

<b>1. North East Galway (Ballinasloe to Ballymoe) – Landscape Value Rating - Low</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Low)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Low)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Low)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat to undulating pasture with field boundaries defined by ditches and hedgerows.</li> <li>• A small number of bogs in this area.</li> <li>• Occasional clumps of coniferous commercial forestry to be found.</li> <li>• Loughs are significant landscape element but are only visible at short range.</li> <li>• Views of Slievedart mountain for up to 10 kilometres.</li> <li>• 1 National monument to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;  The River Suck - SPA, NHA Bogs (approx 22sq km) – NHA Bogs (approx 30 sq km) – SAC, NHA Turloughs (approx 2 sq km) – SAC, NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High sense of community in this area due to the dispersal of several small urban settlements. Those living adjacent to small villages would have strong connections with the area.</li> <li>• Agriculture is possibly one of the main forms of employment in this area.</li> <li>• There is a large amount of ribbon development in the area. The scattered urban settlements serve these dwellings.</li> <li>• Two loughs adjacent to Glenamaddy could be used for water-sports, depending on water quality.</li> <li>• There are a large number of site monuments located in the vicinity of the R364 between Glenamaddy and Ballymoe.</li> <li>• There are a large number of small loughs located to the west of Williamstown. Both the R360 and R327 run adjacent to these loughs.</li> <li>• Various third class roads in the vicinity of the location of a large number of designated NHA's in this area. A good road network could promote this area as a scenic location.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shiven, Suck, Sinking and Bunowen Rivers. The overall water quality of these rivers is unpolluted to slightly polluted. In the past these rivers have suffered from agricultural pollution.</li> <li>• Flat to undulating lowland with small areas of Blanket Peat but mainly consisting of dry mineral soils.</li> <li>• Main towns in this area are Glenamaddy, Ballymoe and Mountbellow Bridge.</li> <li>• Traffic is heavy on N63.</li> <li>• Air quality in towns and large residential areas may be of poorer quality during winter due to combustion of fossil fuel (Peat) which produces high levels of Methane and Carbon dioxide.</li> <li>• Prevailing winds form Atlantic Ocean refresh and cleanse the air.</li> <li>• Biodiversity in this area is high as the River Suck, turloughs and bogs within this area have natural habitats, fauna and flora which are of European importance.</li> </ul>

<b>2. Shannon and Suck River Valley (between Portumna and Ballinasloe) – Landscape Value Rating - Medium</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Medium)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Medium - High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Medium)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat grassland with river as main landscape element.</li> <li>• Some vegetation, including mature trees along the river edge environment.</li> <li>• Distant views can be gained of the Slieve Aughty Mountains.</li> <li>• Scenic quality is higher in this area than that found in the flat pastoral areas of the county (areas 1, 3 and 5). This is due to the unique features such as the rivers Shannon and Suck and the views of the Slieve Aughty Mountains.</li> <li>• No National monuments to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>The Rivers Shannon and Suck - SPA, NHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lot of public recreation in this area due to the River Shannon – angling, river cruises, and water sports.</li> <li>• Value to the local economy is high due to the tourist interest in the area – nationally and internationally.</li> <li>• Sense of community is high due to small local businesses depending on the River Shannon and the tourist industry.</li> <li>• Educational interest is high – River Shannon longest river in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses in the area consist of Shannon River, Suck River, Shannon Harbour and Grand Canal.</li> <li>• The overall water quality of these rivers are unpolluted to slightly polluted. In the past these rivers have suffered from agricultural pollution.</li> <li>• There has been an overall improvement in the water quality within the River Shannon system. There has however been an increase in the length of channel affected by serious pollution from 0.8% to 1.1.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Settlements in the area include Banagher and Portumna.</li> <li>• Heavy traffic on N65 which crosses Shannon near Portumna.</li> <li>• Air quality in towns and large residential areas may be of poorer quality during winter due to combustion of fossil fuel (Peat) which produces high levels of Methane and Carbon dioxide.</li> <li>• Flat to undulating lowland. Grey Brown Podzolics surrounding River Shannon.</li> <li>• Biodiversity within Shannon and Suck River is high as natural habitats, fauna and flora are protected under European law.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> DoE - Environmental Bulletin Developments in the area of Environmental Protection – issue 51 – November 2001.

