



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Draft Heritage Plan

2017-2021



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Vision

To increase engagement with, and access to, all aspects of heritage in Waterford City and County and promote conservation, best practice, appreciation and enjoyment of our shared heritage.

Mission Statement

To set out a strategic and co-ordinated approach for heritage in recognition of the benefits that heritage delivers; identifying a sense of place for Waterford, learning lessons from our past to plan for the future and added value for the development of Waterford City and County.

Preamble

1.1 RATIONALE

The preparation of a local heritage plan and establishment of a local heritage forum became part of Government policy in the National Heritage Plan (NHP) of 2002. The Heritage Council subsequently published guidelines on preparation of Local Heritage Plans in 2003. A priority of *Culture 2025-Éire Ildánach A Framework Policy* (2016) is to update the National Heritage Plan to identify priority actions in the heritage area.

The Heritage Plan is important because it sets out the priorities for Heritage in Waterford over the next 5 years and is a cross agency plan with input from as wide a sector as possible who are involved in heritage projects, policy and work programmes across the city and county along with an extensive public consultation process. It is also important because it sets the framework for the Heritage Council allocation that we apply for through the annual Heritage Plan Fund.

1.2 HERITAGE AND THE COMMUNITY

In 2016, Waterford City and County commemorated the centenary of the 1916 Rising through an events programme involving seven strands; Ceremonial, Historical Reflection, Youth and Imagination, Cultural Expression, The Living Language, Community Participation and Global Diaspora. Particularly heartening was the level of interest and support from community groups across Waterford in all aspects of the events programme. That local communities know best and take pride in their local heritage is without doubt. That they are best placed (with support and partnerships) to promote care, conservation and engagement with that heritage is verified by a number of key projects such as the Adopt a Monument Scheme (Gallows Hill, Dungarvan and Round Hill, Lismore 2016), Graveyard recording and cleanups (Drumcannon, Hackettstown), Heritage Towns (Lismore), Native Woodland Scheme (Dunmore East Woods and Park Trust) and River Enhancement projects (Friends of St. John's River). Interest in practical wildlife and heritage surveys was demonstrated by enthusiastic community participation in projects such as the Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE 2011-2015) and the Coastal Audit of Waterford Estuary (FLAG 2014). Fenor Bog is one of the few community owned nature reserves in Ireland. Another indicator of the increasing interest in heritage amongst the wider public has been expanding participation in Heritage Week events over the past 5 years. With a network of around 10 local history groups, 20 Tidy Towns Groups and a range of environmental and wildlife groups there is a strong community base across Waterford for supporting local heritage projects. It is a key tenet of the Waterford Heritage Plan to continue support of Community Heritage and Citizen Science Projects working with local groups on the ground.

1.3 HERITAGE AND QUALITY OF LIFE

In our increasingly sedentary and screen filled lifestyles there is an innate need to escape to the outdoors and engage with the landscape and environment. People actively seek out a place and space for reflection and quiet meditation. There has been a renewed appreciation and interest in ancient walkways and sites such as Pilgrim Paths and Holy Wells. The existence of these sites can claim a continuity from pre-Christian times to the present day. Revisiting and engaging with our heritage sites renews our sense of place and grounds us amidst our busy lifestyles.

The Waterford Greenway- Rian Glas na nDéise is a significant development for quality of life in Waterford. Not only does it enable walking and cycling in a traffic free environment but allows travel through a historical timeline from early Christian, Viking, Medieval, Industrial and 20th Century heritage sites along with appreciating notable geological and wildlife areas such as the River Suir SAC, Comeragh Mountains SAC and Dungarvan Bay SPA.

Engaging with the diversity of heritage along the Greenway, along St. Declan's Way, our waterways or along our many walking trails enhances the sensory, mental and spiritual experience of being outdoors. There is now an established recognition that the benefits provided by our heritage sites are a form of natural capital which is to be valued as part of our national assets register. It is a key tenet of the Waterford Heritage Plan to promote public engagement with heritage and enhancement of our natural capital as a fundamental requirement for maintaining quality of life.

