

# Heritage and the Local Authority



Brú na Bóinne

Research Framework Information Seminar

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(Discovery Programme)



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



# Heritage Officer Programme

- ▶ Partnership between the Heritage Council and Local Authorities
- ▶ Pilot Scheme, 1999, 3 Local Authorities
  - Galway City, Sligo, Kerry
- ▶ 27 Heritage Officers currently employed
- ▶ Heritage Officer Training and Development Programme
- ▶ Heritage defined by the Heritage Act, 1995

# Meath Heritage Office

- ▶ Based in Community and Enterprise Department, Meath County Council
  - Heritage Officer, Nov 2003
  - Louise McKeever (Research Assistant), July 2006
  - Rosanne Meenan (Field Monument Advisor (Part-time position) - September 2006

# Objectives of Meath Heritage Office

- Establish and facilitate County Heritage Forum and to prepare and implement a 5-Year County Heritage Plan
- Provide advice and training on best practice in heritage conservation and management to the local authority and community
- Raise awareness and understanding of Meath's heritage
- Facilitate the collection and dissemination of heritage data
- Contribute to Local Authority policy formation and decision making

# County Meath Heritage Forum

- National Heritage Plan (2002) - Non statutory advisory group to advise the Local Authority on the preparation and implementation of a County Heritage Plan
- Draws upon local expertise, knowledge, experience and resources
- Forum - Elected members, Council officials, Tourism, National Monuments, National Parks and Wildlife, Teagasc, Fisheries Board, Community and Voluntary Sector, County Development Board, Chamber of Commerce, Education sector, Meath Leader
- Established in 2006 as three working groups -
  - (i) Cultural heritage and education,
  - (ii) Built heritage
  - (iii) Natural heritage and biodiversity
- Mr. Seamus MacGabhann (NUI, Maynooth) elected as Chairperson

# County Meath Heritage Plan 2007-2011

- ▶ A cross agency county strategy for the identification, interpretation, promotion, protection, conservation and enhancement of Meath's heritage
- ▶ Prepared by the County Meath Heritage Forum informed by extensive public consultation
- ▶ Agreed and realistic action plan - Four strategic themes
  - (i) Awareness and Education
  - (ii) Baseline data and information
  - (iii) Best practice in heritage conservation and management
  - (iv) Local Authority
- Plan contains 77 actions

## Strategic Theme: Baseline data and information

### Key research projects undertaken in 2007 (Year I):

- ▶ Study of Architectural Conservation Areas
- ▶ Audit of Geological Heritage Sites
- ▶ Indicative Habitat Map
- ▶ Inventory of flora and fauna metadata
- ▶ County Meath Graveyard Project
- ▶ Lidar survey of the World Heritage Site

## *The Local Authority and the Brú na Bóinne Research Framework*

- Provide evidence-based advice to inform land use policy to secure the sustainable management of this historic landscape*
- Develop partnerships between research institutes, state agencies and the local authority leading to a greater awareness and understanding of the site*
- To disseminate research undertaken within Brú na Bóinne to the local authority and community*