

County Sligo Heritage Plan

2016-2020



A partnership plan prepared by County Sligo Heritage Forum

*Sligo has a very special identity,
one that is founded on community and landscape
interwoven with a rich built and natural heritage.*

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Acknowledgements

The County Sligo Heritage Forum wishes to acknowledge the role of the Heritage Council in initiating and supporting the preparation of this Heritage Plan in association with Sligo County Council.

In addition, the Forum acknowledges the support of the Heritage Council through its contribution to the funding of the post of the Heritage Officer and the implementation of projects under the Sligo Heritage Plans 2002-2006 and 2007-2011, in association with Sligo County Council.

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



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Foreword

A message from the Cathaoirleach

Heritage is key to Sligo's identity and makes a significant contribution to the quality of life and well being of local communities. As Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, I am proud to be associated with the publication of the third heritage plan for our county. The plan aims to inspire our community to know, value and care for Sligo's unique heritage and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage for all.

The enthusiastic participation of community groups and individuals in the process of preparing the plan reflects their deep interest and commitment to Sligo's heritage. I am confident that this new plan will bring heritage to a wider audience, so that the collective concern of all who experience and value heritage, will help to ensure its protection.

On behalf of Sligo County Council, I would like to thank all those who made invaluable contributions to the new heritage plan. I would also like to thank County Sligo Heritage Forum for guiding the development of this ambitious plan. The continued support of the Heritage Council over many years has been instrumental in achieving all the actions undertaken to date and on behalf of Sligo County Council I would like to thank them for their ongoing commitment and support.

We welcome the challenges of this new plan and look forward to its implementation over the coming years.

Cllr. Rosaleen O'Grady, Cathaoirleach, Sligo County Council

A message from the Chief Executive

I am proud to introduce the third heritage plan for County Sligo, which is ambitious but achievable. The plan reflects the ongoing commitment to heritage of Sligo County Council's executive and elected members. Sligo has a very special identity, one that is founded on community and landscape interwoven with a rich built and natural heritage. Such a wealth of heritage makes Sligo a very attractive place in which to live, visit and work.

Much has been achieved in the last two heritage plans through the hard work and commitment of Sligo Heritage Forum and the wider community. We have seen the value of partnership in addressing local heritage needs and concerns. The implementation of the plan will be overseen by Sligo Heritage Forum with the support of Sligo County Council, the Heritage Council, and partners. Sligo County Council is proud to be part of that process.

I would like to congratulate all who have been involved in the development of the Sligo Heritage Plan, particularly Siobhán Ryan and the many organisations and individuals who contributed to the consultation process. The excellent work and significant commitment of all the members of Sligo Heritage Forum is especially acknowledged. The continued support and involvement of the Heritage Council in the development and implementation of the Sligo Heritage Plan is significant and gratefully acknowledged.

I look forward to the implementation of the County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020 and our continued support is assured.

Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive, Sligo County Council

Preface

A message from the Chairman of the County Sligo Heritage Forum

As Chairman of the County Sligo Heritage Forum, I am delighted to be involved with this publication, Sligo's third Heritage Plan. This is an ambitious five-year plan which recognises the importance of heritage to communities and that heritage needs careful management to ensure its future protection and enhancement.

Heritage belongs to all of us and its protection and management begins at local level. Through public consultation, relevant agencies, interest groups and individuals in the county have engaged with the plan process and have identified what can be done locally to conserve, manage, interpret and present Sligo's heritage. On behalf of Sligo Heritage Forum, I would like to sincerely thank all who contributed to the plan, it is hoped that they will see their vision, ideas and enthusiasm reflected in this, the third heritage plan for our county.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of Sligo Heritage Forum who have assisted whole-heartedly in bringing this plan to fruition. The support of Sligo County Council and the Heritage Council for the development and implementation of this and previous heritage plans is especially acknowledged.

On behalf of the Forum, I wish to pay tribute to Siobhán Ryan, Heritage Officer, Sligo County Council, whose deep interest and commitment to the heritage of our county has played a key role in the development of this Plan and the ongoing appreciation of Sligo's heritage.

