


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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### 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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### Why do our landscapes matter?



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### Why are Meath County Council doing this project?

**Meath Planning Policy Context:**

- In March 2007 the elected members of Meath County Council adopted the County Meath Development Plan (CDP) 2007-2013.
- The County Development Plan 2007-2013 includes a strategic policy HER SP2 to: *'Protect the historic and archaeological landscapes of the County'*.
- It is an objective of the CDP to *'designate the historic Tara Skryne Area as a Landscape Conservation Area'*.

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### Why are Meath County doing this project?

- Recognise the significance of the Tara Skryne landscape.
- Implement the Policies and Objectives of the CDP.
- Engage the local community and stakeholders.
- Promote sustainable landscape management.
- Support the delivery of socio-economic, cultural and community initiatives.
- Increase awareness and education.

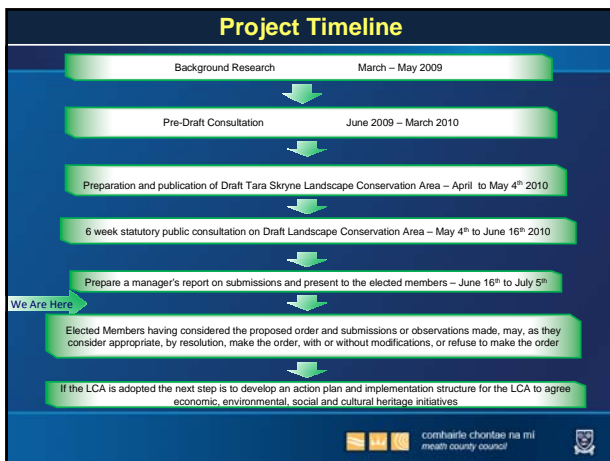
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### Pre-draft public consultation – June 2009 to March 2010

- Letter delivered to 400 properties in the general study area informing local residents of the project
- Twenty three community groups active in the local community were contacted and offered a meeting.
- Over sixty stakeholder dialogue and project meetings between March 2009 and Feb 2010. Meetings were held with local residents, businesses, community groups, farming organisations, Office of Public Works, state agencies, archaeologists and researchers.
- A project website ([www.taralandscape.ie](http://www.taralandscape.ie)) to publicise the project, interface with the public and stakeholders and report on progress went live in July 2009.
- Elected members and Current & Previous Planning & Development SPC updated.
- Non statutory pre-draft public consultation events:
 

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| March 9th 2010  | Skryne National School        |
| March 10th 2010 | Meath Comhairle na nÓg, Navan |
| March 11th 2010 | Maguire's Hill of Tara.       |

