



Local Development Plan 2030

Technical Supplement 10 Appendix D - Candidate Sensitive Landscape Scoring Matrix Justification

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**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council



Appendix D - Identification of candidate Sensitive Landscape Areas (cSLAs): Scoring Justification

LCA 52 - Lough Beg and Lower Bann River corridor (south of Portglenone)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
<p>High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)</p>	<p>Lough Beg and its fringes and the Lower Bann River corridor is included within the Lough Neagh Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ) which is recognized for its scenic quality, as well as for its nature conservation and heritage value. Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) are within this area. A relatively small area of agricultural land abutting Newferry Road and the Lower Bann River is included within Culnafay ASSI.</p> <p>This area is a scenic river corridor which is undeveloped and unspoilt in character.</p> <p>In consideration of these factors, this area scores positively against this criterion.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)</p>	<p>This area is within the Lough Neagh Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ) which is an important landscape recognised for its scenic qualities.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements</p>	<p>The Lough Beg fringe and floodplain area is highly distinctive due to its undeveloped character, wetland habitat and juxtaposition with Lough Beg. This area is visually exposed to critical short-medium range views from Ballyscullion Road, Lough Beg Road and Newferry Road and Newferry Water Sports Centre and visitor car park. There are longer range views from Carmagrim Road and Largy Road.</p> <p>The Lower Bann River fringe and floodplain area to the north of Lough Beg is visually exposed to critical short-medium range views from Newferry Road and Newferry Water Sports Centre. There are longer range views from Carmagrim Road and Largy Road. This area is highly distinctive due to its undeveloped open floodplain in southern parts and dense woodland (some of which is long-established woodland) further north. The woodland in the northern part is highly significant for the setting of Portglenone.</p> <p><i>NB: It should be noted that, in the northern part of this area, critical views of the river from public roads are impeded by the topography or woodland.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)</p>	<p>The presence of Portglenone House supplementary Registered Park, Garden and Demesne, which includes Portglenone Forest, and the Lower Bann River Corridor contribute to a unique setting for the southern edge of Portglenone. Portglenone Forest provides a strong sense of enclosure on the southern edge of the settlement. Therefore, these distinctive features contribute significantly to the setting of this settlement.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)</p>	<p>Lough Beg and its fringe area is included within Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Area of Scientific Interest (ASSI). A relatively small area of agricultural land abutting Newferry Road and the Lower Bann River is included within Culnafay ASSI which is amongst the most important deposits of freshwater diatomite in the world. Therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)</p>	<p>There is a scheduled standing stone close to Mullaghardry Point in the north-eastern fringe area of Lough Beg. However, its influence on the wider area is limited in extent. However, in the northern part of this area, a Cistercian Abbey, Holy Well, and listed buildings are all included within the Portglenone House supplementary Registered Park, Garden and Demesne, which is considered to exert a strong influence on the character of this area and the setting of Portglenone. Therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)</p>	<p>The Lower Bann River corridor has unique amenity value as it is used for water-based activities such as boating, canoeing and fishing. There is a marina at Portglenone and Portglenone Forest has a designated walking trail and is a destination for wildlife enthusiasts and anglers. At Newferry, there is a water sports centre which is a point of interest/destination on the Lower Bann River Canoe Trail. Ornithologists and walkers are attracted to this area due to the unique wildlife and scenic quality of this area.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)	7
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LCA 58 - Peatland (Craigs Road area)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	Saugh Island Bog and Long Mountain Bogs cover extensive areas. Active peatland is a habitat of natural heritage importance listed under Policy NH5 of PPS2.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The peatland in this landscape is a distinctive landscape feature that has been degraded by active cutting of peat. This criterion seeks to identify features that contribute to an exceptional landscape or landscape of high scenic quality. This area does not have any visually exposed or prominent landscape features that are highly distinctive or that are highly significant for the setting of landmark features, escarpments or settlements.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	This area does not have any distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	This area does not have any internationally or nationally significant sites of nature conservation importance.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	This area does not have any historic environment features that make a significant contribution to landscape character or value of the area.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The unique amenity value of this area is limited.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		1

LCA 59 – River Maine Corridor (north of Cullybackey)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	The River Maine corridor is a scenic river corridor with small hills and numerous troughs and hollows. The ridges and mounds of the Glarryford esker/outwash complex adds interest to the low-lying River Maine valley. Frosses Bog ASSI is a significant nature conservation site.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This is a scenic river corridor, however, it has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study. This area is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The Glarryford Esker ridge (Dunminning Road area) and adjacent hummocky moraines add visual interest to this landscape and are important features that contribute to the aesthetic qualities of this landscape. However, although these features have some visual exposure and are distinctive landscape features, they are not considered to have such prominence, distinctiveness or visual exposure to score positively against this criterion.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	This attractive wooded river corridor is important for the setting of Cullybackey.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Glarryford ASSI and Frosses Bog ASSI are significant natural heritage conservation sites.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Hillmount registered Historic Park, Garden and Demesne, Craigdun supplementary Historic Park, Garden and Demesne a listed church and listed dwellings are located in the Hillmount Road area. There are further listed houses and churches found along this river corridor and scheduled raths. Taken cumulatively, these important historic environment features contribute this are scoring positively against this criterion.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The unique amenity value of this area is limited.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		4

LCA 59 – Clogh River Corridor

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	The Clogh River meanders between the drumlins in an attractive small-scale valley, and the distinctive landforms, mottes and stone bridges in this area contribute to a particularly scenic landscape.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This is a scenic river corridor, however, it has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study. This area is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The Clogh River meanders through drumlins which have helped create an undulating landscape. However, within this LCA, the drumlins in this landscape are not considered to have such prominence or distinctiveness to score positively against this criterion, particularly given that this criterion seeks to identify features that contribute to an exceptional landscape or landscape of high scenic quality.	No

Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Within this LCA, this river corridor does not make a significant contribution to the setting of a settlement.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There are two scheduled mottes, namely Dundermot and Dungall, located along this river corridor. There are other archaeological sites of interest, stone bridges and some historic mill sites found along this river corridor. However, taken cumulatively, these important historic environment features are not considered enough for this area to score positively against this criterion, which requires a highly significant contribution to landscape value.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Although, fishing for Brown Trout, Dollaghan and Salmon occurs along the Clogh River, the unique amenity value of this area is limited.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		1

LCA 60 – River Maine Corridor (Galgorm Castle/Gracehill area)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This river corridor is an important feature of the landscape and the mature trees along the river banks and associated with the golf course add to the aesthetic qualities of this area. Away from the urban area and golf course, this area generally has a strong rural character.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This is a scenic river corridor, however, it has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study. This area is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The floodplain in this area is visually exposed to views from public roads, residential areas and Galgorm Castle Golf Club and garden centre. Although this area is a scenic river corridor, the landscape features are not highly distinctive. This area contributes to the setting of Galgorm Castle and garden centre and Gracehill Conservation Area. However, this area is not highly significant for the setting of Ballymena as the influence of this area is limited in extent and it is not a highly distinctive landscape. For the reasons outlined above, this area is not considered to score positively against this criterion.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The site of Galgorm Castle and Golf Club with its mature trees, the tree-lined river corridor and floodplain with a strong rural character all contribute to the setting of Gracehill Conservation Area and the western edge of Ballymena.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	The grounds of Galgorm Castle includes a cluster of listed buildings and significant archaeological sites, for example, there is a scheduled motte and bailey (MCQuillan's Castle) within the grounds of the Castle. Gracehill is a historically important Moravian settlement established in 1765 which has a designated Conservation Area and numerous listed buildings. There is a scheduled motte north of Whitesides Road. Taken cumulatively, these important historic environment features are considered sufficient justification for this area to score positively against this criterion, which requires a highly significant contribution to landscape value.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There are opportunities for riverside walks along the Braid River and River Maine in this area. Galgorm Castle Golf Course is an important recreational, tourist and visitor attraction which hosts the NI Open. Fishing for Brown Trout, Dollaghan, and Salmon occurs on the Braid River, although this may not occur in this area.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		4

LCA 60 – Kells Water River Corridor

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This part of the Kells Water river corridor is an area which exhibits some scenic quality and is therefore visually sensitive.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This is a scenic river corridor, however, it has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study. This area is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	Mature trees along parts of this river corridor in this area contribute to a distinctive riverside landscape and the floodplain in this area is visually exposed to views from public roads and the railway. However, within this LCA, the river corridor is not considered to have such distinctiveness to score positively against this criterion, particularly given that this criterion seeks to identify features that contribute to an exceptional landscape or landscape of high scenic quality.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Within this LCA, this river corridor does not make a significant contribution to the setting of a settlement.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There are no scheduled monuments in this area. Along this river corridor, there are some sites of archaeological interest and a B1 listed bridge (Currys Bridge: Kells Water – Magheralane Road - Slaght Road junction) and a B1 listed house and stable block, however, taken cumulatively, these important historic environment features are not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion, which requires a highly significant contribution to landscape value.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Fishing for Brown Trout, Dollaghan, and Salmon occurs on the Kells Water, although this may not occur in this area. Overall, the unique amenity value of this area is limited.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		1

