COUNTY MEATH

HERITAGE PLAN 2015-2020

A strategic partnership plan prepared by the County Meath Heritage Forum

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Acknowledgements

Meath County Council would like to thank the County Meath Heritage Forum for their advice, co-operation and commitment to the County Heritage Plan process.

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Foreword

Message from the Chief Executive of Meath County Council

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the publication of the *County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020*, the second Heritage Plan prepared for the county. The aim of this plan '*is to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of Meath's heritage and promote best practice in its management for enjoyment by all*'. The plan sets out a number of actions to increase our understanding of Meath's heritage through awareness, education and training; to promote best practice in the conservation and management of our heritage; to collect and disseminate heritage data; and to promote heritage as a resource to contribute to quality of life, and cultural and economic development in Meath.

Heritage gives each town, village and rural area in Meath a character and local distinctiveness which contributes to a strong sense of place. Following an extensive public consultation process, the plan was adopted by the elected members of Meath County Council. I would like to thank all those who participated in the public consultation process and to reaffirm our commitment to work in partnership with local communities and other key stakeholders to actively engage with, enjoy and care for our heritage.

I would like to thank the County Heritage Forum, and its chair Mr. Séamus Mac Gabhann, for their hard work and commitment in bringing this plan together and their on-going support and guidance. I would sincerely like thank the Heritage Council for supporting and developing the County Meath Heritage Plan.

I am confident that this plan presents an opportunity to build on, and consolidate, the progress and achievements made through the implementation of the first County Heritage Plan. I look forward to working with the County Heritage Forum and all other stakeholders to implement our second Heritage Plan over the next five years.

Jackie Maguire

Chief Executive, Meath County Council

Message from the Chairperson of the County Meath Heritage Forum

From the mysterious spiritual resonance of Brú na Bóinne to Tara's symbolism of political sovereignty and freedom, Meath's rich heritage is at the heart of Irish national identity. The Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020 is a versatile vehicle for the development and enhancement of the county's heritage. Meath Heritage Officer, Dr. Loreto Guinan very efficiently marshalled a broadly-based and committed Heritage Forum to generate this innovative 5-year plan embracing the built, natural and cultural heritage of Meath. The new heritage programme now creatively consolidates the valuable achievement of the pioneering first plan. The second Heritage Plan seeks to harness this powerful communal resource, allied to the expertise of the Local Authority. We are all challenged by the new heritage Plan to become explorers and innovators in our own county. Our familiar Meath landscape is a renowned treasury of Ireland's heritage. In exploring and knowing it more fully, we see it anew and so possess it more fully. The Heritage Plan includes new ways of realising this vision, and of reaching more diverse audiences, especially young people.

Engagement with our heritage also deepens our sense of solidarity with our fellow-Europeans. The European Commission holds that 'heritage is made up of local stories that *together* make the history of Europe.' Cultivation of our own heritage therefore enhances our broader identity as Europeans. Heritage thus promotes cultural diversity while promoting intercultural exchange. Heritage tourism is a powerful generator of economic activity, which can become the basis for renewed cultural and creative industries. This Heritage Plan, in emphasising cutting-edge research, digitisation, skills enhancement and participative possession of heritage, aims at a dynamic and sustainable model of heritage for Meath. Above all, it aspires to release the inspirational and creative resources of heritage. As we embark upon the decade of commemorations, we recall that it was such a renewed cultural vision which energised those who forged modern Irish identity and established Irish sovereignty. For those leaders, our heritage and tradition operated as a stimulus and an inspiration, rather than as a barrier. Our creative response to Meath's new Heritage Plan helps realise for our own times that generous national vision. Níor chaill lucht an mhisnigh ariamh é.

Séamus Mac Gabhann,

Cathaoirleach, Fóram Oidhreachta na Mí

1. Introduction

Meath's natural and cultural heritage assets

Meath has an exceptionally rich heritage resource with a number of nationally and internationally renowned sites. Including one of the world's most significant complexes of Neolithic passage tombs at Brú na Bóinne, deemed by the United Nations to be of *'outstanding universal value to humankind'*; the ancient capital and seat of the High Kings of Ireland at Tara; the passage tombs of Loughcrew; the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland at Trim; the historic towns and streetscapes of Navan, Trim and Kells; great examples of 18th and 19th century country houses and demesne landscapes; a significant industrial heritage of canals and mills and a diverse natural heritage of scenic river valleys, rolling farmland, a network of mature hedgerows and coastal habitats. This is a captivating landscape which engages us, teaches us, inspires us, sustains us, grounds us and connects us.

Heritage gives each town, village and rural area in Meath a character and local distinctiveness which contributes to a strong sense of place and is an immense source of pride for its people and communities. A positive approach to heritage management enhances quality of life and environmental sustainability and will ensure that our cultural and natural heritage is a resource that helps the county to compete as a cultural tourism destination and as a location of choice for inward investment.

Meath County Council has recognised the importance of heritage in their Corporate Plan (2015-2019) which states that *"the natural and built heritage enhances the quality of life for the people of the county and has long enticed visitors to Meath".*

The Heritage Plan in context

In 2002, the Government published the National Heritage Plan which recognises the communal nature of heritage and the responsibility we all share in its protection. This plan states that *"Protection of our heritage must begin at local level, enabling everybody to become actively involved in preserving and enhancing that which belongs to us"*. A key action of the National Heritage Plan is providing for heritage at local level through the preparation and adoption of County Heritage Plans involving County Heritage Fora. The

preparation of the first and, now, the second County Meath Heritage Plan is a response to this government policy. The strategic themes set out in the County Heritage Plan broadly reflect the themes of the National Heritage Plan (*placing heritage at the heart of public life, protecting heritage, acquiring knowledge and promoting awareness*).