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- ### What was the purpose of the workshop?
- Identify the features that define the character of Tara Skryne Landscape to inform the draft boundary of the proposed Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area.
  - Present an overview of the Tara Skryne Landscape.
  - Encourage the building of relationships between local residents, relevant key stakeholders & agencies involved in the Tara Skryne Landscape.
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- ### Invitation List
- An invitation was issued, by letter which was followed up with a phone call, to 79 individuals representing a total of 62 groups, organisations, businesses etc.
  - Representatives of the community were invited to attend to input the views of the wider community rather than individual landowners.
  - The views of individual landowners were sought at pre draft public consultation events at Tara and Skryne in March and those comments were circulated and informed the discussion at the boundary workshop.
  - 40 people attended the workshop and were assigned to 5 groups.
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- ### Invitation List
- Bellinter Residents Association,
  - Dalgan Anglers
  - Dunsany Gaelic Football Club
  - Dunsany Ladies Gaelic Football Club
  - Dunsany Pride of Place
  - Dunsany Tennis Club
  - Dunshaughlin/Skryne Table Tennis Club
  - Friends of Tara
  - Irish Countrywomen Association – Lismullin
  - Irish Countrywomen Association – Tara
  - Old Garlow Cross Committee
  - Rathfeigh Historical Society,
  - Royal Tara Golf Club
  - Foxes, Skryne
  - Swans, Skryne
  - Tara Skryne Preservation Group
  - 10th Meath Skryne Scouts
  - Columbans Community Dalgan Park
  - Skryne National School
  - Lismullin National School
  - Tara Hill Riding Club
  - Tara Walking and Social Club
  - Tara Skryne Preservation Group
  - Meath Archaeological & Historical Society
  - Maguire's Hill of Tara
  - Tara Ni Rí, Garlow Cross
  - Ross Cross Filling Station
  - Bellinter House Hotel
  - Texaco Station, Philipstown
  - Skryne Indoor Bowls Club
  - Skryne Pitch & Putt Club
  - Skryne Gaelic Football Club
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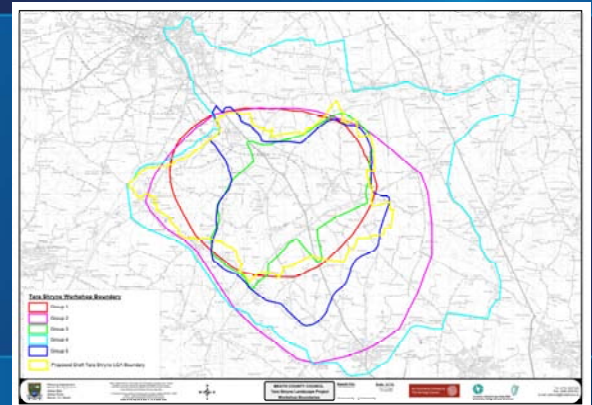
- ### Invitation List cont.'d
- Project Steering Group
  - MCC Navan Area Elected Representatives
  - NTC Elected Representatives
  - Navan Area Manager
  - Navan Area Administrator Navan Area Engineer
  - SEP (Dev Management)
  - Discovery Programme
  - UCD Micheál O'Cléirigh Institute
  - Irish Landscape Institute
  - Irish Archaeological Institute
  - Irish Archaeological Field School
  - OPW
  - DoEHLG
  - Dept of Ag
  - Meath Tourism
  - Meath Partnership
  - Meath County Heritage Forum
  - Meath County Development Board
  - Meath Irish Farmers Association
  - School of Archaeology, UCD
  - School of Archaeology, NUI Galway
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- ### What happened at the workshop?
- 40 attendees were assigned to a group to discuss:
  - *What features/criteria help to define the character of the Tara Skryne Landscape?*
  - *Based on those criteria/features what area does the group feel is representative of the character of the Tara Skryne Landscape?*
  - *Why has the group chosen this boundary?*
  - *Are there other comments your group would like to record?*
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## Outcomes of Boundary Workshop

- Each group drew on a map the geographic area the group felt best represented the character of the Tara Skryne Landscape.
- Each group nominated a member who presented the agreed proposals of the group to the rest of the workshop attendees.
- The five boundaries were digitized in the project GIS and overlain to determine the degree of overlap.

## Group Boundary Map



## Outcomes of Boundary Workshop

- Maps field tested to ensure that the Draft boundary was definable on the ground.
- The Draft boundary on public display reflects the outcomes of the workshop and seeks a balanced and practical approach to the boundary definition based on the physical, cultural and visual character of the landscape.
- Report on boundary workshop was published and is available on [www.taralandscape.ie](http://www.taralandscape.ie)

## Publication of Draft Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area

- Draft boundary map and list of developments proposed to de-exempt accompanied by an explanatory document went on public display on May 4th 2010.
- Comments invited for a 6 week statutory period (May 4<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup> 2010).
- c. 900 letters, were hand delivered, to all domestic and commercial properties within the draft LCA boundary.
- 110 land owners with no property on their land received a letter by post.
- 348 written submissions were received. Period for submissions now closed.
- Managers report on submissions prepared and presented to the elected members of Meath County Council on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2010.

## Planning Implications of proposed Designation

## Introduction

- As our landscapes are places where people live and work, the central objective of this project is not to prevent development or change but rather to manage change in a manner that compliments the character and values of the landscape and creates vibrant communities.
- The County Development Plan 2007-2013 sets out appropriate planning and sustainable development policies and objectives for the county and will continue to provide the framework against which individual planning applications are assessed in the LCA.

