

Tara Skryne Landscape Project

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Planning Department,
Meath County Council.

Breakfast briefing (#2) to Meath County Council Elected Members,

Ardboyne Hotel

September 20th 2010



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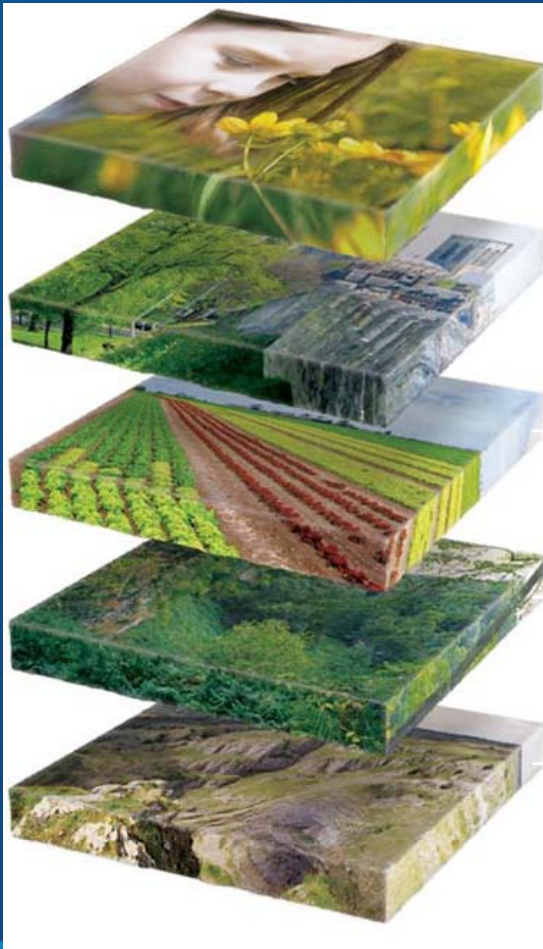


Format of presentation

1. What is **Landscape**?
2. Draft Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area **boundary**
3. Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area **Action Plan**



Landscape is about the relationship between people and places



→ Experience, memories, perceptions

→ History and human activity

→ Land Use (settlement, farming, forestry etc.)

→ Plants and animals

→ Geology, soils, rivers and drainage, landform.



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Successive generations have created the history book of the Tara Skryne Landscape we all enjoy today, the survival of ancient monuments, holy wells, settlements, burial grounds, field boundaries and farmed landscapes, placenames, literature, history, myth and folklore all tell a story and are central to our sense of place and identity.



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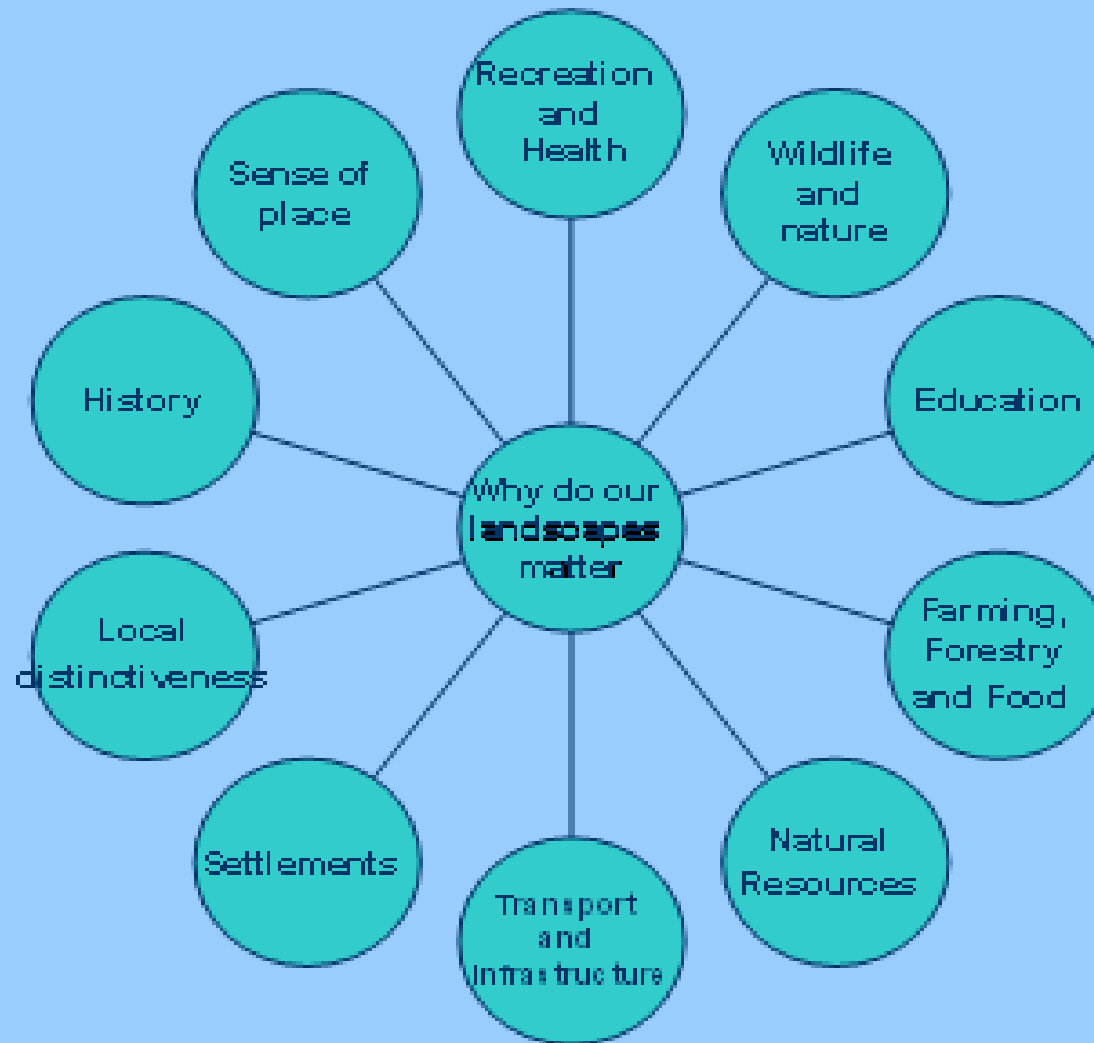