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<b>3. East Central Galway (Athenry, Ballinasloe to Portuma) – Landscape Value Rating - Low</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Low)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Low)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Low)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat pastoral landscape of fields bounded by stone walls.</li> <li>• Scattered patches of bogland containing scrub and scattered mature trees.</li> <li>• Generally this area is not noteworthy in terms of scenic value.</li> <li>• Views of Kilconnell Abbey for up to 1km</li> <li>• Views of St Cuan’s Church at Ahascragh for up to 0.5 km.</li> <li>• Scenic route – R359 between Castleblakeney and Killaan cross.</li> <li>• Minor route between Mountbellewbridge and Ballyforan is scenic.</li> <li>• 15 National monuments are located in this area. Many of these cannot be viewed from a distance and therefore contribute little in terms of wider scenic value. They are of interest at a very local level historically.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development potential is high in this area due to the nature of the landscape, mostly flat pastureland and interspersed patches of bogland. A large amount of scattered residential development already exists in this area.</li> <li>• The area is well served with national and third class roads.</li> <li>• Ballinasloe is the principle urban settlement in this area. Employment opportunities exist primarily in Ballinasloe, Portumna and Athenry.</li> <li>• Agricultural and peat production are the main forms of rural enterprise.</li> <li>• Social identity and property ownership is high due to the large number of detached residential dwelling located throughout this area. Those living adjacent to small urban settlements would have strong links with those areas. Social identity would also therefore be high. Probably a lot of in-migration due to employment prospects and available sites for development</li> <li>• Lots of open views from Castleblakeney to Menlough.</li> <li>• There are a number of national monuments located between Ballinasloe and Kilconnell – possible scenic route of scientific interest.</li> <li>• Portumna is also a tourist attraction due to its location on the shores of Lough Mask.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivers include Abbert, Raford, Ahascragh and Kilcrow.</li> <li>• Most rivers within this area are unpolluted with the exception of a few which are slightly polluted from agricultural pollutants.</li> <li>• Settlements in the area include Athenry, Portumna, Ballinasloe and Loughrea. All these roads pass through Lough Rea.</li> <li>• Traffic on N65, N6 and N63 is heavy. In 1998 there was an increase of 25.67% in the number of Vehicles registered in Galway.</li> <li>• Air quality in towns and large residential areas may be of poorer quality during winter due to combustion of fossil fuel (Peat) which produces high levels of Methane and Carbon dioxide.</li> <li>• Flat to undulating lowland. Degraded Grey Brown Podzolics. Shallow Brown Earth’s and Rendzinas</li> <li>• Biodiversity is medium in certain areas for example 8sq km are of European importance.</li> </ul>

<p>Bogs (approx 30sq km) – NHA Bogs (approx 8 sq km) – SAC, NHA Turloughs (approx 1 sq km) – NHA Woodland area (approx 2 sq km) - NR</p>		
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<b>4. Southeast Galway (Clarinbridge to Gort) – Landscape Value Rating - Medium</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Medium)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Medium)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Medium)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat to undulating landscape with scrub and grassland .</li> <li>• Field boundaries bounded by hedgerows without mature trees.</li> <li>• Occasional clumps of commercial forestry.</li> <li>• Loughs as distinctive landscape elements. These include Lough Cutra and Lough Graney. These contribute significantly to the scenic value.</li> <li>• Distant views across open landscape.</li> <li>• 7 National monuments to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;  Turloughs (approx 7 sq km) – SAC, NHA Loughs ( approx 8 sq km) – SAC, NHA Lough Cutra (5 sq km ) – SPA, NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development potential is high in the hinterlands surrounding Gort due to the nature of the landscape – flat to undulating landscape. This area is also good for agricultural development especially in the vicinity of Gort.</li> <li>• Quite a few ecclesiastical ruins in this area – could be utilised for historical tourism reasons.</li> <li>• The area northeast of Gort is a rich agricultural area with high quality pastureland.</li> <li>• There is a large amount of ribbon development located between Ardahan and Gort with corresponding high levels of property ownership.</li> <li>• The N66, Gort to Loughrea road runs adjacent to the Slieve Aughty mountains.</li> <li>• Open views along the R347 from Ardahan to Kinvara.</li> <li>• Chill Mac Dhuach is a pleasant area with old church ruins, graveyards, round towers etc.</li> <li>• Lough Cutra and Lough Graney –of potential for recreational tourism in this area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality of Lough Coole is unpolluted</li> <li>• Towns include Gort and Kinvara</li> <li>• Traffic on N18, N69, N66 is heavy</li> <li>• Railway line within area</li> <li>• Air emissions dispersed from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture, reduces air quality.</li> <li>• Flat to undulating lowland with Shallow Brown Earth's and Redzinas</li> <li>• Biodiversity is high in certain areas for example 15sq km are of European importance.</li> </ul>

