

An aerial photograph of a landscape featuring a winding river or stream that flows through green fields. The river has several meanders, creating oxbow-like shapes. The surrounding land is a mix of green grass and some darker, possibly wooded or shrubby areas. The lighting suggests a sunny day, with shadows cast across the terrain.

# **Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area Landscape Assessment**

**Breakfast Briefing  
to Meath County Council  
07 Sept 2010**

**Presented by  
Dan Egan  
Director - tbs**



## **The purpose of the Landscape Conservation Area (LCA) designation is to:**

- **Recognise the significance of the Tara Skryne landscape**
- **Implement the Policies and Objectives of the CDP**
- **Engage the local community and stakeholders**
- **Promote sustainable landscape management**
- **Support the delivery of socio-economic, cultural and community initiatives**
- **Increase awareness and education**



# tbs Brief

**To carry out a visual assessment, to assist in the determination and review of:**

- Determine the extent of the study area
- Identify areas of sensitivity and visually sensitive views
- Identify areas/developments of visual influence
- Identify strategic character areas/views under threat
- Review existing policies, obj. and/or recommendations
- Review findings/recommendations from public consultation
- Identification of mitigation measures



# Key Issues

**Being a pilot project, even some of the basic issues or assumptions can be more complex and contentious than a preliminary review might suggest.**

## **Key issues first to be addressed:**

The extent of the study area

The Landscape Character of Tara-Skryne  
(what makes it worthy of LCA designation)

Key views (i.e. views worthy of protection)

Sensitive Views (i.e. views under threat)

To what extent can mitigation measures be implemented  
(this is a real and evolving landscape providing residence  
and employment)



# Overview of Report

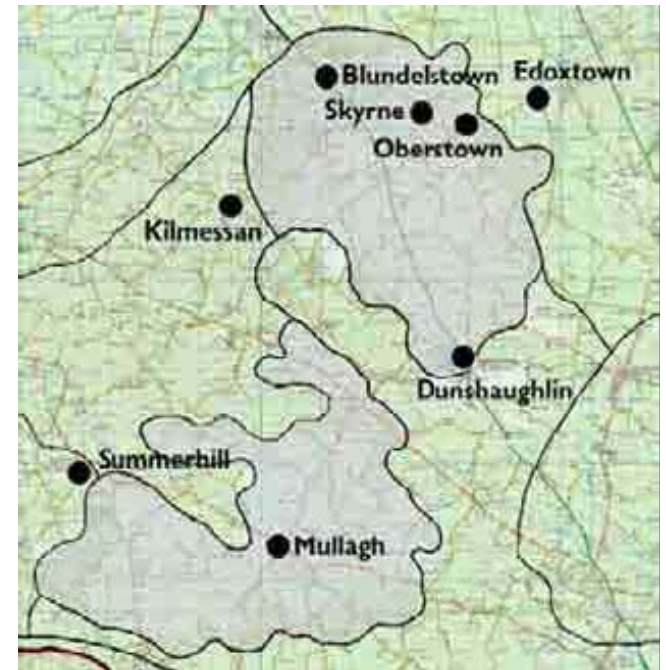
## Report presented under the following themes/chapters:

- The Brief
- Methodology
- Existing Planning Context
- The Study Area
- Description of the Receiving Environment
- Landscape Sensitivity
- Key Views
- Conclusions