LCA 98 – Carrickfergus Escarpment Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area includes the top of a steep basalt escarpment which is included within the Carrickfergus Escarpment Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ) which is recognized for its scenic quality, as well as for its heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is included within the Carrickfergus Escarpment Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ) which is an important landscape recognised for its scenic qualities. In addition, this area was identified as an Area of Constraint on Mineral Development in the Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 and the Draft BMAP 2015.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The top of a steep basalt escarpment is extremely prominent in the landscape and exposed to long range views from areas to the east, north-east and south-west. This escarpment is highly distinctive and highly significant for the setting of Knockagh monument and the coastal settlements of Carrickfergus and Greenisland.	Yes

Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	This escarpment is important for the setting of the coastal settlements of Carrickfergus and Greenisland.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area. However, South Woodburn ASSI is adjacent to the north of this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	The Knockagh County Antrim War Memorial, walling and gate are B2 listed structures and are located on the ridgeline. There are two scheduled ring barrows in this area to the north of Knockagh monument. There are numerous archaeological sites of interest in this area, particularly along the edge of the escarpment. With particular regard given to the highly significant influence of Knockagh monument within this landscape and the wider area, and given the added value of scheduled monuments and numerous archaeological sites of interest within the area, it is considered that there is sufficient justification for this area to score positively against this criterion, which requires a highly significant contribution to landscape value.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Knockagh Monument on the escarpment above Greenisland, and the associated views across the coastal area and Belfast Lough, attracts visitors to the area. A link section of the Ulster Way runs through this LCA (between Ballynure and Whiteabbey) passing through Woodburn Forest and close to the monument at Knockagh. Knockagh Monument has highly significant cultural associations as it is the largest war memorial in Northern Ireland. It is a basalt obelisk and is a replica of the Wellington Monument in Phoenix Park, Dublin. It was completed in 1936 and lists the names of all those from Co. Antrim who had died in the Great War and, subsequently, was dedicated to those who died in both World Wars.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		6

LCA 98 – Ridgeline east of New Line (Carrickfergus)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This ridgeline is not located within an AONB, ASQ and does not have any international or national sites of nature conservation importance. Lough Mourne is a significant site of local nature conservation importance, however, it is considered that the extent of this site and its level of significance is not sufficient to justify a positive score against this criterion, which requires demonstration of high landscape quality.	No
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This ridgeline has not been included within the Carrickfergus Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ) in the NILCA 2000 study. This area is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	There are long range views of this visually exposed ridgeline from Carrickfergus and the Shore Road (A2). Although this ridgeline is not highly distinctive due to its simple, smooth landform, it does help frame views of Carrickfergus by providing an interesting backdrop. However, due to the perceptual distance of this ridgeline from Carrickfergus, and the presence of the intervening farmland slopes, this area is not considered to be highly significant for the setting of Carrickfergus. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	This ridgeline is not distinctive due to its simple, smooth landform and, although it contributes to the setting of Carrickfergus, it is the countryside setting, rather than the ridgeline itself, that holds significance in this regard. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Although there are archaeological sites of interest scattered across this ridgeline, there are no scheduled or state care monuments in this area and no listed buildings. There are no historic defence sites and industrial heritage mainly relates to historic quarry sites around the edge of Lough Mourne. Therefore, it is considered that there is not sufficient justification for this area to score positively against this criterion, which requires a highly significant contribution to landscape value.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There are opportunities for fishing at North Woodburn and Lough Mourne reservoirs. Otherwise, there are few formal opportunities for recreation within this area and its unique amenity value is limited.	No

TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)	1
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LCA 115 – Kells Water River Corridor

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	Although this part of the Kells Water River corridor, which runs parallel to Kilgad Road and Moorfields Road, does not represent one of the most scenic areas in the Borough, this predominantly tree-lined river corridor, whose floodplain and valley slopes are largely undeveloped in many parts, provides a corridor of high landscape quality within this LCA. Stone bridges over this river located on the Doagh Road and Speerstown Road add visual interest in this area. Taken cumulatively, these factors are considered enough for this area to score positively against this criterion. `	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	There are some extensive views looking across the valley slopes and floodplain of this river corridor (e.g. from Moorfields Road) and along the river corridor from crossing points on the Doagh Road and Speerstown Road. However, views from some areas are limited due to intervening vegetation and undulations in the topography. Further, this river corridor is not highly distinctive or highly significant for the setting of a landmark feature, escarpment or settlement. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Within the MEA part of this LCA, this river corridor does not contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There bridges crossing this river on the Doagh Road (Rock Bridge) and Speerstown Road (Moorfields Bridge) are Grade B2 listed structures. There is a scheduled rath and souterrain east of the Doagh Road bridge and an unscheduled counterscarp rath east of Speerstown Road. There are also some historic mill sites located along the river corridor. Although these sites are important historic environment features that contribute to the landscape in this area, their contribution is not considered sufficient to justify a positive score against this criterion as the significance of these sites is generally limited to small localised areas along this river corridor.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There are opportunities for angling at Kilgad Lake (Riversdale Trout Farm), however, generally, opportunities for recreation are limited in this area.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		1

LCA 115 – Six Mile Water River Corridor

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This river corridor is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB and has not been identified as an area of scenic quality. Although an important landscape feature, it is not considered that this river corridor has sufficient visual or natural heritage attributes to score positively against this criterion, particularly given that in this area, the river has a narrow channel and the landscape quality is degraded in parts by leggy hedgerows and rush infested pastures.	No
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No

Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	There are some extensive views looking across the valley slopes and floodplain of this river corridor, for example, from Lower Ballyboley Road. However, within the MEA part of this LCA, this river corridor is not highly distinctive or highly significant for the setting of a landmark feature, escarpment or settlement. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The A8 Larne Road has created a visual break between this river corridor and Ballynure. Within the MEA part of this LCA this river corridor does not contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	The path of the Ballymena-Larne Harbour narrow gauge railway ran through this area, there are some historic mill sites and some unscheduled archaeological sites of interest. However, taken cumulatively, these landscape elements are not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The Glenarm to Ballynure quality section of the Ulster Way passes through this area (Upper Ballyboley Road – Braepark Road – Lower Ballyboley Road – Lismenary Road) and the Six Mile Water is famous for angling, particularly for trout fishing. However, formal opportunities for recreation and visitor attractions are limited in this area and, therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		0

LCA 116 – Braid River Corridor (outside of settlement development limits)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This scenic river corridor is part of a wide, open and gently undulating river valley. This river corridor has well-maintained productive farmland, the hedgerow network is intact creating a strong landscape pattern and mature trees flank the river channel. A small area is located within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and this scenic river corridor contributes to the wider setting of the western edge of the AONB.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	A small area to the east of Broughshane (Carnlough Road area) is located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB. Considering the relatively small area of the river corridor (within this LCA) contained within the AONB, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No (only a small area within AONB)
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This wide, open river valley is visually exposed to views from the upper slopes, particularly the Crebilly Road area and from the area around Slemish, however, it should be noted that views within the Braid River valley are often impeded by the network of hedgerows and trees. This distinctive landscape is highly significant for the setting of Ballymena and Broughshane.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The Braid River corridor and associated trees and strong landscape structure contribute significantly to the setting of Ballymena and Broughshane.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/	There is a group of listed houses in the Ballygarvey Road area close to Rabbit Hill and Drumfane scheduled Motte and Bailey is also located in this area. Outside of settlement development limits there are two historic mill sites. However, these historic environment assets are not considered sufficient to justify a positive score against this criterion. It should be noted that this assessment is concerned primarily with countryside areas and the edge of settlements.	No

Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)		
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Brown trout, Dollaghan and Salmon fishing occurs along the Braid River and Ballymena Rugby Club and Ballymena Golf Club are located adjacent to the Braid River. Taken cumulatively, and considering the area coverage of the recreational facilities, it is considered that this is sufficient to justify a positive score against this criterion.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		4

LCA 116 – Kells River Corridor

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This scenic river corridor is part of a distinctive narrow river valley. This river corridor has mature trees along the river banks with wooded areas in some parts and distinctive stone bridges at crossing points which contribute to its intimate character.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	Although in some areas there are short range views of this river corridor from public roads, this river corridor is generally not extensively visually exposed to critical views due to roadside trees and hedgerows and strong field boundaries. Within this LCA, no landscape features are considered to have such visual prominence to justify a positive score against this criterion.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The Kells Water river corridor and associated trees and intimate character contribute significantly to the setting of Kells and Connor.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	In the Shankbridge Road area listed structures such as the Shank Bridge, Kells Water Reformed Presbyterian Church, the listed lodge of Kildrum House and the curtilage of 'New Lodge' listed house contribute significantly to the intimate character in this local area. The listed stone Kells Bridge on Station Road and curtilage of St. Saviour's Church (the site of an early Christian monastery) abuts the northern edge of Kells and Connor and these are important landscape elements along this river corridor. There are four sites of archaeological interest (2 scheduled monuments) close to St. Saviours Church. These landscape elements are highly significant for the character of this area and, therefore, it is considered appropriate that this area scores positively against this criterion, particularly given the intimate and small-scale character of this river corridor.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There are playing pitches located adjacent to Station Road and fishing for Brown Trout, Dollaghan and Salmon occurs along the Kells Water. However, generally, the unique amenity value in this area is limited.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		3