European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe 2000

- The European Landscape Convention (ELC), which was both signed and ratified by the Irish government in March 2002, and came into effect in March 2004;
- Article 1A defines landscape as meaning*'an area as perceived by the people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'*...
- Planning and Development Act 2010 states that 'landscape' has the same meaning as it has in Article 1 of the European Landscape Convention done at Florence on 20 October 2000;



Why do our landscapes matter?



- **Landscape Character** is what makes one place different from another and gives a locality its *sense of place*
- Particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, field patterns and human settlements create landscape character.



Defining the Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area (Draft)

- Information gathering (desk based research and meetings)
- Project GIS – map, analysis and overlays
- Pre-draft public consultation events – March 2010
- Participatory boundary workshop – March 2010
- Physical and visual character assessment
- Ground truth
- Publish Draft boundary map – May 2010



Boundary Workshop – March 24th 2010 Programme

Tara Skryne Landscape Project
Pre draft Consultation – Proposed Landscape Conservation Area

Boundary Workshop

Wednesday March 24th 2010

10am (start)

Ardboyne Hotel, Navan

Workshop Programme

Time	Programme
9.30am– 10am	Registration Tea/Coffee on arrival
10am – 10.15am	Welcome/Introduction: Overview of day <i>Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, Meath County Council</i>
10.15am-10.30am	Introduction to Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area Pilot Project <i>Loreto Guinan, Project Officer, Meath County Council</i> <i>Ian Doyle, Heritage Council</i>
10.30am-11.30am	A series of short presentations on the Tara Skryne Landscape Physical Character - Robbie Meehan, (Geologist) Cultural Landscape – Conor Newman (Archaeologist) Visual Character – Deirdre Black (Landscape Architect) People and Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Tara – Anne Marie Murphy • 10th Meath Skryne Scouts – Bryan Leonard • Dalgan Park – Ger Clarke • Bellinter Residents Association – Claire Oakes • Community and Voluntary Steering Group – Eamon Cassells • Tara Walking Club – Letter from Kay Carroll • Meath Archaeological and Historical Society – John Clancy
11.30am – 11.45am	Short Break
11.45am – 12.00pm	Digital datasets and map overlays <i>Steven Kavanagh, Planning Department, Meath County Council</i>
12.00pm-1.00pm	Workshop to break into working groups
1.00pm-2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Workshop to break into working groups
3.00pm-3.30pm	Each working group to report back
3.30pm – 3.45pm	Workshop summary and next steps <i>Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, Meath County Council</i>



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People and place

- **Friends of Tara**

- *Formed in 2003*
- *Actively involved in regular community clean ups and local conservation projects*
- *Important free access to the state owned lands on the Hill continues*
- *Improvements for visitors access and interpretation are sensitively managed*



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People and place

10th Meath Skryne Scouts

- *Outlined the group and their membership*
- *Described how they use the landscape in particular Dalgan Park*
- *Highlighted opportunities to educate and involve young people in the project*



People and place

- **Columbans Dalgan Park**

- *Described Dalgan Park as a farm and wildlife sanctuary with an active woodland management and educational programme*
- *Columbans open it to the public for their use and enjoyment*
- *Columbans view is that they are custodians of the landscape and are guided by an ethos of caring for the earth*
- *Dalgan Park facilities numerous school visits annually*



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People and place

- **Bellinter Residents Association**

- *Active for the past 10 years formed during the planning stage of the M3*
- *Expressed the view that the rate and pace of landscape change by our generations has left an indelible mark*
- *Stated that the value of our landscapes is poorly understood and that raising awareness and education should be a priority*



People and place

Tara Walking Club

- *The Slí is in existence for past 10 years developed with MCC*
- *Route widely used by locals and visitors*
- *Great support from Michael Maguire*
- *Would like to see benches installed on the route*
- *Would be happy to get involved in community projects*