# Study Area

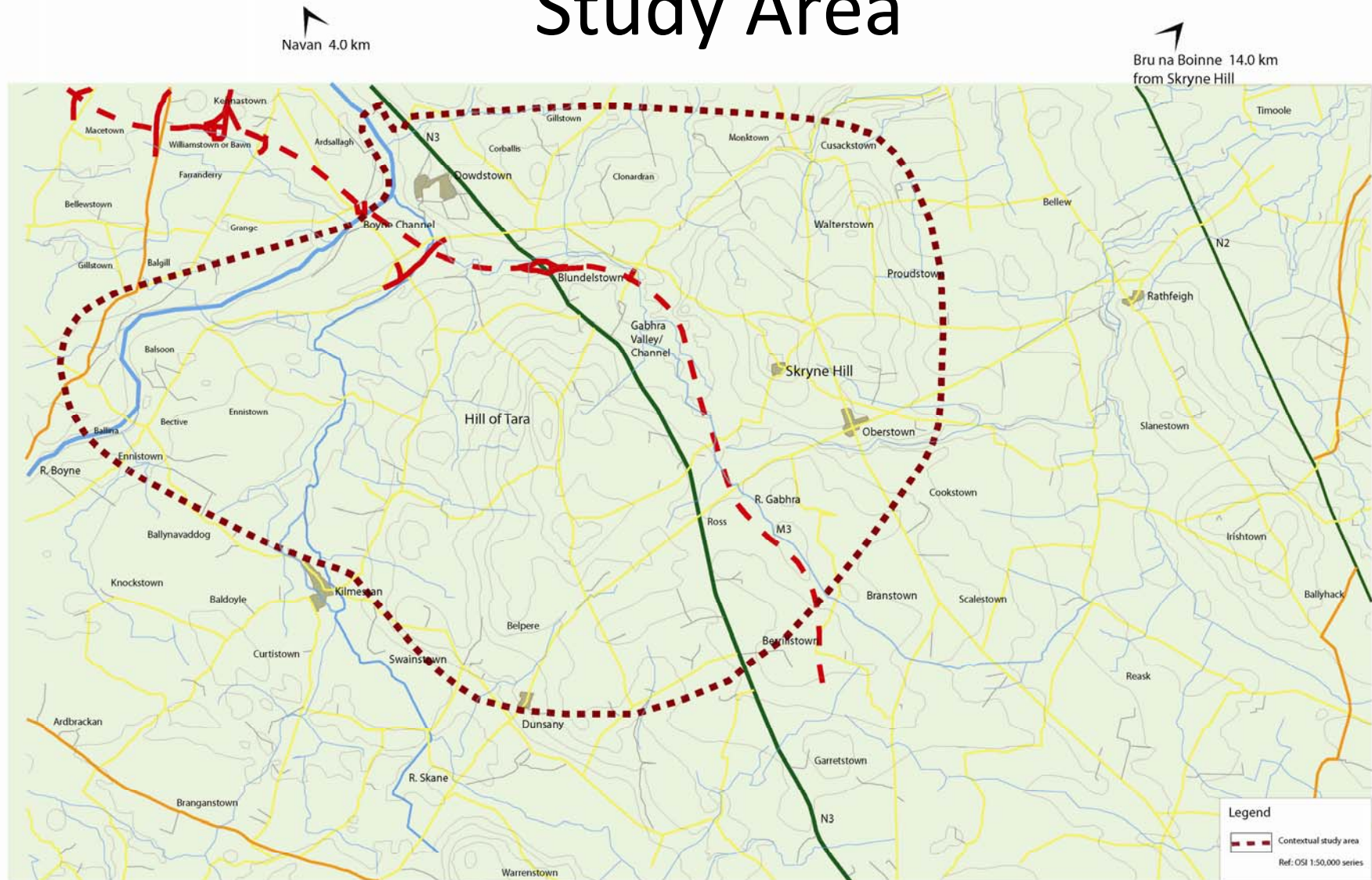
## Informed by:

- Public Consultation
- LCA carried out previously and which fed in to CDP
- Consultation with PA
- tbs Initial Assessment





# Study Area



Dunshaughlin 2.0 km

Figure 02: Study Area

Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area Project