LCA 117 – Northern glen (area within AONB)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	The area concerns the part of the northernmost glen within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance that relates to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	Cargan Rock, Skerry Rock, Tuftarney Hill and surrounding upland areas are included within this area. These prominent hills and slopes are highly distinctive, and highly significant for the setting of Cargan.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The prominent hills and slopes within this area are highly significant for the setting of Cargan due to their prominence in this glen.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Only relatively small portions of extant natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance are included within this area, and therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There is two listed structures and two scheduled monuments outside of settlement development limits in this area. This area has many recorded industrial heritage sites, particularly in relation to mining. The area around Cargan was historically important for mining iron ore and bauxite (high aluminium content) and a narrow-gauge railway and numerous bridges were developed to facilitate this mining activity. Despite the numerous industrial heritage sites, the influence of historic environment assets in this area which lie outside of settlement development limits, is not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The A43 is a popular tourist route and a gateway to the Antrim coast and glens and this upland area is valued for hill walking, horse riding and cycling. However, in the context of 'unique amenity value', these factors are not considered to exert enough influence for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		4

LCA 117 – Ridge between Glenarm and Glencloy Glens

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This ridge is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This ridge is flanked by the glens of Glenarm and Glencloy. From the slopes of these glens and the Coast Road, this ridge is visually exposed to critical views and is prominent in the landscape. Due to this ridge's juxtaposition between Carnlough and Glenarm and its high visual exposure, it is highly significant for the setting of these settlements.	Yes

Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Due to this ridge's juxtaposition between Carnlough and Glenarm and its high visual exposure, it is highly significant for the setting of these settlements.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites of international or national significance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Cleggan Lodge supplementary Historic Park, Garden and Demesne is to roughly to the west of this ridge and does not have a strong association with it. There are a few historic defence sites located along the Ballymena Road and a scheduled Megalithic Tomb adjacent to Lisles Hill Road. However, these factors are not sufficient for this ridge area to score positively against this criterion. That being said, and depending on the outworkings of this assessment, this area may be required to assessed alongside adjacent areas due to its' strong association (particularly in the north-easternmost part) with the glens of Glenarm and Glenclloy.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The A42 Ballymena Road/Carnlough Road is a major tourist route and runs parallel with this ridge. This ridge helps frame views of the A42 and is prominent in views from the A42 and is therefore an important visual asset along this tourist route. However, opportunities for recreation or more informal enjoyment of this area are limited, therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		4

LCA 117 – Slemish Slopes

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	Within this LCA, the slopes associated with Slemish are contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The northern slopes associated with Slemish are visually exposed and open to views from the A42 and other public roads in the area such as Lisles Hill Road and Longmore Road. These slopes are important for the setting of Slemish which is a highly distinctive landmark in the Borough.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	These northern slopes are important features within the Braid River valley. Although the Braid River valley is important for the setting of Broughshane, the slopes associated with Slemish within this LCA are a relative distance away and not readily visible in views. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Glen Burn ASSI is located on the northern slopes of Slemish and is a natural heritage conservation site of national significance.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	A scheduled cairn and scheduled rath are located on the northern slopes of Slemish abutting Carnstroan Road and on these slopes there is also an unscheduled souterrain and enclosure. It is also noted that there are 3 scheduled sites adjacent to Carnalbanagh Road (megalithic tomb, settlement site, enclosure), These sites are approximately 2.5km away from Slemish. However, the presence of these sites in this location reinforces that these important historic environment features are a key characteristic of the landscape in this locality. Due to the significance of the scheduled sites, and the proximity of two of these sites to the most prominent part of Slemish, it has been considered reasonable to score this area positively against this criterion.	Yes

Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The northern slopes of Slemish are within LCA 117 and the wider area is important for the setting of Slemish. Slemish has strong cultural associations with St. Patrick and is a highly distinctive landmark within the Borough. Slemish is a popular visitor attraction, particularly on St. Patricks Day, and is part of the Antrim Hills Way walking route. Rare plant and bird species can be observed at Slemish or in the surrounding area attracting nature enthusiasts into the area.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		6

LCA 118 – Area within AONB

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	The area concerns the MEA part of LCA 118 within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	Within this area Binvore, Skerry Hill, Slievenamaddy and Slievenanee are distinctive peaks that are visually exposed to views from public roads, for example, there are views of this area from Glens Brae Road and Old Cushendun Road. The summits in this area are highly distinctive due to their wild and undeveloped character.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The undeveloped hills and slopes in this area contribute significantly to the setting of Newtowncrommelin. However, this settlement is classified as a small-settlement in Option 2(a) of the MEA POP and, therefore, this settlement is not taken into consideration in this assessment. The influence of this area on the setting of Cargan is weakened due to the distance of distinctive summits from this settlement and the mitigating impact of intervening topography. As such this area does not contribute significantly to the setting of Cargan.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	A substantial part of this area is within the Antrim Hills Special Protection Area (SPA). This site supports nationally important populations of hen harrier and merlin.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	This area has very limited archaeological interest. The main historic environment interest relates to historic mining sites and the site of a disused narrow-gauge railway associated with this mining activity. These historic environment features are not enough for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There are no formal recreation opportunities within the MEA part of this LCA. The area may attract ornithologists given its inclusion within the Antrim Hills SPA. Hill walkers may be attracted to this area, however, there are no recognised walking routes running through this area. Overall, these factors are not considered sufficient to justify this area scoring positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		4

LCA 122 – Garron Plateau: Eastern ridge

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area includes the ridges to the north, west and south-west of Cargan that are located on the northern and eastern fringes of the Garron Plateau. This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This ridgeline has visually exposed and prominent cliff tops and rounded knolls that are highly distinctive and highly significant for the setting of Carnlough.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The ridgeline and associated features contribute significantly to the setting of Carnlough.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	ASSIs are nationally significant natural heritage conservation sites. Black Burn ASSI, Galboly ASSI and Gortnagory ASSI are located along this ridgeline and Garron Plateau ASSI, Ramsar and SAC designations are encroach into this area. Garron Plateau Ramsar and SAC are internationally significant natural heritage conservation sites.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There are numerous archaeological sites dispersed throughout this area. However, none of these sites are scheduled sites and, overall, the influence of the historic environment in this area is very limited. Therefore, this area has scored negatively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	This upland moorland has a wild beauty which is appreciated by those seeking solitude and tranquillity and this ridgeline area contributes significantly to the setting of the Antrim coast and Coast Road which is a key regional tourist route. However, these factors are not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion as, cumulatively, they do not represent unique amenity value.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		5

LCA 122 – Garron Plateau: south-western ridge and hills east of Cargan

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area includes the ridge to the south of Cargan, Cargan Rock and Craignamaddy located in the western fringe area of the Garron Plateau. This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are	Cargan Rock, Craignamaddy and the ridgeline south of Cargan are visually exposed, prominent features in the landscape. These landscape features form part of the highly distinctive western edge of the Garron Plateau which forms a highly distinctive backdrop for Cargan.	Yes

highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements		
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Cargan Rock, Craignamaddy and the ridgeline south of Cargan contribute to a unique setting for the settlement of Cargan by contributing to this settlement's strong sense of enclosure.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Parts of the Garron Plateau ASSI, Ramsar and SAC designations and Antrim Hills SPA are within this area. These designations are internationally or nationally significant natural heritage conservation sites.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Dungonnell Reservoir lies to the east/south-east of Cargan and is partially contained within MEA. Quolie Reservoirs are set back from this western ridge. There are some archaeological sites of interest within this area, however, there are no scheduled sites or monuments and, overall, the influence of the historic environment in this area is very limited. Therefore, this area has scored negatively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Dungonnell Reservoir and Quolie Reservoirs represent important water resources. This upland moorland has a wild beauty which is appreciated by those seeking solitude and tranquillity and this ridgeline area contributes significantly to the setting of the A43 Glenravel Road which is a tourist route to the Antrim Coast. The area may attract ornithologists given its inclusion within the Antrim Hills SPA. However, these factors are not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion as, cumulatively, they do not represent unique amenity value.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		5