1.4 HERITAGE TOURISM

In August 2016, the House of Waterford Crystal welcomed its 1millionth visitor since it opened in June 2010. Waterford's industrial heritage of glass making is the core of a rich visitor experience to Waterford's Viking Triangle that includes Reginald's Tower, the 18th Century Bishop's Palace and the award winning Medieval Museum. The three buildings, now a trinity of museums all celebrate Waterford's rich and diverse heritage. Development of the Viking Triangle acknowledges the foundations of Waterford as Ireland's oldest city and recognises the role of heritage in urban regeneration and economic growth. The City's built heritage and archaeology offer further potential for living history projects and complementing public realm enhancement works. Outside of Waterford City, the Waterford Garden Trail has opened up the rich heritage of great houses, landscape demesnes and gardens that can be enjoyed from Waterford City to the Suir and Blackwater Valleys. The diverse festival offering promoting Waterford's culture and heritage is a firm base to attract more visitors to the county while national initiatives such as Ireland's Ancient East offer opportunities for more sites to be made visitor-ready. It is a key tenet of the Waterford Heritage Plan to promote sustainable heritage tourism across Waterford City and County.

1.5 HERITAGE- LEARNING, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Lifelong learning is an established aspect of modern life and shown to contribute to positive mental well being. As with other subject areas there are several opportunities for increased learning and education in heritage. Understanding leads to appreciation and care for conservation. Waterford has the benefit of heritage education through a diversity of courses and centres from the Copper Coast Geo-Parks-Education Programme, Heritage in Schools Scheme, Dunhill Multi-Education Centre's Tourism Trail and Smart Media Course, WIT courses in Arts and Heritage Management and Applied Conservation Skills. Living history experiences have been provided through events such as the Waterford Revolutionary Roadshow, Dungarvan 800 and Go Biking with a Viking. There is great potential for development of local heritage enterprises such as guided tours on archaeology, geology and wildlife along with training schemes for developing traditional skills in building conservation, wildlife management, control of invasive species and best practice in management of historic graveyards. There are opportunities for developing volunteering networks and life skills in care and conservation of local heritage. It is a key tenet of the Waterford Heritage Plan to promote lifelong learning, training and education in heritage research, management and conservation.

1.6 HERITAGE AND THE DIGITAL AGE

Since publication of the previous heritage plans for Waterford City and County there have been rapid developments in technology and in how people communicate and access information. This provides great opportunities for both disseminating information on Waterford's heritage and communicating with new and wider audiences. The Heritage Council's Heritage Maps viewer, the National Biodiversity Data Centre's records system, ESRI based mapping used by the NPWS, Buildings of Ireland, GSI and NMS websites all make finding out about local heritage so much easier. At a local level GIS story maps on the Waterford Greenway, Viking Triangle and the WCCC Cultural Services Portal all promote heritage. It is a key tenet of the Waterford Heritage Plan to promote access to heritage information and communicate to wider audiences through the range of available digital media.

1.7 HERITAGE AND FUNDING

Delivery of the Heritage Plan is facilitated by an annual funding allocation from the Heritage Council in the range of €25-30,000 and co-funded by Waterford City and County Council. Heritage Project spend benefits the local economy through use of conference facilities, graphic design and print, transport, media, pr and heritage consultancy services. A number of funding sources are available for heritage led projects including INTERREG, DAHRRGA and DHPCLG.

Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2014-2020

Waterford Leader Partnership CLG are responsible for delivering the LEADER Rural Development Programme worth €7.5 million to County Waterford. The LEADER

programme outlines a series of key themes and sub-themes that will form the basis of LEADER activities in Co. Waterford. These include rural tourism, protection of local biodiversity, rural towns and protection of water resources.

It is a key tenet of the Waterford Heritage Plan to support heritage led projects through the Waterford LEADER Programme and access other available funding sources for the promotion, conservation and management of Waterford's heritage.