People and place

- **Meath Archaeological and Historical Society**

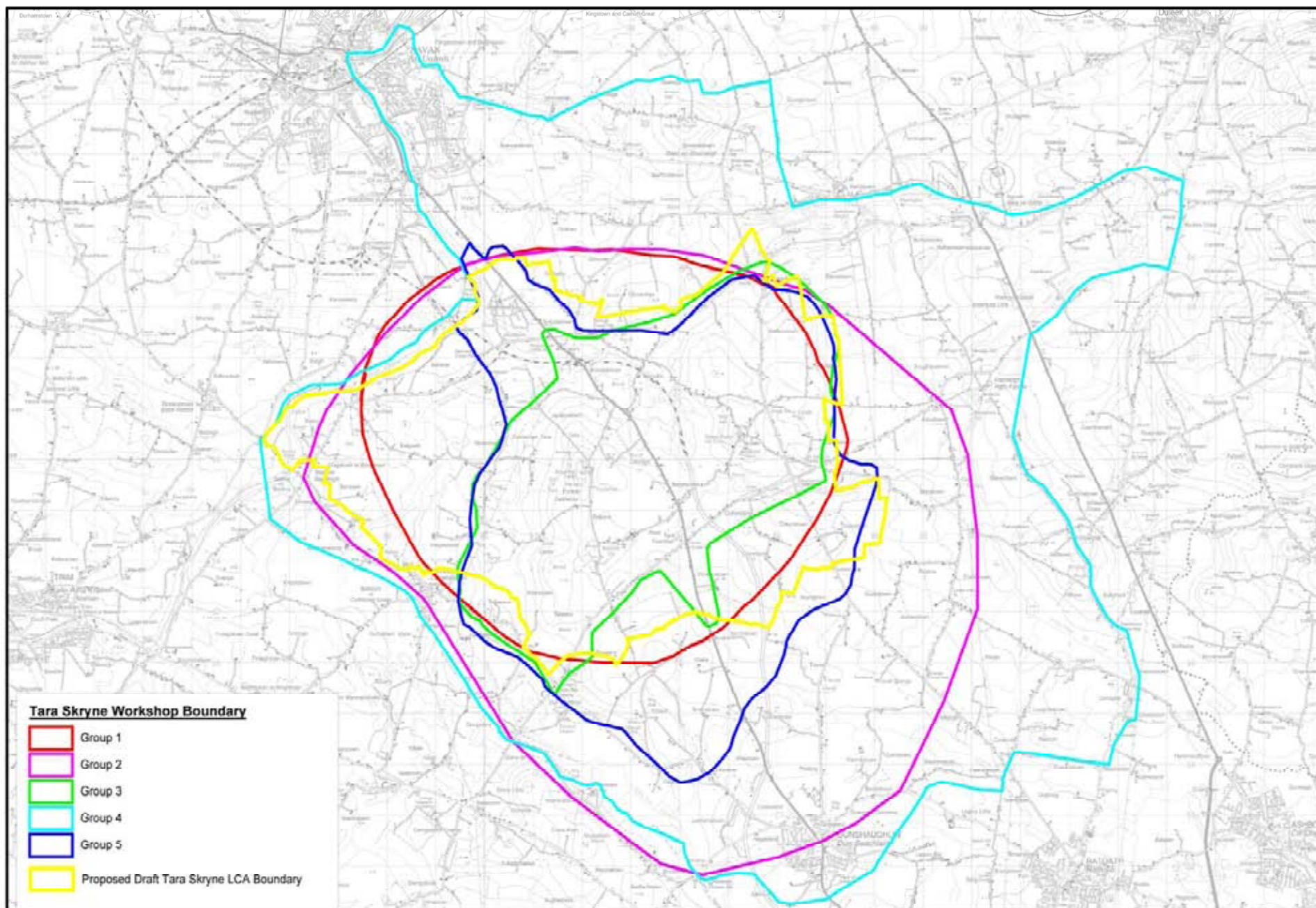
- Formed in 1937 over 600 members (mostly live in Meath)
- Tara is a cultural landscape of local, national and international importance.
- From a MAHS view the main points are:
 1. Definition of the Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area (work of Discovery Programme very useful)
 2. Definition of what is involved in the Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area (how it will affect heritage, planning, living communities etc.)
 3. Provision of community sustainability
 4. Provision of heritage protection and promotion
 5. Management Plan for the Landscape Conservation Area
 6. Educational and tourist facilities
 7. Research Framework
 8. Review



People and place

- **Community and Voluntary Forum**
 - Meath CBD – platform for Community and Voluntary Groups in the County
 - Community and Voluntary Group seek to encourage greater participation in public decision-making





Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Mall
Navan, Co. Meath

NOTE: Copies of this map to be submitted to the relevant authority. Further details on any land should be referred to Meath County Council. The map is for information only and does not constitute a legal document. Local Authority and Ordnance Survey have been consulted.



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Tara Skryne Landscape Project
Workshop Boundaries

Map Data File:
1/1/2019

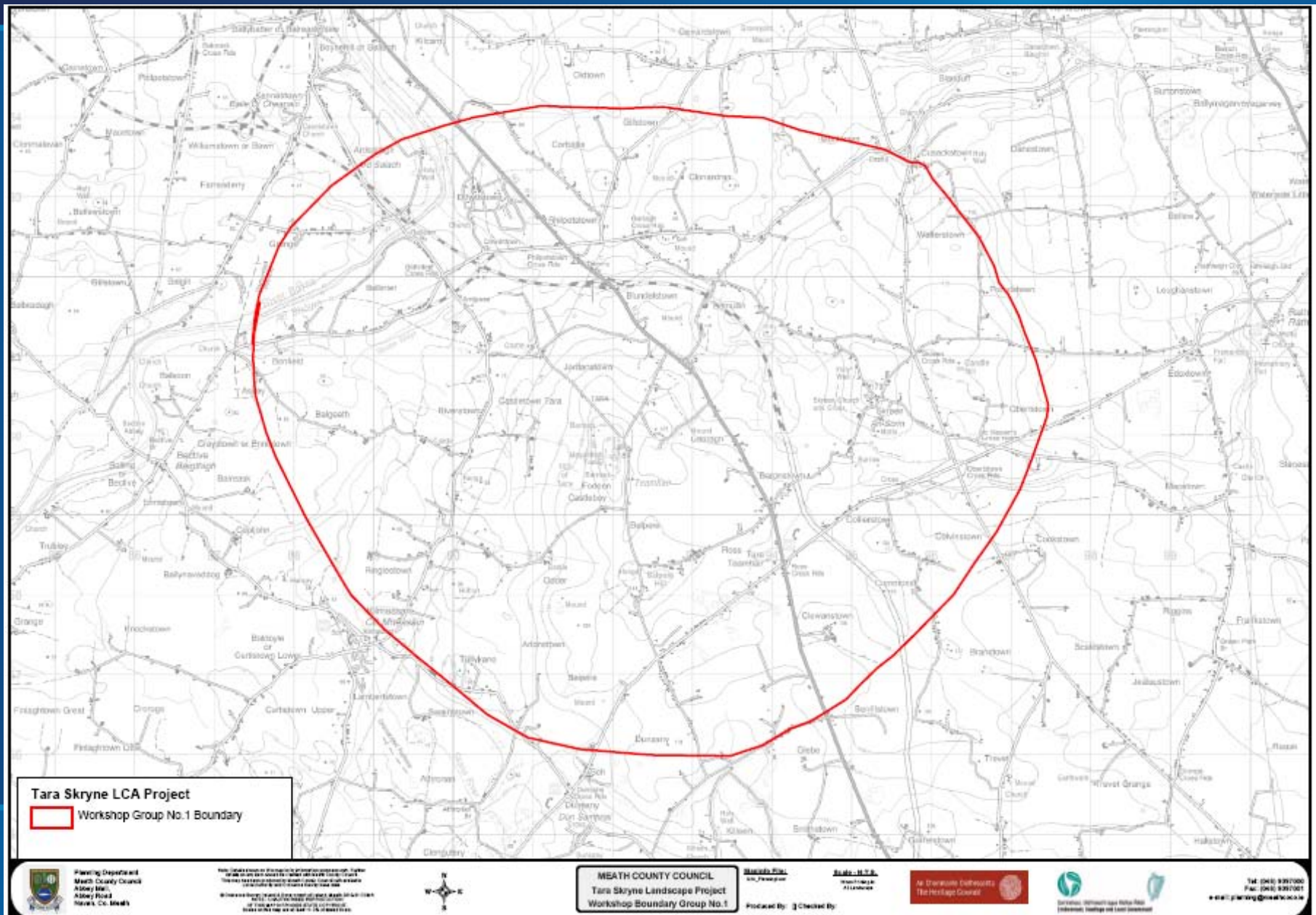
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Scale: N.T.S.
Not to Scale