LCA 123 – Larne Coast and Headlands

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The Coast Road and shoreline is a visually exposed area that is highly distinctive as this Coast Road follows a raised beach where headlands and cliffs form a sequence of 'striking gateways'. There are striking views along this coastal area, from higher ground to the west and from the North Channel. This coastal area, with its' undeveloped character, is highly significant for the settlements of Carnlough and Glenarm.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	This coastal area, with its' undeveloped character, cliffs and headlands, is highly significant for the settlements of Carnlough and Glenarm. Glenarm Bay and the undeveloped headlands of Straidkilly Point and Lady's Hill are important landscape features for the setting of Glenarm. The enclosure provided by the curve of Carnlough Bay, the headland to the south-east and the coastal location are all highly significant for the setting of Carnlough.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Galboly ASSI includes a significant part of the coastal area in the northern part of this LCA and Straidkilly Wood ASSI and Straidkilly Statutory Nature Reserve occupy a significant area on the headland between Carnlough and Glenarm. These are natural heritage sites of national significance. Lemnalary ASSI occupies a relatively small area but is also a national significant natural heritage site. The proposed East Coast (NI) Marine SPA includes the coastal shoreline (up to the mean low water mark) around Carnlough Bay and Glenarm bay and is a proposed designation that seeks to ensure that the water and seafloor habitats are managed to meet the needs of foraging Terns and other seabirds. This designation would identify this area as an internationally important natural heritage site.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/	On Tower Road, Dunmaul Fort (scheduled monument) is adjacent to St. Killians College, Chapel and associated structures (Grade B1 listed structures). Dungallon Fort (scheduled: Mound) is located at the junction of Tower Road and the A2 Coast Road. These features are included within Garron Tower supplementary Historic Park, Garden and Demesne. Along the Coast Road, and to the east of St. Killian's College, there are 4 'Grade B2' listed terraced houses	Yes

Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	<p>(and associated boundary walls) and further north there is a scheduled pump house. Drumnasole House registered Historic Park, Garden and Demesne and its' listed house and associated structures are to the south of Tower Road. These historic environment features represent important historic assets in the Garron Point area.</p> <p>Glenarm Conservation Area includes Glenarm Harbour and adjacent areas and Glenarm Harbour/Pier is a Grade B2' listed structure. Carnlough Conservation Area includes the harbour area and Carnlough Harbour quay and piers are 'Grade B1' listed structures. Carnlough bridge, tower and steps is a Grade B1 listed structure. These structures are important heritage features along the shoreline.</p> <p>Cumulatively, these historic environment assets are considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.</p>	
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	<p>The Antrim Coast Road runs parallel to the shoreline in this area and is regarded as one of the great tourist routes of the world. The views from this road are valued by the local community, visitors and tourists and the 'experience' of driving along this road functions as a major tourist asset for the Borough. Along this coastal route, there are viewing points at car park/picnic sites at Garron Point, Carnlough Beach, Glenarm (beside St. Patrick's Church and Glenarm Friary) and east of Glenarm (LCA 126). There are beaches at Carnlough (sand) and Glenarm (shingle) which are valued recreation sites, for example, for walking or canoeing, and Glenarm is a good location for fishing. This area is part of the East Coast Canoe Trail. Straidkilly Statutory Nature Reserve is located on the headland between Carnlough and Glenarm in which NI priority species can be observed and there is a picnic area, from which, there are views of the stunning Antrim coast and the Mull of Kintyre.</p> <p>Garron Point to Glenarm is a link section of the Ulster Way. This route (not signposted) includes Tower Road, Largy Road, Straidkilly Road and a section of the Coast Road.</p> <p>With regard to all of these factors, it is considered appropriate that this area scores positively against this criterion.</p>	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		7

LCA 123 – Glenarm Glen

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	<p>This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.</p>	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	<p>This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.</p>	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	<p>The valley bottom and glen slopes are visually exposed to long range views from public roads on the upper valley slopes, for example, from Munie Road and Feystown Road. This glen is highly distinctive due, in part, to its ancient woodland and Glenarm Woods ASSI represents the largest stand of semi-natural woodland remaining in County Antrim. This glen is highly significant for the setting of Glenarm.</p>	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	<p>This glen is highly significant for the setting of Glenarm as it provides a unique backdrop for the village and a strong sense of enclosure. The wooded slopes of Glenarm glen contribute to the attractive, sheltered character of the glen landscape.</p>	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	<p>This area includes Glenarm Woods ASSI and Glenarm Woods (Part 2) ASSI which cover a significant area within this glen and are natural heritage sites of national importance. Glenarm woods represents the largest stand of semi-natural woodland remaining in County Antrim and ancient woodland is present. This area provides food and shelter for a wide variety of mammals, birds and invertebrates and is one of the best examples of parkland habitat in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Feystown ASSI is located at the edge of the Glenarm Glen and is a small area of semi-natural grassland managed in a traditional way. It is important for its' species rich grassland and the presence of Wood Cranesbill (<i>NI Priority Species</i>) which is a rare and threatened species in the UK.</p>	Yes

Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Much of Glenarm glen is included within the Glenarm Castle Registered Historic Park, Garden and Demesne. This designated area includes numerous highly significant historic environment sites. For example, there are listed buildings and structures associated with Glenarm Castle, listed dwellings further inland and scheduled sites containing a mound, enclosure and church and graveyard. These features are considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	<p>Glenarm Castle and Demesne represents an important tourist attraction where visitors can enjoy exploring the castle, walks in the historic walled garden and castle trail and beautiful scenery.</p> <p>Part of a quality section of the Ulster Way (Glenarm to Ballynure) passes through the northern part of this glen and includes Town Brae and part of Feystown Road. From these public roads there are critical views across the glen and of the surrounding ridges. There is also a designated walking route along the Layde Path and within Glenarm Forest.</p> <p>The local community, tourists and visitors can enjoy views across the glen from Munie Road and Feystown Road, and these views of this exceptional landscape add value to the experience of driving along these routes.</p>	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		7

LCA 123 – Glencloy Glen

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This glen and its' upper slopes represent a distinctive landscape feature in this coastal area and they are visually exposed in views from the Ballymena Road (A42) and Galdanagh Road and some views from Ballyvaddy Road. This glen, with its undeveloped character, contributes to the unique setting of Carnlough and the escarpment slopes.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	This glen has an undeveloped character and, along with the escarpment slopes and cliffs to the west and north of Carnlough, contributes significantly to the unique setting of Carnlough, for example, the glens help frame views of Carnlough from Ballyvaddy Road, Straidkilly Road and the Coast Road.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no internationally or nationally significant sites of natural heritage conservation importance in this area.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Within this glen the key historic environment sites include a scheduled mound (Doonan Fort), one Grade B2 listed dwelling and the site of a disused narrow gauge mineral railway. However, cumulatively, these sites are not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	This glen is one of the nine glens of Antrim. The Ballymena Road (A42) is a tourist route from the Ballymena hinterland towards the coastal area. Doonan Leap is a scheduled monument and there is a lay-by and picnic site along the Ballymena Road (A42), from where, this site can be visited on foot. However, in regard to unique amenity value, these factors are not considered sufficient for this area as a whole to score positively against this criterion.	No

TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)	4
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LCA 123 – Basalt Cliffs and Scarp Slops (west and north of Carnlough)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The dramatic basalt cliffs and scarp slopes represent highly distinctive landscape feature in this coastal area and they are visually exposed in views from the Ballymena Road (A42), Ballyvaddy Road, the Coast Road (A2), and Largy Road. This area provides a unique backdrop for the settlement of Carnlough and the coastal area.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The basalt cliffs and scarp slopes contribute significantly to the unique setting of Carnlough as these features provide the settlement with a dramatic backdrop and strong sense of enclosure.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	<p>Blackburn ASSI, Galboly ASSI and Gortnagory ASSI (within LCA 122) are located along the tops of the cliffs and scarps and Cranny Falls ASSI is also found within this area. These are nationally significant natural heritage conservation sites.</p> <p>Blackburn ASSI is the only known extensive, active cave system developed in the Cretaceous age Ulster White Limestone in Northern Ireland. This cave system is associated with Black Burn which drains off the east facing scarp of the Garron Plateau.</p> <p>Galboly ASSI is located in an area dominated by vertical basalt and limestone cliffs and this site contains important geological features (dark basalt sits on top of white limestone). Peregrines nest in a number of locations in the cliffs.</p> <p>Gortnagory ASSI has been designated because it contains the rare orchid Irish Lady's-tresses (nationally rare and NI Priority species).</p> <p>Cranny Falls ASSI has been designated because it contains a population of Wood Barley which is scarce in the British Isles).</p>	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There are no scheduled monuments in this area (Doonan Fort and Dungallon Fort are considered to be within LCA 123 – Coastal Area and Headlands and LCA 123 – Glencloy Glen respectively). The only listed structures in this area are Drumnasole House and associated outbuildings (grade B+), and these structures are within Drumnasole House registered Historic Park, Garden and Demesne which extends onto the scarp slopes. Garron Tower supplementary Historic Park, Garden and Demesne which extends onto the scarp slopes of this area. The presence of these Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes is considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	<p>Cranny Falls is the end point of a 2km walk from Hurry Head at Carnlough Harbour, along a path known locally as the Old Mineral Railway Path, and through the now disused Gortin Quarry. Cranny Falls is a designated Local Nature Reserve and this site was designated because the particular rock features and the waterfall have produced a habitat which supports a diverse range of plants and animals, for example, red squirrels and bats can be found here. The area may attract ornithologists given the presence of Peregrines. To the north, on the scarp slopes, a portion of an Ulster Way link section (Tower Road) passes through this area. However, when considering the overall amenity value of this area, these factors are not considered sufficient to justify this area scoring positively against this criterion.</p> <p><i>N.B. it should be noted that, although these factors are not considered sufficient for a positive scoring against this criterion, this does not prejudice the positive contribution they make to this area.</i></p>	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		6

