in its construction. In the nineteenth century, the town underwent substantial growth, supported by a number of fine estate houses in the vicinity, in addition to the manufacture of coarse linens and woollens. Oughterard was also a sessions town, with a courthouse indicated on the first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey map. A post office and Church of Ireland Church are also depicted on the six-inch Ordnance Survey map. In 1837, Charles Bianconi's coach service from Galway to Clifden via Oughterard commenced. Black marble quarried near Oughterard was exported to London and other markets' (AMD Archaeological 2024).
- 4.26 The proposed footbridge and Oughterard Town Centre is located within the Oughterard Architectural Conservation Area. There are no designated archaeological heritage sites within the area of the proposed bridge. There are designated built heritage assets in the study area; none of which are located in the area of the proposed bridge, and include: Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kilcummin Church of Ireland Church, Oughterard Courthouse, National School: Oughterard National School, Oughterard Bridge and a Water pump (AMD Archaeological 2024).

### Perception & Experience

#### *Associations and connections*

- 4.27 'The toponym Oughterard is derived from Uachtar Ard, which translates from Irish as the High Upper/Southern Part, while the Owenriff River is Abhainn Ruibhe, meaning the River of Sulphur or Brimstone River' (AMD Archaeological 2024).
- 4.28 Oughterard is renowned for its fishing. In 1852, Edmund and Thomas Ashworth opened the first salmon hatchery in Ireland or England in Oughterard. The town was also well known for pearl mussels (AMD Archaeological 2024).
- 4.29 'Tourism was a growing industry towards the end of the nineteenth century, and visitors were able to hire jaunting cars at Oughterard to explore the district' (AMD Archaeological 2024).

#### *Permeability/ Legibility*



- 4.30 Permeability for pedestrians between the north and south bank of the Owenriff River is limited to the Oughterard Bridge crossing within the study area which lacks segregated pedestrian paths, making movement for pedestrians challenging.

#### *Senses*

- 4.31 The areas alongside the Owenriff River including the riverside track are perceived as tranquil including the sound of the water.
- 4.32 The streets located along the route of the N59 Main Street/ Clifden Road, are often busy and active including much vehicle traffic at peak times.
- 4.33 The combination of wooded river corridor along the Owenriff River, moving water along the Owenriff Falls, stone walls, historic landmark buildings and the traditional scale and vernacular appearance of Main Street gives the area a textured and interesting appearance contributing to character. Derelict/ vacant sites detract from character.

#### *Views/ Visual Character*

- 4.34 Main Street retains many buildings with traditional vernacular character and scale. Areas outside of the ACA include mostly suburban type 20th or 21st Century development.

Keys views include:

- 4.35 The view of Oughterard Bridge from the west and east. The view along Main Street including the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Views from Oughterard Bridge of the Owenriff River including woodland. Views of key heritage buildings including: Kilcummin Church, the Courthouse, the Church of the Immaculate Conception and Oughterard Bridge.

#### **Landscape/ Townscape Condition and Value**

- 4.36 From the field survey it was noted that the landscape in the area is generally in good condition, with intact characteristics such as the Owenriff River, woodland, stone walls, buildings, and distinctive local built vernacular contributing to character. Some derelict buildings detract from character.
- 4.37 The designation of Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), confirms that the landscape/ townscape of the area is recognised of regional or local importance.
- 4.38 The value of the landscape within the study area is judged to be **Medium**.

## 6.0 Baseline Study-Visual

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

### **Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

- 6.2 The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) or areas of land from which the development may be potentially visible were identified, refer to the Visibility drawing Appendix 3. The Visual Envelope was estimated and mapped using a manual approach using map interpretation, and visual envelope mapping on site to establish the outer limit of land that may be visually connected with the proposal. The areas identified are generally within 250m from the site include; the areas parallel to the Owenriff River including the N59 Clifden Road, Main Street, the local road at Carrowmanagh, Carrowmanagh Park and riverside path. The site is generally not visible from areas beyond 250m due to intervening buildings, dense vegetation and effect of distance.

### **Visual Receptors**

- 6.3 The following groups of people are potential visual receptors to changes within the site:
- Users of the riverside path by the Owenriff River at Carrowmanagh.
  - Users of public highways including the local road at Carrowmanagh, N59 Clifden Road and N59 Main Street.
  - Settlement areas of Oughterard including the areas of built development along the N59 Main Street and the local road at Carrowmanagh and Carrowmanagh Park.
  - Designated built heritage assets including Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kilcummin Church of Ireland Church, Oughterard Courthouse, and Oughterard Bridge.

### **Public Footpaths**

- 6.4 A riverside path travels from a local road at Carrowmanagh and east along the north bank of the Owenriff River. The Visual Envelope analysis suggests there would be some glimpsed views through dense vegetation towards the application site from sections of this path within 200m of the site. Otherwise, the application site would not be visible from this path.

### **Public Highways**

- 6.5 The Visual Envelope analysis suggests there would be glimpsed views between buildings towards the application site from sections of N59 Main Street and a local road at Carrowmanagh. Otherwise, the application site would not be visible from roads.

## **Settlements**

- 6.6 Settlement areas include the areas of built development along the N59 Clifden Road, N59 Main Street and a local road Carrowmanagh and at Carrowmanagh Park.

## **Protected built heritage**

- 6.7 There are numerous designated built heritage assets within Oughterard. Due to the combination of distance and intervening built development and vegetation the site would not be visible from most these assets. There may be some views from the Courthouse, Kilcummin Church and Oughterard Bridge.

## 7.0 Landscape Effects

- 7.1 This section describes the effects of the proposed development on landscape receptors and assesses the significance of the effects identified.

### **Landscape/ Townscape Sensitivity**

- 7.2 The value of local landscape character in the study area, is judged to be medium (Refer to Section 4.0 above). The susceptibility of this landscape to the proposed development type i.e. a pedestrian scale bridge crossing within a site that is partially screened by intervening built development or vegetation is medium. The combination of medium value and medium susceptibility overall the sensitivity of this landscape is judged to be medium.

### **Assessment Landscape/ Townscape Effects**

- 7.3 The paragraphs below list the effects on elements contributing to local landscape/ townscape character.

#### Physical

##### *Architecture and Urban Form*

- 7.4 No buildings will be demolished to facilitate the new bridge crossing. The height of the new bridge crossing will not appear above the roof line of nearby buildings and is an appropriate scale to the surrounding townscape. A section of existing stone wall will be removed and replaced on the south bank. Material finishes for the new bridge are subject to detailed design. Subject to appropriate material finishes and detailing the new bridge structure will contribute to local architecture and urban form. The magnitude of effect is judged to be minor improvement.

##### *Natural Systems*

- 7.5 Landform: There will be minor grading to landform to accommodate the bridge structure and approach paths/ ramps. The magnitude of effect is judged to be negligible.
- 7.6 Hydrology: The bridge will include a single clear span and the deck level and will not interrupt local hydrological processes. The magnitude of effect is judged to be no change.
- 7.7 Woodland: Areas of woodland including matures trees will be removed to facilitate the bridge crossing, refer to An Arboricultural Assessment of the Site Area at N59, Oughterard Footbridge, Co Galway by Noel Lane Tree Care Services. The Arboricultral Assessment identifies that approximately 50% of the trees to be removed are diseased ash trees in various stages of decline. Replacement tree planting will also be provided as part of the project. As the immediate setting includes large areas of woodland the magnitude of change within the Oughterard ACA area as a whole is judged to be minor loss.

### Cultural, Social & Economic

#### *Function*

- 7.8 The proposed bridge will improve access in the town between different land use functions and open an additional route for visitors to explore the local area. The magnitude of effect is judged to be moderate improvement.

#### *Historical development*

- 7.9 The proposed bridge structure (subject to mitigation) would complement the setting of Oughterard ACA and designated built heritage assets. The magnitude of effect is judged to be minor improvement.

### Perception & Experience

#### *Permeability/ Legibility*

- 7.10 The proposed bridge will open up an alternative bridge crossing for pedestrian and cyclists which will improve the permeability of the town and links to residential development and schools on the north bank. The magnitude of effect is judged to be moderate improvement.

#### *Senses*

- 7.11 The proposed bridge structure is for pedestrian and cyclist use, so is unlikely to change the tranquillity of the riverside areas within an existing urban context. Replacement woodland planting in combination with the retention of existing woodland will restore the wooded river corridor in the immediate vicinity of the proposed bridge. The magnitude of effect is judged to be no change.

#### *Views/ Visual Character*

- 7.12 The single span of the bridge will ensure views along the river are kept largely open. There will be no adverse changes to key views. The new bridge will also provide a new prospect for people to experience views of the Owenriff River and adjacent townscape. The magnitude of effect is judged to be minor improvement.

### **Assessment of Effects on Overall Landscape/ Townscape Character**

- 7.13 The assessment of landscape elements above indicates the proposals result in many beneficial effects.
- 7.14 The scale of the overall change to the local area is judged to be medium. The geographical extent over which the landscape effects will be small and felt will be at the level of the site and the immediate setting of the site. Further away from the site the changes would be imperceptible, due to the type and scale of the development, intervening vegetation and

built development in the wider landscape context. The overall magnitude of landscape change will be minor improvement.

- 7.15 The combination of medium sensitivity and minor magnitude suggests the significance of the effects on overall landscape/ townscape character within the study area is judged to be **Slight Beneficial Effect**.



## 8.0 Visual Effects

8.1 This section describes the effects of the proposed development on visual receptors and assesses the significance of the effects identified.

8.2 The visual receptors who may be affected by the proposals include:

- Users of the riverside walk along the Owenriff River at Carrowmanagh (refer to Viewpoints 9 & 10). Users of the riverside path would be largely unaffected by the proposed bridge due to dense intervening vegetation which screens views. There will be some slight adverse effects to views located within 100m of the proposed bridge as the proposed steps and ramp and railings on the north bank of the river would be partially visible. The removal of some woodland in this view would also be perceptible.
- Settlement areas of Oughterard including the areas of built development along Main Street, Clifden Road, Carrowmanagh and Carrowmanagh Park. (refer to Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15). Views to the proposed bridge are often limited by intervening buildings and vegetation, there will be some views to the bridge from areas of settlement located immediately opposite the bridge at the N59 Main Street and from a local lane at Carrowmanagh along the north bank of the Owenriff River. Where some views are available the effects are likely to be either neutral/ slight beneficial or moderate beneficial.
- Users of a residential dwelling near the north bank of the Owenriff River at Carrowmanagh (refer to Viewpoint 11). This dwelling is located close to the proposed steps and access ramp to the bridge at the north bank. Due to proximity the proposal would form an immediately noticeable element in views looking south/ south east and the effect is judged to be large adverse. Views looking east/ north east from the back garden of this dwelling would largely be unaffected by the proposed bridge. Views looking south west from the front of the dwelling looking onto the local road at Carrowmanagh would remain similar.
- The setting of the Courthouse, Kilcummin Church of Ireland and Church of the Immaculate Conception (refer to Viewpoints 2 & 3). There will be no adverse effects on the setting of these buildings.

8.3 Following desktop and field survey, 15no. viewpoints were selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor. The viewpoints chosen do not cover every view but have been selected to represent the different users from a range of directions and distances from the site. 1no. viewpoint was selected to illustrate the view adjacent to a dwelling located immediately next to the application site at Carrowmanagh.