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<b>5. Northeast Galway (Tuam environs) – Landscape Value Rating - Low</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Low)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Low)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Low)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat open agricultural landscape of fields bounded by hedgerows.</li> <li>• Random clusters of mature trees.</li> <li>• Overall not a highly scenic area.</li> <li>• Loughs are distinctive landscape elements but are generally visible only at short range. Summerville Lough is particularly scenic.</li> <li>• Views of Knockmaa mountain for up to 8 km radius.</li> <li>• Views generally to the hills south of the N63.</li> <li>• Views of the cathedral of the assumption in Tuam for up to a 3 km radius.</li> <li>• 10 National monuments to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;  Esker (0.25 sq km) - NR Lakes (approx 4 sq km) – NHA Bogs (approx 35 sq km) – NHA Turloughs (approx 8 sq km) – NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture as main form of rural employment in this area.</li> <li>• A number of small urban settlements may also provide limited employment opportunities.</li> <li>• There is a large amount of linear residential development along the National Primary and Third Class Roads in this extended area. This equates to high property ownership in this area.</li> <li>• This area does not have much potential for large-scale tourism development. A number of smaller loughs could be designated for passive recreation.</li> <li>• Good road network in this area, Tuam and Headford would be the principal centres of employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivers include Abbert, Grange, Clare, Black and Sinking</li> <li>• Tuam is the largest settlement in area</li> <li>• Traffic is heavy on N17, N83, N84</li> <li>• Air emissions dispersed from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture, reduces air quality.</li> <li>• Flat to undulating Lowland. Degraded grey Brown Podzolic. Shallow Brown Earth's and Rendzinas and Basin Peat</li> <li>• Biodiversity is medium in certain areas for example 47.25sq km are of national importance.</li> </ul>



<b>6. Slieve Aughty Mountains – Landscape Value Rating - Medium</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Medium)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Medium - High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Medium)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undulating to mountainous terrain with distinctive landform characteristics.</li> <li>• Large tracts of commercial forestry.</li> <li>• Long range scenic views towards the mountains.</li> <li>• Route R351 and N66 at the foothills are scenic routes.</li> <li>• 1 National monument to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;  Bogs (approx 20 sq km) – SAC, NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huge tourist potential in the vicinity of the Slieve Aughty Mountains.</li> <li>• Property ownership and social identity is high in this area.</li> <li>• The R353 and R461 traversing the mountains could be designated as scenic routes.</li> <li>• Potential to develop tourist facilities within the Slieve Aughty region.</li> <li>• Lough Atorich is another tourist attraction in this area and could be designated for water sports etc.</li> <li>• A lot of commercial forestry in this region, some of which detracts from the overall visual amenity of the mountains.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Lough Cutra, Owendalulleagh, Ballin and Atorick. All of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• Largest settlement in the area is Woodford.</li> <li>• Large areas of commercial forestry. The effects of deforestation will impact the quality of soil and water.</li> <li>• Area is surrounded by woodland, has few settlements and no major roads.</li> <li>• Mixture of Mountain and Hill Blanket Peat to Rolling Lowland. Peaty Gleys.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is high in certain areas for example 20sq km are of European importance.</li> </ul>

<b>7. Northwest Lough Derg)– Landscape Value Rating - Medium</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Medium)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Medium – High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Medium)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively flat enclosed waterside landscape.</li> <li>• Lough Derg is the main distinctive landscape feature.</li> <li>• Scenic views at long range towards the Slieve Aughty mountains.</li> <li>• 3 National monuments to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows; North shore of Lough Derg - SAC, NHA Lough Derg - SPA Bogs (approx 4 sq km) – SAC, NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area consists of low-lying water-edge pastureland.</li> <li>• Lough Derg is main tourist attraction and would facilitate water-sports, fishing etc and other spin-offs from its association with the River Shannon.</li> <li>• High sense of community along the shores of Lough Derg – relationship of local people with the Lough.</li> <li>• The 3 national monuments could enhance the attractiveness of this area.</li> <li>• Lough Derg has good economic opportunities with regard to tourist development and its association with River Shannon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses in the area include Lough Derg and Coos River. As a result of pollution from the Shannon River, Lough Derg has now been classified as being in a satisfactory mesotrophic condition.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Portumna is the largest settlement.</li> <li>• Portumna forest park.</li> <li>• Air quality is good as forest park surrounds area.</li> <li>• Rolling lowland surrounding Lough Derg.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is medium in certain areas for example 4sq km of bog and Lough Derg are of European importance.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> DoE - Environmental Bulletin Developments in the area of Environmental Protection – issue 51 – November 2001.