I look forward to working with the Heritage Forum and other partners to implement this plan which aims to inspire our community to know, value and care for Sligo's unique heritage and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage for all.

This Heritage Plan is for the benefit of all in Sligo and on behalf of the Forum, I encourage you to get involved and to share in the many benefits that a strong and vibrant heritage can bring to our county.

Cllr. Seamus Kilgannon, Chairperson, County Sligo Heritage Forum





Introduction

This is the third Heritage Plan for County Sligo, covering the period 2016-2020.

The aim of the plan is:

'To inspire our community to know, value and care for Sligo's unique heritage and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage for all.'

This plan has been written by the County Sligo Heritage Forum, in consultation with the local community and local, regional and national organisations with an interest in and remit for the heritage of County Sligo.

For the purpose of preparing the County Sligo Heritage Plan, the Forum was guided by the Heritage Act (1995) which provides a definition of heritage which includes: monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and, inland waterways. The Forum, through its terms of reference, broadened the working definition of heritage to reflect the rich heritage of the County and added the following: folklore, local history and traditions, crafts, place names, traditional skills, biodiversity, museums and archives.

Previous County Sligo Heritage Plans

The County Sligo Heritage Plan 2002-2006 was among the first Heritage Plans published nationally. The second Heritage Plan for County Sligo (2007-2011) was extended to 2015 to allow for full implementation of key actions.

The new Heritage Plan aims to build on the achievements of the first two plans, while taking account of changes at local, national and international levels since the publication of previous plans.

County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2015

The County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016 -2020 makes specific provision for biodiversity through Action 15 - *Implement the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan (2011-2015) and develop a new plan in 2016 for years 2016-2020*. The Biodiversity Action Plan provides four objectives, supported by 28 biodiversity actions (see Appendix 4). Its delivery is overseen by the Natural Heritage Working Group on behalf of Sligo Heritage Forum. The development and implementation of a Biodiversity Action Plan for Sligo reflects the importance of our natural heritage and the need to undertake dedicated action to sustain it for the future. Sligo Heritage Forum promotes a fully integrated approach to heritage which encompasses built and natural heritage equally. Accordingly, the Forum recognises the importance of strengthening the links between the County Heritage Plan and the Biodiversity Action Plan so that both plans are read as one and that they continue to inform and compliment each other.

County Sligo Development Plan 2011-2017

The County Sligo Development Plan 2011-2017 sets out the statutory framework for land-use planning and sustainable development in Sligo. The County Development Plan is currently being reviewed. The Heritage Plan does not repeat the policy commitments of the County Development Plan as it relates to the county's heritage resource, land-use planning and sustainable development. Instead, it aims to support and strengthen the County Development Plan and other Plans by providing data and by proposing policy that establishes a clear policy direction and framework for heritage in Sligo and its protection, conservation, management and promotion.

County Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has prepared the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in conjunction with Sligo County Council. The remit of the LCDC and LECP are; the promotion of economic development and the promotion of local and community development in County Sligo. The LECP will form the strategic framework for all publicly funded local, economic and community development programmes.

Sligo Heritage Forum recognises the significant contribution that heritage makes to quality of life and well being in Sligo as well as strengthening communities and contributing to the socioeconomic development of the county.

Guiding principles

Certain principles underpin the Heritage Plan and will be borne in mind at all stages of implementation.

Sligo Heritage Forum is committed to an *integrated heritage approach* (built and natural) when implementing actions within the County Sligo Heritage Plan. Thus ensuring that heritage benefits are maximised from actions undertaken and that there is no net damage to Sligo's heritage resource. For example, actions with a strong archaeology focus will also be required to consider any potential benefits to or impacts on biodiversity or other heritage elements and vice versa.

The principles of *sustainable development, proper planning and best practice* will be applied to all actions undertaken by Sligo Heritage Forum. Actions undertaken will be compliant with all relevant planning and heritage legislation. Sligo Heritage Forum is committed to carrying out a heritage appraisal/heritage risk assessment for each action undertaken in implementing the Plan.

The principles of *social inclusion* will be applied at all times in the delivery of the Heritage Plan. In particular, every effort will be made to ensure that all events undertaken as part of the delivery of this plan reflect the interests of the socially and culturally diverse community of the county, and are accessible to people of all abilities.