8.4 The potential effects upon visual receptors are discussed using the relevant representative and viewpoints below. The viewpoint locations are illustrated on the Visibility drawing,

Appendix 3. The viewpoint images are illustrated in Appendix 4 and include 50mm single frame views and context panoramic views (90 degree field of view).

## Viewpoint 1

### Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View

- 8.5 This view is from the N59 Main Street, looking northwest. This viewpoint is located immediately adjacent to a proposed speed table/ zebra crossing within the application site. There are views to a dwelling, a stone wall fronting the N59 Main Street and deciduous woodland. There are faint glimpsed views through woodland of residential development at Carrowmanagh. The Owenriff River is not visible as it is screened by intervening vegetation.
- 8.6 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include; users of the N59 Main Street such as local residents and visitors to the town, people traveling travelling through the town on the N59 Main Street and users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the N59 Main Street at this location).

### Sensitivity

- 8.7 The view is part of the setting of the N59 Main Street and includes some distinctive features such as a stone wall and woodland. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.8 Residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the N59 Main Street would have medium susceptibility. The combination of medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### Magnitude

- 8.9 A section of stone wall and the woodland will be removed and replaced with the approach path to the new bridge. The proposed bridge span will be partially visible through trees in the background of the view. The removal of woodland will open up some views to existing built development at Carrowmanagh, albeit views will still be partially filtered by areas of woodland in the view that will be retained.
- 8.10 The scale of the bridge and approach path would not detract from the existing townscape composition (*subject to the selection of high-quality materials/ finishes/ detailing/ appropriate colour to the bridge and the provision of a replacement stone wall and planting*). The scale of the change is likely to be noticeable, the magnitude of the effect is judged to be a **moderate** improvement.

### Significance

- 8.11 The combination of high sensitivity and moderate magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **moderate beneficial** effect.

## Viewpoint 2

### Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View

- 8.12 View from the N59 Main Street, looking northwest. This viewpoint is located, adjacent to Kilcummin Churchyard and circa. 60m to a proposed speed table/ zebra crossing within the application site. There are views along the N59 Main Street including buildings, stone walls, and areas of woodland to the background of the view. The Owenriff River is not visible as it is screened by intervening buildings.
- 8.13 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include; users of the N59 Main Street such as local residents and visitors to the town, people traveling travelling through the town on the N59 Main Street and users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the N59 Main Street at this location) and people using Kilcummin Church.

### Sensitivity

- 8.14 The view is part of the setting of the N59 Main Street and includes some distinctive features such as the stone walls and vernacular buildings. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.15 Residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the N59 Main Street would have medium susceptibility. The combination of medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### Magnitude

- 8.16 Most of the proposed development would not be visible. The proposed bridge would not be visible due to intervening built development. The loss of woodland is unlikely to be perceptible due to other woodland still retained within the view. The proposed speed table/ zebra crossing would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **negligible**.

### Significance

- 8.17 The combination of high sensitivity and negligible magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**.

## Viewpoint 3

### Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View

- 8.18 View from the N59 Main Street, looking northeast. This viewpoint is located circa. 60m to a proposed speed table/ zebra crossing within the application site. There are views along the N59 Main Street including buildings, stone walls, railings, and woodland. The Owenriff River is not visible as it is screened by intervening buildings and vegetation.

- 8.19 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include; users of the N59 Main Street such as local residents and visitors to the town, people traveling travelling through the town on the N59 Main Street and users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the N59 Main Street at this location) and people using Oughterard Courthouse/ Library.

#### **Sensitivity**

- 8.20 The view is part of the setting of the N59 Main Street and includes some distinctive features such as the stone walls and vernacular buildings. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.21 Local residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the N59 Main Street would have medium susceptibility. To combination of medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

#### **Magnitude**

- 8.22 A section of stone wall and woodland will be removed and replaced with the approach path to the new bridge, and a replacement stone wall, and planting, which would screen the path from this location.
- 8.23 The proposed bridge span will be mostly screened by intervening woodland. The loss of woodland would be perceptible, however other woodland will still be retained within the view alongside replacement new planting. The proposed speed table/ zebra crossing would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **negligible**.

#### **Significance**

- 8.24 The combination of high sensitivity and negligible magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**.

### **Viewpoint 4**

#### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

- 8.25 View from the N59 Main Street looking northeast. This viewpoint is located circa. 150m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the N59 Main Street including Oughterard Bridge, buildings, stone walls, and woodland. The Owenriff River is not visible as it is screened by intervening buildings/ walls and vegetation.
- 8.26 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include; users of the N59 Main Street such as local residents and visitors to the town, people traveling travelling through the town on the N59 Main Street and users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the N59 Main Street at this location).

#### **Sensitivity**

8.27 The view is part of the setting of the Main Street and includes some distinctive features such as Oughterard Bridge, stone walls, vernacular buildings and woodland. Value is judged to be medium.

8.28 Local residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the N59 Clifden Road would have medium susceptibility. The combination of medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

#### **Magnitude**

8.29 The proposed bridge would not be perceptible due to intervening dense vegetation and distance. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **no change**.

#### **Significance**

8.30 The combination of high sensitivity and no change magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**.

### **Viewpoint 5**

#### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

8.31 View from the N59 Clifden Road looking northeast. This viewpoint is located circa. 225m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the N59 Clifden Road including Oughterard Bridge, buildings, stone walls, and woodland.

8.32 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include; users of the N59 Clifden Road such as local residents and visitors to the town and people traveling travelling through the town on the N59 Clifden Road.

#### **Sensitivity**

8.33 The view includes some distinctive features such as Oughterard Bridge, Owenriff River, stone walls, vernacular buildings and woodland. Value is judged to be medium.

8.34 Residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the N59 Clifden Road would have medium susceptibility. The combination of medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

#### **Magnitude**

8.35 The proposed bridge would not be perceptible due to intervening buildings, dense vegetation and the effect of distance. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **no change**.

#### **Significance**

- 8.36 The combination of high sensitivity and no change magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**.

## **Viewpoint 6**

### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

- 8.37 View from the local road at Carrowmanagh looking southeast. This viewpoint is located circa. 30m from a proposed speed table/ zebra crossing within the application site and circa. 45m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the local road at Carrowmanagh including modern suburban residential development, stone walls and woodland. The Owenriff River is mostly screened by intervening vegetation. There are partial glimpsed views through trees to development along Main Street on the south bank of the Owenriff River.
- 8.38 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include users of the local road at Carrowmanagh and adjacent residents. Receptors would also include users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the local road at Carrowmanagh).

### **Sensitivity**

- 8.39 The view includes some distinctive features such as the Owenriff River and woodland. There are also some discordant elements such as overhead cables/ poles and road signage which detracts from the view. Value is judged to be low to medium.
- 8.40 Local residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the local road would have medium susceptibility. The combination of low to medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### **Magnitude**

- 8.41 Some of the existing trees within this view will be removed to facilitate the bridge crossing. Many of these trees have ash die back (Noel Lane Tree Services 2024) and would likely need to be removed even if the bridge was not to be constructed. This will open up some views to the south bank including buildings at Main Street and to the proposed bridge spanning the Owenriff River. However, some backdrop of woodland will remain in the view due the retention of other woodland on south bank and other woodland within the surrounding context continuing to provide a woodland backdrop. The proposed ramp to the bridge and associated railings and speed table/ zebra crossing will be noticeable within the view.
- 8.42 The scale of the bridge and approach ramp/ steps would not detract from the existing townscape composition which already includes some discordant elements and built development (*subject to the selection of high-quality materials/ finishes/ detailing and appropriate colour to the bridge and the provision of stone cladding/ plinth to the access ramp and railings, high quality paving to steps and ramp and tree planting*). The scale of



the change is likely to be noticeable, the magnitude of the effect is judged to be **moderate** improvement.

### **Significance**

- 8.43 The combination of high sensitivity and moderate magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **slight beneficial** effect.

## **Viewpoint 7**

### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

- 8.44 View from the local road at Carrowmanagh looking southeast. This viewpoint is located circa. 170m from a proposed speed table/ zebra crossing within the application site and circa. 180m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the local road at Carrowmanagh including residential development, stone walls and woodland. The Owenriff River is screened by intervening vegetation/ buildings and the effect of distance.
- 8.45 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include users of the local road at Carrowmanagh and adjacent residents. Receptors would also include users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the local road at Carrowmanagh).

### **Sensitivity**

- 8.46 The view includes some distinctive features such as stone walls and woodland. Value is judged to be low to medium.
- 8.47 Residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the local road would have medium susceptibility. The combination of low to medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### **Magnitude**

- 8.48 The removal of woodland would be barely noticeable, and the proposed bridge structure would not be perceptible due the effect of distance. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **negligible**.

### **Significance**

- 8.49 The combination of high sensitivity and negligible magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**.

## **Viewpoint 8**

### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

- 8.50 View from the open space within Carrowmanagh Park looking southwest. This viewpoint is located circa. 120m from the proposed bridge. There are views of open space, residential

development, stone walls and woodland. The Owenriff River screened by intervening vegetation, a stone wall and the effect of distance. The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include residents at Carrowmanagh Park.

### **Sensitivity**

- 8.51 The view includes some distinctive features such as stone walls and woodland. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.52 Local residents would have high susceptibility. The combination of medium value and high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### **Magnitude**

- 8.53 The removal of woodland would be barely noticeable, and the proposed bridge structure would not be perceptible due to intervening woodland the effect of distance. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **negligible**.

### **Significance**

- 8.54 The combination of high sensitivity and negligible magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**.

## **Viewpoint 9**

### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

- 8.55 View from the riverside path at Carrowmanagh looking southwest. This viewpoint is located circa. 85m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the riverside path including a stone wall, railing and the Owenriff River with dense woodland/ vegetation alongside the riverbanks. The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include users of the riverside walk.

### **Sensitivity**

- 8.56 The view includes some distinctive features such as the Owenriff River, stone walls and woodland. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.57 Users of the riverside walk for enjoyment of the views would have high susceptibility. The combination of medium value and high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### **Magnitude**

- 8.58 The proposed bridge structure and removal of woodland would be barely noticeable, due dense intervening woodland/ vegetation and the effect of distance. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **negligible**.

### **Significance**

- 8.59 The combination of high sensitivity and negligible magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**.

### **Viewpoint 10**

#### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

- 8.60 View from the riverside path at Carrowmanagh looking southwest. This viewpoint is located circa. 40m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the riverside path including a stone wall, the Owenriff River, a pipeline crossing the river, dense woodland/ vegetation alongside the riverbanks and partial views to existing built development which is mostly screened by intervening vegetation. The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include users of the riverside walk.

#### **Sensitivity**

- 8.61 The view includes some distinctive features such as the Owenriff River, stone walls and woodland. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.62 Users of the riverside walk for enjoyment of the views would have high susceptibility. The combination of medium value and high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

#### **Magnitude**

- 8.63 The proposed bridge structure would be partially visible, with views filtered by intervening vegetation. The proposed steps and ramp and railings on the north bank of the river would be partially visible. The removal of some woodland in this view would be perceptible. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **minor loss**.

#### **Significance**

- 8.64 The combination of high sensitivity and minor magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **slight adverse effect**.