<b>8. Lower Burren (Co. Galway portion) – Landscape Value Rating - Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally a flat open landscape.</li> <li>• Little vegetative cover together with an abundance of stony outcrops contributes to an overall barren setting.</li> <li>• Distinctively wild and scenic landscape.</li> <li>• Flat areas of granite pavement associated with the Burren granite pavement complex in Co Clare.</li> <li>• No National monuments to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;  Burren (approx 15 sq km) – SAC, NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low development potential for residential/industrial uses due to the nature of the landscape. Possible development of tourist facilities.</li> <li>• There is a small scattering of residential dwellings in this area, a proportion of which are traditional farmhouses and cottages. Social identity and property ownership is high. Sense of community is also high due to the low level of new residents in the area.</li> <li>• Scenic routes such as the third class road running parallel to the Burren could be promoted as a tourist route – nationally and internationally known?</li> <li>• Public recreation would be primarily based on walking routes, cycling, tourist trails etc. The Burren is internationally known – more tourist facilities could be developed.</li> <li>• Good road network connecting the Burren with Galway City.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Aughinish Bay which is unpolluted.</li> <li>• Small area consisting of only one settlement called Funshin Moore.</li> <li>• Heavy traffic on N67.</li> <li>• Air emissions disperse from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture reduce air quality.</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Hilly land consisting of Rendzinas with rocky outcrop.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is outstanding in certain areas for example 15sq km are of European importance.</li> </ul>

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<b>9. Inveran to Galway City coastline – Landscape Value Rating - High</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A flat coastal landscape.</li> <li>• Scenic qualities somewhat spoilt by ribbon development.</li> <li>• There are pockets of landscape that are relatively undeveloped and therefore retain a high scenic quality associated with this coastline.</li> <li>• Coastal setting is main distinctive landscape element.</li> <li>• No National monuments to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows; Furbogh Wood (approx 0.5sq km) – NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot of ribbon development along the R336, which would indicate high property ownership. This increase in new residential development and subsequent influx of young married couples may fail to strengthen interest in community facilities and wellbeing. It is probable that many of these people commute daily to Galway for employment purposes and fail to inject any of their earnings back into community life.</li> <li>• Galway Bay is the main tourist attraction in this area. Views are impaired by one-off residential properties.</li> <li>• Recreational activities relate primarily to water-sports.</li> <li>• There is potential to develop caravan parks and picnic areas along the R336.</li> <li>• The small urban settlements along this route would cater for tourists/visitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galway Bay is a protected shellfish area under European legalisation. Therefore water quality is good.</li> <li>• Main road is R336. Traffic along this route especially from Galway to Spiddle is heavy during rush hour.</li> <li>• Settlements include Spiddle, Barna and Inveran.</li> <li>• Air emissions dispersed from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture, reduces air quality.</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Rolling Lowland with rocky outcrop and peat.</li> <li>• Biodiversity in this area is high especially around coast.</li> </ul>

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<b>10. East Connemera Mountains (Moycullen, Oughterard to Lough Anillaun) – Landscape Value Rating - High</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally an undulating landscape with mountainous areas occupying the eastern section.</li> <li>• Commercial forestry to be found on the mountain slopes.</li> <li>• Many low lying areas containing a multitude of small loughs.</li> <li>• Views of Cnoc Mordain for up to 10 km.</li> <li>• Dominant landscape elements such as the mountains and the lakes contribute significantly to the high scenic quality.</li> <li>• 1 National monument to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;  Connemara Bog Complex (many sq km) – SAC, NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape comprises mountains and lakes. Economic viability would depend on forestry, fishing industry of Lough Corrib and employment in Galway.</li> <li>• The N59 could be developed as a scenic route; the undulating landscape in the area could accommodate development of tourist facilities.</li> <li>• Sense of community is high in this area due to the low level of scattered residential development. Property ownership is also high due to people living in the area for generations. Not a huge influx of new residents to the area.</li> <li>• Unspoilt landscape to the south of the N59.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loughs include Inch, Naulla, Boliska, Cloonadon and Anillaunmore. All of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• Largest settlement is Oughterard.</li> <li>• Heavy traffic on N59. There are no main roads located to the south of area.</li> <li>• Population and development is low apart from areas within immediate vicinity of N59 and Oughterard.</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Rolling lowland Blanket Peat.</li> <li>• Biodiversity in this area is high as many sq. km are of European importance.</li> </ul>