## Rural Housing

- The LCA does not propose to alter the rural housing policy for this area. The area's rural housing policy is set out in the 2007-2013 CDP and this will remain unchanged if LCA is adopted.
- CDP rural housing policy must be compliant with requirements of Guidelines for Sustainable Rural Housing (2005) published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

## Rural Housing considerations currently applicable in this area

- County Development Plan Rural Housing Policies including local housing need requirement and area under strong urban influence.
- Suitable access arrangements.
- Suitable wastewater treatment facilities.
- Requirements of Rural Design Guide.

## Rural Housing considerations currently applicable in this area, cont.'d

- Landscape Character Assessment Vol VI CDP.
- Protected views in CDP- VP1 Hill of Tara, VP27 Skryne.
- Her Pol 113 " To seek to protect from inappropriate development the views identified on the landscape Character Assessment Map 05: visual amenity & the views and prospects as indicated on map 8.6 & listed in Table 27".
- County Development Plan Heritage Policies including archaeology.

## Other Development Types

- With specific reference to business uses in the area, the Economic Development Strategies of the CDP and the RPGs will be of relevance in the assessment of any future planning applications of this type.

### Agriculture

- Current farming practices will remain unaffected.

## Examples of Domestic Exemptions (Domestic exemptions are not affected by the Draft LCA.)

| Use Classes  | Exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission under the Planning Regulations | Exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA |
|--|--|---|
| Class 1 An extension to a house.<br>(up to 40 sq.m. in area)               | ✓  | ✓   |
| Class 3 Construction of a garage, store, shed.<br>(up to 25 sq.m. in area) | ✓  | ✓   |
| Class 5 Construction of gates, fences and railings around houses.          | ✓  | ✓   |

\*Please note all exemptions currently are subject to conditions and limitations which must be complied with.



## Examples of Domestic Exemptions

- Under the Planning & Development Regs. the construction of an extension does not require planning permission when it is to the rear of a house subject to conditions and limitations.  
*This remains unchanged in the Draft Tara Skryne LCA.*
- Under the Planning & Development Regs. the construction of a garage, store, shed in the grounds of a house does not require planning permission subject to conditions and limitations.  
*This remains unchanged in the Draft Tara Skryne LCA.*
- Under the Planning & Development Regs. the construction of a wooden fence/railing/wall around a house or within its boundary does not require planning permission subject to conditions and limitations.  
*This remains unchanged in the Draft Tara Skryne LCA.*

### Examples of Domestic Exemptions Cont'd



| Use Classes  | Exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission under the Planning Regulations | Exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA |
|--|--|---|
| Class 6 Construction of paths, drains, ponds landscaping works within the boundary of a house. | ✓  | ✓   |
| Class 7 Construction of a porch outside any house. (not more than 2sq.m.)                      | ✓  | ✓   |
| Class 12 The painting of any part of a Building.   | ✓  | ✓   |

**\* Please note all exemptions currently are subject to conditions and limitations which must be complied with.**

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### Examples of Domestic Exemptions



- Under the Planning & Development Regs. the construction of paths, drains, ponds, landscaping works within the boundary of a house does not require planning permission subject to conditions and limitations.  
*This remains unchanged in the Draft Tara Skryne LCA.*
- Under the Planning & Development Regs. the construction of a porch outside any external door of a house, does not does not require planning permission subject to conditions and limitations.  
*This remains unchanged in the Draft Tara Skryne LCA.*
- Under the Planning & Development Regs. planning permission is not required for the painting of any external part of the building subject to conditions and limitations.  
*This remains unchanged in the Draft Tara Skryne LCA.*

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### Examples of Agricultural De-exemptions

| Use Classes  | Exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission under the Planning Regulations | Exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA |
|--|--|---|
| Class 6 Agricultural roofed Structures Housing Animals (up to 300 sq.m. in area) | ✓  | X   |
| Class 7 Roofed Structures Housing Pigs, Mink or Poultry (up to 75 sq.m. in area) | ✓  | X   |
| Class 15 Afforestation   | ✓  | X   |