### **Viewpoint 11**

#### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

- 8.65 View from the riverside path at Carrowmanagh and adjacent to a dwelling, looking southeast. This viewpoint is located circa. 0.5m from the proposed bridge access steps/ ramp. There are views to the Owenriff River, dense woodland/ vegetation alongside the riverbanks. There are views filtered by woodland to buildings on the south bank of the river at Main Street. The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include residents at the adjacent dwelling.

#### **Sensitivity**

- 8.66 The view includes distinctive features such as the Owenriff River and woodland. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.67 Residents at the adjacent property have a ground floor window facing onto this view and would have high susceptibility. The combination of medium value and high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### **Magnitude**

- 8.68 Due to proximity the proposal would form an immediately noticeable element of the view. The view would change to include views of the proposed bridge steps/ access ramp, railings and the bridge span. The removal of some woodland in this view would be noticeable. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **major**.

### **Significance**

- 8.69 The combination of high sensitivity and major magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **large adverse effect**.

## **Viewpoint 12**

### **Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View**

- 8.70 View from the local road at Carrowmanagh looking east. This viewpoint is located circa. 90m from a proposed speed table/ zebra crossing within the application site and circa. 115m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the local road at Carrowmanagh including residential development, stone walls, trees/ woodland and the Owenriff River. There are partial faint glimpsed views through trees to existing buildings along Main Street on the south bank of the Owenriff River.
- 8.71 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include users of the local road at Carrowmanagh and adjacent residents. Receptors would also include users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the local road at Carrowmanagh).

### **Sensitivity**

- 8.72 The view includes some distinctive features such as Owenriff River, and woodland. There are also some discordant elements such as overhead cables/ poles which detracts from the view. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.73 Local residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the local road would have medium susceptibility. To combination of low to medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### **Magnitude**

- 8.74 The proposed bridge span would be mostly screened by intervening woodland. The removal of woodland at the application site is unlikely to be perceptible due to other

woodland still retained within the view. The proposed speed table/ zebra crossing and bridge ramp would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **negligible**.

### Significance

- 8.75 The combination of high sensitivity and negligible magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**.

### Viewpoint 13

#### Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View

- 8.76 View from the local road at Carrowmanagh looking southeast. This viewpoint is located circa.25m from a proposed speed table/ zebra crossing within the application site and circa.50m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the local road at Carrowmanagh including residential development, trees/ woodland and the Owenriff River. There are partial glimpsed views through trees to buildings along Main Street on the south bank of the Owenriff River.
- 8.77 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include users of the local road at Carrowmanagh and adjacent residents. Receptors would also include users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the local road at Carrowmanagh).

### Sensitivity

- 8.78 The view includes some distinctive features such as Owenriff River, and woodland. Signage, railings, overhead cables, ESB pole and street furniture detract from this view. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.79 Local residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the local road would have medium susceptibility. The combination medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### Magnitude

- 8.80 The proposed bridge span will be partially screened by intervening woodland. The loss of some woodland will be perceptible but balanced by other significant areas of woodland still retained within the view and new planting. The proposed speed table/ zebra crossing and bridge ramp would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view. The scale of the bridge and approach ramp would not detract from the existing composition which already includes built development and some discordant elements (*subject to the selection of high-quality materials/ finishes/ detailing and an appropriate colour to the bridge, and the provision of stone cladding/ plinth to the access ramp and railings, high quality paving to steps and ramp and tree planting*). The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **minor**.

### Significance

- 8.81 The combination of high sensitivity and minor magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **slight beneficial effect**.

### Viewpoint 14

#### Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View

- 8.82 View from Oughterard Bridge looking northeast. This viewpoint is located circa. 150m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the Owenriff River including riverside woodland and some built development.
- 8.83 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include users of the N59 Main Street. Users of Main Street would include local residents and visitors to the town, people traveling on the N59 Main Street and users of the Western Way walking trail (which follows the N59 Main Street at this location).

### Sensitivity

- 8.84 The view includes distinctive features such as Owenriff River and woodland. Value is judged to be medium.
- 8.85 Residents and visitors would have high susceptibility, whilst people travelling through the town on the N59 Main Street/ Clifden Road would have medium susceptibility. The combination of medium value and medium to high susceptibility, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

### Magnitude

- 8.86 There will be partial glimpsed distant views of the proposed bridge span emerging from woodland, which will add interest to the view. The loss of woodland is unlikely to be perceptible due to other woodland still retained within the view. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **minor** improvement.

### Significance

- 8.87 The combination of high sensitivity and minor magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **slight beneficial effect**.

### Viewpoint 15

#### Nature and Characteristics of Baseline View

- 8.88 View from the grounds of the Church of the Immaculate Conception looking northeast. This viewpoint is located circa. 175m from the proposed bridge. There are views along the N59 Main Street including buildings, stone walls, and woodland. The Owenriff River is not visible as it is screened by intervening buildings/ walls and vegetation.



- 8.89 The receptors at and close to this viewpoint would include users of The Church of the Immaculate Conception.

**Sensitivity**

- 8.90 The view is part of the setting of the Church of the Immaculate Conception and includes some distinctive features such as stone walls, vernacular buildings and the vista down Main Street. Value is judged to be medium.

- 8.91 Users the Church of the Immaculate Conception would have high susceptibility. The combination of high susceptibility and medium value, the sensitivity of visual receptors is judged to be **high**.

**Magnitude**

- 8.92 The proposed bridge would not be perceptible due to intervening dense vegetation and distance. The magnitude of the effect is judged to be **no change**.

**Significance**

- 8.93 The combination of high sensitivity and no change magnitude the overall significance of effect is judged to be **neutral effect**

## 9.0 Mitigation

- 9.1 This section discusses mitigation in the design proposals to reduce any potential adverse effects.
- 9.2 Existing riverside trees will be retained and protected where feasible. A scheme of additional tree planting along the riverside at Oughterard will be implemented to anchor the development into its wider setting. Additional compensation tree planting is also proposed on Carrowmanagh Park.
- 9.3 High-quality architectural finishes to the bridge structure, balustrade and approach ramp, and an appropriate colour to paint the bridge are proposed. .
- 9.4 Photomontages have been prepared to illustrate the effects of the proposed bridge colour and material finishes.
- 9.5 High quality finishes and junction design are proposed to achieve a high-quality public realm to the proposed pedestrian crossings/ approach paths and ramp at Main Street and Carrowmanagh.
- 9.6 The design proposals include materials of local character such as natural stone incorporated into the bridge boundary walls/ approach ramp/ railing plinths and steps where feasible.
- 9.7 1.8m high native hedging is proposed between the proposed southern path and The Old Barracks to provide screening.

## 10.0 Summary

- 10.1 This section summarises the effects of the proposed development on landscape and visual receptors, and the significance of the effects identified.

### **Landscape/ Townscape Effects**

- 10.2 From the field survey it was noted that the landscape in the area is generally in good condition, with intact characteristics such as the Owenriff River, woodland, stone walls, buildings, and distinctive local built vernacular contributing to character. Some derelict buildings detract from character. The designation of Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), confirms that the landscape/ townscape of the area is recognised of regional or local importance. The value of landscape within the study area is judged to be medium. The susceptibility of this landscape to the proposed development type i.e. a pedestrian scale bridge crossing within a site that is partially screened by intervening built development or vegetation is medium. The combination of medium value and medium susceptibility overall the sensitivity of this landscape is judged to be medium.
- 10.3 The assessment of landscape elements contributing to character indicates the proposals result in many beneficial effects.
- 10.4 The scale of the overall change to the local area is judged to be medium. The geographical extent over which the landscape effects will be small and felt will be at the level of the site and the immediate setting of the site. Further away from the site the changes would be imperceptible, due to the type and scale of the development, intervening vegetation and built development in the wider landscape context. The overall magnitude of landscape change will be minor.
- 10.5 The combination of medium sensitivity and minor magnitude suggests the significance of the effects on overall landscape/ townscape character within the study area is judged to be **Slight Beneficial Effect**.

### **Visual Effects**

- 10.6 The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) or areas of land from which the development may be potentially visible were identified, refer to the Visibility drawing Appendix 3. The Visual Envelope was estimated and mapped using a manual approach using map interpretation, and visual envelope mapping on site to establish the outer limit of land that may be visually connected with the proposal. The areas identified are generally within 250m from the site include; the areas parallel to the Owenriff River including the N59 Clifden Road, Main Street, the local road at Carrowmanagh, Carrowmanagh Park and riverside path. The site is generally not visible from areas beyond 250m due to intervening buildings, dense vegetation and effect of distance.
- 10.7 The visual receptors identified includes people using; public rights of way, public highways, settlement areas, and heritage assets.

- 10.8 Following desktop and field survey, 15 viewpoints were selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor. The viewpoints chosen do not cover every view but have been selected to represent the different users from a range of directions and distances from the site.
- 10.9 The significance of the visual effect of the development was judged as neutral from 9no. viewpoints. This means the proposed development would be difficult to distinguish and/or there would be barely perceptible change in view.
- 10.10 The significance of the visual effect of the development was judged as slight beneficial from 3no. viewpoints. This means the proposed development would cause limited improvement to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or would cause greater improvement to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity.
- 10.11 The significance of the visual effect of the development was judged as moderate beneficial from 1no. viewpoint. This means the proposed development would cause obvious improvement to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, or perceptible improvement to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
- 10.12 The significance of the visual effect of the development was judged as slight adverse from 1no. viewpoint. This means the proposed development would cause a limited deterioration to the view.
- 10.13 The significance of the visual effect of the development was judged as large adverse from 1no. viewpoint. This means the proposed development would cause a major deterioration to a view from a highly sensitive receptor.

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## Appendix 1- Methodology

## 1.0 Methodology

1.1 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) was undertaken with reference to the following guidelines:

- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Oxon: Routledge.
- Landscape Institute (2014) Townscape Character Assessment, Technical Information Note 05/2017. Landscape Institute.
- Landscape Institute (2019), Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19.
- Greater London Authority (2014) Character and Context, Supplementary Planning Guidance. Greater London Authority.
- Highways Agency (HA) (2020), LA107, Landscape and visual effects Revision 2.
- Tudor, C (2014), An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England.
- Swanwick, C. and Land Use Consultants (2002), Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland, Cheltenham: Countryside Agency and Battleby: Scottish Natural Heritage.

1.2 The two components of LVIA as defined by Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) are:

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

### **Project description/ specification**

1.3 The project description was checked to make sure that the essential aspects of the scheme that give rise to effects on landscape and visual amenity has been described. Mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the scheme to avoid, reduce or offset adverse landscape and visual effects are also described.

### **Study Area**

1.4 The Study Area for the assessment was devised as an area sufficient to enable the potential effects of the proposals on character and views/ visual amenity to be analysed.

### **Baseline studies**

1.5 The baseline landscape and visual conditions were established.

## **Landscape Baseline**

- 1.6 The aim of the landscape baseline is 'to provide an understanding of the landscape in the area that may be affected, its constituent elements, its character and way it varies spatially, its geographic extent, its history, its condition and the way the landscape is experienced, and the value attached to it' (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013). The baseline study was undertaken by a mix of desktop study and fieldwork to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors which contribute to it. The baseline study also considered the landscape condition and the value attached to landscape. Sources of information included for the desktop study are included in the references section of the report.