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Workshop Group No.1 Boundary



Group 1 – Why has the group chosen this boundary?

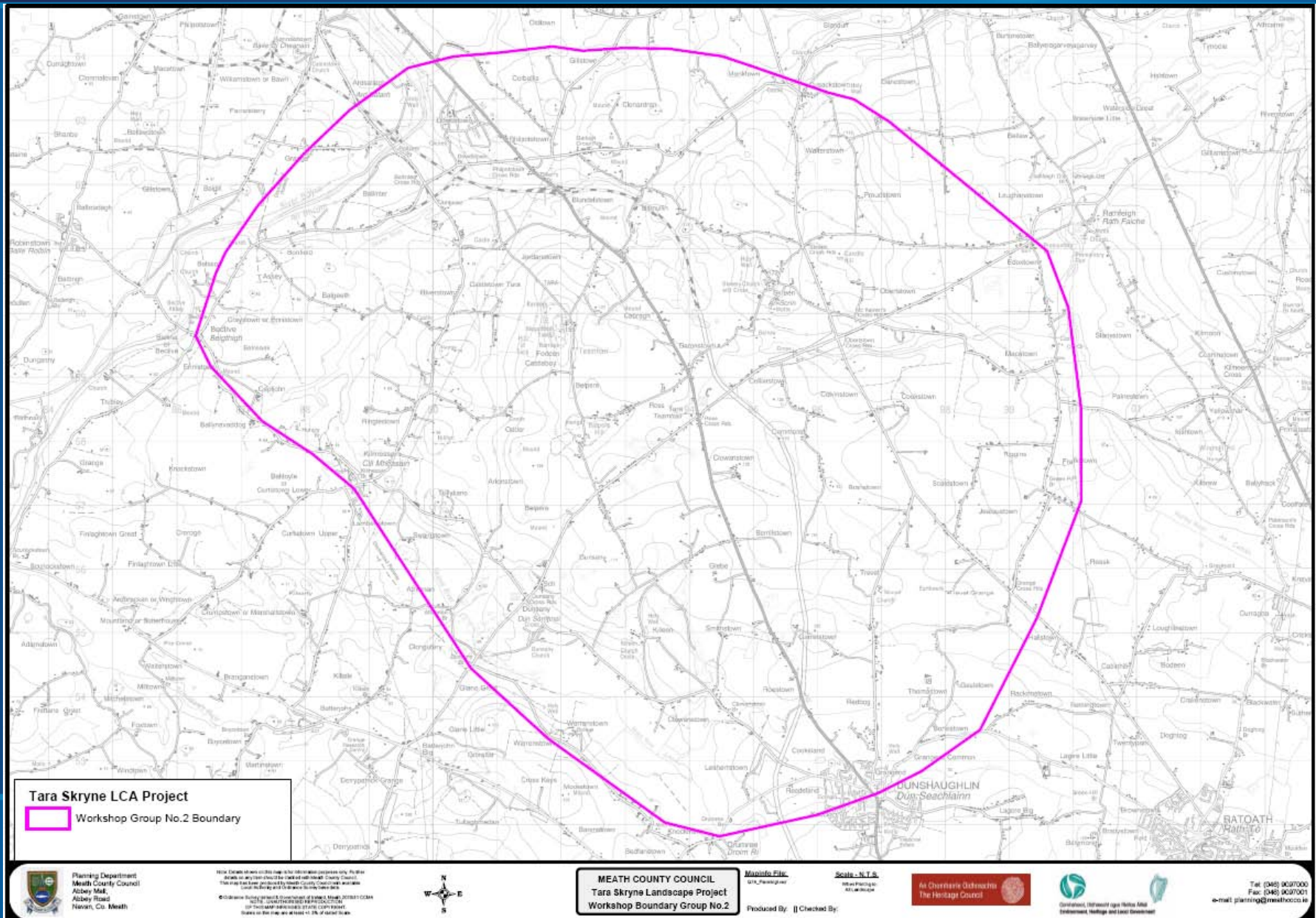
- Two Hills
- Two key parishes
- Monuments with significant connections
- Connection with river
- Stay east of proposed railway
- See Kilmessan as a 'gateway'
- Topographic features
- Connection with Bellinter
- Discoveries at Ardsallagh
- Skryne as a hub