How the plan was written

The plan was prepared in accordance with the Heritage Council's *Guidelines for the Preparation of City/County Heritage Plans*. Following a meeting of County Sligo Heritage Forum in February 2015, the plan process began with a public call for pre draft submissions. A report on the pre draft consultation process with details of issues raised by the public was prepared by the Heritage Officer for consideration by the Forum. All submissions were fully considered in the drafting of the new plan and every effort has been made to ensure the draft plan reflects the views and concerns of the public.

A draft plan was subsequently prepared by Sligo Heritage Forum for consideration by Strategic Policy Committee 3 – (Planning, Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture) and Sligo County Council prior to being published in draft form for the second stage of public consultation in Autumn 2015. After public consultation, Sligo Heritage Forum considered the submissions made and amended the draft Heritage Plan as required prior to its consideration and agreement by Sligo County Council in December 2015.

Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 requires that all plans and projects must be screened for potential significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Sligo Heritage Forum is committed to the implementation of the requirements of the Habitats Directive and an appropriate assessment of the final draft of the County Sligo Heritage Plan was undertaken prior to its consideration by Sligo County Council.

How the plan will be implemented

The Heritage Plan is a strategic five year work plan. Sligo Heritage Forum, Sligo County Council and The Heritage Council are key partners in providing the resources necessary to deliver the plan.

The Plan will form the basis for the work of Sligo Heritage Forum and the Heritage Office for the next five years. Each year a work programme will be drafted based on the contents of the plan and current priorities. This will then be used to apply for funding to The Heritage Council and other sources. Once the annual budget is confirmed, the work programme will be determined, detailing the projects proposed, the project partners, timeframe and the body responsible for delivery.

Implementation of the Heritage Plan will be through the annual work programme, overseen by Sligo Heritage Forum and co-ordinated on a day to day basis by the Heritage Officer of Sligo County Council.

There is a strong heritage network in County Sligo, and many community groups, agencies and individuals have played a significant role in supporting the implementation of previous plans.

Successful implementation of the plan is dependent on continued 'buy in' from the County's heritage sector, education sector, government bodies with a remit for heritage and the many local and community groups who are interested in their heritage. Their continued active engagement, support and participation is essential. In addition, opportunities to work in cooperation with partners within and outside the county will be availed of wherever possible.

A report on the Heritage Plan Actions undertaken and the progress made will be submitted to Sligo County Council and published on the Councils website at the end of each year.

Funding

The second County Sligo Heritage Plan 2007-2011 proposed a budget of €850,000 (excluding staff costs) for the delivery of the plan over the five year period. The aim at that time was to realise an annual programming budget of €170,000. However, due to budgetary constraints, the anticipated level of funding was not achieved during the period of the plan and was, in effect, substantially curtailed.

To date, a significant proportion of the funding for implementation of heritage plan actions has been provided by The Heritage Council through its County Heritage Plan Grant Scheme, with matching funding being provided by Sligo County Council. Sligo Heritage Forum is deeply appreciative of the continued and valuable support of the Heritage Council.

The restricted funding base of the previous Heritage Plan was partially augmented through successful funding applications under Peace III. For the third Sligo Heritage Plan, every opportunity will be taken to explore alternative funding streams for heritage projects under the Rural Development Programme, EU Structural Funds and Peace IV, particularly for county wide heritage plan projects that are strategic, large in scale and may require multiannual funding.

In light of the above, the delivery of the third County Sligo Heritage Plan will be subject to adequate resources being allocated to implement the strategic actions proposed.

County Sligo Heritage Forum

The membership of the County Sligo Heritage Forum is drawn from communities, elected members, agencies and groups involved in aspects of heritage in County Sligo. It is important that the Forum is representative of a wide range of interests and also that it is representative of the community of Sligo.

In 2015, the Sligo Public Participation Network established a Heritage Linkage Group, with which community groups with an interest in Sligo's heritage could register. In April 2015, the Heritage Linkage Group was convened in order to elect three community representatives (plus 3 substitutes) to Sligo Heritage Forum. The continued active participation of the community and voluntary sector in caring for and promoting Sligo's heritage will be important in the implementation of the Heritage Plan and the conservation and promotion of heritage in Sligo.