## **Visual Baseline**

- 1.7 The aim of the visual baseline is 'to establish the area in which the development may be visible, the different groups of people who may experience views of the development, the places where they will be affected and the nature of the views and visual amenity at those points.' Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). The baseline study was undertaken by desktop study followed by a field survey to establish the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the proposals and to identify people, or 'visual receptors'. The ZTV was estimated using a manual approach using map interpretation, and visual envelope mapping on site to establish the outer limit of land that may be visually connected with the proposed development. There are areas within the ZTV which do not have views of the project due to local variations in vegetation, topography and built development. The ZTV is not always precise and is an indication only of the area within which the most significant visual effects may be expected.

## **Landscape Assessment Criteria**

- 1.8 The overall significance of effects is established by combining the separate judgements about sensitivity and magnitude of effects.
- 1.9 Sensitivity includes an assessment of the landscape receptors susceptibility to change and value.
- 1.10 Factors considered in assigning landscape value include:
- the presence of international, national or local designations
  - the quality or condition of the elements contributing to character
  - scenic quality (including all sensory aspects)
  - the presence of rare elements, features or overall landscape type
  - the degree to which the landscape is representative of important defining characteristics
  - the presence of features of ecological, historical or geological conservation interest
  - the recreational value of the landscape
  - the likely perception of the landscape in connection with its wildness and/or tranquillity

- cultural associations such as with notable people or historical events.

- 1.11 The criteria in combination with professional judgment for assessing value to landscape receptors is set out in Table A1.1 below.
- 1.12 With regard to susceptibility, an attribute would be judged as very susceptible to change if it is very likely to be substantively affected by change of the nature proposed. Conversely, an attribute would not be susceptible to change if the nature of change proposed could not in any way affect the attribute. The criteria for assessing susceptibility of landscape in combination with professional judgement are described at Table A1.2.
- 1.13 The separate assessments of value and susceptibility are then combined to determine the sensitivity of each receptor against the criteria in Table A1.3 which in combination with professional judgement guides the assessment of sensitivity.
- 1.14 Magnitude includes an assessment of the impact on landscape receptors in terms of size or scale, geographical extent of the area influenced.
- 1.15 The criteria in combination with professional judgment for assessing the magnitude of impact are described in Table A1.4 below.
- 1.16 The separate assessments of sensitivity and magnitude are then combined with professional judgement to determine the significance of effect on each receptor. These levels of significance can either be beneficial or adverse and are described in Table A1.5. Effects that are categorised as neutral or slight would not be considered as significant.

### **Visual Assessment Criteria**

- 1.17 The overall significance of effects is established by combining the separate judgements about sensitivity and magnitude of effects.
- 1.18 Sensitivity includes an assessment of the visual receptors susceptibility to change and the value attached to views.
- 1.19 Value was attributed to views within the Study Area incorporating the site according to the criteria in combination with professional judgment set out in Table A1.1 below. Factors influencing the judgement of value included:
- recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations;
  - indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment or convenience, and references to them in literature or art.
- 1.20 Next, the susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in their view of the nature proposed was considered. As set out in the GLVIA, this depends upon the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view and the extent to which their attention or interest may be focused upon visual amenity as a result. The criteria for assessing visual receptor susceptibility in combination with professional judgement are described at Table A1.2.

- 1.21 The separate assessments of value and susceptibility are then combined to determine the sensitivity of each receptor against the criteria in Table A1.3 which in combination with professional judgement guides the assessment of sensitivity.
- 1.22 Magnitude includes an evaluation of the visual impact identified in terms of size or scale and geographical extent of the area influenced.
- 1.23 The criteria in combination with professional judgment for assessing the magnitude of impact are described in Table A1.4 below.
- 1.24 The separate assessments of sensitivity and magnitude are then combined with professional judgement to determine the significance of effect on each receptor
- 1.25 These levels of significance can either be beneficial or adverse and are described in Table A1.5.

**Table A1.1: Criteria for landscape value and value of views**

Value	Landscape Value typical criteria	Value of Views typical criteria
Very High	<p>International or National importance.</p> <p>Highly distinctive landscape characteristics</p> <p>Distinctive/rare/unique features worthy of conservation</p> <p>Strong sense of place</p> <p>No detracting features</p>	<p>Highly distinctive view including nationally or internationally significant features or scenery.</p> <p>Evidence of popular use including access routes facilities and specific viewing infrastructure.</p> <p>No detracting features.</p>
High	<p>National, Regional or Local importance.</p> <p>Highly distinctive landscape characteristics</p> <p>Distinctive/rare/unique features worthy of conservation</p> <p>Strong sense of place</p> <p>Occasional detracting features</p>	<p>Highly distinctive although not necessarily widely publicised view of unique or rare features or scenery.</p> <p>Evidence of popular use including frequented access routes.</p> <p>Occasional or no detracting features.</p>
Medium	<p>Regional or Local importance.</p> <p>Recognised landscape characteristics</p> <p>Some features worthy of conservation</p> <p>Sense of place</p> <p>Some detracting features</p>	<p>Highly or moderately distinctive view not widely publicised and likely to be experienced mainly in passing and by smaller numbers of people living nearby.</p> <p>Some access infrastructure with little evidence of heavy use.</p> <p>Some or occasional detracting features.</p>
Low	<p>Local importance.</p> <p>Distinguishable landscape characteristics</p> <p>Few features worthy of conservation</p> <p>No particular sense of place</p> <p>Frequent detracting features</p>	<p>Moderately distinctive or undistinguished view not widely known or frequented.</p> <p>Some access routes, e.g. Public Rights of Way.</p> <p>Frequent detracting features may be present.</p>
Very Low	<p>Local importance.</p> <p>Degraded/damaged landscape characteristics</p> <p>No features worthy of conservation</p> <p>Extensive detracting features</p>	<p>View with few or no distinctive features.</p> <p>Areas accessed mainly for transitory purposes.</p> <p>Frequent detracting features.</p>

**Table A1.2: Criteria for landscape and visual receptor susceptibility**

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



**Table A1.3: Criteria for assessing landscape and visual sensitivity**

<b>Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)</b>	<b>Landscape criteria</b>	<b>Visual criteria</b>
Very High	Landscapes of very high international/ national importance and rarity or value with no or very limited ability to accommodate change without substantial loss/ gain (i.e. national parks, internationally acclaimed landscapes - UNESCO World Heritage Sites).	<p>1) Static views from and of major tourist attractions;</p> <p>2) Views from and of very important national/ international landscapes, cultural/ historical sites (e.g. National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage sites);</p> <p>3) Receptors engaged in specific activities for enjoyment of dark skies.</p>
High	Landscapes of high national importance containing distinctive features/ elements with limited ability to accommodate change without incurring substantial loss/ gain (i.e. designated areas, areas of strong sense of place - registered parks and gardens, country parks).	<p>1) Views by users of nationally important PRoW / recreational trails (e.g. national trails, long distance footpaths);</p> <p>2) Views by users of public open spaces for enjoyment of the countryside (e.g. country parks);</p> <p>3) Static views from dense residential areas, longer transient views from designated public open space, recreational areas;</p> <p>4) Views from and of rare designated landscapes of national importance.</p>
Medium	Landscapes of local or regional recognition of importance able to accommodate some change (i.e. features worthy of conservation, some sense of place or value through use/ perception).	<p>1) Static views from less populated residential areas, schools and other institutional buildings and their outdoor areas;</p> <p>2) Views by outdoor workers;</p> <p>3) Transient views from local/regional areas such as public open space, scenic roads, railways or waterways, users of local/ regional designated tourist routes of moderate importance;</p> <p>4) Views from and of landscapes of regional importance.</p>
Low	Local landscape areas or receptors of low to medium importance with ability to accommodate change (i.e. non-designated or designated areas of local recognition or areas of little sense of place).	<p>1) Views by users of main roads or passengers in public transport on main arterial routes;</p> <p>2) Views by indoor workers;</p> <p>3) Views by users of recreational/formal sports facilities where the landscape is secondary to enjoyment of the sport;</p> <p>4) Views by users of local public open spaces of limited importance with limited variety or distinctiveness.</p>
Negligible	Landscapes of very low importance and rarity able to accommodate change.	<p>1) Quick transient views such as from fast moving vehicles;</p> <p>1) Views from industrial area, land awaiting re-development;</p> <p>2) Views from landscapes of no importance with no variety or distinctiveness.</p>

**Table A1.4: Magnitude of Impact Criteria**

<b>Magnitude (change) of effect</b>	<b>Landscape criteria</b>	<b>Visual criteria</b>
Major	<p>Total loss or large-scale damage to existing landscape character or distinctive features or elements; and/or addition of new uncharacteristic, conspicuous features or elements.</p> <p>Large scale improvement of landscape character to features and elements; and/or addition of new distinctive features or elements, or removal of conspicuous infrastructure elements.</p>	The project, or a part of it, would become the dominant feature or focal point of the view.
Moderate	<p>Partial loss or noticeable damage to existing landscape character or distinctive features or elements; and/ or addition of new uncharacteristic, noticeable features or elements.</p> <p>Partial or noticeable improvement of landscape character by restoration of existing features or elements; or addition of new characteristic features or elements or removal of noticeable features or elements.</p>	The project, or a part of it, would form a noticeable feature or element of the view which is readily apparent to the receptor.
Minor	<p>Slight loss or damage to existing landscape character of one (maybe more) key features and elements.</p> <p>Slight improvement of landscape character by the restoration of one (maybe more) key existing features and elements; and/or the addition of new characteristic features.</p>	The project, or a part of it, would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view.
Negligible	<p>Very minor loss, damage or alteration to existing landscape character of one or more features and elements.</p> <p>Very minor noticeable improvement of character by the restoration of one or more existing features and elements.</p>	Only a very small part of the project work or activity would be discernible or being at such a distance it would form a barely noticeable feature or element of the view.
No Change	No noticeable alteration or improvement, temporary or permanent, of landscape character of existing features and elements.	No part of the project work or activity would be discernible.

**Table A1.5: Typical descriptions of significance of effect categories**


















Category	Landscape	Visual
<b>Very Large Beneficial Effect</b>	The project would greatly enhance the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; create an iconic high-quality feature and/or series of elements; enable a sense of place to be created or greatly enhanced.	The project would create an iconic new feature that would greatly enhance the view.
<b>Large Beneficial Effect</b>	The project would enhance the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements lost as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development; enable a sense of place to be enhanced.	The project would lead to a major improvement in a view from a highly sensitive receptor.
<b>Moderate Beneficial Effect</b>	The project would improve the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements partially lost or diminished as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development; enable a sense of place to be restored.	The proposals would cause obvious improvement to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, or perceptible improvement to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
<b>Slight Beneficial Effect</b>	The project would complement the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; maintain or enhance characteristic features and elements; enable some sense of place to be restored.	The project would cause limited improvement to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or would cause greater improvement to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity.
<b>Neutral Effect</b>	The project would maintain the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; blend in with characteristic features and elements; enable a sense of place to be retained.	Difficult to distinguish, barely perceptible change in view.  No perceptible change in view
<b>Slight Adverse Effect</b>	The project would not quite fit the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; be at variance with characteristic features and elements; detract	The project would cause limited deterioration to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or cause greater deterioration to a view from a receptor of high

Category	Landscape	Visual
	from a sense of place.	sensitivity
<b>Moderate Adverse Effect</b>	The project would conflict with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; have an adverse impact on characteristic features or elements; diminish a sense of place	The project would cause obvious deterioration to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, perceptible damage to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
<b>Large Adverse Effect</b>	The project would be at considerable variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; degrade or diminish the integrity of a range of characteristic features and elements; damage a sense of place.	The project would cause major deterioration to a view from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a major discordant element in the view.
<b>Very Large Adverse Effect</b>	The project would be at complete variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; cause the integrity of characteristic features, elements and sense of place to be lost.	The project would cause the loss of views from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a dominant discordant feature in the view.