1.8 THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Culture 2025

Culture 2025 is a framework policy published by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in 2016. The policy is underpinned by a commitment to increase resources for arts and heritage and to improve funding structures for investment in national and local services. The pillars of the framework policy include; seeing collaboration as the new norm; celebrating our cultural heritage and traditions and responding to the digital age. Priorities of the policy include publication of the new National Biodiversity Action Plan, updating of the National Heritage Plan, policies and supports that protect built heritage, increased investment in the Irish language and boost existing initiatives with new town and village renewal schemes and an expanded Historic Towns initiative.

Waters and Communities

The establishment of local authority Waters and Communities Offices in 2016 is a new approach to public participation in the management of our natural waters and delivery of the Water Framework Directive. It recognises the value of local partnerships in the management of local waterways and offers advice on technical issues and funding opportunities for community waterway projects. There is great potential for such projects to enhance the water quality, habitat value and recreational use of Waterford's many waterways.

It is a key tenet of the Waterford Heritage Plan to support national policy and initiatives such as Culture 2025 and Water and Communities.

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic Objectives and Big Outcomes we want to achieve through the Waterford Heritage Plan 2017-2021 were agreed by the Heritage Forum at the first meeting as follows;

Increase public excitement about all aspects of heritage

Increase physical access to heritage sites

Increased access to heritage information

Increase community involvement in heritage projects

Increase heritage related tourism

Increase appreciation of heritage amongst key stakeholders and the public

Increase conservation and recording of heritage

Increase funding for heritage in Waterford

3. DRAFT HERITAGE PLAN ACTIONS

The following draft actions were agreed by the Heritage Forum following review of deliberations from the three working group meetings and the pre-Draft public consultation process.

3.1 Cultural Heritage

3.1.1 Support and develop a coherent genealogical service for Waterford City and County

3.1.2 Develop and promote a heritage interpretation plan for the Greenway

3.1.3 Identify and audit heritage features along and within the environs of the Greenway (natural, archaeological, industrial)

3.1.4 Identify and develop a pilot project along the Greenway to showcase the varying aspects of heritage

3.1.5 Increase physical access to heritage sites and monuments

3.1.6 Instigate a local school's heritage project in relation to the Greenway

3.1.7 Develop a Waterford field-names and place-names project

3.1.8 Develop a Waterford Landed Estates project

3.1.9 Document the field-boundary patterns and typologies and historic planting schemes in County Waterford

3.1.10 Promote the heritage interest of existing, developing and future trails and route-ways

3.1.11 Support the promotion of the Irish language and Irish language projects in Waterford

3.1.12 Record traditional riparian and maritime skills and heritage fisheries

3.1.13 Host a national conference on the shipwrecks and maritime heritage of the south-east

3.1.14 Record and document traditional crafts, agricultural skills, rural life and home industry

3.1.15 Map and document the creameries, forges and dance-halls of County Waterford

3.1.16 Support research and publications on Waterford's industrial heritage

3.1.17 Complete the inventory of stone depots in Waterford

3.1.18 Commission and publish an historic ironwork study for the city and county

3.1.19 Support and facilitate event programming and public engagement in the Decade of Commemorations.

3.1.20 Support the ongoing digitisation of archival material relating to Waterford's Heritage

3.1.21 Develop a digitisation strategy for unique collections held by Waterford City and County Council Library Service and Archives Service so that these collections can be made available to the public.

3.1.22 Acquire and collect family history and genealogy resources and provide research and information services on family history and genealogical resources of all types in the Local Studies Department.

3.1.23 Support existing and create new Heritage related events in partnership with Waterford City and County Council Library Service.

3.1.24 Promote and support the work carried out by and the important unique collections of Waterford City and County Library Service Local Studies Department

3.1.25 Encourage individuals and businesses to donate heritage significant documents and materials to Waterford City Library Local Studies Department collection.

3.1.26 Support and promote the development of an Oral History Collection in partnership with Waterford City and County Council Library Service Local studies department

3.1.27 Promote enjoyment and good practice in Heritage by producing a range of high quality publications and web based resource in partnership with Waterford City and County Council Library Service.

3.1.28 Develop the Heritage page of the WCCC website to support access to online resources and information on other sources, linked to the resources of the Waterford City and County Library Service.