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<b>11. Lough Corrib and environs – Landscape Value Rating - Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High - Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High -Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The large expanse of water that forms the lough is the main distinctive landscape feature.</li> <li>• Wooded islands within the lough contribute to the unique sense of place.</li> <li>• Flat open pastoral landscape surrounds the southern edge of the lough.</li> <li>• To the north, undulating heathland surrounds the lough.</li> <li>• Scenic views of mountains to the western side of Lough Corrib for up to 17km.</li> <li>• Scenic views to be gained generally from the N59.</li> <li>• Some historic monuments visible for up to 2km radius.</li> <li>• 3 National monuments to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Lough Corrib – SAC, SPA, NHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lough Corrib has huge potential for tourist development – fishing, boating, water-sports.</li> <li>• Fishing and tourism are the only form of economic development.</li> <li>• Some areas adjacent to the lough allow flat open views over the lough. A number of possible sites for holiday home development.</li> <li>• Social identity is high amongst those who have been resident in the area for a long period.</li> <li>• A sustained local community can only really rely on fishing, tourism and recreational enterprises. Land immediately adjacent to Lough Corrib is flat low-lying wetland and would have poor agricultural potential.</li> <li>• Property ownership is high due to the extent of new residential development particularly on the south side of the lough.</li> <li>• There are a number of historic and national monuments located within the study area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lough Corrib and Lough Maumwee (north-west of Corrib) both of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• Cregg and Black River are unpolluted.</li> <li>• Main roads include N84 and N59. Traffic is heavy on both.</li> <li>• No settlement in the area but Oughterard is in close proximity to Lough Corrib.</li> <li>• Air emissions dispersed from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture, reduce air quality.</li> <li>• Flat to undulating Lowland surrounding Lough Corrib.</li> <li>• Biodiversity in this area is outstanding for example Lough Corrib of European importance.</li> </ul>

<b>12. South foothills of east Connemera Mountains (Ouranavilla Tully to Tonabrocky) – Landscape Value Rating - Medium</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Medium)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Low - Medium)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An undulating landscape consisting of heathland plants with occasional clumps of indigenous shrubs and mature trees.</li> <li>• Rocky outcrops are widespread giving a sense of wildness to this area.</li> <li>• Views inland of a heathland landscape for up to 4 – 5 km.</li> <li>• The area has an overall medium scenic value.</li> <li>• Views of Lough Inch for a 2km radius.</li> <li>• No National monuments to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Western half of this area is classed as an SAC and NHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low economic potential in this area due to the nature of the landscape – poor agricultural area.</li> <li>• Sporadic clumps of forestry in this area, which is the main form of economic activity.</li> <li>• Low development potential due to the rugged landscape.</li> <li>• High social identity – those living in this area have done so for generations, would have strong links with neighbours.</li> <li>• Public recreation mainly hill walking, site seeing. Local settlements would facilitate these tourists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses in the area include Lough Naulla, Inch and Uggá More. All of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• No main roads and towns within area.</li> <li>• Air quality is good, as area is rural by nature.</li> <li>• Rolling Lowland Blanket Peat.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is high in certain areas for example 50% is of European importance.</li> </ul>

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<b>13. East Galway Bay (Oranmore to Kinvarra Bay and inland to N18 road) – Landscape Value Rating - High</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall high)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galway Bay is main landscape element with its unique sinuous coastline.</li> <li>• Area is generally flat and highly scenic towards the coastal edge.</li> <li>• Inland area features pasture with fields bounded by hedgerows.</li> <li>• N67 as scenic route with views of Galway Bay and Kinvara Bay.</li> <li>• 2 National monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;  Loughs ( 4 sq km) - SAC, NHA Marsh area (approx 2sq km) – NHA Galway Bay – SAC, NHA, SPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High tourism potential in this area is high due to local natural amenities – Galway Bay, Kinvara and Oranmore.</li> <li>• Good road network – potential scenic routes along Galway Coast.</li> <li>• Development potential is high – good road network from Galway to Ennis via the Burren.</li> <li>• Local employment in Galway City, Kinvara, Oranmore. Good quality pastureland to facilitate agricultural development.</li> <li>• N67 – possible scenic route encompassing the Burren.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Kinvarra Bay, Dunbulcaun Bay and Galway Bay. All of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• Main roads include N67 and N18. Traffic is heavy on both.</li> <li>• Largest settlement includes Oranmore.</li> <li>• Air emissions dispersed from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture, reduces air quality.</li> <li>• Flat to Undulating Lowland – Limestone, Shallow in places.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is high in certain areas for example many sq. km are of European importance.</li> </ul>

<b>14. West Connemara – Landscape Value Rating - Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall a flat open landscape containing many loughs and turloughs. Outstanding scenic quality.</li> <li>• Areas of bog and heath can be found.</li> <li>• Sections of the N59 route are highly scenic.</li> <li>• Minor route between Ballinaboy and Toombeola consists of a highly scenic bogland setting.</li> <li>• Route R341 offers consistent scenic views of the coastline.</li> <li>• No National monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Many square kilometres of this area including various lakes carry both SAC and NHA designation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development potential is low due to the wet landscape.</li> <li>• Lack of a good road network permeating the area.</li> <li>• Sense of community is high – dispersed small attractive dwellings.</li> <li>• Hill walking, fishing probably only forms of public recreation</li> <li>• Ballynahinch Lake – watersports, fishing.</li> <li>• Tourism – only form of economic development in this area. R341 could be designated as a scenic route.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Lough Bollard and Emlaghnebehy. All of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• The N59 runs directly north of area. The R341 starts at Clifden and runs directly around coastal area.</li> <li>• Largest settlement in area is Roundstone.</li> <li>• Air emissions dispersed from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture, reduces air quality.</li> <li>• Area consists of Rolling Lowland and Blanket Peat. Red bog wetlands.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is outstanding for example many sq. km are of National and European importance.</li> </ul>