## Appendix 2- Proposed Development Drawings

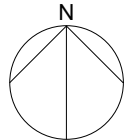


SITE PLAN LEGEND:

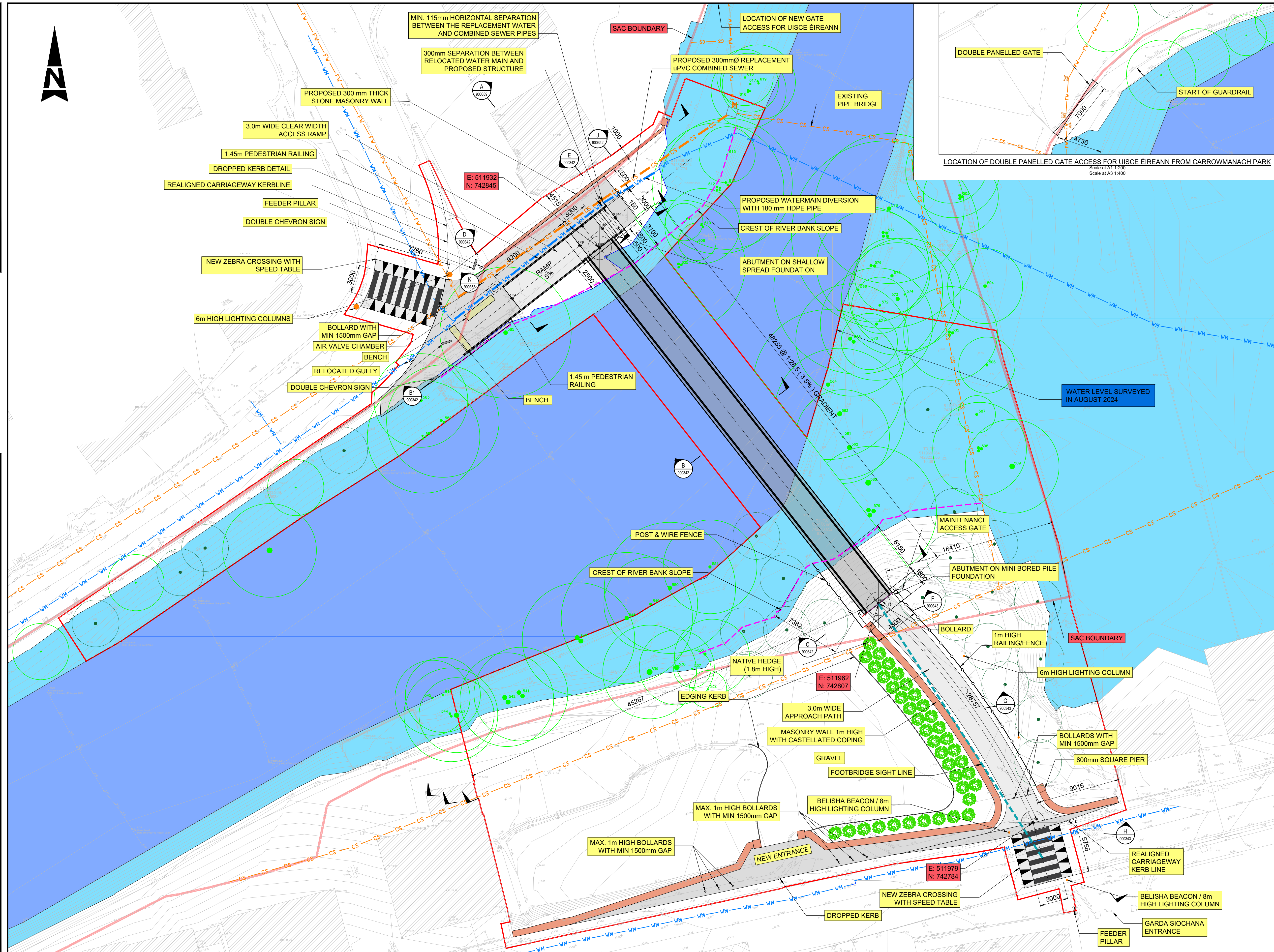
SYM.	DESCRIPTION
	PROPOSED NATURAL STONE PAVING TO FOOTPATH/ RAMP.
	PROPOSED NATURAL STONE KERB.
	PROPOSED SURFACING TO THE BRIDGE.
	PROPOSED BUFF COLOURED ASPHALT TO PATH.
	SURFACING TO MATCH EXISTING RIVERSIDE FOOTPATH.
	RIPARIAN/ WILDFLOWER VEGETATION.
	AMENITY GRASS.
	PROPOSED WALL.
	PROPOSED RAILING.
	EXISTING TREE TRUNK.
	EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED.
	PROPOSED TREE.
	PROPOSED SCRUB PLANTING.
	PROPOSED HEDGE PLANTING.
	PROPOSED BENCH.
	PROPOSED BOLLARD.
	LANDS MADE AVAILABLE BOUNDARY

NOTE:

- 01 EXISTING TREES AND UNDERSTORY PLANTING TO BE RETAINED.
- 02 PROPOSED RIPARIAN PLANTING.
- 03 EXISTING AMENITY GRASS TO BE RETAINED.
- 04 PROPOSED TREE PLANTING.
- 05 PROPOSED TREE PLANTING WITH WOODLAND SHADE WILDFLOWERS.
- 06 EXISTING FOOTPATH TO BE WIDENED.
- 07 PROPOSED HEDGE PLANTING.
- 08 PROPOSED SCRUB AND TREE PLANTING.







**GENERAL NOTES**

- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
- ONLY WRITTEN DIMENSIONS SHALL BE USED. NO DIMENSIONS SHALL BE SCALED FROM THE DRAWINGS
- ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO MALIN HEAD DATUM
- ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
- DRAWINGS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATION

**LEGEND:**

- WM — EXISTING WATER MAIN
- WM — PROPOSED WATERMAIN DIVERSION
- CS — EXISTING COMBINED SEWER
- CS — PROPOSED REPLACEMENT COMBINED SEWER
- FW — EXISTING FOUL DRAINAGE
- 1% ANNUAL EXCEEDENCE PROBABILITY FLOOD ZONE (MID RANGE FUTURE SCENARIO)
- SITE LAYOUT BOUNDARY
- EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
- PROPOSED TREE

**NOTES:**

- THE DESIGN USES THE EXISTING STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEM.
- ELECTRICAL WIRING, DUCTING & PILLAR DETAILS WILL BE CONFIRMED AT DETAILED DESIGN.

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Risk Level

- AtkinsRéalis Base Line - Low Risk
- AtkinsRéalis Sensitive - Medium Risk
- AtkinsRéalis Private - High Risk
- Client Critical - Already Marked

**TII**  
Bonnasgar lompair Éireann  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland

**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
Galway County Council

**GALWAY**  
NATIONAL ROADS  
PROJECT OFFICE

Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Rev'd	Auth
000	ISSUED FOR PLANNING	KS	06.25	MC	MC	MJ

AtkinsRéalis House, 150-155 Aislaide Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin  
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Client  
Galway County Council,  
Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill  
Galway, H91 H6KX