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Workshop Group No.2 Boundary

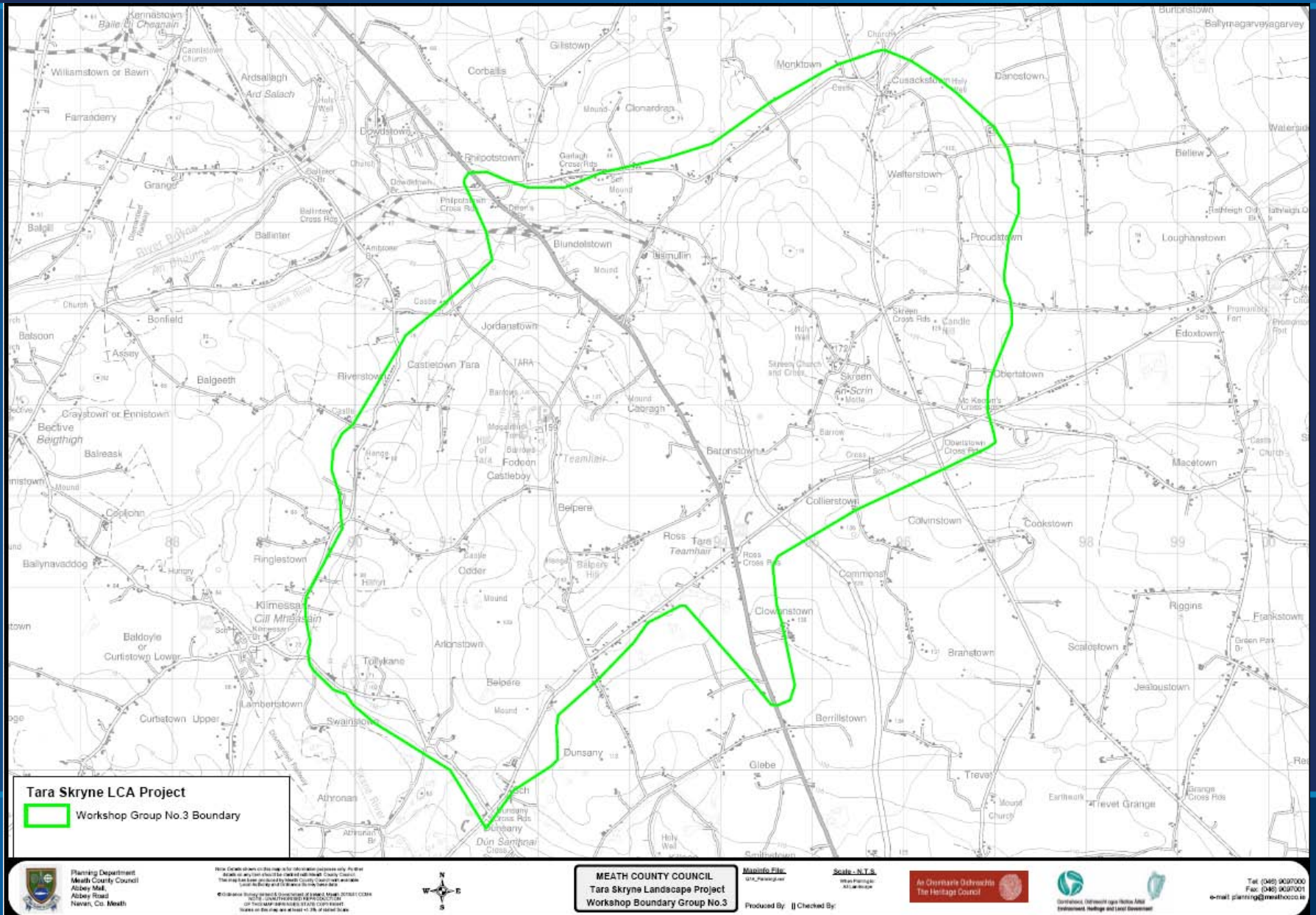


Group 2 – Why has the group chosen this boundary?

- The consensus from the group on its chosen boundary was that it:
 - Was based on a sense of entering the Tara Landscape and sense of approach and rising
 - Rivers
 - Incorporates the monuments and the Hills
 - Views and Prospects
 - Captures the human imprint on the natural Landscape
 - Field boundaries (trees, stone walls, embankments) contribute to its visual character