**Please note all exemptions are currently subject to conditions and limitations which must be complied with.**

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### Examples of Agricultural De- exemptions

- Under the Planning & Development Regs. the provision of a roof structure for the housing of animals up to 300 sq.m. in area does not require planning permission subject to conditions and limitations.  
*Under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA planning permission will be required.*
- Under the Planning and Development Regs the provision of a roofed structure as housing for pigs/mink poultry up to 75 sq.m. does not require planning permission subject to conditions and limitations.  
*Under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA planning permission will be required.*

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### Examples of Agricultural De- exemptions (Cont.'d)



- Under the Planning and Development Regs initial afforestation does not require planning permission.  
*Under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA planning permission will be required.*
- With respect to agricultural de-exemptions it is important to note the following:
  - Current farming practices remain unaffected by the Draft LCA.
  - Where developments are de-exempted planning permission is required. However, this does not imply that planning permission will not be granted.

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### Examples of Industrial & Minor Works De- exemptions

| Use Classes   | Exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission under the Planning Regulations | Exempt from the requirement to obtain Planning Permission under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA |
|---|--|---|
| Class 21 Various types of Industrial Development e.g. sewers, mains, private railways, private ways | ✓  | X   |
| Class 55-Satellite dishes on business premises  | ✓  | X   |

**Please note all exemptions currently are subject to conditions and limitations which must be complied with.**

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## Examples of Industrial & Miscellaneous De-exemptions (Cont.'d)

- Under the Planning and Development Regs the provision, replacing or maintaining of mains, sewers, pipes etc. does not require planning permission.  
*Under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA planning permission will be required.*
- Under the Planning and Development Regs. The placing of a satellite dish within the curtilage of a business premises for transmitting or receiving is exempt.  
*Under the Draft Tara Skryne LCA planning permission will be required.*
- With respect to industrial and minor works de-exemptions it is important to note the following:  
Where developments are de-exempted planning permission is required. However, this does not imply that planning permission will not be granted.

## Extract from Manager's Report

- Section 204 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 allows a Planning Authority to designate an area as a LCA. The Minister may in turn prescribe that certain developments within the area do not constitute exempted development.
- The order of the Planning Authority designating the area as an LCA may specify that any development prescribed by the Minister will not be exempted development within this area. The de-exemption proposals contained in the draft LCA will not be activated unless so prescribed by the Minister.

## Leaflet on LCA project which was circulated with copies of Issue No 7 Rathfeigh Skryne Tara Newsletter 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010

| Statement in RST Newsletter August 28 <sup>th</sup> 2010  | Meath County Council response   |
|---|---|
| LCA currently impacts on 65,000 acres   | 15,441 acres of land are proposed within the draft LCA boundary   |
| any form of development such as adding a porch, adjustment to hedges and walls could result in a requirement for planning | See section on de-exempted development  |
| any form of development such as changes to existing dwellings and farm buildings will require planning.                   | Alterations to existing dwellings are not affected by the LCA   |
| adjustments to hedges, walls, construction of new roadways could result in a requirement of planning                      | The proposed LCA does not alter current planning requirements pertaining to walls and construction of roadways. CDP policies with respect to hedgerows remain unchanged |

## Leaflet on LCA project which was circulated with copies of Issue No 7 Rathfeigh Skryne Tara Newsletter 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010

| Statement in RST Newsletter August 28 <sup>th</sup> 2010  | Meath County Council response  |
|---|--|
| plan could ultimately result in a right to roam across anybody's property within the designated area                      | The draft LCA cannot alter existing land access arrangements   |
| any form of development such as adding a porch, adjustment to hedges and walls could result in a requirement for planning | Existing domestic exemptions will remain in place  |
| no benefit to any individual from the plan  | See section on Added Value of Designation  |
| all future generations will be destined to move out of the area as local planning permission may no longer be possible    | Rural Housing Policy for this area is contained in the current CDP. This policy is unaffected by the LCA designation and will be contained in future CDPs. |