Project  
N59 OUGHTERARD FOOTBRIDGE

Purpose  
PLANNING ISSUE

Title  
PROPOSED GENERAL ARRANGEMENT - LAYOUT PLAN - SHEET 3 of 4

Original Scale	Drawn	AOS	Checked	AK	Reviewed	MC	Authorised	MJ
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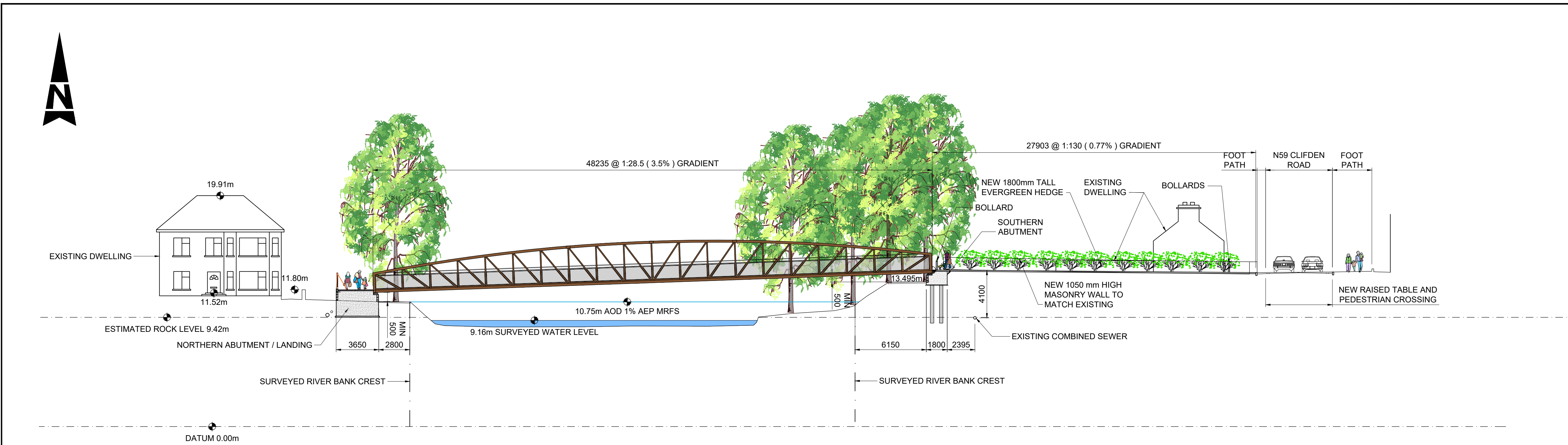
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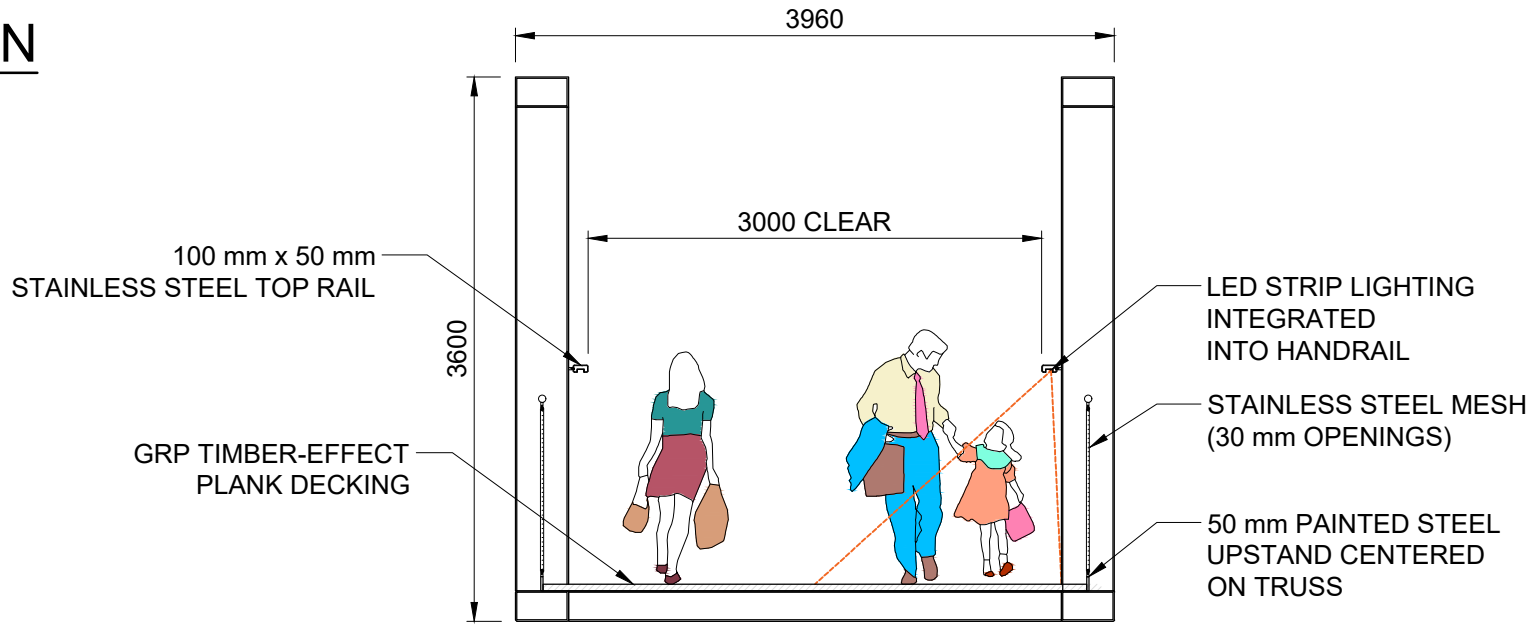
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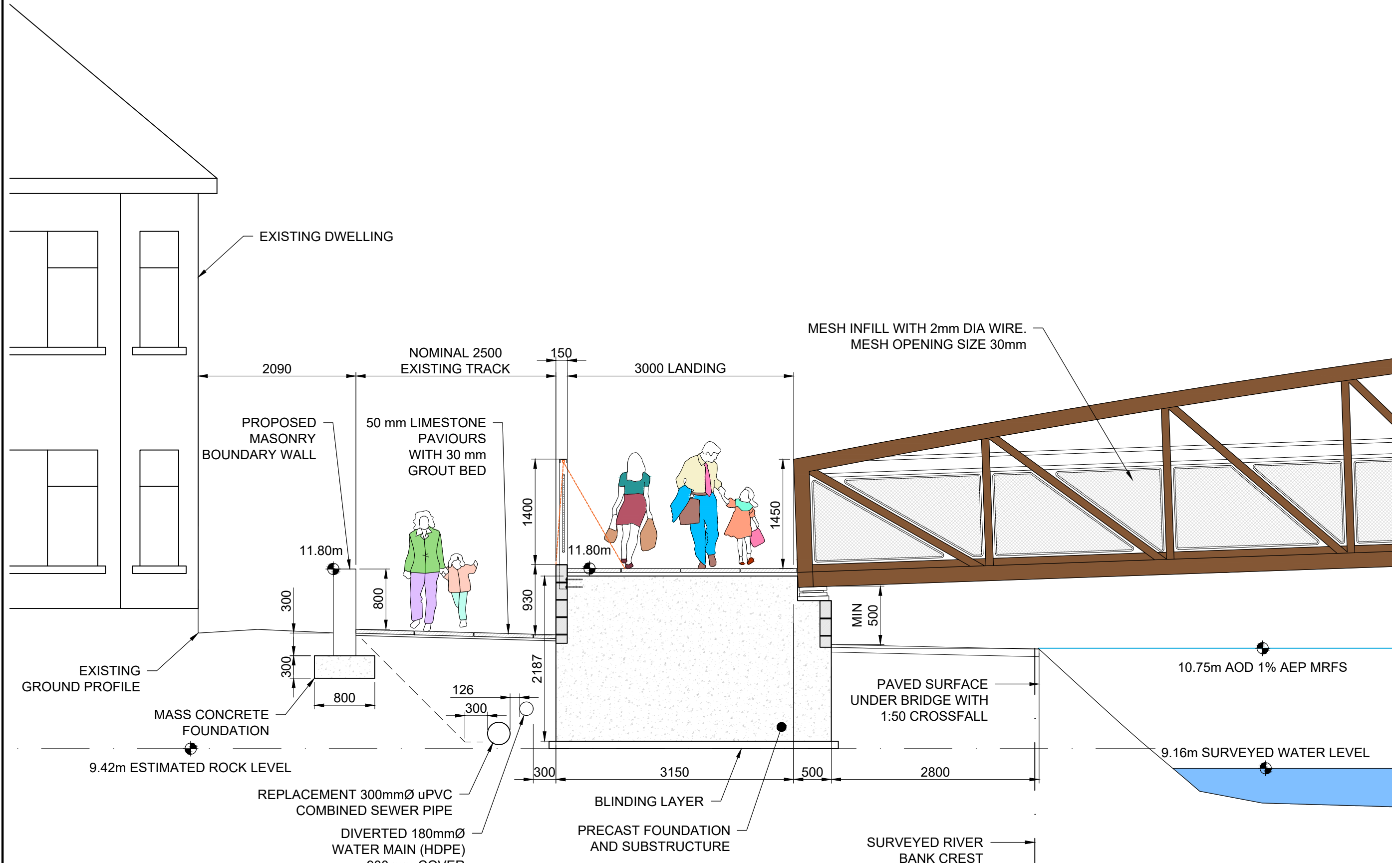
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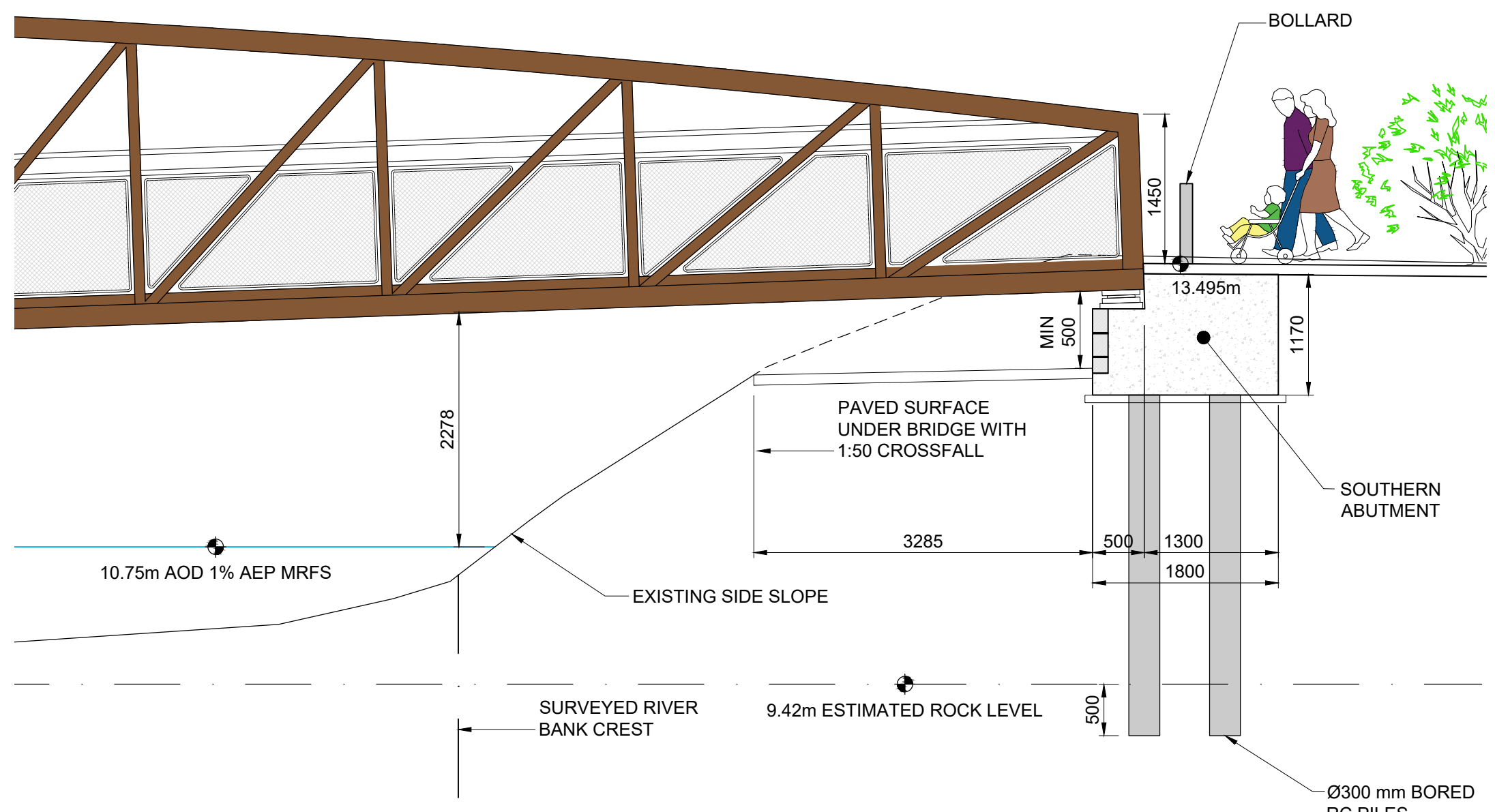
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Scale at A3 1:400



SECTION B: MIDSPAN BRIDGE CROSS SECTION  
Scale at A1 1:50  
Scale at A3 1:100



NORTHERN ABUTMENT LONGITUDINAL SECTION  
Scale at A1 1:50  
Scale at A3 1:100



SOUTHERN ABUTMENT LONGITUDINAL SECTION  
Scale at A1 1:50  
Scale at A3 1:100

- GENERAL NOTES
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  4. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
  5. DRAWINGS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATION
  6. THE ABBREVIATION "AEP MRFS" MEANS ANNUAL EXCEEDANCE PROBABILITY MID-RANGE FUTURE SCENARIO

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Risk Level  
X AtkinsRéalis Base Line - Low Risk  
X AtkinsRéalis Sensitive - Medium Risk  
X AtkinsRéalis Private - High Risk  
X Client Critical - Already Marked