The preparation and implementation of the County Meath Heritage Plan also fulfils a requirement of the County Meath Development Plan 2013-2019 '*to implement, in partnership with the County Meath Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders, and the community, the County Meath Heritage Plan and any revisions thereof'*.

Relationship with the County Development Plan

The County Development Plan is the statutory framework which sets out the overall land use strategy, policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county, and other objectives of the local authority, in accordance with relevant legislation. It contains a number of policies and objectives for the protection, conservation and enhancement of Meath's natural and cultural heritage.

The Heritage Plan is an action plan and does not contain land-use policies which would affect development. The Heritage Plan complements the County Development Plan, and other statutory plans, by aiming to support the implementation of heritage objectives through the collection of relevant data, raising public awareness, and by undertaking projects/ initiatives to identify, protect and manage heritage.

Scope of the County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020

The *County Meath Heritage Plan* is the second Heritage Plan for County Meath and covers the period 2015 to 2020. The Plan presents an opportunity to build on, and consolidate, the progress and achievements made through the implementation of the first County Heritage Plan. It commits to continuing to work together with the community and stakeholders to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of Meath's natural and cultural heritage assets. It represents a vision for the sustainable management of Meath's heritage over the coming six years and is an opportunity to identify heritage issues and needs at a county level, and to address them locally, within a regional and national framework. It also seeks to

build on the work currently being undertaken in the county by the many different agencies, organisations, communities, groups and individuals.

In defining the scope of heritage to be included in the plan, the Forum has been guided by the Heritage Act (1995) which states that the national heritage includes the following:

- Monuments
- Landscapes
- Archaeological objects
- Seascapes
- Heritage objects
- Wrecks
- Architectural heritage

- Geology
- Flora
- Heritage gardens and parks
- Fauna
- Inland waterways
- Wildlife habitats

The Forum agreed to expand on the above definition to include industrial and agricultural heritage, social heritage, folklore and folklife, genealogy, placenames and local history.

The County Heritage Plan aims to identify priorities for action, establish a framework for the management of heritage at local level and increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage for all. The preparation of the Plan was guided by *A Methodology for Local Authority Heritage Officers on the Preparation of County/City Heritage Plans* produced by the Heritage Council in 2003.

Guiding principles

A number of key principles underpin the development of the County Heritage Plan and will be respected in its implementation. Meath County Council and the County Heritage Forum will be guided by core values which underpin all our activities as set out in the *Corporate Plan for Meath Local Authorities 2009 to 2014*, including: *Accessibility, Accountability, Openness, Building Communities, Citizen Focus, Enhancing Local Democracy, Embracing Change, Equality and Social Inclusion, Management of Resources, Sustainability* and *Working in Partnership with our Stakeholders*.

The UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Convention on Access to Information, *Public Participation* in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, usually known as the Aarhus Convention, entered into force in 2001 and was ratified by Ireland in 2013. The Aarhus Convention grants the public rights regarding **access to information, public participation and access to justice,** in governmental decision-making processes on matters concerning the local, national and trans-boundary environment. The principles of the Aarhus Convention will be applied in all actions undertaken by the Meath Heritage Forum.

Overview of Meath Heritage Plan 2007-2011

The first Heritage Plan for County Meath prepared by the County Heritage Forum and adopted by Meath County Council, covered the period 2007 to 2011, and set out 77 actions to be undertaken over a five-year period. This Plan was extended to cover 2012 and 2013, to allow full implementation of key actions. Since 2007, through funding and support provided by Meath County Council and the Heritage Council, 66 of the 77 (85%) actions of the plan have been fully completed or incorporated into on-going annual activities. Some of the key achievements of the first Meath Heritage Plan are set out in Appendix (IV).

2.   *Preparing the Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020*

The County Heritage Forum has prepared this plan in consultation with the people of the county and local, regional and national organisations with an interest in the heritage of Meath.

The process of preparing the second Heritage Plan began in April 2014 with a presentation by the Heritage Officer to Meath County Council's Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee, outlining and reviewing the implementation of the actions of the first Heritage Plan and presenting a timetable for the preparation of the new County Heritage Plan. In June, following the local elections, each one of the six Municipal Districts nominated an elected representative to sit on the County Heritage Forum – which is a non-statutory advisory group established by Meath County Council to assist in the formulation and implementation of the County Heritage Plan. The County Heritage Forum includes elected representatives, representatives from the community and voluntary sector and a wide range of organisations and state agencies with an active interest in or responsibility for Meath's heritage. A review of membership of the Heritage Forum was undertaken. Current membership of the Forum is shown in Appendix I. A presentation was made to the elected members of Meath County Council in July 2014 who approved the process for preparing the new County Heritage Plan.

A pre-draft public consultation process (four weeks) was held from August 6th to September 3rd 2014 (inclusive). A consultation questionnaire was prepared and available online via survey monkey; the process was advertised in *The Meath Chronicle* and on www.meath.ie and Meath County Council social media platforms and the public was invited to make submissions. In addition, submissions were invited from an extensive list of stakeholders including elected representatives, government and state agencies, all community groups in the county registered with Meath County Council Community Department, Meath Heritage Office Mailing List, Universities and the NGO sector. Appendix III details the pre-draft written submissions received.

