



Waterford County Local Authorities
Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae Phort Láirge

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Course Programme

for

Introduction to Heritage of the Comeraghs

Promoting visitor potential of the uplands
in County Waterford

Waterford County Council

Autumn 2010

Day : Wednesdays
Time : 7.00 – 10.00pm
Venue : Rathgormack Hiking Centre
Duration : 8 weeks
Dates : Beginning 22nd September 2010
Contact Hours : 24 hours (3 hours per wk.)

This course is an action of the County Waterford Heritage Plan 2006-2010 and is funded by the Heritage Council Local Heritage Plan Fund.

Course Programme

Week	Date	Topic	Speaker
1.	September 22nd	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Why are we here? What is there to gain?</p> <p>Landscape and Geology of the Comeraghs</p>	<p>Bernadette Guest</p> <p>Michael Maunsell</p> <p>Michael Maunsell</p>
2.	September 29th	Natural Heritage of the Comeraghs- Flora, Fauna, Birdlife and Conservation	Michael Maunsell
Optional	October 3 rd	<p>National Trails Day A series of themed guided walks will be available on the day</p> <p>1. Exploring the Gap-Nature and Landscape From the Nire Valley to Rathgormack</p> <p>2. Landscapes, Features and Placenames, Past and Present Lough Mohra Loop</p>	<p>Michael Maunsell 2p.m. Nire Valley Car Park</p> <p>Michael O'Donoghue 2 p.m. Rathgormack Hiking Centre</p>
3.	October 6th	Archaeology of the Comeraghs	Michael Gibbons
4.	October 13th	Customer Care	Fáilte Ireland
5.	October 20th	Built Heritage	Rose Ryall
6.	October 27th	Cultural Heritage Tracing your family	Joanne Rothwell

		history, the Griffith valuation, 1901 & 1911 census Local graveyards Landownership in Fourmilewater in the 18th & 19th century. The birth and death of Clustered village in the Nire Valley, Glenanore.	Michael Desmond
7.	November 3 rd	Navigation, equipment, weather, access, , dealing with groups	Michael O'Donoghue
8.	November 10th	The Aherlow Fáilte Experience Presentation of Attendance Certs	Helen Morrissey

About the course

The magnificent mountain scenery and wealth of heritage and wildlife interest of the Comeragh Mountains are an invaluable recreational resource for residents and visitors alike. This resource provides a key tourism attraction which can enhance the local economy and encourage rural development. Promoting the botanical, ornithological, geological, geomorphological and archaeological heritage of your area will inform those wishing to visit and enjoy the Comeragh Mountains.

The aim of this course is to highlight the heritage value of the area and explore the potential for promoting this heritage through your occupation or activity in the locality be it farming, forestry, accommodation, outdoor pursuits or wildlife. Attendees of this course will be given an introduction to the range of heritage subjects by a range of speakers involved in the heritage tourism industry. Each session will include time for group discussion. Attendees may be interested in developing their knowledge on a practical level by participating in the Fáilte Ireland Tour Guide Training Programme to attain a FETAC (level 6) National Tour Guiding Certificate.

Who should attend?

The course is open to anyone with an interest in the heritage of the Comeraghs and this may include farmers, foresters, accommodation providers, outdoor recreation leaders, potential tour guides, community leaders, teachers, local history enthusiasts and hillwalkers.

The Trainers

Bernadette Guest is Heritage Officer with Waterford County Council and has a background in Ecology and Environmental Science. Her role as Heritage Officer involves project management of the County Heritage and Biodiversity plans, promotion of heritage policy, promoting enjoyment of heritage through events such as Heritage and Biodiversity Week and providing advice to the public on local heritage projects.

Michael Maunsell is an Environmental Science lecturer specialising in Conservation and Biodiversity. He has a special interest in Sustainable Mountain Tourism Development, which is his current research area, collaborating with other researchers in European Mountain regions. Michael has over 30 years experience as a full-time mountaineer and Environmental Consultant working in mountain environments in Ireland, UK and the European Alps.

Michael Gibbons is an independent Field Archaeologist and has carried out survey work in County Waterford. He is a former co-director of the National Sites and Monuments Record for the Office of Public Works. Michael runs a walking tour business in Clifden, Co. Galway that specialises in Archaeological and Historical Tours of the West of Ireland. He was a member of the Heritage Council Archaeology Committee from 2002-2007 and is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

Michael O'Donoghue is an active member of the Rathgormack Community and involved in the Rathgormack Hiking Centre including the development of Looped Walks around Rathgormack and the Rathgormack Ramblers Club. A former Geography teacher his interests include local history and heritage and promoting the walkways of the Comeragh Mountains.

Fáilte Ireland

A Fáilte Ireland representative will present two modules of the course in the areas of Customer Care and Hospitality including dealing with the public, developing packages towards ensuring a walkers welcome e.g. availability of packed lunches, developing links with local food producers in the region and experience of other initiatives around the country.

Rose Ryall is Conservation Officer with Waterford County Council since 2005. Rose is a qualified archaeologist and holds a MA in Urban and Built Conservation. Her role as Conservation Officer involves advising on all aspects of the archaeological and built heritage including repair and restoration, traditional skills and funding sources.

Joanne Rothwell is County Archivist with Waterford County Council since 1998. She served as Training Officer with the Society of Archivists, Ireland 2001-2004 and was Chairperson of the Local Authority Archivists' Group from 2001-2009. In the course of her work she has researched and provided a number of talks and exhibitions and has also been involved in the provision of a number of courses on Local History and on Researching Your Family History.

Michael Desmond is based in Ballymacarbry and conducts walking tours of the Nire Valley and the Comeragh Mountains. He holds a Diploma in Local & Regional studies (History) from NUI Cork and has published a book on the history of the parish of Fourmilewater, "*Ballymacarbry & Fourmilewater – 1650 – 1850*". He has served as Secretary of the Clonmel Historical & Archaeological Society from 2007 – 2010 and has a life long interest in local history and the environs of the Comeragh Mountains.

Helen Morrissey is a member of Aherlow Fáilte in the Glen of Aherlow County Tipperary. She has been involved in promotion of local tourism and the development of the Walkers Welcome in the Glen including sourcing funding and development of information for visitors to the area.

Course Fee

A fee of €15 is required to cover cost of materials in support of the training course and payable on registration for the course on Wednesday September 22nd.



APPLICATION FORM

Introduction to Heritage of the Comeraghs

Please complete all sections (excluding signature) of this form in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name:

Occupation:

PERMANENT ADDRESS

Address:

County:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Why have you applied to attend this course ?

Are you interested in developing your knowledge to participate in a Fáilte Ireland Tour Guide Training Programme ?

Signature of Applicant

Date



Waterford County Local Authorities
Údarás Áitiúla Chontae Phort Láirge

Please return the completed application form to the following address marked "Comeragh Heritage Course " by:

5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st September 2010

Bernadette Guest,
Waterford County Council,
Civic Office,
Dungarvan,
Co. Waterford

Or by e-mail to bquest@waterfordcoco.ie 058 22000 086 8590341