How progress will be measured

In addition to the annual reports on the Heritage Plan actions carried out each year. The impact and success of the Heritage Plan will be monitored and evaluated. Ongoing monitoring will allow changes to be made to the implementation of the plan if necessary. Evaluation at the end of the plan delivery period will allow the results of the plan to be quantified.

Availability of resources and expertise

Sligo Heritage Forum believes that in order for the principles of heritage conservation to be fully integrated into the day to day operation of Sligo County Council, the appointment of full-time, suitably qualified staff will be necessary in the areas of archaeology, architectural conservation, archives and biodiversity.

The Forum recognises that the provision of such staff is an operational matter for Sligo County Council and is dependent on resources. The Forum will work to address all areas of heritage in the county, but acknowledges that specialist professional expertise will need to be accessed at certain times.





Statement of Vision and Strategic Themes

The aim of the County Sligo Heritage Forum is:

'To inspire our community to know, value and care for Sligo's unique heritage and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage for all.'

The following plan structure has been adopted:

Strategic Themes

These have been established to facilitate structured heritage development over the next five years. These articulate broad statements of intent, which will guide the work of the County Sligo Heritage Forum and the Heritage Office.

Actions

Actions will be initiated to realise the strategic themes identified.

THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIC THEMES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED:

- Raise awareness of Sligo's heritage
- Promote the conservation and management of Sligo's heritage
- Increase understanding of the value of Sligo's heritage
- Promote community participation in heritage plans and projects
- Record the heritage of Sligo and disseminate existing data



Strategic Themes and Actions

Theme	1.0	Raise awareness of Sligo's heritage
Action	1.	Maintain and develop www.sligococo.ie/heritage to promote Sligo's heritage, communicate the work of Sligo Heritage Forum and as a heritage portal allowing access to sources of heritage information.
	2.	Repeat the County Sligo Heritage Awareness Survey undertaken in 2007 to evaluate current levels of heritage awareness in Sligo.
	3.	Develop and implement a Heritage Communications Strategy targeted at key stakeholders.
	4.	Continue to use exhibitions, publications, digital technologies, local media and social media to raise awareness of key aspects of Sligo's heritage.
	5.	Continue to support and organise conferences, talks and seminars on heritage themes/topics relevant to the conservation and promotion of Sligo's heritage, including an annual heritage seminar.
	6.	Continue to promote wider awareness of all aspects of Sligo's heritage with key stakeholders through an annual heritage awareness programme and through participation in national programmes such as Heritage Week, Biodiversity Day and other relevant heritage days.
	7.	Develop a heritage education and awareness programme in partnership with Sligo Education Centre aimed at primary, post primary pupils, teachers and the school community.
	8.	Organise a biennial seminar on the care and maintenance of heritage buildings for building conservation practitioners and owners.
	9.	Organise a biennial seminar on the care and conservation of graveyards.
	10.	Commission heritage guides to showcase the wealth of Sligo's heritage and make these available on the internet.