The Meath County Heritage Forum comprises three working groups;

(1) Natural heritage and biodiversity

(2) Built heritage

(3) Cultural heritage and heritage education

A report on all the issues raised in pre-draft public consultation submissions was prepared and presented to each working group.

During September and October 2014 each working group met three times to identify key heritage issues, consider pre-draft submissions and reach consensus on actions for the draft plan. Submissions were fully considered by the Meath Heritage Forum and every effort has been made in this draft plan to reflect the views and concerns of the public. However it should be noted that given the countywide and strategic remit of the plan, it was not possible in general to include location-specific issues.

A presentation on the Draft Plan was made to the Planning, Economic and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee on October 30th 2014. A plenary meeting of the County Meath Heritage Forum was held on January 8th 2015 to finalise the contents of the Draft Plan. The Draft was presented to the elected members of Meath County Council at the Council meeting on January 12th 2015 who resolved to place the plan on public display and undertake a public consultation process on the Draft. The draft was placed on public display from on January 23rd 2015 and written submissions were invited up to Tuesday March 3rd 2015. Six public consultation information sessions were held in each Municipal District in February 2015. Thirty one written submissions were received on the *Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020* (see Appendix III). The County Heritage Forum considered submissions on March 12th 2015 and proposed amendments to the draft. The final plan was presented to, and adopted by, the elected members of Meath County Council in April 2015.

Aim, Strategic Themes and Actions

The aim of the County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020 is to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of Meath's heritage and promote best practice in its management for enjoyment by all.

The actions below have been agreed by the Heritage Forum and arranged under **six strategic themes**:

Strategic Theme 1:   Increase our understanding of Meath's heritage through awareness, education and training

Strategic Theme 2:   Disseminate existing heritage data and information to a wide audience and undertake surveys/research where information gaps exist

Strategic Theme 3:   Promote best practice in the conservation and management of Meath's heritage assets

Strategic Theme 4:   Work in partnership with local communities and other key stakeholders to actively engage with, enjoy and care for our heritage

Strategic Theme 5:   Promote heritage as a resource to contribute to quality of life, and cultural and economic development in Meath

Strategic Theme 6   To mainstream heritage within the Local Authority and seek the appointment of heritage professionals to support the delivery of an integrated heritage service

Strategic Themes and Actions:

This Plan contains 53 actions, categorised under these six main strategic themes. Every effort has been made to ensure that the actions set out are realistic and achievable over the lifetime of the plan and reflect the submissions received during public consultation at pre-draft and draft stage.

Strategic Theme 1:   Increase our understanding of Meath's heritage through awareness, education and training

No.	Action
1.1	Engage with the public to raise awareness and promote an understanding of the heritage and genealogical value of graveyards and their associated historic structures
1.2	Promote and facilitate the holding of an annual/biennial conference (drawing on international best practice) to deepen our understanding of all aspects of heritage at community, county and national level
1.3	Establish a 'Heritage Day' in schools and develop a pilot project in each Municipal District in partnership with Navan Education Centre where a school is linked to a local heritage group to undertake a heritage project
1.4	Engage with the public online to crowd source and identify the names of all the crossroads in the county
1.5	Develop a heritage education and awareness programme, in partnership with Navan Education Centre, aimed at primary and post primary pupils, teachers and the school community to include monuments in Meath studied as part of the Primary, Junior Cert and Leaving Cert curricula
1.6	Develop and implement a Heritage Communications Strategy and Plan targeted at identified groups of stakeholders
1.7	Meath has the only recognised Gaeltacht in Leinster, in Ráth Chairn/Baile Ghib. Seek to enhance this unique community as a rich resource for the entire country, having regard to its linguistic, folkloric, cultural, heritage, educational, sociological and anthropological significance
1.8	Develop an exhibition showcasing the geology of the county, to be displayed in the libraries around the county
1.9	Undertake a project on the natural heritage of Holy Wells
1.10	Raise awareness of all aspects of heritage through an annual heritage awareness

	programme (e.g. talks, walks, publications, exhibitions, seminars, training in best practice management, and participation in national programmes and events such as Heritage Week, Biodiversity Day and Tree Week or other initiatives) aimed at key stakeholders and target groups including community groups, schools and the public
1.11	Establish the Boyne Valley Field Club and organise an annual programmes of activities (outings, field walks, tea talks etc.) in partnership with national and local stakeholders
1.12	Publish an explanatory booklet or leaflet about the geology of county with particular reference to publically accessible sites

Strategic Theme 2: **Disseminate existing heritage data and information to a wide audience and undertake surveys/projects where information gaps exist**

No	Action
2.1	Establish and maintain an archive of all archaeological reports (including excavation, testing, monitoring, EIS, geophysical survey, other assessments) written in relation to planning applications or research work across the county
2.2	Ensure that all sites newly found through archaeological investigations and verified by National Monuments Service on archaeology.ie or by other means are recorded on the Council GIS system and integrated into planning procedures, from the time of verification/recording by the relevant authorities
2.3	Develop and maintain a comprehensive **Meath Heritage Data GIS-based Web Portal** by collating and digitizing available records, databases and reports on heritage assets in the county. This database will be compatible with existing national databases to avoid duplication with other existing databases or those in development
2.4	Disseminate information on the heritage of the County through the use of digital technologies including Smartphone apps, multi-media presentations (audio, video guides, etc.) and social media
2.5	Seek to support research on and publication of unpublished manuscript legacy of Meath's poets, scribes and scholars