Workshop Group No.3 Boundary

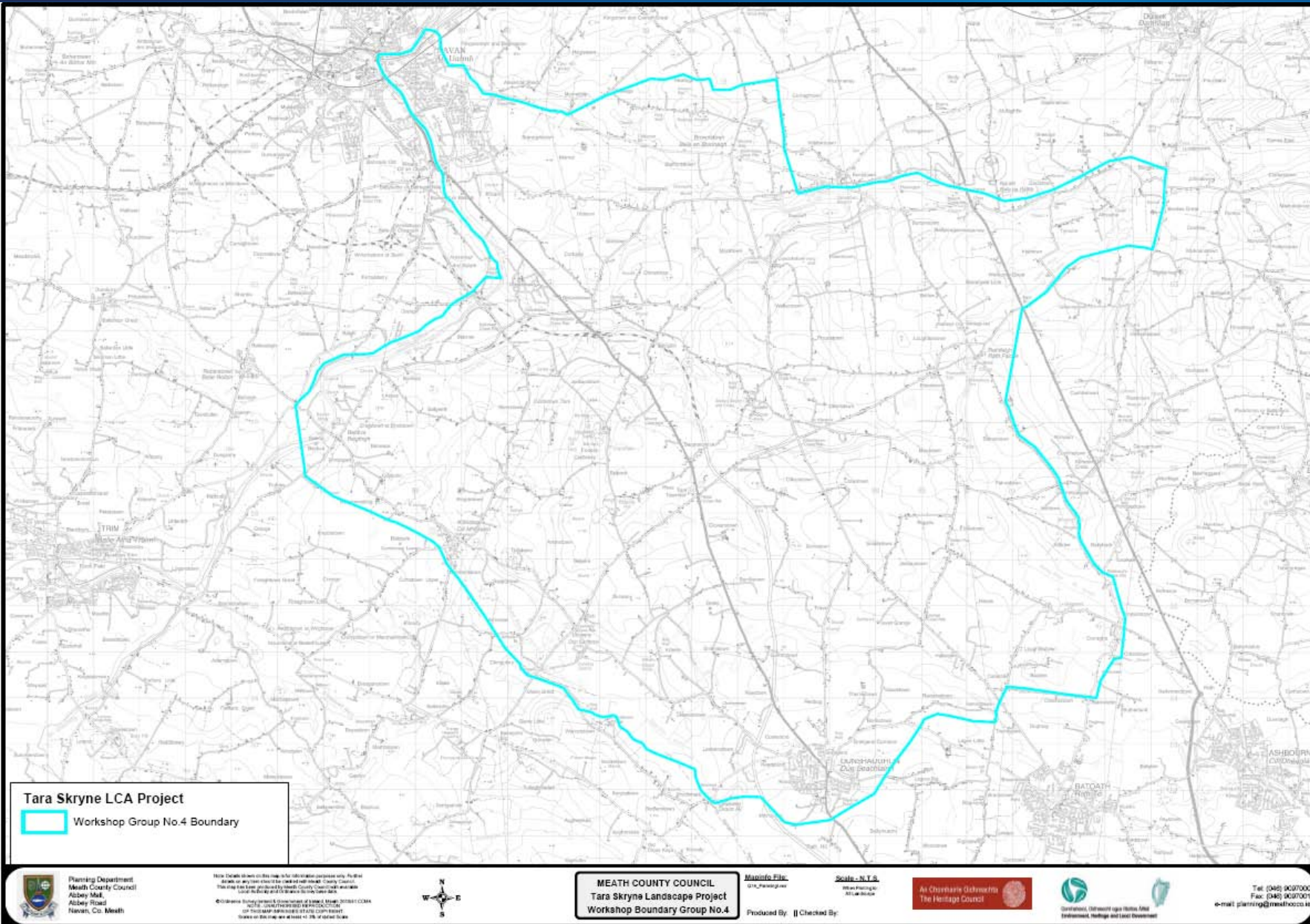


Group 3 – Why has the group chosen this boundary?

- The consensus from the group on its chosen boundary was that it:
 - Largely defined by natural topography (contour lines to the east, west and north capture the area, the southern boundary is less defined)
 - Encompasses the two ridges of Tara and Skryne Hill
 - Kilmessan should be excluded because it is likely to experience more development associated with the railway and shouldn't go as far as Dunshaughlin
 - Potential to associate villages on the periphery
 - Protects archaeological complexes – two hills and valley in between and includes sites like Walterstown Castle, Lismullin
 - Extensions to protect access routes