LCA 124 – Slemish and surrounds

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape’s national importance with regard to its’ scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland’s most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	Slemish is a highly distinctive and prominent volcanic plug, which at a height of 437m, is the highest point in the region. The area around Slemish is a visually exposed upland area. The slopes of Slemish and the surrounding upland area is visible in critical views from, for example, Carnlough Road, Collin Road, Glenview Road, Rathkeel Road and Shillanavogy Road.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Although Slemish and the surrounding upland area is widely visible, this area is not located close enough to any town or village to contribute significantly to their setting. For example, Slemish can be viewed from Broughshane, however, the distance between Slemish and Broughshane weakens the influence of this distinctive landmark on the settlement’s setting. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Part of the Antrim Hills SPA is within this area. This designation supports nationally important populations of hen harrier and merlin and is an internationally significant natural heritage conservation site.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There is a scheduled ring cairn at Slemish. Within the Slemish surrounds (within this LCA), there are no other scheduled monuments or listed buildings, although there are some archaeological sites of interest. Overall, historic environment features do not have a highly significant contribution to landscape value in this area (within this LCA) and, therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion. <i>N.B. it should be noted that there is a scheduled cairn and scheduled rath on the northern slopes of Slemish (LCA 117 – Slemish Slopes). These historic environment assets have not been considered here, as this assessment is considering discreet areas within LCAs.</i>	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Slemish Mountain is a significant landmark within MEA and attracts tourists and visitors to the area. Slemish has a well-defined walking trail, an interpretation and orientation area, a picnic and barbeque area, and there are organised events focused on this landmark and surrounding area, for example, an organised climb of Slemish on St. Patrick’s Day and cycle ‘time-trials’. Slemish is included on the route of the Antrim Hills Way long distance path and the distinctive Shillanavogy Valley was used as a ‘Game of Thrones’ film location which attracts Game of Thrones enthusiasts into the area. Nature enthusiasts and ornithologists are attracted to this area due to the presence of rare bird and plant species. Taking account of these factors, it is considered appropriate to score this area positively against this criterion.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		5

LCA 124 - Agnews Hill/ Sallagh Braes/ Knockdhu/ Scawt Hill/ Black Hill/ Mullaghane ridgeline

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value. Knock Dhu Sallagh Braes ASSI, Linford ASSI and Scawt Hill ASSI are located along the ridgeline.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This ridgeline area includes Black Hill, Robin Youngs Hill and Scawt Hill, Knockdhu, the cliffs of Sallagh Braes and Agnew's Hill. These distinctive prominent landscape features are visually exposed and highly significant for the setting of Ballygalley and Larne.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The distinctive prominent hills along the ridgeline, cliffs of Sallagh Braes and Agnew's Hill contribute significantly to the setting of Ballygalley and Larne.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Knock Dhu Sallagh Braes ASSI, Linford ASSI and Scawt Hill ASSI are located along the ridgeline and are nationally significant natural heritage conservation sites. Agnew's Hill is located within the Antrim Hills SPA which supports nationally important populations of hen harrier and merlin and is an internationally significant natural heritage conservation site.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There is a significant concentration of archaeological sites within the Knockdhu Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) as designated within the Larne Area Plan 2010. Scheduled monuments included within this ASAI include a promontory fort, round cairn, standing stone, two megalithic tombs, a headless cross and a prehistoric flint quarry. To the north of the ASAI there is the site of a scheduled prehistoric standing stone and scheduled round cairn. To the south, there is a scheduled prehistoric standing stone at Sallagh Braes and on the eastern slopes of Agnew's Hill there are two scheduled sites (mound and findspot of flint and pottery). Although these sites outside of the ASAI are not in a concentrated area, their presence reinforces the importance of this area in regard to the historic environment. This area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The Antrim Hills Way and Ulster Way walking paths pass along this ridgeline and includes the lower slopes of Mullaghane, Black Hill, Scawt Hill, Knockdhu, Robin Young's Hill, Sallagh Braes and Agnew's Hill. Organised fell running events are held at Knockdhu and hill walking activities can be arranged through Glenarm Tourism to include the archaeology at Knockdhu. The interesting geology of the area also attracts visitors into this area. Taken cumulatively, it is considered appropriate to score this area positively against this criterion.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		7

LCA 125 – AONB and area east of Ballynulto Road

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	A significant part of this area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	A significant part of this area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This landscape is visually exposed in views from Ballynulto Road, Rathkeel Road and Collin Road and is highly significant for the setting of Slemish which is a landmark feature within the Borough.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	There are no distinctive features in this area that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	This area is not within any internationally or nationally significant natural heritage conservation sites. Although this area abuts the Antrim Hills SPA, this factor is not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Within this area and to the north of Church Road, there is a scheduled counterscarp rath and a cluster of some historic sites. There are no listed buildings within this area. Overall, this area does not have sufficient historic environment assets to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There are no formal recreation opportunities within this area. The area lies outside of the Antrim Hills SPA and there are no recognised walking routes running through this area. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		3

LCA 125 – Glenwirry Valley

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	The Glenwirry Valley is a scenic river corridor and, within the LCA, part of this river corridor is within the the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB. The quality of the landscape is higher in the valley section within the AONB.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	As only a relatively small section of this river valley (within this LCA) is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB it is considered, that on balance, this area scores negatively against this criterion.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	There are long views across this open river corridor from the surrounding main ridges and there are critical views from Carnlea Road North, Church Road and Collin Road. This river corridor is highly distinctive due to its broad, open and shallow valley which has a relatively undeveloped character.	Yes

Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Within this LCA this river corridor does not contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	This area is not within any internationally or nationally significant natural heritage conservation sites and, therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Battery Bridge is a B1 listed structure and there is a scheduled mound west of Ballynashee Road. Numerous industrial heritage sites are located along this river corridor and these sites include sites of bridges, beetling mills, corn mills and flax mills. However, on balance, the cumulative impact of these sites on landscape value is not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Fishing occurs along the Glenwhirry River. However, there are no formal recreation opportunities within this area and the unique amenity value is limited. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		2

LCA 126 – Coast Road (including Ballygalley Head, Cairndhu and Carnfunnock)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The Coast Road and shoreline is a visually exposed area that is highly distinctive as this Coast Road follows a raised beach where headlands and cliffs form a sequence of 'striking 'gateways'. There are striking views along this coastal area, from higher ground to the west and from the North Channel. This coastal area, with its' undeveloped character, is highly significant for the settlements of Ballygalley and Larne.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	This coastal area, with its' undeveloped character, cliffs and headlands, is highly significant for the settlements of Ballygalley and Larne. Ballygalley Bay, the undeveloped headland Ballygalley Hill and the woodland around Cairndhu and Carnfunnock are important landscape features for the setting of Ballygalley. The curvature of Drains Bay, the undeveloped headland Ballygalley Hill, and the coastal slopes are important for the setting of Drains Bay (Larne) and the coastal setting contributes significantly to the setting of Larne Town.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Ballygalley Head ASSI, Little Deer Park ASSI and Minnis ASSI are all located along the Coast Road area. These designations are nationally important natural heritage conservation sites. The shoreline in this area (up to the mean low water mark) is included in the proposed East Coast (Northern Ireland) Marine SPA which is an internationally important proposed designation that seeks to ensure that the water and seafloor habitats are managed to meet the needs of foraging Terns and other seabirds. Due to the presence of these designations, this area has scored positively against this criterion.	Yes