2.6	Progress developmental work on photographic archive through acquisition, scanning, and cataloguing, utilising newest best standard models
2.7	Compile an inventory of flora and fauna in the county
2.8	Undertake surveys/projects to gather heritage data where information gaps exist
2.9	Identify, map and assess the condition of existing milestones in the county
2.10	Publish and disseminate Meath Graveyard Inventory and support local groups in documenting and recording graveyards
2.11	Compile and inventory of navigable waterways to advance the conservation and management of navigable waterways in partnership with all relevant stakeholders
2.12	Compile a comprehensive inventory of scientific papers relating to Meath's geology and geomorphology

Strategic Theme 3: **Promote best practice in the conservation and management of Meath's heritage assets**

No.	Action
3.1	Establish in-house training programmes for Council staff involved in the management of heritage (archaeology/built and/or natural heritage) of the county with particular reference to up-to-date best practice. These training programmes for Council staff involved in decisions which might affect heritage will familiarise them with existing national databases and resources to inform the decision-making process
3.2	Implement the County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and the community
3.3	Establish Boyne Valley Conservation Volunteers in the county in partnership with Louth County Council
3.4	Establish a Historic Monuments Advisory Committee
3.5	Establish an in-house historic buildings committee for the following purposes: to act as a means for information exchange; to organise seminars; to examine issues of common interest; and to co-ordinate guidance and advice in relation to the care, maintenance, management, and financing of the Local Authority's historic building resource
3.6	Create a panel of conservation architects available to provide Meath County Council, if required, with advice on conservation works to historic structures

Strategic Theme 4: **Work in partnership with local communities and other key stakeholders to actively engage with, enjoy and care for our heritage**

No.	Action
4.1	Establish a Meath County Council Community Heritage Grants Scheme to support local communities to undertake heritage projects and an Annual Heritage Awards for projects / communities which have demonstrated best practice regarding heritage understanding, recording or conservation
4.2	Establish a network/forum for local heritage groups and run an annual event to advise on setting up, scoping projects, participating in county-wide projects (e.g. graveyards and oral histories), publications and grants
4.3	Use the *'My Tara'* project as a template for engaging communities with their landscape
4.4	Develop strategic linkages with third level institutes to encourage heritage research in Meath and seek sponsorship from private sector/interested parties to support an agreed research agenda
4.5	Support the ongoing work of the Meath Fieldnames Project by: a. Using the data already compiled in tourism & heritage initiatives b. Highlighting additional strands of the project as significant areas for academic research **c.** Supporting the ongoing online work of the project and publication initiatives
4.6	Work in partnership with third-level institutes, the Discovery Programme, community groups and other stakeholders to develop and advance innovative research, education/outreach heritage projects and initiatives
4.7	Work in partnership with the relevant agencies/organisations and the public to promote an understanding of the heritage of waterways and associated structures in Meath
4.8	Establish liaison and work in partnership with other local authorities on mutual heritage issues

4.9	Engage with the community in a participatory process to prepare a Village Design Statement for Duleek including a Conservation and Management Plan for monuments

Strategic Theme 5: **Promote heritage as resource to contribute to quality of life, and cultural and economic development in Meath**

No.	Action
5.1	Develop projects to revitalise and enhance historic town and village centres which will provide for the conservation, restoration, renewal and redevelopment of historic buildings and streetscapes, including upgrading of shop frontages and the public realm, and promote a high standard of civic design
5.2	Undertake a study on the economic, social, environmental/education impacts and opportunities of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Brú na Bóinne
5.3	Meath County Heritage Forum/Meath County Council will actively explore EU funding opportunities, possibly in collaboration with other partners on a regional or trans-boundary basis
5.4	Support and encourage the development of Knowth House as a centre for Cultural Heritage Education
5.5	Support the implementation of the *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Research Framework* and *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan*
5.6	Work in partnership with key stakeholders to promote and develop County Meath as a centre for heritage education and a destination for cultural tourism
5.7	Support a feasibility study on the provision of a county museum in consultation with national and local stakeholders and explore the development of a virtual (online) museum
5.8	Establish links with the owners of historic houses to promote those open to the public as part of the Boyne Valley experience
5.9	Support the development, in a sensitive manner, of greenways in the county and promote heritage along the routes
5.10	Enhance biodiversity through the adoption of a Green Infrastructure-based approach to planning to: • Provide ongoing training for Planning Officers to integrate GI into mainstream planning functions • Prepare guidance on how biodiversity can be enhanced through the development management process i.e. preplanning, appropriate conditions, assessment of planning applications. • Introduction of Green Infrastructure based approach into the suite of corporate and statutory plans • Integration of Green Infrastructure mapping into Council G.I.S software

5.11	Continue to work in partnership with the East Border Region Biodiversity Sub-Group as a follow on from EU INTERREG IVA Project *'Action for Biodiversity'* to further advance the implementation of the *East Border Region Biodiversity Framework* and *Why Biodiversity Matters Communications Strategy* and to seek EU funding for a further cross-border biodiversity partnership project
5.12	Support the process of nomination to World Heritage status for sites in Meath on the Ireland's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List: • Tara Complex as part of the *Royal Sites of Ireland* • Kells as part of the *Early Medieval Monastic Sites*