3.2 Archaeology and Built Heritage

3.2.1 Encourage public and personal involvement in heritage mapping and recording via technological means

3.2.2 Support the Decade of Commemoration initiative by mapping sites associated with the War of Independence and Civil War in Waterford

3.2.3 Provide and maintain a directory of potentially available heritage funding sources

3.2.4 Support and develop the Adopt a Monument Scheme and other potential local heritage projects

3.2.5 Provide and maintain a directory of available heritage sources

3.2.6 Support the networking of heritage groups and promote collaborative events

3.2.7 Develop a Conservation Management Plan for Woodstown National Monument Site

3.2.8 Develop a conservation programme for historic graveyards in Waterford City and County

3.2.9 Support the development of locally based heritage guides in community based tourism

3.3 Natural Heritage

3.3.1 Commission a Waterford ponds survey

3.3.2 Explore potential for heritage projects under INTERREG and other funding sources

3.3.3 Support biodiversity projects on St John's River

3.3.4 Support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

3.3.5 Increase awareness and appropriate treatment of invasive species

3.3.6 Promote the Biodiversity in Schools project

3.3.7 Increase involvement of new stakeholders (e.g. golf clubs, GAA clubs) in land management for biodiversity

3.3.8 Promote best practice management for hedgerows

APPENDIX 1

Members of the Waterford City & County Heritage Forum 2016-2020

Cllr. John Carey- Elected Member

Mary Conway- Waterford Library Service

Alan Cullagh- Inland Fisheries Ireland

James Doherty- Chair- Public Participation Network, 1848 Tricolour Committee, 1916 Commemoration Steering Committee

John Foley- Port of Waterford

Willie Fraher- Waterford County Museum, Dungarvan

Mary Flynn-Heritage Tourism, Nell's House Rathgormack

Cllr. Jim Griffin- Elected Member

Bernadette Guest-Heritage Officer

Catherine Keena- Countryside Management, Teagasc

Bernice Kelly- Archaeologist, Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Dr. Liam Lysaght- National Biodiversity Data Centre

Mícheál Marrináin- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann

Eamonn McEaney- Waterford Museums Service

Sharon O'Brien- Department of Architecture, WIT

Maeve O'Callaghan- Archaeologist, National Monuments Service

Thomas Phelan- Public Participation Network, Ballinroad Community Group, 1916 Commemoration Steering Committee

Mike Sweeney- Copper Coast Geopark

Jimmy Taaffe- Waterford LEADER partnership

Cllr James Tobin- Elected Member

Dominic Walsh – Regional Planning Officer, Southern Regional Assembly

APPENDIX 2 Timeline for Waterford Heritage Plan Review Process

10th November 2015- 1st meeting of Waterford Heritage Forum. Nominated Chair (James Doherty), Working Group Membership, agreed vision, mission statement and strategic objectives.

8th December 2015 - Archaeology & Built Heritage Working Group Meeting

9th February 2016 - Cultural Heritage Working Group Meeting

24th February 2016- Natural Heritage Working Group Meeting

March 2016- Pre-Draft Plan Public Consultation Process

Review and collation of meeting discussions and preparation of issues papers.

Circulated issues papers to Heritage Forum.

July 11th 2016 - 2nd meeting of Waterford Heritage Forum to discuss issues papers and draw up actions for Draft Heritage Plan.

September 6th 2016- SPC meeting

October 13th 2016- Present Draft Plan to Plenary Council meeting

October 17th-November 21st 2016 -Public Consultation of Draft Heritage Plan

December 2016- Review of submissions from consultation process

January 2017- Heritage Forum to review draft Final Plan

February 2017- Present plan to Council Meeting for approval

February- March 2017- Design and Print of Plan

APPENDIX 3- Membership of Working Groups

Archaeology and Built Heritage

Mary Conway	Waterford Library Service
James Doherty	Public Participation Network 1848 Tricolour Committee
Erika Fay	Waterford Archaeology and Historical Society
Des Griffin	Waterford Civic Trust
Máire Henry	DHB Architects
Jacinta Kiely	Eachtra Archaeology
James Lenane	Lismore Heritage
Rupert Maddock	Senior Architect, Waterford City and County Council
Sharon O'Brien	Department of Architecture, WIT
Maeve O'Callaghan	National Monument Service
Thomas Phelan	Public Participation Network Ballinroad Community Group
Rosemary Ryall	Conservation Officer, Waterford City and County Council
Jim Shine	Waterford County Museum