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<b>15. Lettermore and Gorumna Islands – Landscape Value Rating - High</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall High )</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great diversity of landscape elements including islands, coastline and loughs contribute overall to high scenic quality.</li> <li>• Landscape characteristics are unique giving the area a strong sense of place.</li> <li>• Views of the mainland can be gained at long distance.</li> <li>• Views of Cnoc Mordain can be gained.</li> <li>• Views of the Aran Islands can be gained from Gorumna Island.</li> <li>• No National monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Both Lettermore and Gorumna Islands carry the SAC designation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area is well development in terms of industrial and commercial activity. Ample to serve extent of residential development on the islands.</li> <li>• Value of scenic areas in terms of tourist development is low due to the extent of residential development.</li> <li>• Public recreation/attractions are minimal – water-sports, walking etc.</li> <li>• Sense of community in this area is high – large amount of residential development, the local population employed in local enterprises.</li> <li>• Strong sense of community and social identity on the islands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Casheen Bay and Greatmans Bay. All of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• The area is split into two areas, which includes Lettermore Island and Gorumna island.</li> <li>• R374 is the main road.</li> <li>• Air emissions dispersed from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture, reduces air quality.</li> <li>• Rolling Lowland and Blanket Peat.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is high as many sq. km are of European importance.</li> </ul>

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<b>16. West foothills of East Connemara Mountains – Landscape Value Rating - High</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat to undulating open landscape with little vegetation.</li> <li>• The area is characterised by the presence of some bogs and many loughs.</li> <li>• Views east to the Lackadunna mountain complex.</li> <li>• Overall a high scenic quality in this area.</li> <li>• No national monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>A large proportion of this area carries both SAC and NHA designations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor landscape for agricultural development.</li> <li>• No residential development.</li> <li>• Public recreation – mainly hill walking.</li> <li>• Could be exploited for its scenic qualities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Lough Muckanagh and Glenicmurrin. All of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• R336 main road.</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Rolling Lowland Blanket Peat.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is outstanding in certain areas for example many sq km are of European and National importance.</li> </ul>

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<b>17. Carraroe (Cashla Bay to Glencoh) – Landscape Value Rating - High</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A flat open exposed landscape.</li> <li>• The area contains wet low lying patches together with rocky outcrops.</li> <li>• Kilkieran Bay and the coastline at Carraroe are unique areas of coastline giving the area a unique and highly scenic identity.</li> <li>• 1 National monument is to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Kinvarra Saltmarsh (approx. 3 sq km)- SAC, NHA                      Glencoh Rock and peninsula to the south – SAC                      Camus Area – SAC, NHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well developed small urban settlements in this area with a strong sense of community.</li> <li>• High property ownership, locals probably employed in local enterprises, fishing etc.</li> <li>• Public recreation – fishing, walking.</li> <li>• Kilkieran Bay is an attractive area – could be exploited for tourism reasons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Camus Bay (Unpolluted)</li> <li>• Largest Settlement includes Carraroe town</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Rolling Lowland – Rock Outcrop, Peat and Blanket Peat.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is high in certain areas for example many sq km are of European and National importance.</li> </ul>

<b>18. Bertraghboy Bay and eastern Banks – Landscape Value Rating – High</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat to undulating coastal landscape.</li> <li>• Coastline has unique profile, giving the area a strong identity.</li> <li>• Views can be gained of Lettermore and Gorumna Islands.</li> <li>• Distant views of the Aran Islands can be gained.</li> <li>• No national monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Many square kilometres of coastline – SAC, NHA Islands in this area generally – NHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism and aquaculture main forms of economic development.</li> <li>• Sense of community is high adjacent to the small urban settlements – Carna, Glinsk,</li> <li>• This is gaeltacht area and therefore popular with tourists.</li> <li>• Extended area is very attractive – large number of tourist's visit this area annually. The small urban settlements are ample to cater for them.</li> <li>• The R340 could be promoted as a scenic route.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Kilkieran Bay and Bertraghboy Bay. Both Unpolluted.</li> <li>• Main road in area is R340</li> <li>• Air quality is good</li> <li>• Rolling Lowland – Rocky Outcrop and Peat</li> <li>• Biodiversity is high as many sq km are of European and national importance.</li> </ul>