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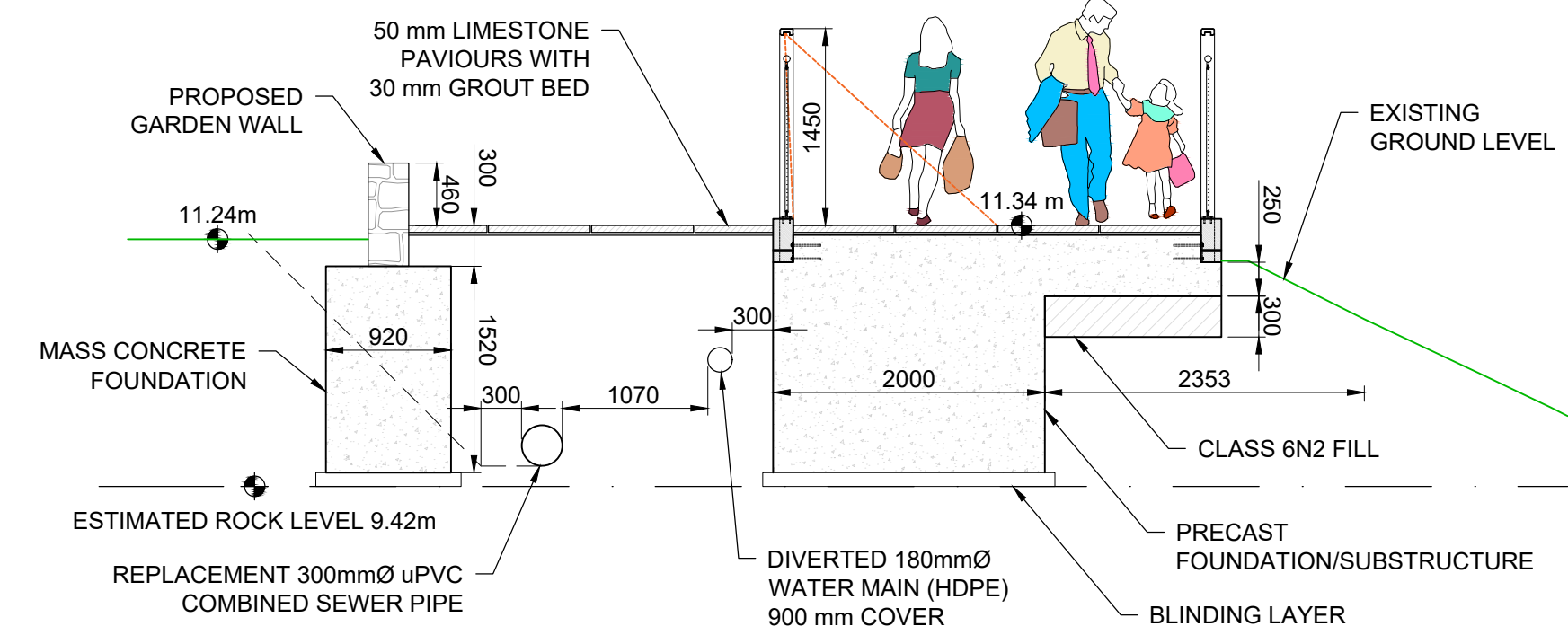
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CO		0088798-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900339		01.08.24		C00	



A1

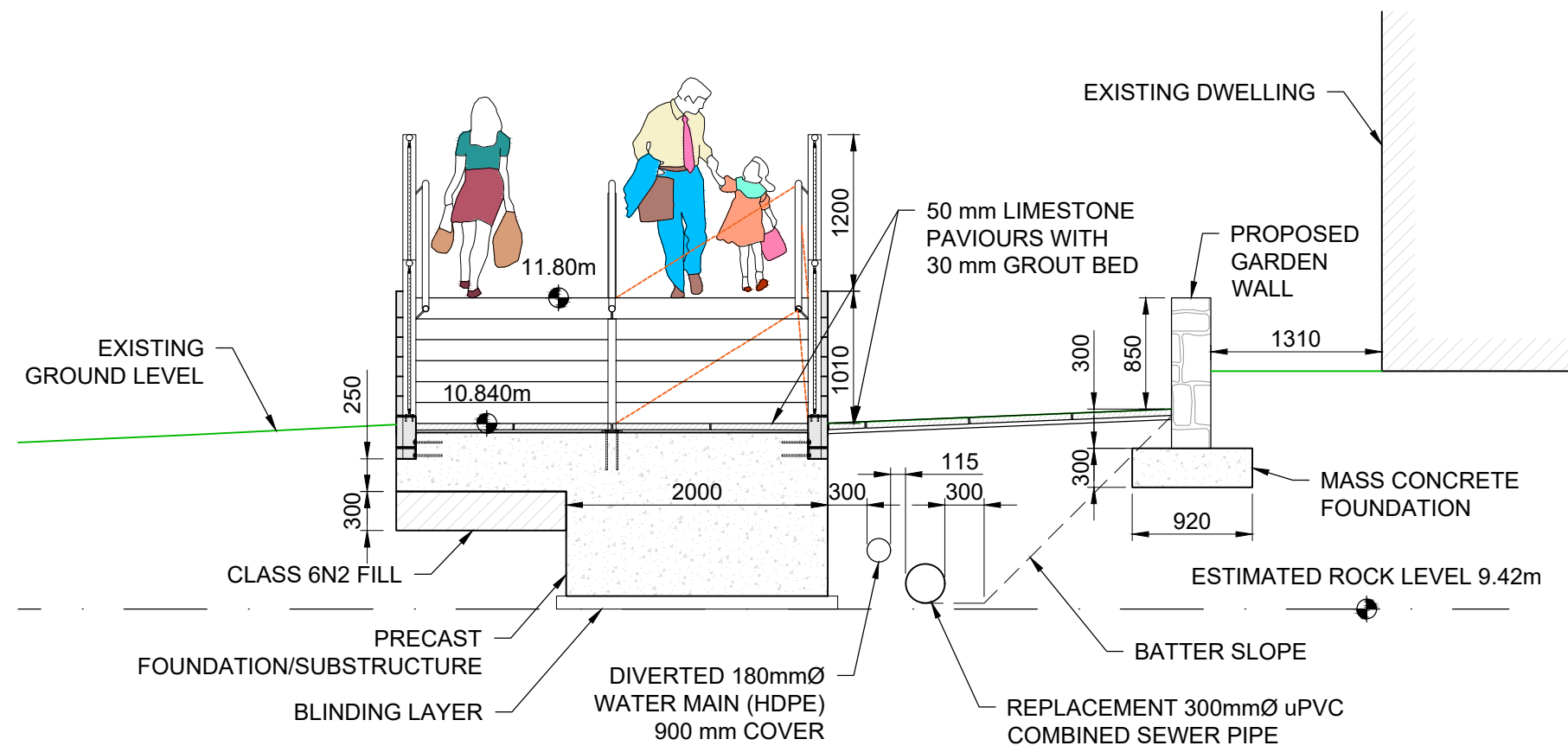
DO NOT SCALE

File: 0088798-ATK-XX-XX-06-CE-900331\_39\_42\_46-47\_53.dwg  
Date: Jun 16, 2025 - 5:07pm  
Plotted by: STEPT160