Strategic Theme 6: **To mainstream heritage within the Local Authority and seek the appointment of heritage professionals to support the delivery of an integrated heritage service**

No.	Action
6.1	Establish a Meath Heritage Fund to support the implementation of the County Meath Heritage Plan
6.2	Seek the appointment of full time heritage professionals within Meath County Council required to implement key legislation and policy (Subject to (a) DoECLG sanction for the filling of staffing positions, and (b) the availability of sufficient budgetary resources to meet the salaries of any approved staffing positions): **(i)** **Archivist, combining this role with that of Records Manager with particular responsibility for:** o Appraising records o Creating comprehensive finding aids o Implementing record management systems, and o Drawing up retention schedules to protect records and to enable access, while at the same time paying special heed to FOI and Data Protection legislation **(ii)** **Project Archaeologist with particular responsibility for:** o Advising on potential archaeological issues in the development and delivery of Meath County Council projects to include archaeological input into project design, fieldworks, mitigation, reporting, publication and dissemination o Managing archaeological budgets, contracts, performance and programmed delivery for archaeological sub-contractors employed by Meath County Council or their agents o Managing and developing an Archaeological Heritage Geographic Information System for County Meath **(iii)** **Re-establish the post of Meath Field Monuments Advisor to:** o Monitor and report on the condition of ancient monuments within the geographical area of responsibility. o Liaise with monument owners and occupiers, local authorities, and other agencies on the condition of ancient monuments, advising them on appropriate management measures, including general advice on the relevant agri-environment schemes. o Devise awareness and educational initiatives o Monitor and report on the progress of any works or management action affecting ancient monuments

(iv) **Meath County Council Architect to:**

- Promote and encourage awareness of the importance of quality in design in architecture and the built environment.
- Encourage improved practice in both public and private sectors, and the concept of sustainability in design, construction and maintenance of buildings.
- Provide architectural services and advice to the County Council, Chief Executive, and Directors of Services in the following areas:
  - Planning, Urban Design and Public Realm
  - Housing and Regeneration
  - Libraries and other Civic Buildings
  - Conservation and Restoration
  - Consultation/Brief Preparation
  - Procurement of Works and Services
  - Project and Contract Management

(v) **Biodiversity Officer to:**

- Promote, manage and co-ordinate biodiversity and biodiversity related activities in the county
- Facilitate and manage the preparation and implementation of the County Biodiversity Plan
- Advise council departments with integrating biodiversity considerations into plans and projects
- Provide advice on biodiversity matters to community groups and the public

How the plan will be implemented

The plan identifies 53 agreed and realistic actions to be implemented over the six year period, from 2015 to 2020. In their deliberations the County Heritage Forum was very aware of the economic climate within which the new plan was being prepared and recognised the need to work together with fewer resources to achieve our aims. The County Heritage Forum was greatly encouraged by the number of pre-draft submissions from the public (see Appendix III) which indicated their strong desire and willingness to participate in the implementation of actions of the new plan. Opportunities to work in co-operation with partners within and outside the county will be taken wherever possible.

Each year a work programme will be drafted based on the contents of the plan and current priorities. This will be used to apply for funding for various projects from the Heritage Council and other sources. A report on the year's actions will be published at the end of each year. Implementation of the Heritage Plan will be through a detailed annual work programme, agreed with the Heritage Council, overseen by the Meath Heritage Forum and co-ordinated on a day to day basis by the Heritage Officer of Meath County Council.

Meath County Council is committed, in partnership with the County Heritage Forum, to the delivery of the actions in the plan. The Heritage Council has agreed, in principle, to consider the Plan as a 6-year strategic funding application. The Heritage Council will consider funding actions in the Plan which are compatible with their objectives and consistent with normal funding criteria. Implementation of the plan represents a major challenge and will require the co-operation and continued involvement of all if our ambitions are to be realised.

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 impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Screening aims to establish whether a full Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Directive is required. Screening of the County Meath Heritage Plan 2015–2020 was undertaken and the findings have informed this Plan. Overall

it was concluded that the plan would have no significant adverse impact on Natura 2000 sites and that no further Assessment was necessary. The full AA screening report is published separately.

Meath County Council and County Heritage Forum are fully committed to the implementation of the requirements of the Habitats Directive, and the screening of individual projects for appropriate assessment will also be undertaken where appropriate.

Appendix I: Members of County Meath Heritage Forum (2014)

Cultural Heritage and Education Working Group

Name*	Representing
Séamus MacGabhann	Chairperson of County Meath Heritage Forum (Retired lecturer at the Department of English, National University of Ireland Maynooth)
Geradette Bailey	Arts Officer, Meath County Council
John Clancy	Meath Archaeological and Historical Society
Dr Danny Cusack	Meath History Network
Olive Falsey	Corporate Services, Meath County Council
Richard Farrelly	Navan Chambers
Cllr Wayne Forde	Navan Municipal District
Cllr Trevor Golden	Trim Municipal District
Dr Loreto Guinan	Heritage Officer, Meath County Council
Michael Ludlow	Meath Partnership
Pádraig MacDonncha	Comharchumann Ráth Chairn
Ciaran Mangan	County Librarian, Meath County Library
Paula McCaul	Assistant Tourism Officer - Boyne Valley
Bernadette McHugh	Navan Education Centre
Fiona Redmond	Senior Executive Planner, Meath County Council
Frances Tallon	Senior Executive Librarian, Meath County Library
Clare Tuffy	Office of Public Works
Michelle Whelan	Tourism Officer - Boyne Valley