# Landscape Character

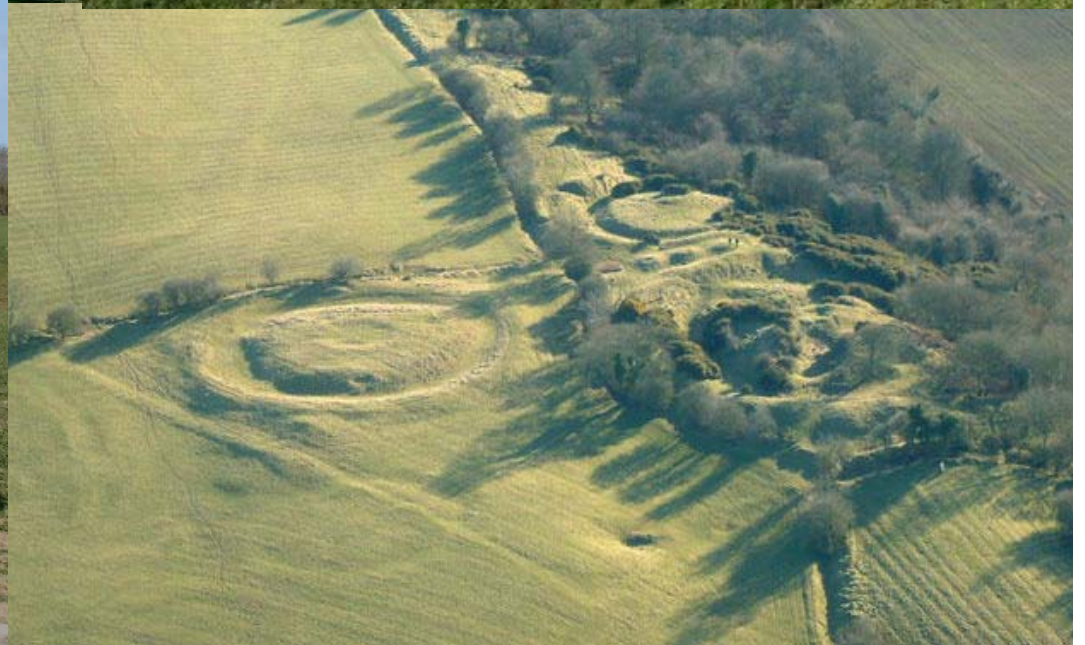
In order to determine the appropriateness of the study area, identify key views or develop a strategy for the protection of Tara-Skryne, tbs had to first identify the character of the area  
..... sounds easier than it is!