Cultural Heritage

Máire Seó Breathnach	Oifigeach Gaelach, Waterford City and County Council
Mary Conway	Waterford Library Service
James Doherty	Public Participation Network, 1848 Tricolour Committee
Mary Flynn	Nell's House Rathgormack, Comeraghs Wild Festival
John Foley	Waterford Port
Emma Haran	Three Sisters Capital of Culture Bid Team
Bernice Kelly	Archaeologist, Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Mícheál Marrináin	Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann
Sharon O'Brien	Department of Architecture, WIT
Maeve O'Callaghan	National Monument Service
Thomas Phelan	Public Participation Network, Ballinroad Community Group
Rosemary Ryall	Conservation Officer, Waterford City and County Council
Jim Shine	Waterford County Museum

Natural Heritage

Alan Cullagh	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Eoin Dullea	Horticulturist, Waterford City and County Council
Liam Lysaght	National Biodiversity Data Centre
Jane Russell O'Connor	WIT
Catherine O'Reilly	WIT
Thomas Phelan	Public Participation Network, Ballinroad Community Group
Alan Walsh	Public Participation Network

APPENDIX 4- PRE-DRAFT CONSULTATION

Submissions were received from the following;

Christopher South Gate & Associates on behalf of Lismore Cathedral (St. Declan's Way Project)

Dr. Jane Russell O'Connor, WIT

Roger Garland, Keep Ireland Open

Waterford Bee-Keepers Association

APPENDIX 5- Projects completed under the previous heritage plan

Collecting Data on Waterford's Heritage

- Co Waterford Wetland Survey Report (2006 and 2015)
- 2008 Thatch Survey
- Coastal Protection of Tramore Dunes
- Waterford Industrial Archaeology Report
- Burial Ground Survey of County Waterford
- A Scoping Study Towards Integrated Coastal Zone Management of Tramore Bay
- Waterford Bats and Bridges Survey Report
- Waterford Tree Survey
- Habitat Map of County Waterford
- Geological Heritage Sites Audit of Waterford
- Heritage GIS Viewer
- River Suir Heritage Audit
- Burial Ground Survey of Waterford City
- Gallowshill Survey

Raising Awareness

- Architectural Waterford –heritage tourism guide
- Upland Fire Management Seminar
- Lime Mortar Training
- Local History course
- Archaeology in Co. Waterford Seminar
- Tallow Village Design Statement
- Tramore Sand Dune Restoration Project
- Tramore Wildlife and Habitats Leaflet
- Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards Seminar
 - Guidelines for the Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards in Waterford
 - Graveyard Recording Workshop report
- Tidy Towns Best Practice Seminar 2012
- Historic Waterford - The Coast - heritage tourism guide
- Heritage Conference 2012
- Waterford Wetlands Seminars 2012 & 2013
- Heritage as an Engine of Economic Growth Seminar
- The Heritage of Co. Waterford Seminar 2009
- Historic Houses, Demesnes and Gardens Seminar
- Medieval Dungarvan publication
- Invasive Species Seminar
- Corries, Caves and Coast- The Geological Heritage of Waterford
- Patterns and Patrons- The Holy Wells of Waterford
- Waterford Writers of the Irish Language- Map Viewer and Schools Wallchart

Promoting Pride

- Comeragh Mountains Calendar
- Heritage Photography Competition
- Tramore Lecture Series
- Portlaw Heritage Signage
 - Heritage of Portlaw
 - Historic Buildings of Portlaw
 - Natural Heritage of Portlaw
- Coastal Heritage of Tramore Information board
- Natural Heritage of Tramore Information board
- Heritage of the Comeraghs Course
- Heritage Signage- Mothel Holy Well, Dunhill Castle, Lismore Stone Depots and Milestones, Kilbarry Graveyard, Lisfinny Castle, Tallow Library