<p>Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)</p>	<p>Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes within this area include Carnfunnock Country Park (Registered) and Cairndhu (supplementary). Within Carnfunnock Country Park, there is a listed ice house (Grade B1) and listed gate lodge and associated structures (Grade B2). Within Cairndhu, there is a listed country house (Grade B1), listed gate lodge (Grade B1) and listed stables (Grade B2).</p> <p>There is a scheduled motte immediately to the south of Carnfunnock Country Park and on the Coast Road (north of Ballygalley) and a scheduled ecclesiastical site on the Dickeystown Road. The landmark Blackcave Tunnel (Grade B2) is located on the Coast Road.</p> <p>Within Ballygalley, a scheduled Bawn and Walled Garden, Ballygalley Castle (Grade A) and a row of listed Coastguard cottages (Grade B2) all contribute to the unique coastal setting.</p> <p>Listed structures along the Coast Road include the landmark Blackcave Tunnel (Grade B2).</p> <p>Cumulatively, these historic environment assets are considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)</p>	<p>The Antrim Coast Road runs parallel to the shoreline in this area and is regarded as one of the great tourist routes of the world. The views from this road are valued by the local community, visitors and tourists and the ‘experience’ of driving along this road functions as a major tourist asset for the Borough. Along this coastal route, there are viewing points at car park/picnic sites at Drains Bay, a site opposite Carnfunnock Country Park, a site opposite the gate lodge of Cairndhu, a site on the eastern edge of Ballygalley, and further sites between Ballygalley and Glenarm.</p> <p>There are beaches at Ballygalley (sand), Carnfunnock (sand/shingle) and Drains Bay (sand/shingle) which are valued recreation sites, for example, for walking or canoeing. “Glenarm Coast Walk” path is located in the northern part of this LCA and the coastal in this LCA is part of the East Coast Canoe Trail with access points at Ballygalley, Carnfunnock and Drains Bay.</p> <p>The Coast Road between Larne and Ballygalley is used for the Larne Half Marathon, Carnfunnock Country Park is a key recreation site and Cairndhu is the site of a golf club. Carnfunnock Bay is also a good site for ornithologists to observe Common, Arctic and Sandwich Terns diving for food in the summer months. Minnis ASSI is one of the most intensively studied slope failure complexes in the whole of the British Isles.</p> <p>With regard to all of these factors, it is considered appropriate that this area scores positively against this criterion.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)</p>		<p>7</p>

LCA 126 – Foreground to Knockdhu/ Scawt Hill / Black Hill/ Ladys Hill ridgeline

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
<p>High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)</p>	<p>This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape’s national importance with regard to its’ scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)</p>	<p>This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland’s most spectacular landscapes.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements</p>	<p>This area is a relatively narrow strip of land is highly distinctive due to its undeveloped character and juxtaposition between the steep slopes of the basalt uplands and the coast. This area is widely visible in views, for example, from Ballycoose Road, Drumnagreagh Road and Dickeystown Road and is highly significant for the setting of Sallagh Braes, Knockdhu, Scawt Hill and the wider setting of Ballygalley.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The upper slopes are visually prominent in the area and have a wild windswept character which is significant for framing the wider setting of Ballygalley.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant. A small part of Knockdhu Sallagh Braes ASSI is contained within this area, however, this is not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	A significant part of Knockdhu Area of Special Archaeological Interest is contained within this area. This area was designated within the Larne Area Plan 2010 in recognition of the concentration of individual and related monuments in this historic upland area. Within this LCA, a rectangular stone enclosure and a settlement site are contained within this ASAI. The identified ASAI is important for the setting of the concentration of archaeological sites and monuments contained within it. Within this area, scheduled sites include an ecclesiastical site, Ballyhackett Motte, a court tomb (Lisnahay South) and a megalithic tomb (Cloughhogan). This area also includes numerous other identified archaeological sites. Cumulatively, these historic environment assets are considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	A quality section of the Antrim Hills Way (and Ulster Way) – Glenarm to Ballynure – runs along the tops of the basalt cliffs and scarp slopes which are contained within LCA 124. It should be recognised that this area is an important contributor to the views from this recognised walking route. Unique amenity value can also be linked to exploration of the historic sites and monuments contained within the ASAI. However, given that the majority of the archaeological sites and monuments within the ASAI are contained within LCA 124 and the aforementioned walking routes are also contained within LCA 124, it is considered there is not sufficient unique amenity value associated with this discreet area for it to score positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		5

LCA 127 – Foreground to Sallagh Braes/ Knockdhu

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is a formal statutory designation in recognition of a landscape's national importance with regard to its' scenic qualities and nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is contained within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB which is highly valued for its scenic and perceptual qualities. AONBs are recognised as Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscapes.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The Sallagh Braes cliff and Knockdhu and associated slopes are highly distinctive, prominent landscape features that are visually exposed in views from, for example, Ballymullock Road and Brustin Brae Road. The farmland at the foot of these cliffs and slopes is also readily visible from vantage points along these roads and is highly significant for framing views of Sallagh Braes and Knockdhu.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The cliff of Sallagh Braes and the slopes of Knockdhu are highly distinctive landscape features that make a significant contribution the wider setting of Ballygalley.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage sites of international significance in this area. The large, semi-circular cliff at Sallagh Braes is notable for huge landslips which occurred in the past as a result of the geology and the glacial history of the site. Knockdhu Sallagh Braes ASSI has a variety of important earth science features, habitats and species. Although only parts of the Knockdhu Sallagh Braes ASSI are contained within this 'assessed' area, it is considered appropriate to score this area positively against this criterion, based on the presence of the Knockdhu Sallagh Braes ASSI and the fact that the 'assessed' area is itself small in extent and inextricably linked with the Sallagh Braes cliff and the top of Knockdhu.	Yes

Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Part of Knockdhu Area of Special Archaeological Interest is contained within this area. This area was designated within the Larne Area Plan 2010 in recognition of the concentration of individual and related monuments in this historic upland area. Within this LCA, a scheduled souterrain is contained within this ASAI. The identified ASAI is important for the setting of the concentration of archaeological sites and monuments contained within it. This area also contains an unscheduled mound and souterrain and unscheduled raised rath and souterrain. On balance, given the limited extent of the 'assessed' area and the presence of the ASAI designation, it is considered appropriate for this area to score positively against this criterion, particularly considering that this area is inextricably linked with the top of Sallagh Braes cliff and Knockdhu.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	A quality section of the Antrim Hills Way (and Ulster Way) – Glenarm to Ballynure – runs along the tops of the basalt cliffs and scarp slopes which are contained within LCA 124. It should be recognised that this area is an important contributor to the views from this recognised walking route. Unique amenity value can also be linked to exploration of the historic sites and monuments contained within the ASAI. However, given that the majority of the archaeological sites and monuments within the ASAI are contained within LCA 124 and the aforementioned walking routes are also contained within LCA 124, it is considered there is not sufficient unique amenity value associated with this discreet area for it to score positively against this criterion. However, it should be noted that this area has some unique amenity value, for example, the farmland and slopes help frame views enjoyed by locals and visitors and the Knockdhu Christmas fell race route runs through part of this area.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		6

LCA 127 – Glynn River valley and wooded escarpments

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB or a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ. Although this river corridor is not of high scenic quality, a significant portion of this river corridor and the northern escarpment is contained within Glynn Woods ASSI which has been designated of the richness and diversity of its woodland vegetation. Therefore, this area has scored positively against this criterion.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The escarpments north and south of Glynn village are east facing slopes which are distinctive due to their woodland, moderate-to-steep slopes and juxtaposition with Larne Lough. These escarpments are visually prominent in views from, for example, the A2 Main Road which is part of the Causeway Coastal Route. The Glynn River valley extends inland from Larne Lough and the settlement of Glynn and is distinctive due to its woodland and steep-sided slopes. This river valley is visually exposed to views from, for example, Glenburn Road and Rectory Road. Although the Glynn River valley and the escarpments north and south of Glynn are not highly distinctive landscape elements, they are highly significant for the settlement of Glynn and, therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The wooded slopes around Glynn and the wooded Glynn River corridor provide a unique enclosed woodland setting for Glynn.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Glynn Woods ASSI incorporates a significant proportion of the Glynn River corridor and the wooded escarpment north of Glynn. This ASSI designation is a nationally significant natural heritage conservation site and, therefore, this area has scored positively against this criterion.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/	Outside of settlement development limits there are no scheduled archaeological sites or monuments and no listed buildings. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to score this area positively against this criterion.	No

Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)		
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Opportunities for recreation on the escarpments and along the Glynn River are limited and, although these areas have value in terms of visual amenity and natural heritage interest, they are not considered to have unique amenity value.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		4

LCA 127 – Glenoe Wooded Slopes (north and south of Glenoe)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ or contain nationally or internationally important natural heritage conservation sites. Although this area contains prominent wooded slopes, the area does not represent an area of high landscape quality. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This area contains wooded slopes to the north and south of Glenoe. These slopes are distinctive within the setting of this LCA due to the woodland present on the slopes, their extensive appearance in long distance views from, for example, Ballyhhone Road, and also because of the contrast between these wooded slopes and the wide open valley below. These slopes are highly significant for the setting of Glenoe (small settlement). However, these wooded slopes are not highly distinctive and are not significant for a town or village listed in under Option 2(a) of the MEA POP. As such, it is considered appropriate to score this positively against this criterion.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	These slopes are highly significant for the setting of Glenoe. However, this settlement is classified as a small-settlement in Option 2(a) of the MEA POP and, therefore, this settlement is not taken into consideration in this assessment.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There are listed lime kilns (Grade B1) south of Glenoe and St. Columba’s Church of Ireland (Grade B+) is located inside Glenoe settlement development limits. There are no scheduled sites or monuments within the assessed area, although, there is a scheduled rath abutting Upper Town Road. However, on balance, this rath and the listed structures are not sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There is a Glenoe Waterfall designated walk which skirts the curtilage of St. Columba’s Church of Ireland (Grade B+) and includes a National Trust site. However, generally, recreation opportunities in this ‘discreet’ area are limited and the area does not have unique amenity value.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		0