Workshop Group No.4 Boundary

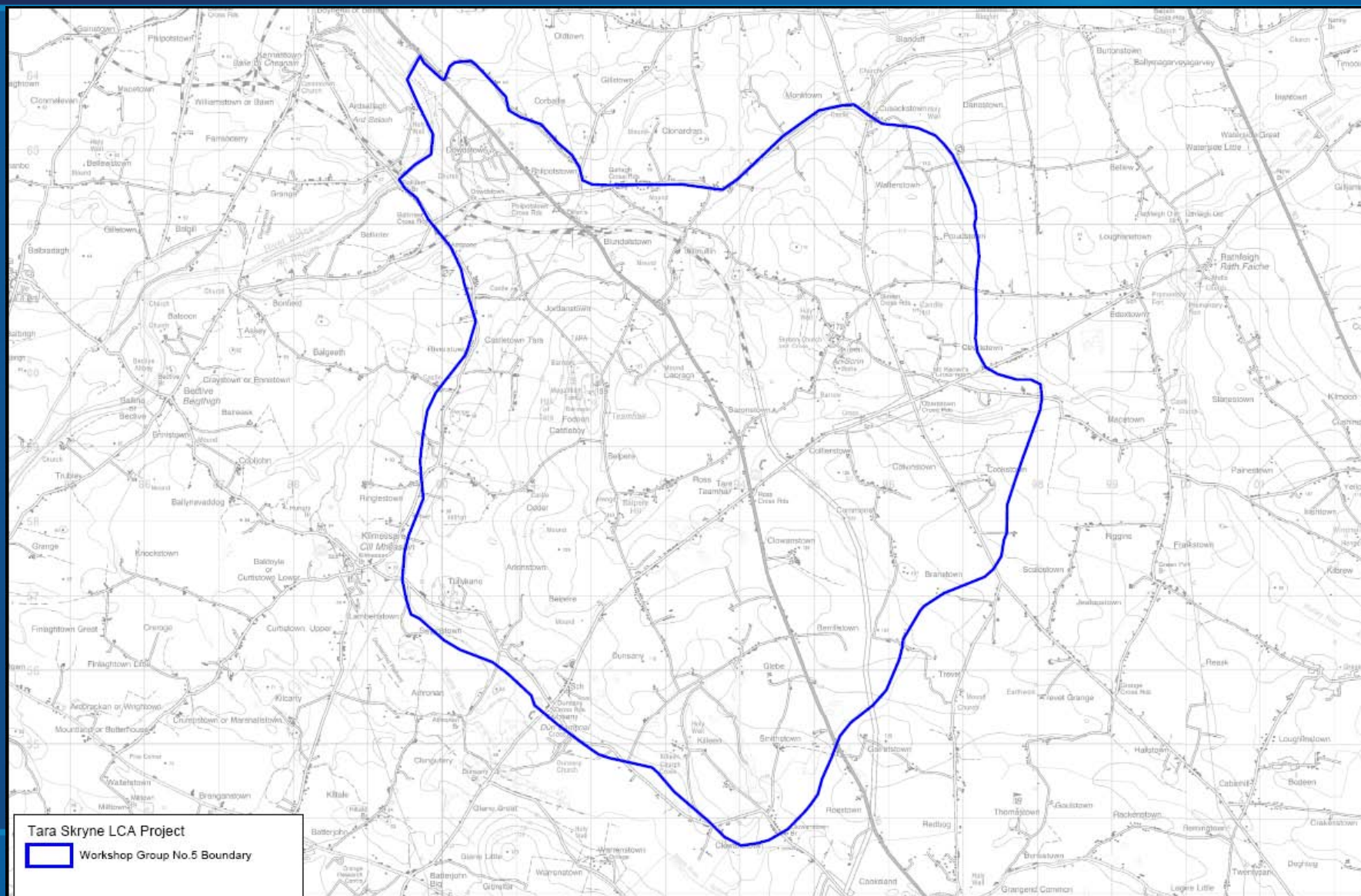


Group 4 – Why has the group chosen this boundary?

- Primarily focused on the telling ‘the story’ of Tara by identifying the places and features that are central to the story
- The main sites and approaches to Tara and Skryne.
- Confluence of the Boyne and Blackwater at Navan North, Bective to west/Boyne, Dunshaughlin to the South; Hurley to the East



Workshop Group No.5 Boundary



Group 5 – Why has the group chosen this boundary?

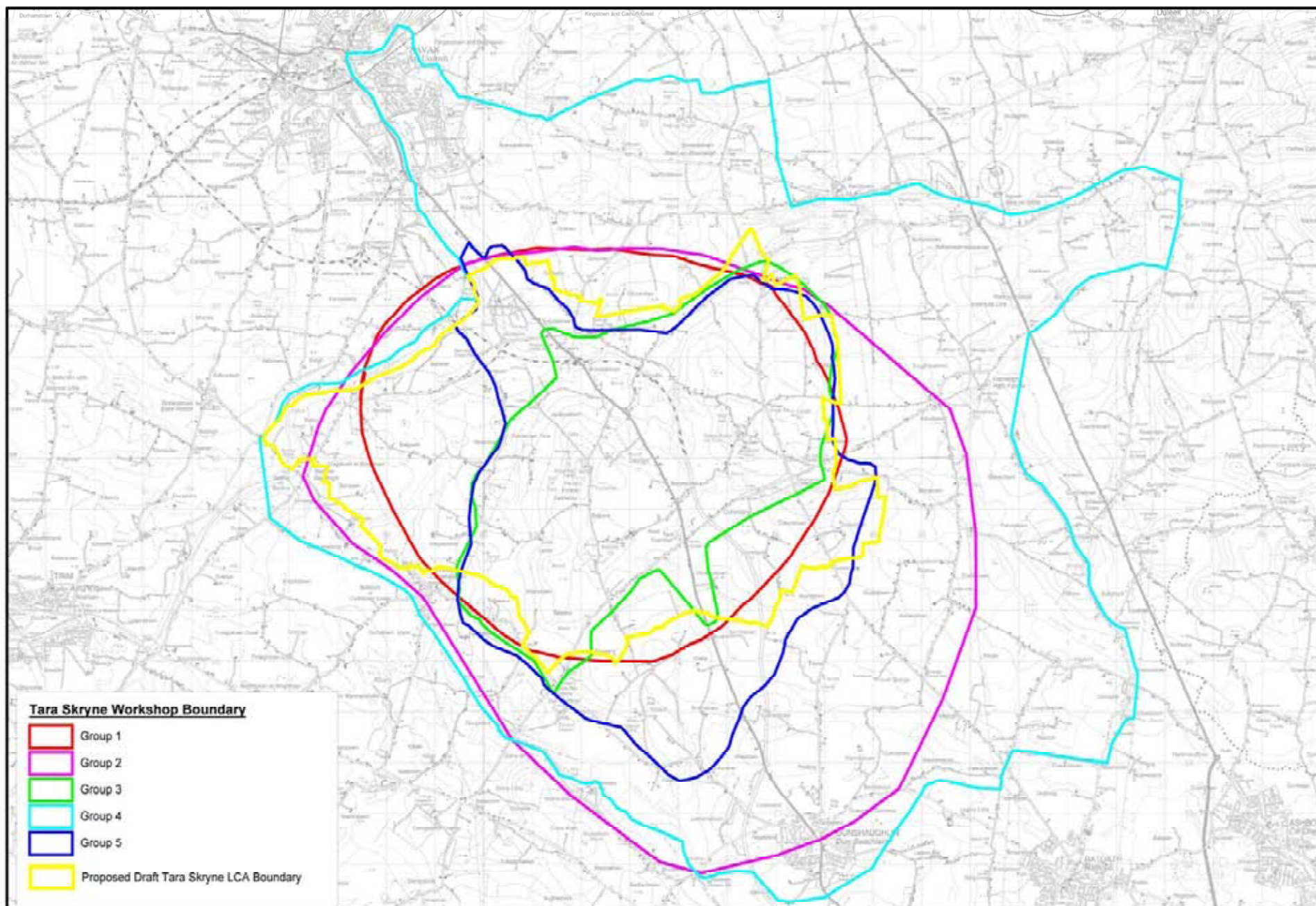
- Includes all of the crag and tail hills and the channel of the Gabhra and Skane to the NE and includes all the slopes of the Hill of Tara
- Captures the 19th century landscape of the Gabhra Valley
- Extends around Skryne Hill and Walterstown/Cusackstown Hill at the NW
- Includes the higher ground around Oberstown at the East
- Extends towards Kilmessan and to the edge of the ridges at the SW
- Dalgan Pak is included not from a physical landscape perspective but because of its social and cultural influence on the landscape



