

Waterways corridor studies update

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Heritage Council

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Vital statistics

Project partners – Offaly Co Council, Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon, Leitrim, N Tipperary, Galway, Clare, Limerick City and County.

Waterways Ireland, Shannon Development

- Entire Shannon (5 segments)
- Potential to continue the rest of the Royal and Grand Canals,
- Barrow Navigation, and River Barrow

Definition of waterway corridor

- Landscape character - 2002 study
- Evolution of concept -
 - Layers of corridor - heritage, socio-economic
 - Contour lines/visual field
 - DEDs

Contents and Methodology

- Heritage(cultural and natural),
landscape character
- Socio-economic activities on waterway,
and in the corridor (DED)
- Consultation
- Recommendations
- Maps
- Appendices

Main recommendations

- Shannon = national asset
- the lower Shannon - a recreational and interpretation strategy
- the Shannon Lakes - Strategies to conserve the heritage on the islands
- Upper Shannon - assessment of carrying capacity for additional recreational boating
- County Development Plans - identification of the waterway corridor

Action to date

- Dissemination of studies
- Evaluation report 2007
- Website - interactive maps, recommendations, appendices
www.heritagecouncil.ie
- Follow up on actions – many completed; still more to do!

What next?

- A waterway corridor “champion”?
- Status - statutory or advisory?
- Commission more corridor studies along the next work?
- Inclusion in Co Development plans and local areas plans
- Inclusion on other strategies
- External issues e.g., climate change, water abstractions, global economic climate. changes in tourism patterns