## The greatest influences on the Landscape Character of Tara Skryne

- Archaeology/Geology
- Field patterns (with boundary/field hedgerows and trees)
- Topography (hills, drumlins, valleys)
- Architectural heritage, eg demesnes
- Land uses



**Archaeological Heritage – obviously!**







**But what other visual attributes  
contribute to Tara-Skryne LCA?**





# 'Character' maps

Topography

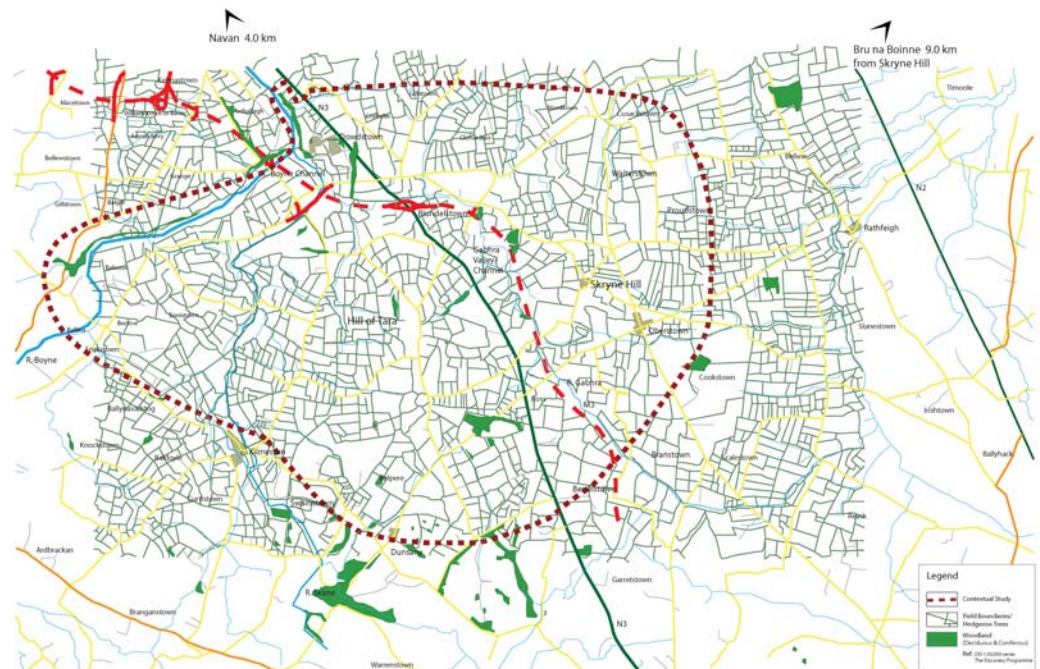
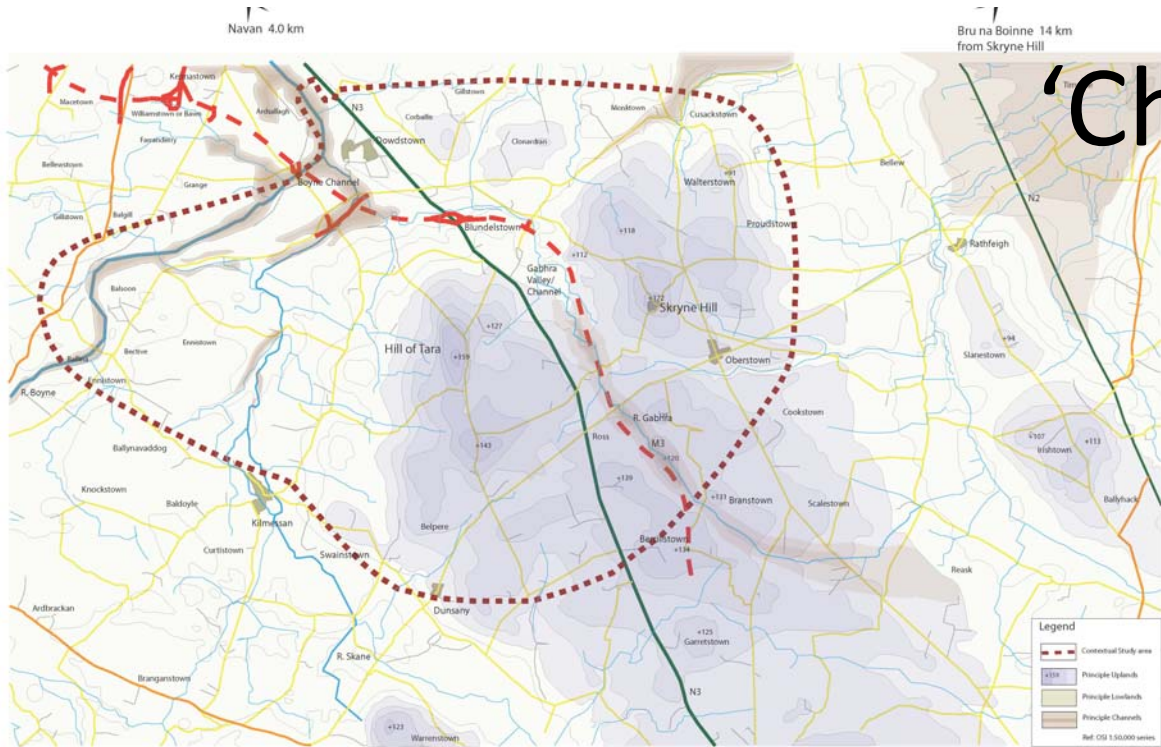
Field Boundaries