Theme	2.0	Promote the conservation and management of Sligo's heritage
Action	11.	Promote integrated conservation planning and sustainable development through heritage appraisal of development plans.
	12.	Liaise with the Office of Public Works and key stakeholders to address the conservation, management and presentation of Carrowmore/Knocknarea/Carns Hill.
	13.	Liaise with key stakeholders and the local community to ensure the conservation, management and interpretation of the internationally important Spanish Armada wreck site at Streedagh, Co. Sligo.
	14.	Support the preparation of a Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Characterisation for County Sligo, and its integration into the County Development Plan/Local Area Plans.
	15.	Implement the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan (2011-2015) and develop a new plan in 2016 for years 2016-2020.
	16.	Review all conservation plans prepared to date and prepare/implement conservation plans in partnership with relevant stakeholders for key heritage sites in County Sligo. Including, but not exclusive to, Drumcliffe and the Greenfort, Sligo.
	17.	Re-establish the Field Monument Advisor Programme.
	18.	Engage key stakeholders in developing and implementing best practice care and conservation of historic graveyards (including masonry ruins) in County Sligo.
	19.	Liaise with key stakeholders in the care and maintenance of Sligo's built heritage and public realm through, policy, best practice guidance, public realm planning, heritage led regeneration and the promotion of traditional building skills.
	20.	Develop a heritage assets register for Sligo County Council, to ensure that heritage sites in the ownership of Sligo County Council are appropriately managed, interpreted and accessible. Establish a fund for the maintenance and care of heritage assets in Local Authority ownership.
	21.	Develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the county for integration into the next County Development Plan.
	22.	Commission a study which engages local communities in examining the potential of a future application for UNESCO World Heritage Site Status for Sligo's Neolithic centres of Cuil Irra (centred at Carrowmore) and Lough Arrow (centred at Carrowkeel).
	23.	Commission a Public Realm Plan for Sligo City, which will encourage greater community involvement in identifying, appreciating and conserving its distinctive character.
	24.	Liaise with the Office of Public Works and key stakeholders to address the conservation, management and presentation of Carrowkeel.
	25.	Liaise with the Office of Public Works and key stakeholders to address the conservation, management and presentation of Inishmurray.

Theme	3.0	Increase understanding of the value of Sligo's heritage
Action	26.	Commission a report to examine the value of Sligo's heritage to quality of life and the cultural and economic development of the county. Use the findings of the report to advocate for greater investment in and support for heritage.
	27.	Research and develop county heritage trails/themed heritage trails, with a focus on publicly accessible heritage sites and attractions in co-operation with other organisations, communities and landowners.
	28.	Develop a project to audit heritage assets along Sligo's Wild Atlantic Way in partnership with key stakeholders and local communities with a view to identifying and developing heritage projects and heritage trails.
	29.	Undertake research and commission a historic plaque scheme for Sligo.
	30.	Assess the current level of access to National Monuments and publicly owned archaeological monuments in the county and, where possible, encourage partnerships to provide appropriately managed access to and interpretation of these sites.
	31.	Sligo Heritage Forum and Sligo County Council to actively explore EU funding opportunities to support the delivery of strategic heritage projects on a regional or trans-boundary basis with a focus on archaeological landscapes, historic towns and biodiversity.
	32.	Continue to support and advocate for the development of a County Museum for Sligo.
	33.	Liaise with relevant sectors in the development of greenways/ walking/cycling routes to ensure that such projects are developed in a sustainable manner and that every opportunity is taken to promote the natural and built heritage along such routes.



Theme	4.0	Promote community participation in heritage plans and projects
Action	34.	Re-establish Sligo County Councils Community Heritage Grant Scheme to support local communities to undertake heritage projects.
	35.	Liaise with and support the Sligo Heritage Linkage Group established under the Sligo Public Participation Network.
	36.	Build the capacity of local communities to engage in sustainable heritage projects by providing the necessary advice, information and training.
	37.	Develop a project to survey local and traditional place names in partnership with local communities.
	38.	Develop a project to support graveyard memorial recording by communities.
	39.	Develop a project to support the collection of oral histories by communities.
	40.	Support local communities to carry out heritage audits of towns and villages in County Sligo and to present the information online or through information boards (where appropriate) in order to strengthen local communities sense of place.



Theme	5.0	Record the heritage of Sligo and disseminate existing data
Action	41.	Ensure that any information generated through the implementation of the Heritage Plan and previous Heritage Plans, is accessible to all and widely available.
	42.	Audit existing surveys/inventories of heritage relating to Sligo in order to develop and implement a prioritised research programme to address knowledge gaps through partnership projects.
	43.	Support the participation of individuals and communities in heritage surveys and recording heritage data in County Sligo.
	44.	Establish a Sligo Naturalists Field Club and organise an annual programme of activities in partnership with national and local stakeholders in order to promote biological recording in the county.
	45.	Commission a survey to identify and evaluate demesne landscapes in County Sligo and promote the conservation of their built and natural heritage.
	46.	Commission a study of vernacular architecture in County Sligo in order to record and describe form, materials and setting.
	47.	Commission a study of Architectural Conservation Areas in Sligo in order to establish a baseline of current condition of the historic built environment with a view to making recommendations for the future care and management of buildings within ACA's.
	48.	Commission research on and a survey of mass paths, mass rocks, shrines and holy wells in County Sligo.
	49.	Commission a study to survey and evaluate historic shop fronts within County Sligo.





