

## Landscape Constraints

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Cunnane Stratton Reynolds were engaged to identify the main Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within areas where works are proposed under the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme (FRS). The work included the identification of landscape characteristics and main areas of tree cover, as well as mapping of areas with distinct landscape character, key areas within each LCA and summary appraisals of the key landscape characteristics of each area.

The various landscapes within the study area (identified as Character Areas in the report) have been described in terms of their character, and sensitivity to the proposed works. Assessment of the options as they relate to the important features of each Character Area were also documented. Opportunities for the reducing potential landscape and visual effects, maximising the landscape qualities of these areas, as well as risks to important landscape or heritage features, and any possible alternatives, were also identified.

### Arboricultural

Site surveys were conducted by a qualified Arborist within the main areas where works are proposed under the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme (FRS). The Arborist observing and documenting from ground level individual trees, 'tree groups' (large continuous groups of broadly similar profile trees) as well as hedgerows. Any individual trees of particular merit or note contained within a group, or standing in isolation, was inspected and assessed as individuals / notable constituents of a group.



Character Area 4(i)



Trees located between Station Road and the River Suck are primarily groups of young Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) succession woodland, interspersed are Willow species (*Salix* sp.), and to a lesser extent Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

Character Area 4(ii)



Trees located between Sarefield Crescent to the back area of the town are primarily groups of young Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) & Birch (*Betula pendula*) successional woodland, interspersed are Willow species (*Salix* sp.), and to a lesser extent Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).



A small number of older trees which presumably were part of the former convent gardens remain in this area - most notably formal linear planting of Lime (*Tilia* sp.) and occasional Yew (*Taxus baccata*) and Cypress (*Cupressus*).

Character Area 5(i)



Trees located immediately west of Colahan's hardware at Riverview, to the bend in the River Suck, are primarily groups of young Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) & Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), interspersed with Willow species (*Salix* sp.). A number of ornamental street tree and parkland tree species are also present within the urban park area including Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Chestnut (*Castanea hippocastanum*) and Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*).

Character Area 5(ii)



Trees located in close proximity to the West Bridge, the park which lies to the south and the adjoining Marina area, are primarily groups of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) & Poplar (*Populus* sp.) interspersed with Willow species (*Salix* sp.). A number of ornamental street tree and parkland tree species are also present within the urban park area including Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Weeping Willow (*Salix alba Chrysocoma*).



Trees located along the boundaries of The Pines residential estate form part of the surrounding field boundary hedgerows composed primarily of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with regular groups of young to middle aged, often multi-stemmed, trees. Hedgerow species trees are primarily Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), but also Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) & Willow species (*Salix* sp.). Many of this ash display symptoms of Ash Dieback disease.

A continuous group of young Poplar (*Populus* sp.) are located at the southern boundary. Non-native Cypress (*Cupressus Leylandii*) are present and include a mix of young to middle age specimens of typically low individual value increasing to moderate collective value.