## Leaflet on LCA project which was circulated with copies of Issue No 7 Rathfeigh Skryne Tara Newsletter 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010

| Statement in RST Newsletter August 28 <sup>th</sup> 2010   | Meath County Council response   |
|--|---|
| If the plan is adopted the freedom of access to the Hill of Tara will be restricted and most likely locals will have to pay to gain access | This matter is outside the remit of the project and MCC as it refers to access to state owned lands.  |
| The plan will prohibit any future development of local business and therefore will result in reduced employment                            | Economic Development Strategies of the CDP will be used to assess any expansion plans of local business, as is currently the case, if the LCA is adopted. |
| Sporting organisations will be starved of youth as there will be no development/employment   | The LCA acknowledges that the area is a living landscape and seeks to encourage the continued growth of a vibrant community in the LCA area.              |

## Leaflet on LCA project which was circulated with copies of Issue No 7 Rathfeigh Skryne Tara Newsletter 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010

| Statement in RST Newsletter August 28 <sup>th</sup> 2010   | Meath County Council response   |
|--|---|
| Why not implement the existing management plan for the Hill of Tara prepared for MCC for the hill of Tara which cost approx. €1m | The plan referred to was a management plan for the state owned lands at the Hill of Tara only. It was a project commissioned and funded by OPW & DeEHLG with a contribution from MCC. The plan was not completed. |

## ADDED VALUE OF DESIGNATION

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*)

## 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

## Some comments from the public consultation

*It's 2025 and the Tara Skryne landscape is/has ...*

- A unique and clearly defined cultural zone that is both an ancient landscape and a vibrant living one
- A great destination for cultural tourism
- A model of best practice sustainable tourism development that provides local employment and an authentic visitor experience
- A strong sense of community built around a sense of ownership and shared commitment to preserving and enhancing this special place
- Better explained with more emphasis on education and communicating the story of the landscape
- A place where research and our knowledge of this place is increased
- A place where children can come to and enjoy
- Proper parking at Tara
- Community and landscape living together
- Conserved the holy wells
- Safe access to Skryne Tower
- An annual Tara festival to celebrate all aspects of the landscape
- A virtual tour of the landscape
- Well managed hedgerows and more woodland cover

## 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.

## To sum up

- Landscape ....
  - ...is about **people** and the **places they live**
  - ... **links** culture with nature and the **past** with the **present**
  - ...provides a **setting** for our lives
  - ...is always **changing**
- The proposed Landscape Conservation Area is
  - ...about **managing change** in a manner that compliments the character and values of the landscape
  - ...not an end in itself but a catalyst to work with the community to develop an **Action Plan**
  - ...a **national pilot** which will seek to inform future models
  - ...about **working together** to create a high quality landscape based on local distinctiveness and a strong cultural identity and brand

## Next steps

- Elected Members having considered the proposed order and submissions or observations made, may, as they consider appropriate, by resolution, make the order, with or without modifications, or refuse to make the order
- If the LCA is adopted set up a partnership structure to bring together the local community, state agencies and relevant research institutions to consult on, develop and implement an agreed Action Plan for the area
- Secure resources to implement the Action Plan



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## How can I be kept informed?

If you require further information about this project, please:

Visit the website at: [www.taralandscape.ie](http://www.taralandscape.ie) and join the project mailing list to be kept informed of progress

Email us at: [taralandscape@meathcoco.ie](mailto:taralandscape@meathcoco.ie)

Call us on: 046-9097566 or

Write to us at: Tara Skryne Landscape Project,  
Forward Planning Section,  
Planning Department  
Meath Local Authorities  
Abbey Road,  
Navan,  
Co. Meath



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**NOTE FROM THE HERITAGE COUNCIL ON THE  
BENEFITS OF A LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AREA**

- **Focus for inward investment and as a catalyst to seek to secure funding**
- **Focus in terms of quality tourism**
- **An Action Plan that identifies agreed actions for education recreation and tourism initiatives**
- **Commitment from Heritage Council to fund implementation of relevant actions and support ongoing tasks**
- **As a national pilot, places County Meath and Tara to the fore in terms of developing a best practice model**
- **Ability to join European networks such as EUROPARC and benefit from European Charter for Sustainable Tourism**