Appendix 1: Membership of the County Sligo Heritage Forum 2015

Listed here are the organisations currently represented on Sligo Heritage Forum, along with the individual representatives in 2015. While the organisations in the Forum have remained relatively unchanged, the individual representatives have occasionally changed. The members of the current Forum would like to acknowledge the crucial input to the Heritage Plan process of all previous members of Sligo Heritage Forum.

NAME	ORGANISATION
Cllr. Seamus Kilgannon	Elected Representative, Sligo County Council
Frank Moylan	Acting Senior Planner, Sligo County Council
Sean Martin	Acting Senior Architect, Sligo County Council
Chris Gonley	CEO, Sligo Leader
TBC	Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board
Eamonn Avery	SAE Advisor, Teagasc
Celine Walsh	Archaeologist, National Monuments Service, DAHG
Frank Donnelly	Senior Architect, Architectural Heritage Advisory Unit, DAHG
Judit Kelemen	Regional Manager, National Parks and Wildlife Service, DAHG
Mr. Brian McGarraghy	Forest Manager, Coillte
Dr. James Moran	Lecturer, IT Sligo (Ecology and Environmental Science)
Martin Enright	Sligo PPN Heritage Linkage Group Representative
Wendy Lyons	Sligo PPN Heritage Linkage Group Representative
Michael Breen	Sligo PPN Heritage Linkage Group Representative
Mary O'Boyle	Farming Sector - IFA
TBC	Farming Sector
Sile Garrett Haran	Sligo Tourism Ltd.
Mary Haugh	Director, Sligo Education Centre
Mr. Declan Feeney	Inspector, Inland Fisheries Ireland

Appendix 2: Heritage Plan Preparation Timetable

TIMEFRAME	ACTION
February 2015	Heritage Forum Meeting to agree heritage plan review process. Call for submissions to inform drafting of Heritage Plan.
March 2015	Briefing of SPC 3 (Planning Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture) on preparation of new County Sligo Heritage Plan – 27 th March 2015.
March/April 2015	Public consultation (Stage 1) inviting submissions to inform preparation of new Heritage Plan: 9 th March – 24 th April 2015.
June 2015	Sligo Heritage Forum Workshop (I) to review submissions and to agree aim, strategic themes and actions for new Heritage Plan.
July 2015	Sligo Heritage Forum Workshop (II) to agree final draft of Heritage Plan.
September 2015	Presentation of Draft Heritage Plan to Senior Management Team, Sligo County Council – 1 st Sept 2015. Presentation of Draft Heritage Plan to SPC 3 (Planning Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture) – 8 th Sept 2015.
October 2015	Presentation of Draft Heritage Plan to Sligo County Council for approval prior to public consultation (Stage 2) - 5 th October 2015.
October/November 2015	Public consultation on draft Heritage Plan (Stage 2) 12 th October – 6 th November 2015 (4 weeks). Two public workshops held – one in each Municipal District on 20 th and 21 st Oct 2015.
November 2015	Sligo Heritage Forum Meeting to review submissions arising from public consultation and to consider final draft of the County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020.
December 2015	Presentation of final draft of County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020 to Sligo County Council for consideration and approval - 7 th December 2015. County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020 agreed by Sligo County Council.