<b>19. West Coast (Gorteen Bay to Clifden)– Landscape Value Rating – Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat open landscape with extensive coastline, loughs and beaches.</li> <li>• Sections of the route R341 are highly scenic particularly at Clifden.</li> <li>• Views over the flat open terrain generally.</li> <li>• Views can be gained of the Connemara mountains to the east.</li> <li>• No national monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Large areas carry both SAC and NHA designations including Slyne Head peninsula.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The R341 and R340 could be promoted as scenic routes.</li> <li>• Not a great deal of potential for residential development – potential for tourist development is high due to the scenic landscape. There are a lot of open views from the R341.</li> <li>• Local communities possibly well sustained due to fishing, agriculture and tourism. This is also gaeltacht area.</li> <li>• Views of Clifden Bay and Ballyconneely Bay from the R341.</li> <li>• Potential to develop walking routes in the vicinity of the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Anaserd Lough, Clifden Bay, Mannin Bay, Bunowen Bay and Ballyconneely Bay. All unpolluted.</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Rolling Lowland, Rock Outcrop and Peat.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is Outstanding as large areas are protected under European and national legislation.</li> </ul>

<b>20. West Coast (Clifden to mouth of Killary Harbour) – Landscape Value Rating - Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat to undulating open coastal landscape.</li> <li>• A mountainous landscape lies further inland at the foothills of the Connemara mountain range.</li> <li>• A section of the N59 route is highly scenic particularly at Ballynakill Harbour.</li> <li>• Sections of the route R341 are highly scenic particularly at Ballyconneely Bay.</li> <li>• Spectacular views in a southerly direction towards Clifden Bay, Mannin Bay and Ballyconneely Bay.</li> <li>• No national monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;  Inishbofin Island (approx 25 sq km) – SAC, NHA Tully mountain (approx 7 sq km) – SAC, NHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The N59 could be a potential scenic route</li> <li>• Lot of tourist attractions in this area Ardnageevagh, Ballynakill Harbour, Inishbofin Island.</li> <li>• Sense of community/social identity is high. The landscape is mostly mountainous so little potential for extensive residential development.</li> <li>• Public recreation – fishing, boating, watersports.</li> <li>• There is a good road network in this area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Aughrusbeg Lough. Unpolluted.</li> <li>• Heavy Traffic on N59</li> <li>• Largest settlement in Clifden</li> <li>• Air emissions dispersed from vehicles, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture, reduces air quality.</li> <li>• Rolling Lowland – Rocky Outcrop and peat</li> <li>• Biodiversity is outstanding for example many sq. km are of European and National importance.</li> </ul>

<b>21. Killary Harbour and Southern Banks – Landscape Value Rating - Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall a highly scenic setting with diversity of landscape features ranging from mountain to fjord.</li> <li>• The landcover consists of heathland plants with little or no tree cover.</li> <li>• The N59 is a highly scenic route.</li> <li>• Distant views can be gained of Bengorm and the Mweelrea mountains.</li> <li>• No national monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Southern shores of Killary Harbour – SAC, NHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of community is high due to the lack of new development in the area – long-term residents in this area</li> <li>• Local communities avail of the Harbour for fishing etc.</li> <li>• Visual links are possibly low due to the topography of the area.</li> <li>• Development potential is low in this area due to the absence of a good road network.</li> <li>• This area could be developed for aquaculture/marine science</li> <li>• Highly scenic area – possible to develop as a major tourist attraction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Killary Harbour, which is unpolluted. These waters contain fish farms, which may have a negative impact on water quality.</li> <li>• Heavy traffic on N59.</li> <li>• Largest settlement is Leenaun.</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Mountain and Hill mostly, sandstone and Granite.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is outstanding as many sq. km are of European and National importance.</li> </ul>

<b>22. Connemara National Park (including Lough Fee, Lough Inagh and Derryclare Lough) – Landscape Value Rating – Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huge diversity of landscape features ranging from mountains to valleys and lakes. Overall outstanding scenic quality.</li> <li>• Large clumps of commercial forestry can be found in this area.</li> <li>• Route R344 is highly scenic.</li> <li>• Views of up to 5 km of Lough Inagh, Derryclare Lough and Kylemore Lough.</li> <li>• No national monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Several square kilometres of this area carry the SAC and NHA designations. Connemara National Park ( approx 25 sq km)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of community is high – not a large amount of residential development, those living in the area have done so for several generations.</li> <li>• Excellent tourist potential – hill walking, scenic routes. The landscape is unspoilt.</li> <li>• Kylemore Abbey is one of top tourist attractions in the west.</li> <li>• The N59 is a potential scenic route.</li> <li>• There is a need for extended tourist facilities to cater for this area. Clifden attracts the majority of the tourists.</li> <li>• The large amount of forestry in this area could camouflage development of tourist facilities.</li> <li>• Lough Innagh, Kylemore Lough and Derryclare Lough are also quite spectacular.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Kylemore Lough, Nahillion Lough and Traheen River. All of which are unpolluted.</li> <li>• Air quality is good as Lichen was identified within this area. Lichen is very sensitive to pollution and will only grow in pure air.</li> <li>• Mountain and Hill – Shallow Brown Earth’s</li> <li>• Biodiversity is outstanding as many sq. km are of European and National importance.</li> </ul>