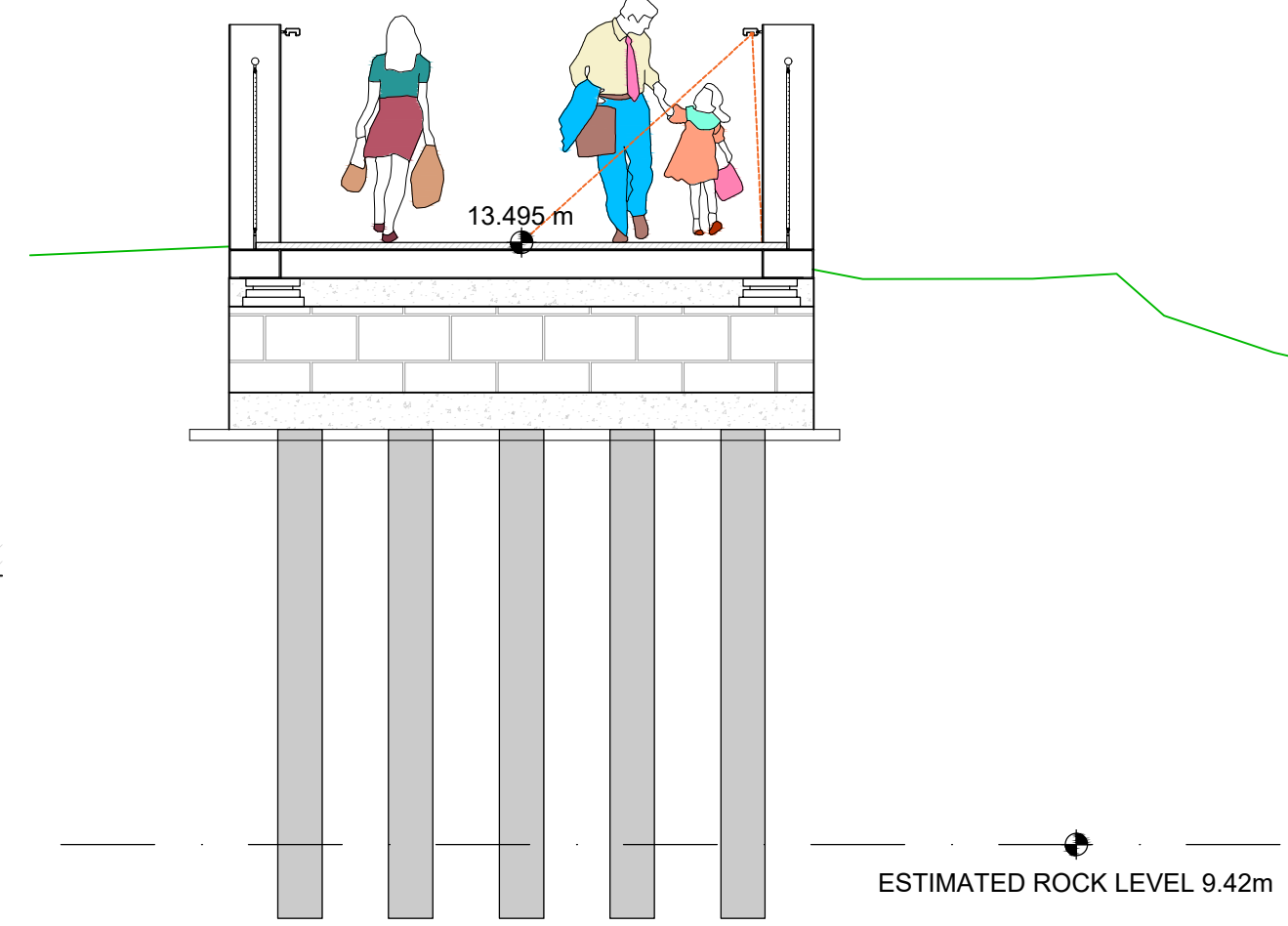
SECTION D

Scale at A1 1:50  
Scale at A3 1:100



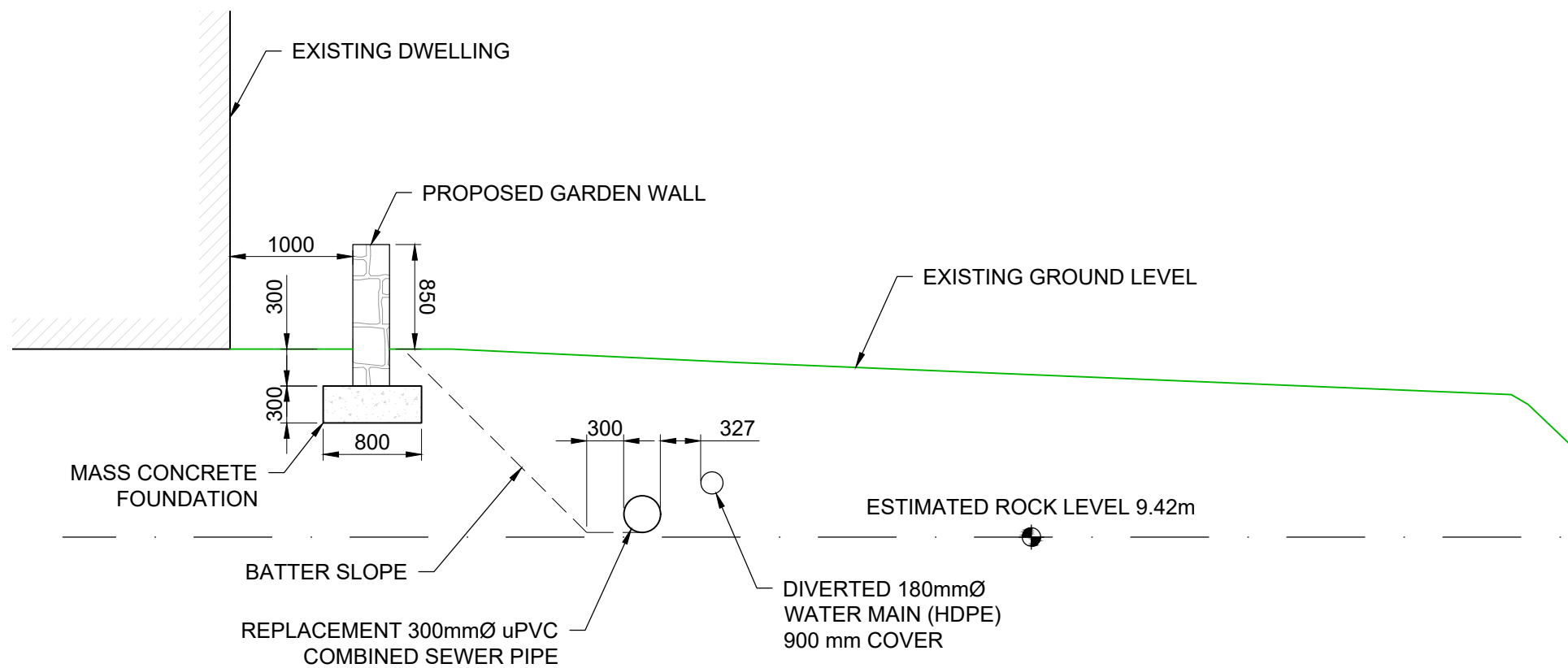
SECTION E

Scale at A1 1:50  
Scale at A3 1:100



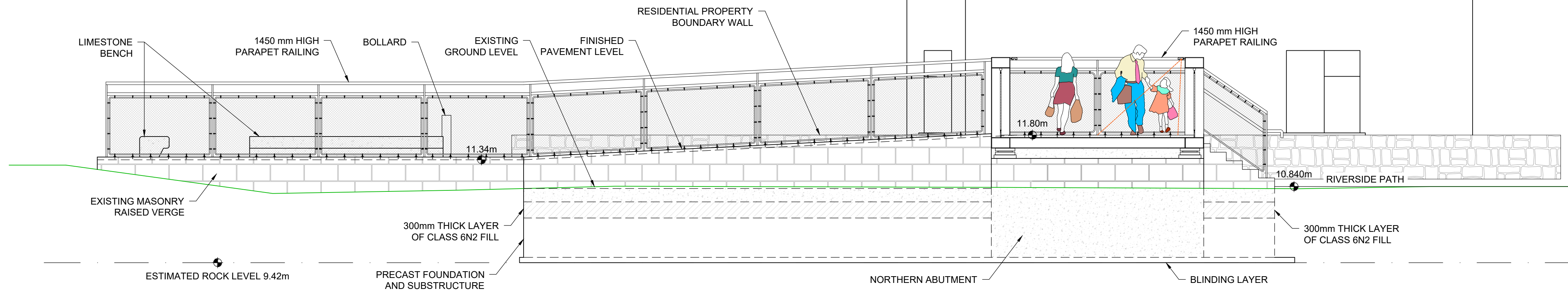
SECTION C

Scale at A1 1:50  
Scale at A3 1:100



SECTION J

Scale at A1 1:50  
Scale at A3 1:100



SECTION B1

Scale at A1 1:50  
Scale at A3 1:100

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
2. ONLY WRITTEN DIMENSIONS SHALL BE USED. NO DIMENSIONS SHALL BE SCALED FROM THE DRAWINGS
3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO MALIN HEAD DATUM
4. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
5. DRAWINGS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATION

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Risk Level	X AtkinsRéalis Base Line - Low Risk
	X AtkinsRéalis Sensitive - Medium Risk
	X AtkinsRéalis Private - High Risk
	X Client Critical - Already Marked



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Tel (+353) 091 786 050  
Fax (+353) 091 779 830

Client  
Galway County Council,  
Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill  
Galway. H91 H6KX

Project  
N59 OUGHTERARD FOOTBRIDGE

Purpose  
PLANNING ISSUE

Title  
PROPOSED GENERAL ARRANGEMENT -  
SECTIONS - SHEET 2

Original Scale	Drawn	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised
1:50	AGL	AK	MC	MJ
Date	17.10.24	17.10.24	17.10.24	17.10.24

Status	Drawing Number	Rev
CO	0088798-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900342	C00

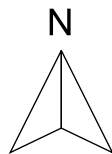
## Appendix 3- Visibility





## LEGEND

- Viewpoints
- Proposed Bridge Location
- ZTV (Zone of Theoretical Visibility)
- ACA Boundary



0 100 m

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing. All dimensions are to be checked on site. Area measurements for indicative purposes only.

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## Appendix 4- Viewpoints





50MM SINGLE FRAME IMAGE

Viewing Information

With one eye closed, hold this sheet from your open eye at a viewing distance of 50cm between your eye and the page.

This image is best used for comparison in the field from the viewpoint location shown. It is not a substitute for visiting the viewpoint location.

Printing Note

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**eamonn byrne**  
**landscape architects**

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Viewport Information

Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northwest  
Range: 0m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427777, -9.324495

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

**N59 OUGHTERARD FOOTBRIDGE**

OUGHTERARD, CO. GALWAY

Viewpoint 01

REV 0

05.12.2024





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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northwest  
Range: 0m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427777, -9.324495

**Viewing Information**  
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OUGHTERARD, CO. GALWAY

Viewpoint 01  
REV 0  
05.12.2024





Viewing Information

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northwest  
Range: 60m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427893, -9.323565

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Viewpoint 02

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northwest  
Range: 60m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427893, -9.323565

**Viewing Information**  
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Viewpoint 02  
REV 0  
05.12.2024





Viewing Information

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northeast  
Range: 60m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427613, -9.325409

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Viewpoint 03

REV 0

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northeast  
Range: 60m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427613, -9.325409

**Viewing Information**  
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Viewpoint 03  
REV 0  
05.12.2024





Viewing Information

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northeast  
Range: 150m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427382, -9.326878

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Viewpoint 04

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northeast  
Range: 225m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427450, -9.328241

**Viewing Information**  
With one eye closed, hold this sheet from your open eye at a distance of 50cm and curve the image through 90 degrees and turn head to view. Alternatively the image may be viewed by scanning left to right parallel to the sheet maintaining the 50cm viewing distance between your eye and the page.  
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Viewpoint 05  
REV 0  
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**Viewport Information**

Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southeast  
Range: 45m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428605, -9.325659

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Viewpoint 06

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southeast  
Range: 45m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428605, -9.325659

**Viewing Information**  
With one eye closed, hold this sheet from your open eye at a distance of 50cm and curve the image through 90 degrees and turn head to view. Alternatively the image may be viewed by scanning left to right parallel to the sheet maintaining the 50cm viewing distance between your eye and the page.  
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Viewpoint 06  
REV 0  
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Viewing Information

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southeast  
Range: 180m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.429652, -9.326785

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Viewpoint 07

REV 0

05.12.2024





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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southeast  
Range: 180m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.429652, -9.326785

**Viewing Information**  
With one eye closed, hold this sheet from your open eye at a distance of 50cm and curve the image through 90 degrees and turn head to view. Alternatively the image may be viewed by scanning left to right parallel to the sheet maintaining the 50cm viewing distance between your eye and the page.  
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Viewpoint 07  
REV 0  
05.12.2024





Viewing Information

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southwest  
Range: 120m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.429239, -9.324129

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Viewpoint 08

REV 0

05.12.2024





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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southwest  
Range: 120m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.429239, -9.324129

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Viewpoint 08  
REV 0  
05.12.2024





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**Viewport Information**

Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southwest  
Range: 85m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428809, -9.324237

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Viewpoint 09

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southwest  
Range: 85m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428809, -9.324237

**Viewing Information**  
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Viewpoint 09  
REV 0  
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**Viewport Information**

Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southwest  
Range: 40m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428693, -9.324839

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Viewpoint 10

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southwest  
Range: 40m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428693, -9.324839

**Viewing Information**  
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Viewpoint 10  
REV 0  
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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southeast  
Range: 0.5m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428370, -9.325044

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Viewpoint 11

REV 0

05.12.2024





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Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southeast  
Range: 0.5m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428370, -9.325044

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Viewpoint 11  
REV 0  
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**Viewport Information**

Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: East  
Range: 115m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427764, -9.326668

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Viewpoint 12

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: East  
Range: 115m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427764, -9.326668

**Viewing Information**  
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Viewpoint 12  
REV 0  
05.12.2024





Approximate bridge  
crossing location

50MM SINGLE FRAME IMAGE

Viewing Information

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Viewport Information

Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southeast  
Range: 50m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428092, -9.325874

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Viewpoint 13

REV 0

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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Southeast  
Range: 50m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.428092, -9.325874

**Viewing Information**  
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Viewpoint 13

REV 0

05.12.2024





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**Viewport Information**  
Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northeast  
Range: 150m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427547, -9.327019

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Viewpoint 14

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Viewing Information

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Printing Note

To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 at A3 size.



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Viewport Information

Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northeast  
Range: 175m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427341, -9.327327

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Photography date: 20.11.2024  
Camera height: 1.6m  
Direction: Northeast  
Range: 175m  
WGS Coordinates: 53.427341, -9.327327

**Viewing Information**  
With one eye closed, hold this sheet from your open eye at a distance of 50cm and curve the image through 90 degrees and turn head to view. Alternatively the image may be viewed by scanning left to right parallel to the sheet maintaining the 50cm viewing distance between your eye and the page.  
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**Eamonn Byrne Landscape Architects (EBLA)** is a consultancy providing services in landscape architecture, urban design and landscape planning. We are a registered practice with the Landscape Institute.

Our approach is collaborative, responsive and creative. Through our approach and quality service we aim to create valuable places for our clients.

### **Landscape Architecture**

We undertake the design, documentation and implementation of public and private external spaces across a wide range of project types and scales.

### **Urban Design**

Through our urban design services we aim to integrate projects into their urban context and create valuable places for people.

### **Landscape Planning**

Our landscape planning principles and practices consider the integration of topography, infrastructure and natural systems to achieve the optimum balance between the built and natural environment.

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