Appendix 3: Submissions received during public consultation

Community & Voluntary Groups

Drumcliff Development Association (Jarlath Gantly)
Northwest Archaeology Group (Dr. Robert Hensey)
Friends of Sligo Gaol (Tamlyn McHugh)
Enniscrone Tidy Towns (Michael Breen)
Ballymote Heritage Group (John Coleman)
Mullaghmore Residents and Heritage Group (Joe McGowan)
Dromore West Village Enhancement Committee (Geraldine McCloat)
Forthill Men's Group, Art and History Society (Danny Garvey)
Grange and Armada Development Association (Declan Bruen)
Sligo Field Club (Paul J. Allen)
People & Townlands Project (Pauric Rooney)
Explore Mullaghmore, Glens to Sea (Eithna O' Sullivan)
Sligo GAA (Gerald O'Connor)
Sligo Intercultural Forum (Monica Reilly)
So Sligo Food Festival (Brid Torrades)
Abbeyquarter Mens Group (Joe McDonagh)
McDonnell Drive Residents Association (Sue Mahon)
Sligo Northside Centre (Cllr. Seamus O'Boyle - Deceased)
Grange and Armada Development Association (Tom Haran)
Hazelwood Heritage Society (Wendy Lyons)
Moygara Castle Research Project (PJ O'Neill)
Drumcliffe Rathcormac Tidy Towns Committee (Michael Kirby)
Hazelwood Heritage Society (Beatrice McDonald)
Sligo Field Club (Leo Leydon)
The Yeats Society (John Kavanagh)
Mullaghmore Residents and Heritage Group (Joe McGowan)
Northwest Archaeology Group (Padraig Meehan)
Carraroe and District Regeneration Association (Pat Benson)
Tonaphubble Residents Association (Tony Mc Gee)

Individuals

Will Woodrow
Mark Harrigan
Jean Dunleavy
Roderick Perceval
Leonora McConville
Mary Blowick
Michael Guckian
Imelda Ryan-Jones
Rachel Cunningham
Donna Gilligan
Cormac McCarthy
Rebecca Lacey
Cllr. Sinead McGuire
Deirdre Kennedy
Conor McCann
Peter McCarrick
Oliver Sheridan
Marian O'Callaghan
Mairead Hamrogue
Barry Sweeney
Padraig Meehan
Lynda Hart
Jean Ryan
Austin McTiernan
Sara Connolly
Michael Kirby
Patsy Barry

Non-Governmental Organisations and Professional Bodies

Discovery Tours (Keith McNair)
Labby Rock Country Club (Orla Moore)
Publishing Sligo's Past (Martin A. and Mary B. Timoney)
An Taisce The National Trust for Ireland (Tomás Bradley)
An Taisce North West Local Association (Michael Kirby)
Keep Ireland Open (Roger Garland)
TASKS (Mary B. Timoney and Martin A. Timoney)
Faoin Aer Landscape Architecture (Gillian Ni Chaiside)

State Agencies

Community & Enterprise Section, Sligo County Council
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School of Geography and Archaeology NUIG (Stefan
Bergh)
IT Sligo Applied Archaeology (Sam Moore)
IT Sligo Environmental Science (Declan Feeney)
DLR Green Infrastructure Strategy (Aidan Ffrench)





Appendix 4: County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2015 – Actions

The County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2015 provides the following objectives:

Objective 1:

To enable the delivery of the Sligo Biodiversity Action plan through appropriate resourcing and partnership work

To ensure that many different sectors are working together with common goals and adequate resources.

Objective 2:

To raise awareness of biodiversity in Sligo, its value and the issues facing it

The role of biodiversity, its importance and the threats facing it are often not well known and need to be taken to target audiences.

Objective 3:

To better understand the biodiversity of Sligo

In many cases we know so little about the biodiversity that we share our county with that it is unclear what we need to do to help it.

Objective 4:

To protect and enhance habitats and species in Sligo, taking account of national and local priorities

Often because of the lack of value placed on biodiversity, it is facing a number of threats from many human influences. Not only is there a need to stop damaging our environment, but we also need to make areas better to make amends for past losses.

The objectives above are supported by the following 28 actions for biodiversity:

OBJECTIVE 1:

To enable the successful delivery of the Sligo Biodiversity Action plan through appropriate resourcing and partnership work

1. Appoint a County Biodiversity Officer.
2. Establish a Natural Heritage Working Group with full representation of stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the County Sligo BAP.

OBJECTIVE 2:

To raise awareness of biodiversity in Sligo, its value and the issues facing it

Raising awareness of the value of biodiversity

3. Hold an annual Biodiversity Day, using a single theme each year relevant to biodiversity priorities in Sligo to include Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Habitats, Hedgerows and Verges, Woodland and Farmland for appropriate audiences.
4. Promote existing and new biodiversity-related campaigns, events and activities through a Sligo Biodiversity Awareness Programme, including a dedicated page on the County Council website.
5. Operate a rolling media awareness campaign on the biodiversity of Sligo to include, where to see biodiversity, and updates on current projects.