Built Heritage Working Group

Name	Representing
Wendy Bagnall	Senior Executive Planner, Meath County Council
Dr Conor Brady	Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT)
Jill Chadwick	Conservation Officer, Meath County Council
Geoffrey Clarke	Meath An Taisce
Prof Gabriel Cooney	Prof of Celtic Archaeology, University College Dublin
Kieran Cummins	Meath Archaeological and Historical Society
Prof George Eogan	Archaeologist
Cllr David Gilroy	Kells Municipal District
Bernard Greene	Senior Executive Planner, Meath County Council
Dr Loreto Guinan	Heritage Officer, Meath County Council
Colm McCoy	Planner, Meath County Council
Finola O'Carroll	Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI)
Marc Ritchie	Architectural Conservation Advisor, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Niall Roycroft	Project Archaeologist, Meath County Council
Patrick Shaffrey	Architect and Town Planner

| Dr Geraldine Stout | National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht |
| Cllr Gillian Toole | Ratoath Municipal District |

Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Working Group

Name	Representing
Dr Tina Aughney	Bat Conservation Ireland
Peter Brady	Environmental Awareness Officer, Meath County Council
Caroline Corrigan	Environment Department, Meath County Council
Dr Maurice Eakin	District Conservation Officer, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Ray Earle	EU-WFD Coordinator , Eastern River Basin District
Maeve Fanning	Ecologist
Colin Finnegan	Teagasc
Dr Colman Gallagher	University College Dublin
Dr Loreto Guinan	Heritage Officer, Meath County Council
Dr Michael Gunn	Birdwatch Ireland - Meath Branch
Aoife Kennedy	Planner, Meath County Council
Diarmuid Lally	Chair Meath IFA
Annette Lynch	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Noel McGloin	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Cllr Paddy Meade	Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District
Dr Robbie Meehan	Geologist
Dr. Caroline MhicDaid	Botanist, BSBI
Dr Declan Murray	Zoologist (retired lecturer from University College Dublin)
James Murray	Meath Eco-Tourism Network
Fergal O`Bric	Planner, Meath County Council
Cllr Sean Smith	Ashbourne Municipal District

* Individuals listed are those involved in preparing the Plan. Over its lifetime individuals representing each sector or organisation(s) on the Forum may change.

Appendix II: **County Heritage Plan Preparation Timeline**

Date	Activity
23rd April 2014	Presentation on implementation of *County Meath Heritage Plan 2007-2011* and online methodology for preparation of *County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020* to the Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee
June 2014	Seek nominations to County Heritage Forum from newly elected Council from each Municipal District (n=6)
7th July 2014	Presentation on implementation of *County Meath Heritage Plan 2007-2011* and online methodology for preparation of *County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020* to elected members of Meath County Council
July –August 2014	Review of Membership of County Heritage Forum
August 6th-September 3rd (Inclusive)	Pre-Draft Public Consultation Phase
22nd September 2014	Cultural Heritage and Education Working Group (Meeting 1)
24th September 2014	Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Working Group (Meeting 1)
26th September 2014	Built Heritage Working Group (Meeting 1)
2nd October 2014	Cultural Heritage and Education Working Group (Meeting 2)
3rd October 2014	Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Working Group (Meeting 2)
14th October 2014	Built Heritage Working Group (Meeting 2)
15th October 2014	Cultural Heritage and Education Working Group (Meeting 3)
23rd October 2014	Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Working Group (Meeting 3)
24th October 2014	Built Heritage Working Group (Meeting 3)
30th October 2014	Presentation on *Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020* to Planning, Economic and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee
8th January 2015	Plenary meeting of County Meath Heritage Forum
12th January 2015	Presentation on *Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020* to elected members of Meath County Council
January 2015 – March 2015	Public consultation on *Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020 – (6 public information sessions held)*
12th March 2015	County Meath Heritage Forum meeting to consider submissions on and amendments to the *Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020*
13th April 2015	Presentation of County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020 to Meath County Council for adoption

Appendix III: Public Consultation Process

Pre-Draft Public Consultation Process

Written submissions were received from the following organisations (52) and individuals (47) as part of the pre-draft public consultation stage from August 6th 2014 to September 3rd 2014 (inclusive):

Organisation Submissions

- Meath Eco Tourism Network (Carina Mount Charles)
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (Bill Slattery)
- Bat Conservation Ireland (Tina Aughney)
- Navan Heritage Group (Deirdre Testing)
- Bellewstown Heritage Group (Fiona Ahern)
- Batterstown Village Enhancement Association (Phillip McCormack)
- Cormeen Community Group Ltd (Monica Morris)
- Balinlough Pride of Place (Roisin Geraghty)
- Kilmainhamwood area Development Association (KADA) (Jim Condra)
- Gibbstown Hall Committee (Maria Keegan)
- Stamullen Tidy Towns (Jim Matthews)
- Duleek Heritage Group (Janet Leigh)
- Tara Skyrne Preservation Group (Carmel Diviney)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Willie Cumming)
- Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Ken Bucke)
- Heritage Council (Beatrice Kelly)
- St. Kenneth's (Tracy McElhinney)
- Architectural Heritage Consultation and Education (Myles McKenna)
- Ianróid Éireann (Gregg Ryan)
- Birdwatch Ireland Meath Branch (Paul Gallagher)
- Mise Eire Association Research Company (Elaine Hannon)
- Beautiful Meath Tours (Derek Smith)
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (Maurice Eakin)
- Kilberry Amenity and Heritage Group (Ciara Reynolds)
- Friends of Tara (Michael Slavin)
- Meath Eco Tours (Kate Flood)
- Castletown Tidy Towns (Michael Clarke)
- Kilskyre Pride of Place (Claire Flanagan)
- Navan and District Historical Society (Ethna Cantwell)
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland (Emma Higgs)
- Duleek Tidy Towns Committee (Sally Griffin)