Defining the Tara Skryne Landscape

- There was a strong consensus emerging that the **Hills** of Tara and Skryne with their commanding **views and prospects**; the valley in-between, the **rivers** and associated **drainage pattern**; its **topographical distinctiveness**; the character and placements of **archaeological monuments**; an arena for rituals and ceremonial activity; the **time depth** and continuity evident; a religious sanctuary; burial grounds; its superior importance in all early historical references and its powerful symbolism of political sovereignty and freedom at the heart of Irish identity and its role in Irish history; its **placenames**; a **farmed landscape** with its patchwork of fields and **field boundaries**; its spiritual and **mythological resonance** define the
- character of the Tara Skryne Landscape.





ADDED VALUE OF DESIGNATION



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**High quality landscapes are directly linked to a
successful economy and underpin our tourism
industry**

(Department of the Taoiseach (2008).
*Building Ireland's Smart Economy - A
Framework for Sustainable Economic
Renewal*)



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Action Plan

- If the LCA is adopted a partnership structure to bring together the local community, state agencies and relevant research institutions will be set up to consult on, develop and implement an agreed Action Plan for the area



The purpose of the Action Plan is to..

- Maximise the socioeconomic benefits and cultural tourism opportunities for the LCA that benefit the local community economically and in terms of quality of life;
- Interpret and communicate the significance and values of the landscape;
- Improve facilities at the Hill of Tara by working with the OPW;
- Unlock the potential of the Tara Skryne Landscape.




Some comments from the workshop

- *Landscape should be branded – Tara produce*
- *Need for a partnership with range of local organisations and steering committee and provide a forum to manage ideas*
- *More incentives within the LCA*
- *Sharing knowledge*
- *Economic gains should benefit the local community and local enterprise*
- *Educational initiatives*
- *Harness the good volunteerism that exists in the community*
- *Better facilities and interpretation*




Cultural Tourism – Major opportunity



What is Cultural Tourism?

CULTURAL TOURISM
MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU
A New Strategy for Cultural Tourism In Ireland

 **Fáilte Ireland**
National Tourism Development Authority

Architecture Archaeology Castles & Historic Properties
Christian Heritage Clan Rallies **Crafts** Cultural Courses Ecology
Festivals Film Flora & Fauna Food & Drink
Gaeltacht Gardens Genealogy Heritage Towns Islands
Industrial Heritage Literary Ireland Museums & Galleries Music
National Parks & Wildlife National Monuments Painting Holidays
Summer Schools **Theatre** Visitor Attractions Walled Towns

- One of the fastest growing areas of tourism internationally (WTO ↑15% per annum X3 general tourism) – major opportunity for Ireland.
- Culture - key motivator included in destination campaigns –
- Sightseers & culture seekers



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Meath – Ireland's Heritage Capital



welcomemarketing

Ireland's Heritage Capital
Marketing Tourism in Meath, 2005-2010

Prepared by Welcome Marketing For Meath Tourism and Meath County Council



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Here is IrishCentral.com's pick of the top ten historical sites in Ireland - IrishCentral.com

1. Newgrange, County Meath

Dating back to 3200 B.C the passage tomb at Newgrange is older than the pyramids in Egypt and is officially a World Heritage site.

A large mound, spread over an acre is surrounded by 97, uniquely carved kerbstones. The cremated remains of the dead were buried a large stone basins under the mound in a chamber assessable by a narrow passage.

At dawn on the December 21, the shortest day of the year, every year, sunlight shines directly into the central chamber of the tomb. It is believed that this was an ancient way of measuring the passage of time, like a calendar for the ancient farmers, or that the light has some religious significance for those in the afterlife.

Newgrange is part of the Bru na Boinne complex which includes similar tombs at Knowth and Dowth.

2. Hill of Tara, County Meath

The Hill of Tara is also located near the River Boyne in Meath. It is an archaeological complex that runs between Navan and Dunshaughlin and contains a number of ancient monuments. According to tradition it was the seat of the High King of Ireland (Árd Rí na hÉireann).

The oldest archaeological site at Tara is the Mound of Hostages, which dates back to 2500 B.C.

The hill itself is 500 feet high and has some of the most panoramic views of the plains in Meath.

- Published September 14th 2010
 - Portal for Irish diaspora
3. Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary
 4. Ceide Fields, Co. Mayo
 5. Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly
 6. Jerpoint Abbey, Co. Kilkenny
 7. Blarney Stone and Blarney Castle, Co. Cork
 8. Kilkenny Castle, Kilkenny City
 9. Leap Castle, Co. Offaly
 10. Skellig Michael, Co. Kerry



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Irish Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

Axis 3: The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy. All measures contained in Axis 3 will be delivered through the Leader approach.

- Diversification Into Non-Agricultural Activities
- Support For Business Creation And Development
- Encouragement Of Tourism Activities
- Basic Services For The Economy And Rural Population
- Village Renewal And Development
- Conservation And Upgrading Of The Rural Heritage



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Future possibilities....

- Landscape Conservation Area as a catalyst to promote the area
- Concept of 'gateways' - Dalgan/Tara na Rí, Kilmessan, Dunsany, Bective
- 'Key Hubs'– Skryne and Tara
- International brand recognition – powerful identity – diaspora funding - (Tara = Ireland)
- Cultural tourism creating employment opportunities
- Education initiatives including a Landscape School
- Culture and creativity – liaising with artists and crafts people
- Promote an appreciation of landscape and heritage as a resource for the cultural and economic development of communities in Meath
- Improve facilities at the Hill of Tara by working with the OPW
- Local partnership structure and networking opportunities (national and international)



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