Providing biodiversity education

6. Promote biodiversity priorities in environmental education, including the formulation of local material for the 'Biodiversity' year in the Green Schools Programme and the coverage of local biodiversity priorities in the Heritage in Schools Scheme.
7. Promote the NPWS outreach education service in Sligo to provide primary school children with an opportunity to learn about biodiversity in Sligo.

Providing technical expertise and information

8. Provide training related to tree and hedgerow management for landowners and council staff.
9. Explore opportunities to provide targeted advice to REPS planners to enhance biodiversity knowledge in farming, including training on priority habitats and species in Sligo.
10. Develop capacity of community groups, landowners and homeowners in taking positive action for biodiversity through appropriate training.
11. Promote Biodiversity Advice Notes to ensure best practice in all Council work areas.

OBJECTIVE 3:

To better understand the biodiversity of Sligo

Providing a system for recording and storing biodiversity information

12. Collect and store biodiversity data relating to Sligo in a format compatible with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.
13. Promote the recording and holding of biodiversity information in a format compatible with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Understanding the current status of important habitats and species in Sligo

14. Carry out an inventory of broadleaved woodland in the county, to include mapping of existing woodlands, ecological status and current management. Use the outcome to raise the profile of important woodland types and their management needs.
15. Carry out a county hedgerow survey for the purpose of informing and developing a county hedgerow policy.
16. Undertake a wetlands survey in Sligo, taking account of priorities to identify and map fens and flushes, swamps, and floodplain areas to identify quality and current threats. Use the results to formulate a Habitat Action Plan for Freshwater Wetlands.
17. Carry out a survey of important coastal habitats (Sand Dunes, Machair, Estuaries, Islands, Shore and Near-shore Areas) including important species and sites, and issues affecting them. Use the results to formulate a Habitat Action Plan (or plans) for Sand Dunes, Estuaries and Inshore Marine Areas.
18. Prioritise nationally important species in need of surveying in County Sligo from the current list (see appendix 6) and undertake surveys.
19. Continue NPWS bird use mapping and BirdWatch Ireland IWeBS coordinated counts. Use a co-ordinated BirdWatch and NPWS effort to ensure coordinated IWeBS counts of all 3 bays at least once a year.
20. Undertake desk-based habitat mapping for County Sligo to Fossitt Level II (minimum) in relation to the review and development of development plans.

OBJECTIVE 4:

To protect and enhance habitats and species in Sligo, taking account of national and local priorities

Protection of important sites and species

21. Agree and adopt a process of identifying and protecting sites of County Importance for Biodiversity using appropriate criteria. Designating sites of County Importance for Biodiversity using appropriate criteria.
22. Maintain a database of consented proposals with potential impact on designated Natura 2000 sites (to include the nature and extent of potential impact) to help identify potential cumulative and ex situ impacts.
23. Agree and adopt a best practice approach to incorporating referral zones around designated sites to facilitate decision making.
24. Agree and implement appropriate guidelines for the protection of species in need of strict protection under the EU habitats Directive (notably otters and bat species).
25. Promote better communication and continue to liaise with the relevant agencies to promote riparian cover through REPS, FEPS and the Native Woodland Scheme for the benefit of Salmon and Trout species.

Taking practical measures to safeguard biodiversity

26. Prepare, adopt and implement an action plan for alien species control, with a focus on key invasive species occurring in County Sligo e.g. Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed.
27. Undertake a review of management for biodiversity on council owned and controlled land and implement recommendations.

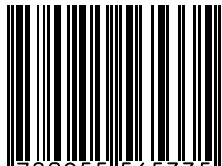
Changing our behaviour to safeguard biodiversity

28. Agree and adopt a partnership-wide policy on issues affecting biodiversity, including the promotion of FSC certified timber, recycled wood and paper products and peat-free compost alternatives.

This is an ambitious five-year plan which recognises the importance of heritage to communities and that heritage needs careful management to ensure its future protection and enhancement.



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The Heritage Council