Woodlands

Built Structures

Protected Structures

etc.



# Key Views

This Chapter is perhaps the most important outcome of the visual assessment, and in part presents a conclusion to our report..... in that it outlines the views worth protecting, our views as to why they are worth protecting and the potential threat to the views.

Ultimately recommendations that follow, will not only be informed by our technical analysis but by the desires and needs of the community and Planning Authority and by the aspirations of the Heritage Council, and others for this important historic landscape.

The visual assessment of the key views is broken down into two principle elements, key views **from** Tara-Skryne and key views **towards** Tara-Skryne.

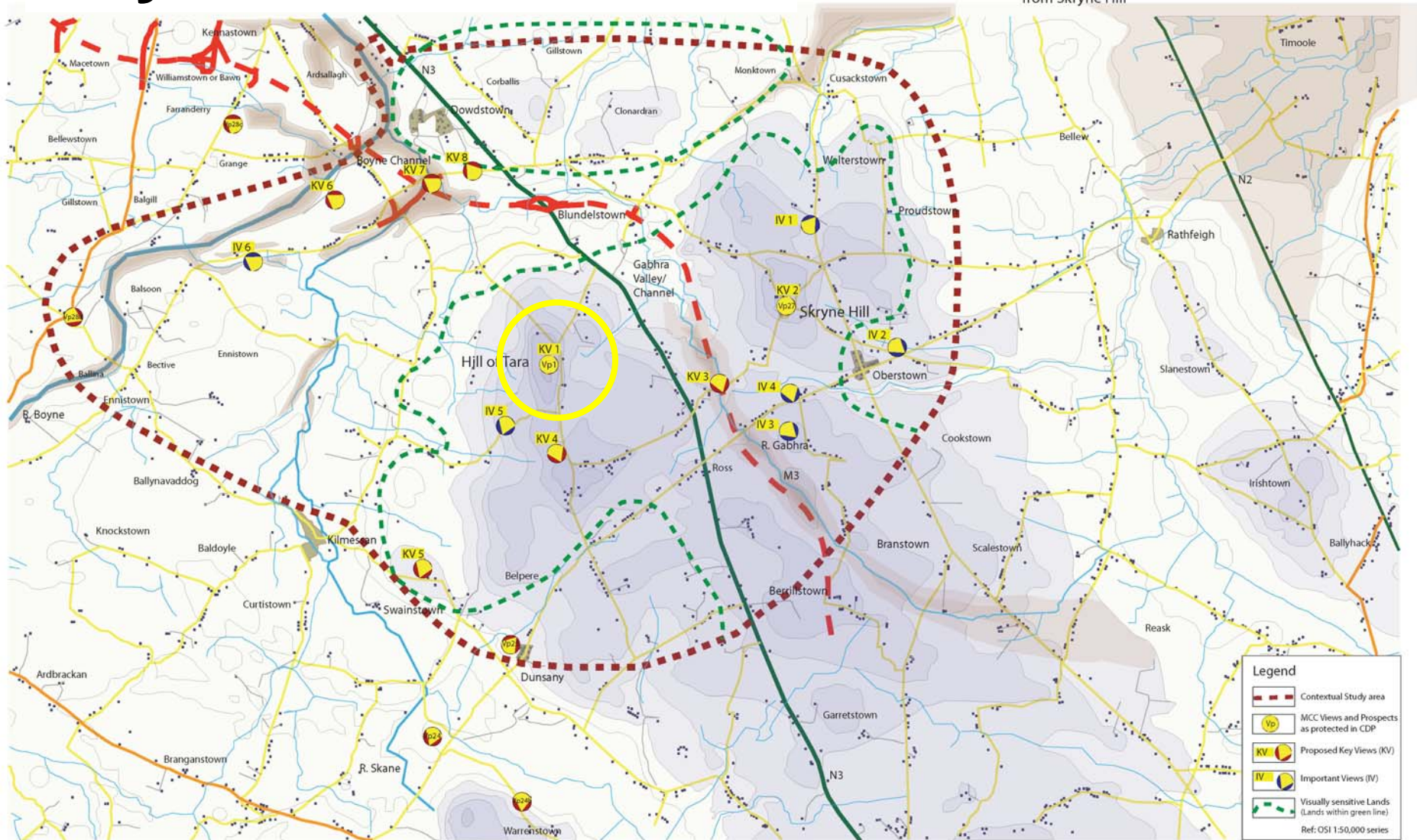
The study identified 9 key view points, numbered KV1 to KV9



# Key Views in Context

Platin Quarry and  
Cement works 12Km  
from Skryne Hill

Bru na Boinne 14 km  
from Skryne Hill



Dunshaughlin 2.0 km



0km 1km 5km

Figure 0 9: Key Views in Context  
Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area Project





# KEY VIEW - KV1(W) Westwards from Hill of Tara

## **Context:**

The view is a panorama view westwards across the Skane and Boyne valleys

## **Main Visual Resources**

Woodland trees located on the upper western slopes of Tara

Pasture and arable fields and associated network of hedgerows and hedgerow trees

A small number of dwellings and farm buildings are partially visible

Rolling Topography

Distant views - glimpse views beyond the Boyne Valley are possible.

## **Analysis**

The views from Tara westwards are generally experienced without undue intrusion of modern changes and interventions in the landscape. However, the small number of houses and agricultural buildings do impinge and are a reminder of the threat of such development within this landscape.

## **Mitigation:**

Minimise/avoid additional new residential development

Where residential or agricultural development is unavoidable – landscape proposals should include significant native screen planting.

Erosion or removal of field hedgerow/hedgerow trees should not be permitted.



# KV1 – key views

## KV1 (W)



KV1 - Hill of Tara - (W)



Study Area/Project ICA Boundary  
 Contained Study Area  
 N2  
 N2 and N2  
 Tara Site  
 Photographic Locations

Views  
 KV 1 (W)

GPS Coordinates  
 292.008E  
 259.722N  
 Elev 156.5m  
 Time @ 17.40

Camera help  
 eye level, 1.2  
 each location  
 Vivian Sunny  
 Date 12/May/

## KV1 (E)



KV1 - Hill of Tara - Eastwards (E1)



KV1 - Hill of Tara - Eastwards (E2)

# Conclusions

Tara is an extraordinary and unique site....

Tara-Skryne area is undoubtedly a remarkable  
landscape -  
worthy of protection and the LCA designation.

tbs hopes to continue to work with MCC,  
DOEHLG and the community and yourselves to  
determine levels of acceptable mitigation.