- Ballivor Community Council
- Wilkinstown Development Group (Charlotte White)
- An Taisce (Tomas Bradley)
- Boyne Navigation Branch, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (Myles Brady)
- Headford Trust (Geraldine Gaughran)
- Ashbourne Historical Society (Jack Holmes)
- Meath Association of An Taisce (Geoffrey Clarke)
- Slane Community Forum (Pat Doyle)
- Meath Wind Information Group
- Meath Archaeological and Historical Society (John P. Clancy)
- Irish Archaeology Field School (Finola O'Carroll)
- The Discovery Programme (Dr Edel Bhreathnach)
- Bórd na Móna (Dr Mark McCorry)
- Irish Peatland Conservation Council (Tadhg O'Corcora)
- Meath Field Names Project (Joan Mullen)
- Keep Ireland Open (Robert Garland)
- Navan Toastmasters (Jacinta Tighe)
- Meath Comhairle na nÓg (Group 1)
- Meath Comhairle na nÓg (Group 2)
- Meath Comhairle na nÓg (Group 3)
- Meath Comhairle na nÓg (Group 4)

Individuals Submissions

- Dr Stephen Davis
- Cllr Wayne Forde
- Grace McCullen
- Brian Keeley
- Concepta Farrelly
- Dr Conor Brady
- Yvonne Kavanagh
- Alan Tobin
- Derek Madden
- Phil Kelly
- Martin Mallon
- Cllr Noel French
- Christopher McCormack
- Cllr Gillian Toole
- Kieran Campbell
- Ann O`Kelly-Lynch
- Claire Mullins
- Noreen Reilly
- Dr Michael Gunn
- Charles Martin
- Sean Ryan
- Tom Kelly
- Dianna M Pollock
- Gearóid Dardis
- Michael Weymes
- Ciara Murphy
- Mairead Maguire
- Brian McCabe
- Marthina Quinn
- Michael Gerald Meade
- Carina Padberg
- Thomas P McCabe
- Senator John Gilroy
- Deirdre Black
- Siobhán Rheinisch
- Kieran Cummins
- Darrell Peard
- Jim Condra
- Seamus Smith
- Seamus Costello
- Deborah Behan
- Niall Roycroft
- Margaret & Peter Brittain
- Joe Conlon
- William Carey
- Donna Mullen
- Sean Holland

Draft Heritage Plan Public Consultation Process

Written submissions were received from the following organisations (19) and individuals (12) as part of the public consultation process on the *Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020* from January 23rd 2015 to March 3rd 2015 (inclusive):

Organisation Submissions

- Trim Heritage Co-Op & Scurlogstown Olympiad (2 submissions)
- Geological Survey of Ireland
- Boyne Currach Heritage Group
- Meath Association of An Taisce
- Scurlogstown Olympiad Co. Ltd
- Moynalty Community Council
- Meath Archaeological and Historical Society
- Meath Wind Information Group
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (no comment)
- Department of Education & Skills (no comment)
- Meath Writers Circle
- Kilberry Amenity and Heritage Group
- Ashbourne Historical Society
- Tara Skryne Preservation Group
- Irish Peatland Conservation Council
- Cross Street Business, Kells
- The Discovery Programme
- Keep Ireland Open

Individual Submissions

- Michael Meade
- Cynthia Simonet (Local Tour Guide Trim)
- Niall Roycroft
- Brian Mc Cabe
- Gearóid Ó Gibne
- John O'Grady
- Danny Cusack
- Frances Monaghan
- Emilie Gustafsson
- Pauline Bleach
- Oliver Ward
- Prof Gabriel Cooney, UCD School of Archaeology

Appendix IV: **Selected achievements of the County Meath Heritage Plan**

2007-2011

Theme 1   *Awareness and Education actions*

- Annual Heritage Week Programme

- Annual Heritage Education Programme

- Supported local community groups organise heritage week events

- Published *Wild Things at School* book for primary school teachers (2009)

- Boyne Valley Cultural Tourism Video

- Meath Landscape and People Seminar (2009 and 2010)

- Uncovering Medieval Trim Conference (2008) and support for publication (2009)

- Black Friary Community Archaeology Project

- Lime Workshop and Seminar (2008)

- Balrath Wood NeighbourWood Project

- The Character and Characters of Meath – Audio Slide Show

- Stained glass window with Skryne National School (2010)

- Reading the Meath Landscape Lecture Series (2012)

- Supported Lismullin Heritage Lecture Series

- Developed Meath Heritage Website

- Annual geology walks and guided tours

- Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards Seminar

- Heritage seminars for Tidy Towns Groups (2007 and 2012)

- Heritage Photography Competition

- Two seminars for the owners of protected structures (2008)

- Megalithic Art Exhibition and publication (2010)

- Supported Recent Research in Boyne Valley Conferences (2012 and 2014)

- Albert Kahn Exhibition in partnership with Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda

- Supported Bective Abbey Excavations – Podcasts

Theme 2   ***Baseline Data and Information action***

- Geological Audit of County Meath (2007)