LCA 127 – Larne Lough Shoreline

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB or a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ. However, the shoreline is within internationally and nationally important natural heritage conservation sites, namely, Larne Lough ASSI, Ramsar and SPA (these designations include Swan Island Statutory Nature Reserve). Therefore, this area has scored positively against this criterion.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The shoreline is visually exposed to views from the railway between Ballycarry and Larne. This railway line abuts the shoreline in this LCA. This shoreline can be viewed from the Harbour Highway, however, views from the A2 Shore Road/Main Road are generally limited by roadside vegetation. This shoreline is highly significant for the setting of Glynn. Therefore, on balance, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	This shoreline is important for the setting of Glynn and has some distinctive features which contribute to the setting of this settlement when viewed from Larne Lough, for example, the railway line, the mudflats at the Glynn River estuary and the lagoon area (created by the railway line) and adjacent playing fields. As such, it is considered appropriate to score this positively against this criterion.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	The shoreline is within internationally and nationally important natural heritage conservation sites, namely, Larne Lough ASSI, Ramsar and SPA (these designations include Swan Island Statutory Nature Reserve).	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There are no listed buildings or scheduled sites or monuments within this area. There are some industrial heritage sites associated with the quay and pier adjacent to Bank Road. The quay and pier at Bank Road do not make a significant contribution to the seascape in this area. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this Criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There are playing pitches associated with Larne Rugby Football Club and Newington Ranges FC adjacent to the shoreline. Blue Circle Cruising and Sailing Club are also have premises located on the shoreline. However, these premises are not accessible to the general public and do not intrinsically represent areas of unique amenity value. Public vantage points along this shoreline are generally limited to the railway. Therefore, on balance, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		4

LCA 128 – Islandmagee and Gobbins Coast (Ferris Bay to Whitehead)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	The Gobbins Coast and central ridges on Islandmagee are included within Islandmagee Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ) which is recognized for its scenic quality, as well as for its nature conservation and heritage value.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is within the Islandmagee Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ) which is an important landscape recognised for its scenic qualities.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are	On the northern and eastern coast of the Islandmagee peninsula there are visually exposed features that are highly distinctive, for example, sheer basalt cliffs, prominent headlands such as Skernaghan Point, Browns Bay beach and the Isle of Muck with its associated tombolo. Muldersleigh Hill is highly	Yes

highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	significant for the setting of Ballystrudder and Whitehead and the headlands of Black Head and White Head make an important contribution to the setting of Whitehead. Considering all these factors, this area scores positively against this Criterion.	
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Muldersleigh Hill is a prominent feature that is highly significant for the setting of Ballystrudder and Whitehead. The central ridge is also highly significant for the setting of Ballystrudder when viewed from the west and south. The headlands of Black Head and White Head make an important contribution to the setting of Whitehead	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	<p>The eastern coastline (a section between the Gobbins and a point south of Portmuck) is included within the Gobbins ASSI. The shoreline around Portmuck including the Isle of Muck is included within Portmuck ASSI. Cloghfin Port ASSI is located to the north of Black Head and Castletown ASSI is located on Muldersleigh Hill.</p> <p>The North Channel candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) includes the Gobbins Coast and the boundary is aligned to the mean low water mark. This site seeks to protect an important winter habitat for harbour porpoise.</p> <p>The proposed East Coast (NI) Marine SPA includes the coastal area around Islandmagee and the boundary is aligned to the mean low water mark. This designation seeks to ensure that the water and seafloor habitats are managed to meet the needs of foraging Terns and other seabirds.</p> <p>Due to the presence of these designations, this area has scored positively against this criterion.</p>	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	<p>There are three scheduled sites dispersed throughout the Islandmagee ASQ. These sites include the site of an anti-aircraft battery, a fortification and a Neolithic house. There are numerous listed buildings dispersed throughout the area, however, the only concentration of listed buildings is at Blackhead lighthouse (3 listed structures).</p> <p>Although these sites are present in this area, generally, they have dispersed pattern which dilutes their influence on the wider landscape. Therefore, it is considered appropriate that this area does not score positively against this criterion.</p>	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The eastern and northern coast of Islandmagee includes many sites with unique amenity value in that they provide public access to, and opportunities for recreation along, the Gobbins coast. The northern coastline includes Browns Bay beach and car park/picnic area, a designated walk at Skernaghan Point, Larne Golf Club (Barr's Point), a caravan park at Ferris Bay and Browns Bay Scenic Route, which is incorporated into the Causeway Coastal Route. The eastern coastline includes the Gobbins Coastal Path, Blackhead Path, Portmuck Harbour and car park/picnic site, Isle of Muck Local Nature Reserve and associated tombolo and Beach Road Nature Reserve (Whitehead). These sites also permit key public views along the coast and of the North Channel. Cumulatively, these sites give this area unique amenity value, particularly along the coast.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		6

LCA 128 – Ballycarry Wooded Slopes (north and south of Ballycarry)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ or contain nationally or internationally important natural heritage conservation sites. Although this area contains prominent wooded slopes, the area does not represent an area of high landscape quality. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	<p>This area contains wooded slopes to the north and south of Ballycarry. These slopes are distinctive within the setting of this LCA due to the woodland present on the slopes, their extensive appearance in long distance views from, for example, Ballystrudder Road and the A2 Larne Road, and also because of the contrast between these wooded slopes and the open valley of Larne Lough.</p> <p>Although these slopes are not highly distinctive, they are highly significant for the setting of Ballycarry. As such, it is considered appropriate to score this positively against this criterion.</p>	Yes

Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The wooded slopes to the north and south of Ballycarry provide a distinctive setting for the settlement when viewed from the east.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Red Hall registered Historic Park, Garden and Demesne abuts the northern edge of Ballycarry and contains a scheduled motte, listed country house (Grade A) and associated listed structures (for example Grade B2 mill, Grade B1 farm buildings, Grade B2 gates etc.). This registered Historic Park, Garden and Demesne covers significant part of this 'assessed' area and, as such, it is considered appropriate for this area to score positively against this criterion.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	The house within Red Hall registered Historic Park, Garden and Demesne is privately owned and is in use as a family home. There are no formal recreation opportunities associated with this area. In consideration of these factors, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		3

LCA 128 – Larne Lough shoreline

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB or a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ. However, the shoreline is within internationally and nationally important natural heritage conservation sites, namely, Larne Lough ASSI, Ramsar and SPA. Therefore, this area has scored positively against this criterion.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The shoreline is visually exposed in views from, for example, Island Road Lower, A2 Larne Road and Low Road. This railway line abuts the shoreline in this LCA and, from here, there are views across the lough and of the shoreline. This shoreline is highly distinctive due to the intertidal mudflats and significant areas of saltmarsh, which is generally a scarce habitat in Northern Ireland. As the shoreline is visually exposed and highly distinctive, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Although the proximity of the shoreline to Ballystrudder and the southern edge of Larne would suggest it would contribute significantly to the setting of these settlements, due to factors such as a lack of prominence and intervening land and vegetation, this influence of the shoreline on the setting of these settlements is reduced. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	The shoreline is within internationally and nationally important natural heritage conservation sites, namely, Larne Lough ASSI, Ramsar and SPA. These designations are of scientific interest by reason of the flora, fauna and geological features. This shoreline has intertidal mudflats and significant areas of saltmarsh, which is generally a scarce habitat in Northern Ireland. The intertidal mudflats often give way upshore to saltmarsh vegetation, which occurs all around the foreshore, but is most extensive in the southern part of the lough.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	The railway skirts the western shoreline and a scheduled moated sites abuts this railway line. The western shoreline includes a quarry spoil (which forms a basalt peninsula). There is a scheduled mound close to the eastern shoreline (west of Ballylumford Road). This shoreline includes relatively small jetties and quays and some other interesting historic sites linked to past settlement. However, when considering the significance of these sites, and the fact that more significant sites do not exert a strong influence on the seascape, this criterion has not scored positively against this criterion.	No

Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There is a caravan park and bird observatory at Ford Farm. The shoreline area attracts ornithologists due to the presence of rare birds and a wide variety of birds. 137 species of birds have been recorded on Islandmagee, including grebes, cormorants, wildfowl, waders, gulls and terns. However, there are only fleeting views of this shoreline from the Causeway Coastal Route and limited opportunities for recreation on and around the lough, therefore, on balance, this area is not considered to have unique amenity value and does not score positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		3