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<b>23. Joyces Country (including Lehanagh Loughs and South Lough Mask) – Landscape Value Rating – Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great diversity of landscape elements ranging from mountain to valley and lake.</li> <li>• Land cover varies from rough grassland to heath and bog.</li> <li>• Route R336 is highly scenic, commanding views of the mountain peaks for up to 18 km.</li> <li>• No National monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Many square kilometres of this area are covered by both SAC and NHA designations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly scenic area – mountains, valleys, lakes – excellent tourist potential to be exploited.</li> <li>• The R336 traverses this area and could be designated as a highly scenic route.</li> <li>• Lough Nafoeey and the Maumturk Valley could be further exploited as potential tourist attractions – additional facilities for tourists and visitors to this area.</li> <li>• Possible walking trails and hiking paths in this area – possible sites for a visitor/activity centre</li> <li>• Forestry and tourism are the main economic resources.</li> <li>• High sense of community among those living in this area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercourses include Lehanagh Loughs which are unpolluted</li> <li>• Main roads include R344 and R366</li> <li>• Mountain &amp; Hill Peaty Gleys and Blanket Peat.</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is outstanding as many sq. km are of European and National importance.</li> </ul>

<b>24. Aran Islands – Landscape Value Rating – Outstanding</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall Outstanding)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall Outstanding)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main landscape elements include coastline, beach and flat stony rough grazed inland areas.</li> <li>• Distant views over towards mainland Galway.</li> <li>• 34 National monuments in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Many square kilometres of this area are covered by both SAC and NHA designations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good ferry service linking the islands and the mainland.</li> <li>• Ample tourist facilities on the islands. The island attracts a large amount of tourists during the summer period.</li> <li>• High sense of community/social identity amongst the locals. Fishing/tourism are the main form of economic activity. Land is rugged/poor for intensive agriculture.</li> <li>• There are a large amount of site monuments located on the three islands.</li> <li>• All three islands have good road networks and walking routes.</li> <li>• Dun Aengus is a popular tourist attraction, good supply of facilities in this area.</li> <li>• Gaeltacht Summerschools also attract additional tourists, students etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aran Islands are surrounded by water. Inishmore consists of Killeany Bay. The water quality in this area is unpolluted.</li> <li>• Seals swim within these waters</li> <li>• Largest town within Inishmore is Kilronan</li> <li>• Hilly land – Rendzinas with outcropping rock – Limestone.</li> <li>• Air quality is good, as only islanders can drive on island and development is controlled.</li> <li>• Biodiversity in this area is outstanding as many sq. km are of European and National importance.</li> </ul>

<b>25. Lough Rea– Landscape Value Rating - High</b>		
<b>Cultural Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Socio economic Values (Overall High)</b>	<b>Environmental (Overall High)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landscape Aesthetics / Sense of place</b></li> <li>• <b>Historical Features</b></li> <li>• <b>Protected / Designated Landscapes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Value to local economy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sense of community</b></li> <li>• <b>Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Recreation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Soil Type</b></li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b></li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lough is the main landscape element in this area and contains vegetated islands, which give it a unique character.</li> <li>• The town of Loughrea bounds the northern edge of the lough and the southern boundary is formed by the Slieve Aughty Mountains which can be viewed from the lough.</li> <li>• No national monuments are to be found in this area.</li> <li>• Designated landscapes as follows;</li> </ul> <p>Lough Rea is covered by SAC and NHA designations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loughrea is important for tourism development of the surrounding area – watersports, activity holidays etc.</li> <li>• There is little diversity in the landscape to the north of Loughrea. The lough would be the main tourist attraction in the extended area.</li> <li>• Sense of community is high – strong social connection with Loughrea.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lough Rea is unpolluted.</li> <li>• Three major roads run close to Lough Rea which include N66, N6 and R350.</li> <li>• Air quality is good.</li> <li>• Flat to Undulating Lowland. Limestone till, Shallow in Places.</li> <li>• Biodiversity in this area is high as Lough Rea of European and National importance.</li> </ul>