- Wetlands and Coastal Habitat Survey (2008)

- Survey of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) in county Meath and information leaflets (2007)

- Produced Indicative Habitats Map for County Meath (2007)

- Meath Trees, Hedgerow and Woodland Survey (2011)

- Management Plan for Balrath Wood (2007)

- Industrial Heritage Survey of County Meath (2010)

- Architectural Heritage Information Pack

- Biological Audit of Flora and Fauna meta-datasets (2007)

- Published *The Making of Meath* book (2012)

- Biodiversity of the Ramparts Survey

- Supported survey of medieval churches of Meath

- LiDAR Survey of Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site

- Published ten ACA Character Statements for 10 towns and villages (2010)

- Supported geophysical research in the Boyne Valley

- County Meath Historic Graveyard Database

- Phase 1: Meath Photographic Archive

- Graveyard recording training and mapping for community groups

- Pilot study on Historic Landscape Characterisation (2011)

- Phase 1: Audit of built heritage databases and sources

Theme 3   ***Best Practice in Heritage Conservation and Management actions***

- Supported restoration of Kells Victorian Waterworks

- Developed and implemented County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2012

- On-going advice to community groups and the public

- Heritage and Biodiversity Training provided to Local Authority Staff

- Trim Town Walls Conservation and Management Plan (2008)

- Conservation Works to Trim Town Walls through the Irish Walled Town Network

- Heritage Training for Community Groups – dry stone walls, hedge laying, graveyard recording

- Supported the phased restoration of the Boyne Canal

- Project partner

  o EU INTERREG IVA 'Action for Biodiversity

  o Boyne Valley INSTAR Project

  o Brú na Bóinne Research Framework

Theme 4   Integrating Heritage within the Local Authority

- Field Monument Advisor (2006-2009)

- Full time Conservation Officer (Since 2008)

- Meath – Monaghan Biodiversity Officer (2010-2013)

Appendix V: Relevant Heritage Legislation

<u>**National and EU Legislation**</u>

Heritage and Planning

- Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 (as amended)

- Heritage Act 1995

- Heritage Fund Act 2001

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (Council Directive 85/337/EEC) 1985 (as amended)

- Strategic Environmental assessment (SEA) Directive (Council Directive 2001/42/EC)

Archaeological Heritage

- National Monuments Acts 1930-2004

- National Cultural Institutions Act 1997

Architectural Heritage

- Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014

- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999

Landscapes

- Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 (as amended)

Museums and Archives

- National Cultural Institutions Act 1997

- Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)

- National Archives Act 1986

- Freedom of Information Act 1997

- Employment Equality Act 1998

- E-Commerce Act 1999

- Health and Safety Act 1989

- Organisation of Working Time Act 1997

- ISO 15489 2001

Natural Heritage

- Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended)

- Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000

- Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959

- Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1999-2003

- Birds Directive (Council Directive 74/409/EEC) 1979

- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) 1992

- Water Framework Directive (Council Directive 2000/60/EC) 2000

- Freshwater Fish Directive (Council Directive 78/659/EC) 1978

- Groundwater Directive (Council Directive 2006/118/EC) 2006

- Environmental Liability Directive (Council Directive 2004/35/EC) 2004

International Conventions and Agreements which Ireland has signed and ratified

- Archaeology
  - European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention) 1992 (ratified 1997)
- Architecture
  - European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) 1985 (ratified 1997)
- Cultural and Natural Heritage and Landscape
  - UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (ratified 1992)
  - UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 (ratified 1996)
  - European Landscape Convention 2000 (ratified 2002)
  - Convention on the Conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention) 1979 (ratified 1982)

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) 1979 (ratified 1983)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) 1971 (ratified 1984)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) 1973 (ratified 2002)

Appendix VI: Information Sources/Useful Sites

An Taisce – www.antaisce.org

Bat Conservation Ireland – www.batconservationireland.org

Biology.ie – www.biology.ie

Birdwatch Ireland – www.birdwatchireland.ie

Buildings of Ireland – www.buildingsofireland.ie

Coillte – www.coillte.ie

Crann – www.crann.ie

Department of Agriculture, food and the Marine – www.agriculture.gov.ie

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – www.agh.gov.ie

Department of Environment, Community and Local Government – www.environ.ie

Environmental Protection Agency – www.epa.ie

Inland Fisheries Ireland – www.fisheriesireland.ie

Invasive Species Ireland – www.inasivespeciesireland.com

Irish Georgian Society – www.igs.ie

Irish Peatland Conservation Council – www.ipac.ie

Irish Wildlife Trust – www.iwt.ie

National Biodiversity Data Centre – www.biodiversityireland.ie

National Monuments Service – www.archaeology.ie

National Parks & Wildlife Service – www.npws.ie

Teagasc – www.teagasc.ie

The Heritage Council – www.heritagecouncil.ie

Tree Council of Ireland – www.treecouncil.ie

Ask About Ireland – www.askaboutireland.ie

Discovery Programme – www.discoveryprogramme.ie

ENFO Environmental Info Service – www.enfo.ie

Meath County Council – www.meath.ie

Meath Field Names project – www.meathfieldnames.com

National Archives – www.nationalarchives.ie

National Library of Ireland – www.nli.ie

National Museum of Ireland – www.museum.ie

Ordnance Survey of Ireland – www.osi.ie

Irish Farmers Association – www.ifa.ie

Meath Archaeological & Historical Society – www.mahs.ie