LCA 129 – Green Wedge between Jordanstown and Greenisland

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB or a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ. There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This area is visually exposed in views from the Old Carrick Road (B90), from adjacent residential areas and from Knockagh Monument. Although this area is not highly distinctive, this 'green' area is highly significant for the settings of Jordanstown and Greenisland. Therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The open space and agricultural fields are distinctive in this area in that they provide a visual break between the Jordanstown urban area and Greenisland in an otherwise built up coastal area. As such, this 'green' area is highly significant for the settings of these two distinct urban areas and helps to distinguish and maintain their separate identities. Therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Within MEA, this area contains an unscheduled rath, however, there are no other significant historic environment features. The presence of this rath is not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Greenisland Football Club and Greenisland Bowling Club are located within this 'green wedge' and there are community allotments run by the council. Given the area that these sites occupy within the 'assessed' area and their importance for the community, it is considered appropriate to score this area positively against this criterion.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		3

LCA 129 – Green Wedge between Carrickfergus and Greenisland

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB or a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ. There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This area is visually exposed in views from Upper Road (B90), the Shore Road, from adjacent residential areas and from Knockagh Monument. Although this area is not highly distinctive, this 'green' area is highly significant for the settings of Carrickfergus and Greenisland. Therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	The agricultural fields are distinctive in this area in that they provide a visual break between Carrickfergus and Greenisland in an otherwise built up coastal area. As such, this 'green' area is highly significant for the settings of these two distinct settlements and helps to distinguish and maintain their separate identities. Therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	This area contains unscheduled historic environment features such as raths and souterrains. However, there are no other significant historic environment features and the presence of these unscheduled features alone is not considered sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	This area consists mainly of agricultural fields. Therefore, this area is not considered to have unique amenity value and does not score positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		2

LCA 129 – Belfast Lough Shoreline

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB or a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ. However, the shoreline is within internationally and nationally important natural heritage conservation sites, namely, Outer Belfast Lough ASSI, Belfast Lough Ramsar and SPA and abuts Belfast Lough Open Water SPA (to be subsumed within the proposed East Coast (NI) Marine SPA). Due to the presence of these designations, this area has scored positively against this criterion.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	The shoreline is visually exposed in views from, for example, Belfast Lough, the Belfast-Larne railway line, the Marine Highway (Carrickfergus), Carrickfergus Castle, the A2 Belfast Road and residential properties along the shoreline. The shoreline between Greenisland and Carrickfergus is highly distinctive due to the presence of Carrickfergus Castle, the numerous tertiary basaltic and dolerite intrusions in the Triassic rocks and the massive dykes at Carrickfergus which form part of the foundation of Carrickfergus Castle. Further, this coastal area, with its' unique features, is highly significant for the setting of Carrickfergus and Greenisland. In consideration of these factors, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes

Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	Belfast Lough shoreline, along with its' unique features such as Carrickfergus Castle, Sea Park supplementary Historic Park, Garden and Demesne and interesting geological features, contributes significantly to the setting of Carrickfergus and Greenisland. In consideration of these factors, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	This shoreline is within internationally and nationally important natural heritage conservation sites, namely, Outer Belfast Lough ASSI, Belfast Lough Ramsar and SPA and abuts Belfast Lough Open Water SPA (to be subsumed within the proposed East Coast (NI) Marine SPA). This area holds nationally important numbers of several species of overwintering birds, for example, Great Crested grebe (largest wintering concentration in the British Isles) and Redshank.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	Unique features such as Carrickfergus Castle (State Care monument), King William III Pier (Grade B1 listed), the former Radar School (Grade B2 listed), Fisherman's Quay (Scheduled monument), White Harbour (Grade B2 listed), Sea Park supplementary Historic Park, Garden and Demesne with its listed boathouse (Grade B1) and gate lodge (Grade B2) and listed houses along the shoreline at Greenisland, cumulatively, make a significant contribution to the seascape in this area. Further, the urban waterfront area between Carrickfergus Harbour and Fisherman's Quay is included within Carrickfergus Conservation Area. Therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Within MEA, there are opportunities for recreation along this shoreline. For example, there are opportunities for fishing, ornithology and walking along the shoreline, and the East Coast Canoe Trail identifies Carrickfergus Harbour and Fisherman's Quay as embarkation/disembarkation points on the route. Carrickfergus Harbour and Marina is a base for boating and Carrickfergus Castle is a key tourist attraction for the Borough. The A2 Causeway Coastal Route skirts this shoreline at Carrickfergus. In consideration of all these factors, it is considered appropriate that this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		6

LCA 130 – Carrickfergus Escarpment Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is located within the NILCA 2000 identified Carrickfergus Escarpment ASQ. Therefore, this area has scored positively against this criterion.	Yes
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area is located within the NILCA 2000 identified Carrickfergus Escarpment ASQ. Therefore, this area has scored positively against this criterion.	Yes
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	This visually exposed area is part of a transitional landscape between the flat coastal fringe of the Carrickfergus Shoreline (LCA 129) and the Carrickfergus Upland Pastures (LCA 98). The area includes the slopes beneath the basalt cliffs of the escarpment. These slopes are highly distinctive because they form the foreground to the basalt cliffs, are large areas of landslip (slope failures) below the escarpment and are wooded on the upper slopes (woodland only occupies 2% of his LCA). These slopes are highly significant for the settlements of Carrickfergus and Greenisland. In consideration of these factors, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	These highly distinctive slopes contribute to a unique backdrop for the settlements of Carrickfergus and Greenisland and are, therefore, highly significant for the setting of these settlements.	Yes
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	There is a scheduled mound located on the slopes above Greenisland and some historic sites of lesser significance. These features are not sufficient to justify a positive score against this criterion.	No

Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	Greenisland Golf Course is located on the slopes above Greenisland. This is the only formal recreation site in this area which has limited opportunities for recreation. This golf course alone is not sufficient for this area to score positively against this criterion. However, when considering the visual importance of this area for framing views of the Knockagh War Memorial, which has strong cultural associations and attracts visitors and tourists to the area, it is considered appropriate to score this area positively against this criterion. The basis for this scoring is that the top of the escarpment where the Knockagh Monument is located and the slopes below have a strong visual linkage and function as one entity in the landscape. Therefore, the farmland slopes contribute to the unique amenity value attached to Knockagh monument.	Yes
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		5

LCA 130 – Farmland Slopes (North of B90 and Between New Line and Beltoy Road)

Criteria	Assessment	Yes/No
High Landscape Quality (AONB/ASQ/Scenic River Corridor/Coastal Shoreline/significant influence of an internationally or nationally significant Site(s) of Nature Conservation Importance)	This area is not located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB or a NILCA 2000 identified ASQ. There are no natural heritage conservation sites contained within this area that are nationally or internationally significant. Therefore, this area has not scored positively against this criterion.	No
Scenic Quality (AONB/ASQ)	This area has not been identified as an area of scenic quality in the NILCA 2000 study and is not within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.	No
Visually Exposed/Prominent Landscape Features (Ridgelines/ Headlands/ Hills/ Slopes/ Floodplains/ Coastal Shoreline) that are highly distinctive and/or highly significant for the setting of landmark features/ escarpments/ settlements	These slopes are visually exposed in views from Middle Road and the upper slopes have a higher degree of exposure over a wider area due to their elevation, for example, the upper slopes can also be viewed from Beltoy Road and Paisley Road. However, these slopes are not distinctive due to their simple, smooth landform and they are not highly significant for the setting of Carrickfergus. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
Distinctive features that contribute significantly to the setting of a settlement(s) (significant landscape features e.g. river corridor, woodland, prominent hill etc.)	These slopes are not distinctive due to their simple, smooth landform and, although they contribute to the setting of Carrickfergus, it is the countryside setting, rather than the slopes themselves, that holds significance in this regard. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
Sites of Natural Heritage Conservation Importance (international/national significance)	Copeland Reservoir ASSI is found within this area and is a designated natural heritage conservation site of national significance due to the presence of specialist mosses, some of which are rare. Therefore, this area scores positively against this criterion.	Yes
Historic Environment Features - significant contribution to landscape value or contributes to the value of a highly distinctive part of the landscape (ASAI/ State Care Monument/ Scheduled Monument/ Historic Park, Garden and Demesne/ Significant groups of Listed Buildings/Conservation Area/Landmark Listed Structures)	This area has three scheduled sites that include a settlement site, a rath and Duncrue Fort (motte and 2 baileys). There is a listed house (Grade B1) and various other unscheduled sites in this area. However, due to the dispersed pattern of these sites, particularly the scheduled sites, and the lower level of significance of the unscheduled sites, on balance, it is considered appropriate that this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
Unique Amenity Value (Significant Community/Recreation/Tourism resource and/or highly significant cultural associations)	There are fishing facilities at Copeland Reservoir, however, opportunities for recreation are limited in this area and there are no significant visitor attractions or designated walking routes. Therefore, this area does not score positively against this criterion.	No
TOTAL (Number of Criteria satisfied)		1



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